

STUDIES
IN THE
BOOK OF
REVELATION

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AN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

From the onset of this book (1:1) we note that this “Revelation” is of Jesus Christ Himself (v.1). The events are “shown” (Gk. *deiknumi*) to us as John writes what was shown to him. (This verb occurs eight times in the book.) However, “Revelation” (Gk. *apocalupsis*: “apocalypse” is an English transliteration) only occurs once, and it establishes both the title and the focus of the book: Jesus Christ is unveiled as Lord of History.

Accordingly, this outline notes how “The Revelation” reveals (1) His Person—glorified, ascended, worshiped, and confident of victory; (2) His Purpose—to administrate and to lead His church, and for us to partner with Him in victory; (3) His People—disciplined, worshiping, beleaguered, protected, smitten, delivered, and exalted with Him as His Bride; (4) His Primary Opponent—the spirit of the world—called “the dragon,” seen in “Babylon” and epitomized in the Beast—the Devil; (5) His Prophesied Triumph, “conquering” throughout history and “to conquer” at its climax; Christ the Conqueror above and beyond all history.

Chapter	Content	The Revelation of...
1	The Introduction	Christ’s Person, Authority, and Presence
2, 3	The Epistles to the Churches	Christ’s Administrating of His Church
4, 5	The Throne of God in Heaven	Christ’s Right and Claim to Earth (The Lamb receives title to this planet.)
6	The Breaking Open of Seals 1-6	Christ’s Ministry as Savior and Judge (Savior, “going forth”; Judge, “great wrath”)
7	The 144,000—The Redeemed Host	Christ’s Own: Sealed and Delivered (Both are the Church; on earth/in heaven)
8, 9	The 7th Seal —the first 6 trumpets (The 7th Trumpet—The Last Trump 1Cor. 15:52; 1Thess.4:16—appears as Revelation 11:15-19.	Christ’s People Precipitating release Through Prayer (Opening a mighty concept)
10	The Mighty Angel Announcing the End	Christ as Consummator of History and as Commissioner of the End Times’ Message
11, 13	Two Witnesses The Wonder Woman The Beast	Christ’s Church in Confrontation with Evil (In persecution, in spiritual warfare, and in conflict with the world-system)

Chapter	Content	The Revelation of...
14	The 144,000 and Six Angelic Actions	Christ's Own Redeemed in Triumph (Each angelic action indicating victory)
15, 16	The 7 Vials of God's Wrath	Christ's Commission Unto Final Judgment (Set in an atmosphere of worship)
17, 18	The Destruction of Babylon	Christ's Sovereign Triumph Over Evil's Spiritual and Economic Control of Mankind
19, 20	The Two Last Battles	Christ's Final Triumph Over and Banishment of All Evil (Pre- and post-millennial)
21, 22	The New Heaven and New Earth	Christ's Ultimate and Eternal Union With His Own Bride

From the date of the giving of this Revelation, the simplest outline is in the words of Revelation 1:19: (1) the things you have seen, Chapter 1, being those things John had just beheld in his initial encounter with the glorified Christ; (2) the things which are, Chapters 2 and 3, being those things which were present (and throughout history) in the Church; and (3) the things which shall be hereafter, Chapters 4-22, being those things forthcoming from that time, through the present and into the future of this world and unto eternity.

A BRIEF ON CHRIST'S LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

REVELATION Chapters 2, 3	CHRIST'S PERSON AND PERCEPTION	CHRIST'S ACCUSATION AND APPROVAL	CHRIST'S CALL AND COMMAND	CHRIST'S THREAT AND PROMISE
Ephesus 2:1-7	He that holds the seven stars <i>I know your works, labor, patience</i>	Lost first Love <i>Tenacity for truth and work, Hate Nicolaitans deeds</i>	Remember your fall <i>Repent, do first works</i>	Will remove candlestick <i>Overcomer will eat of tree of life</i>
Smyrna 2:8-11	He that was dead, now alive—first and last <i>I know your works, tribulation, poverty, (true wealth)</i>	No accusation <i>Endurance against the Synagogue of Satan</i>	Fear not <i>Be faithful unto death, through tribulation</i>	No threat <i>Will not be hurt by second death; Overcomer will receive crown of life</i>
Pergamos 2:12-17	He that has the sharp two-edged sword <i>I know your conflict against satanic opponents</i>	Received doctrine of Balaam; doctrine of Nicolaitans Steadfastness	Repent	Will fight with Sword Retribution, <i>Overcomer will receive manna; white stone</i>
Thyatira 2:18-29	He that is the Son of God; eyes aflame, brazen feet, <i>I know your works, charity, service, faith, patience</i>	Received doctrine of Jezebel v. 24, <i>Moral rebellion, Carnal indulgence, Unrepentant after warning</i>	Submit to heart searching <i>Hold fast to what you have 'til I come</i>	Will kill Jezebel's offspring Retribution <i>Overcomer will rule nations; in heavenlies</i>
REVELATION Chapters 2, 3	CHRIST'S PERSON AND PERCEPTION	CHRIST'S ACCUSATION AND APPROVAL	CHRIST'S CALL AND COMMAND	CHRIST'S THREAT AND PROMISE
Sardis 3:1-6	He that has the seven spirits of God; and seven stars <i>I know your works, reputation for life (but dead)</i>	Works that remain about to die <i>Some have walked in purity</i>	Remember what you have received; heard Repent <i>Watch; strengthen what remains</i>	Sudden visitation <i>Overcomer will be clothed; have an abiding name</i>
Philadelphia 3:7-13	He that is holy and true; has the keys of David controlling access and egress <i>I know your works</i>	No accusation <i>You kept the "word of My patience"</i>	Hold what you have	Vindication v. 9 Deliverance v. 10 <i>Overcomer will be a pillar with heavenly identification</i>
Laodicea 3:14-22	He that is the Amen, faithful and true witness; beginning of creation of God <i>I know your works, uncommitted</i>	Self-satisfied, materialistic, wretched, blind, miserable, naked, poor <i>No approval</i>	Rebuking love, Repent by getting pure gold, getting pure clothing; anoint eyes with salve <i>Open the door</i>	Spew from His mouth If repent, I will return within <i>Overcomer will rule with Me</i>

A STANCE ALLOWING A GLIMPSE OF THE ULTIMATE

REVELATION CHAPTERS 4 AND 5

Revelation 4 presents an entry into “the heavenlies.” John is invited to a place (the Throne Room of the Universe) where successive visions will be unfolded to him; visions which he has been instructed to record (Rev. 1:9/compare with 4:1).

DIFFERENT VIEWS EXIST OF JOHN’S MOVEMENT “IN THE SPIRIT” (4:2).

1. Some think it portrays the rapture of the Church, and that John’s call to “come up here” (4:1) depicts the Church’s movement to heaven at Christ’s coming.
2. Others see this as a straightforward description of John’s own experience, as he is captivated by this heavenly vision so thoroughly that he is “there” in the Spirit of God.

In any case, we are presented with the one stance that allows us a glimpse of the ultimate tomorrow; the unfolding of events which culminate in the coming of Christ, the vanquishing of Satan, and the unveiling of the New Heaven and Earth.

Chapters 4 and 5 are one vision. Do not let the chapter change confuse you. This vision “sets up” everything which follows, showing us (1) the Scroll which becoming unsealed “reveals” the unfolding judgments of The Revelation; and (2) the Savior, Who being the One unsealing the Scroll is “revealed as the Lord and King of The Revelation.” There are four primary features:

I. THE PERSPECTIVE

“Behold, a throne in heaven” (4:2). John is seeing something very much the same as Daniel did in his vision (Dan. 7:9, 10). Our viewpoint is one at the center of “all power.” The Sovereign God, Who “has the whole world in His hands,” is seen with the document determining earth’s destiny. Perspective on this world’s affairs is never gained apart from seeing things from “on high” (Eph. 2:6).

II. THE PERSONNEL

Verse 4:3: Here is God the Father

Verse 4:5: Here is God the Spirit

Verse 5:6: Here is God the Son

Verse 4:4: The 24 elders probably represent the complete “believing communities” of both the OT and NT.

Verse 4:6: The 4 living creatures are of the cherub order; angels who direct and sustain worship at God’s Throne.

III. THE PURPOSE

Central to this whole scene is The Scroll. Its contents are not specifically stated, but its significance is clear. We will refer to this document as **The Title Deed to Planet Earth**. The purpose of the vision is to show that Jesus Christ is being given the right to overthrow all hostile rule alien to God’s purposes here. It is as “the Lamb who was slain” that this authority has been given to Him. All Christ’s judgments are following through the accomplishing of what His consummate victory at the Cross secured.

IV. THE PRAYERS

The place of worship, praise, and prayer must be perceived if we are to grasp the deeper message contained in this passage. Worship (4:8), Praise (4:11; 5:9-10, 12-13), and Prayer (5:8) are the keys to the release of The Purpose. Throughout this book at crucial turning points, worship, praise, and prayer appear in conjunction with each new “step” of redemption’s advance in delivering earth from evil. “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,” is our assigned prayer of this genre. Note: 5:8—no prayer is forgotten!!

A STANCE ALLOWING A GLIMPSE OF THE ULTIMATE					
Seal	Revealing	Message	Matthew	Mark	Luke
First 6:1, 2	White horse	Depicts the advance of the Church during the age	24:14 “Gospel will be preached...”	13:10 “times of nations”	21:24 “times of nations”
Second 6:3, 4	Red horse	Depicts the ongoing conflict between kingdoms—War.	24:6 “Wars and rumors of wars...”	13:7	21:10
Third 6:5, 6	Black horse	Depicts the endlessness of poverty and famine amid plenty.	24:7 “famines”	13:8	21:11
Fourth 6:7, 8	Pale horse	Depicts the spreading scourge of death and hell’s power.	24:7 “pestilences/ earthquakes...”	13:8	21:11
Fifth 6:9-11	Martyrs/altar	Declares the righteous cry for justice and heaven’s patience and promise.	24:9, 10 “they shall... kill you...”	13:9	21:12
Sixth 6:12-17	Wrath of God	Describes the culminating outpouring of judgment from the throne of God.	24:29 “sun darkened/ stars fall...”	13:19, 20	21:25, 26

UNLOCKING REVELATION

Chapter 6

The Lamb begins to unseal The Scroll; i.e., to unleash the processes of judgment and deliverance which will eventuate in the restoration of earth's rule under the Son of Man. (This is Jesus' title as the Second Adam, the divinely appointed "Representative Man," God incarnated as "the Son of Man," in order to restore and secure for redeemed mankind what we could never obtain by our own hand or merit.)

6:1-17 The Unsealing of Six of the Seven Seals

Seal	Agency	Text	Implications
One	White horse	6:1-2	The commissioned spread of the Gospel (Matt. 24:14)
Two	Red horse	6:3-4	The increasing curse of war and bloodshed. (Matt. 24:6, 7a)
Three	Black horse	6:5-6	The age-long bane of famine and hunger. (Matt. 24:7b, 8)
Four	Pale horse	6:7-8	The unrelenting assault on human life and well-being. (Luke 21:11, 25)
Five	Martyrs' prayers	6:9-11	The timeless viciousness against the godly; the promised time of exacting divine justice. (Matt. 24:9)
Six	God's wrath	6:12-17	The beginning of The End; noting the great earthquake as the correlating feature. (Matt. 24:30; Rev. 11:15-19; see also 8:5 and 15:1-8)

Seal Seven is at 8:1 and "releases" the Seven Trumpets.

UNLOCKING REVELATION

Chapter 7:9-17

Revelation and “The Rapture”

Although the term “The Rapture” is not in the Bible, the idea it represents is clearly present. By “The Rapture” we refer to the literal, imminent (any moment) appearing of Jesus Christ from heaven, to take His redeemed Church—the “translated” living and the resurrected dead—to be with Him.

Key Texts:

1. Christ’s promise to return for us—John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11.
2. The fact that this “return” shall be literal/physical—Acts 1:9-11.
3. The miraculous “change” we shall experience at his coming—1Cor. 15:52.
4. The concept of “rapture” in the New Testament—I Thess. 4:13-18 (v. 17, *harpadzo* means “to seize, steal, catch, or snatch up”).

The Timing

1. Jesus indicated the time of His coming would be “as in Noah’s time,” when the righteous were kept from the judgment on the earth. Matthew 24:42; Luke 17:26; Mark 13:33.
2. The Thessalonian epistles both note our promised deliverance from God’s visitation of His wrath on the earth. II Thess. 1:6, 7, 9, 10; I Thess. 5:9.
3. The Revelation may be easily seen to unfold this (a) as a promise to the faithful (3:10); and (b) as an event accentuatedly “pre-wrath.” See 7:9-17, as it follows 6:12-17; and 15:1-4, as it precedes 16:1-21. (This may also be seen depending upon one’s view of the Two Witnesses, noting 1:15-19 as it follows the event of 11:11-14, which some see as symbolic of the Raptured Church.)

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Chapter 7: 1-8

Revelation and “The 144,000”

John relates two visions of a multitude described as “The 144,000” in this prophecy. In the first vision (7:1-8), they are on earth and are being “sealed” to insure their preservation from the judgments due to the opening of the Seals and sounding of the Trumpets. In the second vision they are in heaven, and worshipping the Lamb with a song which is only theirs to sing.

Three different views exist as to who the 144,000 may be.

- The first is that they are a select group of Jewish converts to the Messiah who, in the wake of “Tribulation” judgements (7 year concept), turn to Jesus as Lord. They are then “sealed” to preach the Gospel to the world during this period after the Church has been raptured.
- The second is that they are are a symbolic representation of the whole Church, including Jews and Gentiles (Rom. 2:28, 29); a preserved people kept throughout the age-long era of the tribulation (classical concept) as witnesses to Christ.
- The third is that they represent the full measure of God’s fulfilling His commitment to His chosen people, the Jews. The Word of God clearly states that He has not left Israel derelict from His purposes (Romans 9-11). Though they were “broken off” (Rom. 11:17), there shall come a “resurrection” of His purposed will for national Israel (11:18) and a full complement of Jews shall be among the redeemed of all nations (11:26). (The author holds view #3; that the 144,000 are a symbolic representation of all redeemed Jewry, as God draws them unto His fulfilled purposes throughout this age.)

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Chapter 8, 9

Essentially, the Trumpets are a different order of judgment than the Seals. They result from a release of satanic viciousness, as compared with the Seals which result from man’s disobedience and just recompense. The Seals are judgments due to “the flesh” seeking its own way; the Trumpets, due to “the devil” being given his own way.

8:1-9:21 The Sounding of Six of the Seven Trumpets

Trumpet	Agency	Text	Implications
First	Hail, fire and blood “thrown”	8:7	Foliage, grass, grain are ruined.
Second	“a great mountain thrown” into the sea	8:8, 9	Sea “dies” (blood); loss of food supply/commerce.
Third	“a great star”(9:1,2) named Wormwood	8:10, 11	Earth’s water supply embittered; toxic deaths.
Fourth	Atmosphere is “struck”	8:12	All natural light reduced by one-third.
Fifth	Fallen angel with key to “The Abyss”	9:1-11	Last days intensification of demonic assault.
Sixth	Four angels “bound” unto appointed time	9:12-21	End times proliferation of Satan’s killing and harming of humanity.

The Seventh Trumpet (“the last trump”)
is (a) announced at Revelation 11:15 and (b) described at 16:1-21

UNLOCKING REVELATION

Chapter 10

Christ's Declaration: "Delay No Longer"

I. The "Angel" (Messenger) of the Lord.

Resolving the question of "another mighty angel."

- A. **The term:** Acts 7:30; Isa. 63:9; Exo. 14:19; Mal. 3:1b are sufficient evidence to affirm this is Jesus Himself. The description makes clear we are to understand this. Note: "cloud" (1:7); "rainbow" (4:16); "face" (1:16); "feet" (1:15); "a little book" (5:1-9); "open" (8:1); "lion" (5:5).
- B. **John's perspective:** We can hardly imagine the stunning appearance of these heavenly beings in the untainted atmosphere of heaven's own Throne room. Grant space for John's terminology (1) on biblical terms, as noted; but also (2) allowing for his human bewilderment (see Rev. 19:10; 22:8, 9).

II. The "Message" of the "Angel" (Messenger)

- A. **Its Scope:** (1) spanning all of earth (10:2); (2) summing up all "mysteries" (10:3-5); (3) standing as the Representative Man (10:5, 6); and (4) setting loose the consummating events (10:6).
- B. **The prophetic implications:** (1) In light of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 12:6-9; 10:5). (2) In light of "the mystery of God" (see Isa. 11:12, 2:6; 60:3; Jer. 16:19; Amos 9:11, 12/Acts 11:18; see especially Romans 11:22,25).
- C. This "message" gives context to the commission John receives, v. 8-11 (see also Ezek. 2:10-3:3 for a parallel). The scope of John's commission (v. 11) provides a frame of reference for defining the "Two Witnesses" (11:6 "the earth" and 11:6, 10 and 11:8 "spiritually." The author sees "the city" as synonymous with 18:10).

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Chapter 11

“The Two Witnesses”

I. **Compare John’s commission** (v. 1) with Ezekiel’s (Ezek. 40:3-5, plus chapters 40-48). This helps us understand the “Israel Factor” in unlocking Revelation; as noted (7:1-8; 14:1-5). This Book carefully affirms God’s intent to come full circle in His dealings with national “Israel” (i.e., the Jews—His people of ancient covenant and promise).

II. Interpretations re: “Who are the two witnesses?”

- A. Two men, somewhat like Moses and Elijah, who are divinely appointed for a short-term miraculous ministry—especially in Israel—during a season of “the great tribulation.”
- B. Symbolic of a renewal of the office ministries of the apostle and prophet in the last times.
- C. Symbolic of the Church’s age-long witness (11:3) including Gentiles and Jews anointed throughout the Church age to minister (1) prophetically and miraculously—11:5, 6; (2) facing constant persecution and martyrdom (11:7-10); and finally being raptured at Christ’s coming (11:11-13).
- D. They bespeak an age-long continuance of God’s prophetic word being witnessed to by His dealing through both Gentile and Jewish believers; finally focusing in a special last-times demonstration of His power which will give rise to demonic assault, persecution unto death, and ultimate reward (essentially the same as “C” but progressing toward a consummation possibly as literal as “A but not timed” in the same way).

(Revelation 11:15-19 is one of our earlier discussed “Rapture” passages, viewed from the heaven side of the event; compared with 11:11, 12, from the earth side.)

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Chapter 12

The Age-Long Struggle

I. **The Roots of the Struggle:** Three principals—12:1-5a

- A. The Woman: Israel (v. 1/Gen. 37:9, v. 2/Rom. 9:5b; v. 6a/ Rev. 1:1-8; v. 6b/11:1-3; v. 114a? Ex. 19:4; v. 17/Dan. 7:21-27)
- B. The Child: Jesus (v. 5a/Ps. 2:7-9; 5b/Acts 2:33; neg. v. 17)
- C. The Dragon: Satan (v. 9; ; v.3/Rev. 13:1; v.4/Isa 14:12,13 and Ps. 82; v.4b/Matt. 2:16; v.13; Dan. 12:1-2)

II. **The Arena of the Struggle:** Earth—v.4, 9, 12, 16

- A. As a battlefield, v.4, 9c (I John 5:19; John 12:31; 17:15)
- B. Focusing on deception, v.9b (Matt 24:4-5, 11, 26)
- C. An inescapable setting, v.12 (9:1-21; lost desire for life, lost hope for life)
- D. An occasional scene of mercy, v.16

II. **The Issue in the Struggle:** Kingdom Dominion—v.10

- A. The expulsion of evil: from the heavenlies (v.7-9)
from the lives of the redeemed (v.11a)
- B. The confrontation with evil: Propagating the Kingdom (v.10a)
Neutralizing the accuser (v.10B) and
Bearing witness at all costs (v.11b)

Chapter 13

”The Beast, The Dragon, and The Deceiver/Destroyer ‘Prophet’”

I. Revelation and “the Beast”

- A. Part of a “satanic trinity”: the dragon (12:17; 13:1); the beast (13:2-10); and the “False Prophet” (13:11-17).
- B. Full list of references in Revelation:
 - 11:7 Conflict with 2 witnesses—kills them (c.p. 12:11;13:7)
 - 14:9-11 Implications of 13:15-18
 - 15:2 Those victorious over him
 - 16:2 The marked experience God’s wrath
 - 16:10 The judgment on his throne
 - 16:13 Spirits emitting from their mouths
 - 19:19, 20 Armies of the Lord vanquish him (c.p. II Thess. 2:8)
 - 20:4 Those who overcome him
 - 20:10 His end—the Lake of Fire

II. The biblical idea of “the Anti-Christ” (5x)

- A. A general spirit—I John 2:18, 22; 4:3; II John 7; Rev. 13:1,2
- B. The world’s system—Daniel 2:24-45; 7:23-27.
- C. A human being—II Thess. 2:1-12 (c.p. Dan. 7:25, 8:22-26; 11:36-45...into Daniel 12:1-13).

III. The Beast’s Ministry

- A. Through the “Church age” (13:5; consistently blasphemous of God (13:5,6); assailing and killing the saints (13:7,8).
- B. Through “anointed” (13:15a) systems of demonic deception (13:11, he deceives (13:4), directs worship to himself (13:15), martyrs believers (13:15), and controls society (13:16,17); see Eph. 2:2,3.

IV. The Mark of the Beast

- A. Involves worshiping the Beast or his system (13:8).
- B. Involves prioritizing material interests over spiritual but specifically and ultimately finally involves a decision (13:7).
- C. Involves a physical mark on the hand or the head; (unless 7:1-5 might parallel II Cor. 1:21,22; Eph. 1:13,14).
- D. Involves participation in a “spirit” (13:14).

Chapter 14

“The Angels of Chapter 14”

- Angel #1** (v.6,7) The call to honor the Creator
- Angel #2** (v.8) The declaration of doom.
- Angel #3** (v.9-12)
- A. The warning of eternal judgment on those Beast-marked.
 - B. The announcement of eternal justice for the God-obeyers. (see also 16:4-7/c.p. 6:10; 19:1-4)
 - C. The promise of ongoing fruitfulness for the Dead in Christ.
- Angel #4** (v. 14-16) The initiating of the “Homegoing Harvest.”
- Angel #5** (v. 17-20) The initiating of final judgment. (V.20—The possible implications of Israel as a
- and Angel #6** last earthly battle site—Ezekiel 38:39; Zech. 14; see also Rev. 16:12-16).

Chapters 15 and 16

“The Seven Bowls of Wrath”

- A. The processional of the seven angels bearing the bowls (v.1,6,7).
- B. The Redeemed Host, glorifying the Lord (v.2-5).
- C. The Heavenly Temple, readied for the final execution of judgment against the Adversary and his works (v.5,9; 16:1,19).
- D. The Seven Plagues, 16:1-21:
 - 1. Horrible sores on the Beast-marked, v.2.
 - 2. Sea polluted unto total devastation, v.3 (c.p. 8:8-9).
 - 3. Waters turn to blood—pollution, v.4-7 (c.p. 8:10,11).
 - 4. Sun scorches mankind, v.8,9.
 - 5. Darkness and pain on the power-brokers, v.10,11 (c.p. 9:6).
 - 6. The last surge of demonic furies, v.12-16 (c.p. 9:13-15).
 - 7. The final shaking of the Earth, v.17-21 (c.p. 6:12-17; 11:15-19; Heb. 12:25-29).

Conclusion: Christ’s hope-filled promise: 16:15.

THE HEAVENLY TEMPLE

Threaded throughout this book, as shown here, are repeated references to a Temple in heaven. It seems likely that with a correlation of these references we might (1) see more precisely and confirm more completely our proposition re: the overlapping and integrating of the Seal/Trumpet/Bowl judgments. But (2) there is another concept which seems to flow out of this aspect of the collected visions.

The relationship of the heavenly Temple to the outflowing of God's concluding judgment on rebellious mankind, the beast, the "Babylon" world order and the dragon, seems to give us a clue regarding a larger issue threaded throughout the whole of God's Word. First, let us see the Revelation texts regarding the Temple (Tabernacle) and altar.

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- 6:9 Souls in heaven at the altar inquiring as to when justice will prevail for those persecuted unto death.
- 7:15 Redeemed in white robes serving God in the Temple day and night after they have "come out of great tribulation."
- 8:2-5 As the worship of 7:15 continues, the 7th Seal is opened. *Note:* Compare what occurs in the Temple at these points: 7th Seal—8:5 7th Trumpet—11:19 7th Bowl—16:17-18
- 9:13 Voice from the altar announcing action pursuant upon the 6th Trumpet; an "expediting" of judgment.
- 11:1-2 John's assignment to measure the Temple and the altar, but not the outer court of the Gentiles. (c.p. Ezek. 40-48)
- 11:19 Temple "opened" (c.p. 15:5) and the ark of the covenant is seen. (*See notes on 8:2-5.*)
- 13:6 The Beast identified as the one who "blasphemes God's name and His Tabernacle." (c.p. II Thess. 2:4; Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-15. Also, Ezek. 28:1-10 may be analogous to the "Beast," the human representation of Satan, and Ezek. 28:11-19 of the "Dragon," the Arch-deceiver himself.)
- 14:15-17, Angels from the Temple (v.15,17) and the altar (v.18) direct and expedite the earth harvest of souls (v.14-16) and harvest of judgment (v.17-20).
- 15:5,6,8 A procession of angels comes forth from the Temple with the seven bowls of God's wrath. (c.p. "opened," v.5 with 11:19.) Primary Note: "The temple of the tabernacle."

16:1,7,17 A voice from the Temple directs the pouring of the bowls (v.7). Another voice from the altar confirms the justice of the judgment on murderous persecutors (v.1-7); probably response from those in 6:9,10. Then a voice from the Temple announces, "It is done!" (v.17); probably an answer to 10:6, "Delay no longer."

21:3,22 The Temple is seen as a temporary structure, eventually swallowed up in the New Jerusalem, the Holy City, the Bride.

In the light of this finale, consider the following:

I. The Pollution of the Heavenly Temple

- A. The boast of Lucifer (Isa. 14; Ezek. 28)
- B. The demise of his office (Isa. 14; Ezek. 28)

II. The Adversary Strikes Again

- A. The assault on God's "image" (Gen. 3)
- B. The declaration of ultimate vanquishing (Gen. 3:15)
- C. The setting in motion "on earth" of the plan already established "in heaven" (John 17:24; Eph. 1:4; Heb. 4:3; Rev. 13:8)

III. The Preparation of Human Understanding

- A. The Tabernacle of Moses; the pathway of sacrifice (Ex. 25:8-9,40; 26:30; 27:8; 39:32; especially note Heb. 8:1-5)
- B. The Incarnate Tabernacle (John 1:14,29; 2:19-21)

IV. The Accomplishment of the Plan

- A. The completion of the Sacrifice (John 19:30)
- B. The presentation of the Blood (John 20:17)
- C. The declaration of this fact (Heb. 9:23-26)

V. The Consummation of the Purification

- A. The “just slain” Lamb appears (rev. 5:6).
- B. His administration first purifies the heavens (Rev. 21:7-10).
- C. He then evicts the Dragon’s kingdom from the earth (16:1-18; 24; note 16:10).

VI. The Revelation of “All Things New”

- A. What has been polluted by rebellion, in both heaven and earth, are purified first, then dissolved (II Peter 3:10-13 Matt. 24:35; Rev. 21:1,5).
- B. A new order without a temple is revealed (Rev. 21:3,22).
- C. The rebellion is forever damned (20:10-15).

VII. The Interim

- A. We are the Temple of His Body; a dwelling place of God’s glory where He is worshiped in purity (Eph. 2:19-22; I Peter 2:4-10).
- B. We are “sons” authorized to advance against the adversary (John 1:12; Eph. 3:8-13).
- C. We are the redeemed “sons” who Christ is bringing “to glory” to rule and reign with Him forever (Heb. 2:10; Rev. 20:6).
- D. In the absence of the deposed “sons of God” who lost their “first estate” (Jude 6; II Peter 2:4), we shall serve the Father’s purpose in Glory throughout His whole creation (Rom. 8:18-21; Dan. 12:2-3).

KEY CONCEPTS

Key Concepts which are unlocked and released when Revelation is approached by other than in the popularized way.

Remembering that the approach to this Book which (1) puts the Rapture at 4:1, and (2) makes all that follows as future matters has barely 150 years of tradition in the Church and is generally not accepted by the majority of Christians; and also remembering that those who had such an approach are no less intelligent, spiritual, or sincere than those who do not, let us summarize key points we have noted which differ.

1. The unfolding chapter-to-chapter reading of the Book is not seen as a constant succession of events listed in chronological order, BUT the Book of Revelation is seen as a record of prophetic visions and words recorded by John in the sequence he received them, but not intended to relate the order of their outworking or fulfillment.
2. The Seven Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are best understood as being overlapping and integrated judgments;

The Seals beginning with the birth of the Church and continuing age-long until #6, the final expression of Divine wrath (c.p. 6:12-17 with 16:17-21);

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;

The Bowls are climactic, occurring following the pre-wrath rapture of the Church, and consummating God's dealings with rebellious flesh and devils.

3. The 144,000 and The Two Witnesses are not conclusively interpreted as a specific number of people, but more indicative of God's commitment to fulfill His promised purpose among His anciently chosen people, the Jews (see Romans 9-11).
4. The recurrent mention of the Heavenly Temple and Altar and the mentioned place of that Temple and the climactic passages of judgment signal for us a recognition of something profoundly being accomplished in heaven itself, as well as on earth; as the impact of Christ's (a) Sacrifice on the Cross, (b) Resurrection and Ascension, (c) reclamation and cleansing of all things through the execution of divine justice, culminates in (d) the final judgment of the Wicked One and all who follow in his rebellion, and (e) the unveiling of an entirely new heaven as well as a new earth (21:1).
5. The Beast is seen as (a) a representative of the evil power being exercised in advancing and administering the anti-God systems of this world (Rev. 13:1-3; 17:7-8), (b) an age-long

influence which assails the Church and regularly takes casualties (Rev. 13:4-7), and (c) a spirit that will probably be manifest in a human leader at some point near the end of the age (II Thess. 2:3-4).

6. The Rapture of the Church is seen as literal, physical, and pre-millennial. It is seen as distinguished from the interpretation of a “pre-tribulation” rapture preceding a 7-year tribulation; instead, being a “pre-wrath” event preceding the final, conclusive, and sudden judgment described (for the most part) in Chapters 16-18. The Rapture is seen as being described from both the earth-side and heaven-side of the event, at least at 3 places in this Book: 11:11-15; 14:1-5; and 15:1-4. (Rev. 7:9-17 is another possible reference, but this scene probably describes the state and ministry of those who die “in Christ” during the Church age.)
7. The “Woman” of Rev. 12 is seen as Israel; the “Great Harlot” of Rev. 17,18,19 as the world system or “Babylon”; and the “Bride” of Rev. 17 and 21 as the redeemed—the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Last Six Chapters (17-22)

From the time the climactic judgments described as the outpouring of the bowls of God's wrath occur (Rev. 16), a series of visions recorded a succession of events which, unlike the earlier Chapters 4-16, do seem to follow in a basic chronological order. We are shown:

- I. Rev. 17 and 18 The Destruction of the world order and the lamentation which follows it.
- II. Rev. 19 The Exultation of the Church Triumphant and their following their King in "Conquest: Earth."
- III. Rev. 20:1-6 The Restriction of Satan for the duration of Christ's millennial reign on earth with His redeemed.
- IV. Rev. 20:7-10 The Release of the Adversary to allow the last testing of mankind and the last battle.
- V. Rev. 20:11-15 The Last Judgment, consigning unto eternal damnation all who have chosen it through sin's rebellion.
- VI. Rev. 21-22:5 The establishment of the new heaven and earth, and the symbolic description of the Holy City (People)—the Bride.
- VII. Rev. 22:6-21 The summary exhortation concluding the prophecy.

SEVEN BLESSINGS IN REVELATION

1. 1:3 Upon all who read, hear, and obey this prophecy.
2. 14:13 Upon those who die in Christ, that their lives will bear ceaseless fruit.
3. 16:15 Upon those who live purely, in anticipation of Jesus' coming.
4. 19:9 Upon those who accept their invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
5. 20:6 Upon those who, through redemption, participate in "the first resurrection."
6. 22:7 Upon those who repent and regard the prophecies of this book.
7. 22:14 Upon those who keep God's commandments.

SUMMARY LESSONS

FROM OUR 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
 - d. 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.

INTRODUCTION

This simple way of clustering Revelation's segments within brackets through the book is a device intended to help the reader/student. I have found that by this means, the seeming relentless flow of events, so easily confused and run together, is kept in clearer perspective for analysis. I have not adapted this from anyone else, so I accept any responsibility for either absence of insight or mistakes in interpretation. However, the several interpretive approaches historically applied to the NT book certainly make clear that until "that day," only the arrogant can pretend absolute certainty as to details in the outworking and timing of these great things. May God bless us as we study together, with humbled hearts and expectant faith: Jesus is coming!

Pastor Jack Hayford

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 Ch. 6 These seem to be AGE-LONG, as with Jesus' prophecies, and essentially involve Man's actions.

30 A.D. _____ (*) _____ THE END
COMPREHENSIVE (throughout)

TRUMPETS Ch. 8,9 These seem to be PROPORTIONS of destructiveness cumulative through the age, and essentially involve Demonic action. (See also Rev. 11:15-19)

30 A.D. _____ (*) _____ THE END
CONTROLLED (increasing intensity)

BOWLS These are clearly CLIMACTIC outpourings of His final “wrath,” and essentially involve Ch. 16 God’s action.

CULMINATIVE (begins in Last Times) (*) (**) THE END

- The common denominator or coordinating factors regarding “The End” 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 (I 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 I Cor. 15:52 and I Thess.4:16).

A “Map” of the Book of Revelation



HEAVEN'S THRONE ROOM

Where worship
continues, and
God's purpose
is revealed.



The principals of
discursive description
following
prophetic vision.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

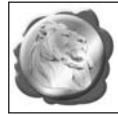
The Lord of the
Church tending the
flame of our witness.

PATMOS

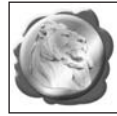
The place where
struggle is faced,
Christ revealed,
and the Church
confronted

START HERE

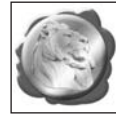
SEALS Chapter 6



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

BOWLS Chapter 16



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

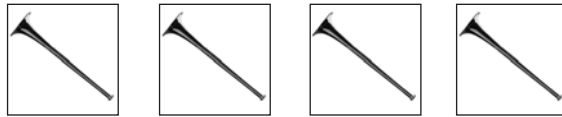
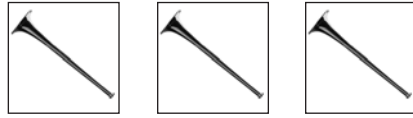
The Processing of Judgment as “Deliverance.”

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A Pathway from Patmos to the New Jerusalem via a disintegrating Babylon

TRUMPETS Chapters 8, 9



DIVINE GRACE

SEALS:

Age-long
(The visible Church
in a violent world.)

DIVINE PATIENCE

TRUMPETS: Cumulative (Invisible evil impacting the visible realm.)

DIVINE WRATH

BOWLS:

Climaxing
(A concentrated season of judgment.)

The Personalities Involved in the Process.

Ch. 7
The 144,000...
on earth (7:1-8)
in heaven (14:1-5)
The Un-#d Host...
The "Church Invisible"
See also 11:15-19;
15:1-8; 19:1-9

Ch. 10, 11
The Commissioning Savior
The Ministering Church
... Their Word and
Testimony
... The Prophetic and
Miraculous

Ch. 12, 13
The Church at War
and
The Beast at Work

Ch. 14
Six Angels
(14:6-12; 15-20)
and the Overseeing
Godhead (15:13, 14)

Ch. 15
The Worshipping Host—
Delivered from Wrath
(15:1-8; cp 11:15-19)

Ch. 17, 18
Mankind's Progressive
Political Demise and
Consummate Destruction

Ch. 19
The Church in Triumph
with Christ...
... "at supper" (v. 1-10)
... in the final battle (v. 11-21)

Ch. 20
The Savior's Millennium
Rule, followed by the
Final Judgment

Ch. 21, 22
Paradise Restored
"all things new" (21:1-22; 5)
Invitation to eternal life
(22:6-21)

7 SEALS

Perceiving the AGE
LONG TRIBULATION
Jesus predicted

(... with a pivoting
point [6:12] and an
unfolding sight

7 TRUMPETS

Discerning the AGE-
LONG SPIRITUAL
WAR Satan wages

(... impacting human
actions which ruin
creation and
destroy life)

7 BOWLS

Recognizing the
CULMINATING
OUTPOURING
of God's wrath

(... which is preceded
by the Rapture and
produces Babylon's
fall)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Introduction and Benediction

- 1 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, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.
- 2 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.

Greeting the Seven Churches

- 4 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 washed¹ us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings² and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.
- 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*,"³ says the Lord,⁴ "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Vision of the Son of Man

- 9 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.

1 NU-Text reads *loves us and freed*
2 NU-Text and M-Text read *a kingdom*.

- 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and,⁵ "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia:"⁶ to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.
- 12 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.
- 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;
- 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
- 16 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.
- 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me,⁷ "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.
- 18 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.
- 19 Write⁸ the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.
- 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw⁹ are the seven churches.

3 NU-Text and M-Text omit *the Beginning and the End*.
4 NU-Text and M-Text add *God*.
5 NU-Text and M-Text omit *I am through third and*.
6 NU-Text and M-Text omit *which are in Asia*.
7 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to me*.
8 NU-Text and M-Text read *Therefore, write*.
9 NU-Text and M-Text omit *which you saw*.

Letters to the Churches

Revelation 2

The Loveless Church

- 1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:
2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;
3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.
4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.
5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.
6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

The Persecuted Church

- 8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:
9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

10 NU-Text and M-Text read *likewise for which thing I hate*.
11 NU-Text and M-Text read *I have against you that you tolerate*.
12 M-Text reads *your wife Jezebel*.

The Compromising Church

- 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:
13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.
15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.
16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.
17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

The Corrupt Church

- 18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:
19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.
20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow¹¹ that woman¹² Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce¹³ My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.
22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their¹⁵ deeds.

13 NU-Text and M-Text read *and teaches and seduces*.
14 NU-Text and M-Text read *time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality*.
15 NU-Text and M-Text read *her*.

23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thy-
atira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who
have not known the depths of Satan, as they say,
I will put on you no other burden.

25 But hold fast what you have till I come.
26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My
works until the end, to him I will give power over
the nations—

27 *'He shall rule them with a rod of iron;
They shall be dashed to pieces like the
potter's vessels'*¹⁶—

as I also have received from My Father;

28 and I will give him the morning star.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 3

The Dead Church

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
'These things says He who has the seven Spirits
of God and the seven stars: I know your works,
that you have a name that you are alive, but you
are dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things
which remain, that are ready to die, for I have
not found your works perfect before God.¹⁷

3 Remember therefore how you have received
and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you
will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief,
and you will not know what hour I will come
upon you.

4 You¹⁸ have a few names even in Sardis who
have not defiled their garments; and they shall
walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white
garments, and I will not blot out his name from
the Book of Life; but I will confess his name be-
fore My Father and before His angels.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches."

The Faithful Church

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadel-
phia write,

"These things says He who is holy, He who is
true, "He who has the key of David, He who
opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one
opens"¹⁹:

8 "I know your works. See, I have set before
you an open door, and no one can shut it; for
you have a little strength, have kept My word,
and have not denied My name.

9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue
of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but
lie—indeed I will make them come and worship
before your feet, and to know that I have loved
you.

10 Because you have kept My command to per-
severe, I also will keep you from the hour of trial
which shall come upon the whole world, to test
those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold,²⁰ I am coming quickly! Hold fast
what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 He who overcomes, I will make him a
pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go
out no more. I will write on him the name of My
God and the name of the city of My God, the
New Jerusalem, which comes down out of
heaven from My God. And I will write on him
My new name.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches."

The Lukewarm Church

14 "And to the angel of the church of the
Laodiceans²¹ write, "These things says the Amen,
the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of
the creation of God:

15 "I know your works, that you are neither
cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and nei-
ther cold nor hot,²³ I will vomit you out of My
mouth.

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become
wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not
know that you are wretched, miserable, poor,
blind, and naked—

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined
in the fire, that you may be rich;

17 NU-Text and M-Text read *My God*. 18 NU-Text and
M-Text read *Nevertheless you have a few names in Sardis*.

19 Isaiah 22:22

20 NU-Text and M-Text read *which no one can shut*.

21 NU-Text and M-Text omit *Behold*.

and white garments, that you may be clothed,
that the shame of your nakedness may not be re-
vealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that
you may see.

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

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If
anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will
come in to him and dine with him, and he with
Me.

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with
Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat
down with My Father on His throne.

22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the
Spirit says to the churches."²²

Revelation 4

The Throne Room of Heaven

1 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."

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold,
a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the
throne.

3 And He who sat there was²² like a jasper and
a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a
rainbow around the throne, in appearance like
an emerald.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones,
and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sit-
ting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns
of gold on their heads.

5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings,
thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were
burning before the throne, which are the²³ seven
Spirits of God.

6 Before the throne there was²⁴ a sea of glass,
like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and
around the throne, were four living creatures full
of eyes in front and in back.

7 The first living creature was like a lion, the
second living creature like a calf, the third living
creature had a face like a man, and the fourth
living creature was like a flying eagle.

22 M-Text omits *And He who sat there was (which makes the
description in verse 3 modify the throne rather than God)*.

23 M-Text omits the

24 NU-Text and M-Text add *something like*.

25 M-Text has *holly nine times*.

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings,
were full of eyes around and within. And they do
not rest day or night, saying:

*"Holy, holy, holy,²⁵
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"*

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and
honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne,
who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him
who sits on the throne and worship Him who
lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before
the throne, saying:

11 *"You are worthy, O Lord,²⁶
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist²⁷ and were created."*

Revelation 5

The Lamb Takes the Scroll

1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat
on the throne a scroll written inside and on the
back, sealed with seven seals.

2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with
a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll
and to loose its seals?"

3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or
under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to
look at it.

4 So I wept much, because no one was found
worthy to open and read²⁸ the scroll, or to look
at it.

5 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 loose²⁹ its seven seals."

6 And I looked, and behold,³⁰ 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.

7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the
right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

26 NU-Text and M-Text read *our Lord and God*.

27 NU-Text and M-Text read *existed*.

28 NU-Text and M-Text omit *and read*.

29 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to loose*.

30 NU-Text and M-Text read *I saw in the midst ... a
Lamb standing*

Worthy Is the Lamb

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals: For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us³¹ kings³² and priests to our God; And we³³ shall reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”³⁴

14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four³⁵ elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.³⁶

Revelation 6

First Seal: The Conqueror

1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals,³⁷ and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

31 NU-Text and M-Text read *them*.

32 NU-Text reads *a kingdom*.

33 NU-Text and M-Text read *they*.

34 M-Text adds *Amen*.

35 NU-Text and M-Text omit *twenty-four*.

36 NU-Text and M-Text omit *Him who lives forever and ever*.

37 NU-Text and M-Text read *seven seals*.

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2 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.

Second Seal: Conflict on Earth

3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come and see.”³⁸

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth

5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see.”

So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart³⁹ of wheat for a denarius,⁴⁰ and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth

7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.”

8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

38 NU-Text and M-Text omit *and see*.

39 Greek choenix; that is, approximately one quart.

40 This was approximately one day’s wage for a worker.

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Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances

12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold,⁴¹ there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon⁴² 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,⁴³ 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?”

Revelation 7

The Sealed of Israel

1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

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

3 saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

5 of the tribe of Judah

twelve thousand were sealed,⁴³

of the tribe of Reuben

twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Gad

twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Asher

twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali

twelve thousand were sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh

The 144,000 and...The Unnumbered Throng

- 7 twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Simeon
twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Levi
twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Issachar
twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Zebulun
twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Joseph
twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Benjamin
twelve thousand were sealed.
- 8

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

9 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,

10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God.

12 saying:

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.”

So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 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 dwell among them.

16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.⁴⁶ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

41 NU-Text and M-Text omit *behold*.

42 NU-Text and M-Text read *the whole moon*.

43 In NU-Text and M-Text *sealed* is stated only in verses 5a and 8c; the words are understood in the remainder of the passage.

44 NU-Text and M-Text read *to fountains of the waters of life*.

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Revelation 8

Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets

- 1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.
- 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

- 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.
- 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunders, lightnings, and an earthquake.
- 6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

- 7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth.⁴⁵ And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

- 8 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.
- 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

- 10 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.
- 11 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.

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

- 12 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.

45 NU-Text and M-Text add *and a third of the earth was burned up.*

- 13 And I looked, and I heard an angel⁴⁶ flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Revelation 9

Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
- 4 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.

- 5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
- 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.
- 7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

- 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
- 9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.
- 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

- 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.
- 12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

46 NU-Text and M-Text read *angel*.

Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates

- 13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
- 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

- 16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

- 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

- 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

- 19 For their power⁴⁷ is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

- 20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

- 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries⁴⁸ or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 10

The Mighty Angel with the Little Book

- 1 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.

- 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,
- 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

- 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice

47 NU-Text and M-Text read *the power of the horses.*

48 NU-Text and M-Text read *drugs.*

49 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to me.*

from heaven saying to me,⁴⁹ "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

- 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand⁵⁰ to heaven and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it; that there should be delay no longer.

- 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

John Eats the Little Book

- 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

- 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

- 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

- 11 And he⁵¹ said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

- 1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood⁵² saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

- 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

- 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

- 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God⁵³ of the earth.

- 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their

50 NU-Text and M-Text read *right hand.*

51 NU-Text and M-Text read *they.*

52 NU-Text and M-Text omit *And the angel stood.*

53 NU-Text and M-Text read *Lord.*

Seventh Trumpet 11:15-19

The Excursus Announcement
Assignment The Witnesses

enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.
6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophesy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

The Witnesses Killed

- 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.
8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our⁶⁴ Lord was crucified.
9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.
10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

The Witnesses Resurrected

- 11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
12 And they⁶⁵ heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.
13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.
14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom Proclaimed

- 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms⁶⁶ of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before

54 NU-Text and M-Text read *them*.
55 M-Text reads *it*.
57 NU-Text and M-Text read *kingdom... has become*.
57 NU-Text and M-Text omit *and who is to come*.
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God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,
17 saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come,⁵⁷

Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

- 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

- 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant⁵⁸ was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 12

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

- 1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.
2 Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.
3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.
4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.
5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.
6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

- 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,
58 M-Text reads *the covenant of the Lord*.

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- 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them⁵⁹ in heaven any longer.
9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."
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. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

The Woman Persecuted

- 13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.
14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.
15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.
16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.
17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.⁶⁰

Revelation 13

The Beast from the Sea

- 1 Then I⁶¹ stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns,⁶² and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

59 M-Text reads *him*.
60 NU-Text and M-Text omit *Christ*.
61 NU-Text reads *he*.

- 2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

- 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.
4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

- 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue⁶³ for forty-two months.
6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.
7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe,⁶⁴ tongue, and nation.

- 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.
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.

The Beast from the Earth

- 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.
12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.
13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

- 14 And he deceives those⁶⁴ who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

62 NU-Text and M-Text read *ten horns and seven heads*.
63 M-Text reads *make war*.
64 NU-Text and M-Text add *and people*.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Revelation 14 The Lamb and the 144,000

1 Then I looked, and behold, a⁶⁵ Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having⁶⁶ His Father's name written on their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed⁶⁷ from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no deceit,⁶⁸ for they are without fault before the throne of God.⁶⁹

The Proclamations of Three Angels

6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

8 And another angel followed, saying,

65 NU-Text and M-Text read *he*.
66 NU-Text and M-Text add *His name and*.
67 M-Text adds *by Jesus*.

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"Babylon⁷⁰ is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

11 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."

12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those⁷¹ who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me,⁷² "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."

Reaping the Earth's Harvest

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You⁷³ to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Reaping the Grapes of Wrath

17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp

68 NU-Text and M-Text read *fulchrood*.
69 NU-Text and M-Text omit *before the throne of God*.
70 NU-Text reads *Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, which has made; M-Text reads: Babylon the great is fallen. She has made*.
71 NU-Text and M-Text omit *here are those*.
72 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to me*.
73 NU-Text and M-Text omit *for You*.

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sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Revelation 15 Prelude to the Bowl Judgments

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark⁷⁴ and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!
Just and true are Your ways,
O King of the saints!⁷⁵
Who shall not fear You, O Lord,
and glorify Your name?
For You alone are holy.
For all nations shall come and
worship before You,
For Your judgments have
been manifested."

5 After these things I looked, and behold,⁷⁶ the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

6 And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.

8 The temple was filled with smoke from the

74 NU-Text and M-Text omit *over his mark*.
75 NU-Text and M-Text read *nations*.
76 NU-Text and M-Text omit *behold*.

glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation 16

1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls⁷⁷ of the wrath of God on the earth."

First Bowl: Loathsome Sores

2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

Third Bowl: The Waters Turn to Blood

4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying:

"You are righteous, O Lord,⁷⁸
The One who is and who was
and who is to be,
Because You have judged these things.
For they have shed the blood
of saints and prophets,
And You have given them blood to drink.
For it is their just due."

7 And I heard another from⁷⁹ the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain

10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed

77 NU-Text and M-Text read *seven bowls*.
78 NU-Text and M-Text omit *O Lord*.
79 NU-Text and M-Text read *who was, the Holy One*.

their tongues because of the pain.
11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.
13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.
14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and⁸⁰ of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.
15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.⁸¹

Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken

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 thunderings 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.

Revelation 17

The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to

me,⁸² "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."
3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.
4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.⁸³

5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.
8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."⁸⁴

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.
10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.
11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.
12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom

80 NU-Text and M-Text omit *of the earth and*.
81 M-Text reads *Magaddo*.
82 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to me*.

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as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.
14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."
15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.
16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.
18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 18

The Fall of Babylon the Great

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.
2 And he cried mightily⁸⁵ with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!
3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."
4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.
5 For her sins have reached⁸⁶ to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
6 Render to her just as she rendered to you,⁸⁷ and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.
7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her

85 NU-Text and M-Text omit *mightily*.
86 NU-Text and M-Text read *have been heaped up*.

torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges⁸⁸ her.

The World Mourns Babylon's Fall

9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,
10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour you judgment has come.'
11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:
12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;
13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.
14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you,⁸⁹ and you shall find them no more at all.
15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.
16 and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!
17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance
18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'
19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships

87 NU-Text and M-Text omit *to you*.
88 NU-Text and M-Text read *has judged*.
89 NU-Text and M-Text read *been lost to you*.

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on the sea became rich by her wealth!
For in one hour she is made desolate.”

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles⁹⁰ and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

Finality of Babylon's Fall

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.”

22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.
23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

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

Revelation 19

Heaven Exults over Babylon

1 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 Lord⁹¹ our God!
2 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.”

3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”
4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both [c] small and great!”
6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying—

90 NU-Text and M-Text read *saints and apostles*.

91 NU-Text and M-Text omit *the Lord*.

92 NU-Text and M-Text adds *names written, and*.

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“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”

7 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.”

8 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.

9 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.”

10 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.”

Christ on a White Horse

11 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.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had⁹² a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp⁹³ 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.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS
AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Beast and His Armies Defeated

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God.”⁹⁴

18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the

93 M-Text adds *two-edged*.

94 NU-Text and M-Text adds *the great supper of God*.

95 M-Text reads *the*.

96 NU-Text and M-Text add *also*.
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the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21

And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 20

Satan Bound 1000 Years

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

The Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for ⁹⁵ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

95 M-Text reads *the*.

96 NU-Text and M-Text add *also*.

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Satanic Rebellion Crushed

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

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.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,⁹⁶ and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.⁹⁷

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21

All Things Made New

1 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.

2 Then I, John,⁹⁸ saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

97 NU-Text and M-Text add *the lake of fire*.

98 NU-Text and M-Text omit *John*.

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.⁷

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me,⁹ "Write, for these words are true and faithful."⁹

6 And He said to me, "It is done!¹⁰⁰ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things,¹⁰¹ and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving,¹⁰² abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."⁷

The New Jerusalem

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me¹⁰³ and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."¹⁰⁴

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy¹⁰⁵ Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foun-

99 NU-Text and M-Text omit to me.
 100 M-Text omits *It is done*.
 101 M-Text reads *overcomes, I shall give him these things*.
 102 M-Text adds *and sinners*.
 103 NU-Text and M-Text omit to me.
 104 M-Text reads *I will show you the woman, the Lamb's bride*.
 105 NU-Text and M-Text omit *the great and read the holy city, Jerusalem*.

dations, and on them were the names¹⁰⁶ of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal.

17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Concluding Exhortation

The Glory of the New Jerusalem

22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it,¹⁰⁷ for the glory¹⁰⁸ of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

24 And the nations of those who are saved¹⁰⁹ shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.¹¹⁰

25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.¹¹¹

27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes¹¹² an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

106 NU-Text and M-Text read *twelve names*.
 107 NU-Text and M-Text omit *it*.
 108 M-Text reads *the very glory*.
 109 NU-Text and M-Text omit *of those who are saved*.
 110 M-Text reads *the glory and honor of the nations to Him*.
 111 M-Text adds *that they may enter in*.
 112 NU-Text and M-Text read *anything profane, nor one who causes*.
 113 NU-Text and M-Text omit *pure*.

Revelation 22 The River of Life

1 And he showed me a pure¹¹³ river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

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.

The Time Is Near

6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy¹¹⁴ prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

8 Now I, John, saw and heard¹¹⁵ these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous¹¹⁶ still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

114 NU-Text and M-Text read *spirits of the prophets*.
 115 NU-Text and M-Text read *am the one who heard and saw*.
 116 NU-Text and M-Text read *do right*.
 117 NU-Text and M-Text read *the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End*.

Jesus Testifies to the Churches

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."¹¹⁷

14 Blessed are those who do His commandments,¹¹⁸ that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

A Warning

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add¹¹⁹ to him the plagues that are written in this book;

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away¹²⁰ his part from the Book¹²¹ of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

I Am Coming Quickly

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."
 Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.¹²² Amen.

118 NU-Text reads *wash their robes*.
 119 M-Text reads *may God add*.
 120 M-Text reads *may God take away*.
 121 NU-Text and M-Text read *tree of life*.
 122 NU-Text reads *with all; M-Text reads with all the saints*.

UNLOCKING REVELATION:

Untangling the interlocking visions of the Rapture, and addressing the question of Two Witnesses: Chapters 7, 10, 11

The Sealed of Israel Chapter 7

- 1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.
- 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."
- 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

- 5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed;⁴³ of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed;

The Lamb and the 144,000 Chapter 14

- 1 Then I looked, and behold, a⁶⁵ Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having⁶⁶ His Father's name written on their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

- 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.
- 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were re-deemed⁶⁷ from among men, being first-fruits to God and to the Lamb.
- 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit,⁶⁸ for they are without fault before the throne of God.⁶⁹

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation Chapter 7

- 9 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,
- 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"
- 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

- 12 saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

- 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"
- 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
- 15 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 dwell among them.
- 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;
- 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.⁴⁶ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

We view the possibility as a likelihood that the following texts converge at the same time; being viewed by the prophet John from different perspectives in the unveiling of the prophecies and at different times in each one's distinct unfolding in history. They constitute one rapture—The Church—including the Jews (first fruits): The Gentiles (every tribe/nation) as well as the unusually anointed "witnesses": 7:9-14; 11:11-13; 14:1-5; 14:1-4; 19:1-3, 6-7.

The Witnesses Resurrected Chapter 11

- 11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
- 12 And they⁵⁵ heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.
- 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.
- 14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. 2:13

Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom Proclaimed

- 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms⁵⁶ of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

- 17 saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come,⁵⁷ Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,

Daniel 12, Luke 21:24, Romans 11:25

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

- 1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood,⁵² saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.
- 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months.
- 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."
- 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God⁵³ of the earth.
- 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.
- 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

The Witnesses Killed

- 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 9:11

- 8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our⁵⁴ Lord was crucified.
- 9 Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.
- 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Mal 3:1b, Isa 63:9,

Ex 14:19,

Acts 7:30-32

Revelation 10 The Mighty Angel with the Little Book

- 1 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. 1:7; 4:3; 1:16; 1:75
- 2 And he had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. 8:1
- 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.
- 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me,⁴⁹ "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

- 5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand⁵⁰ to heaven
- 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,
- 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

John Eats the Little Book

- 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said,

"Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Ez 2:10 - 3:3

10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 And he⁵¹ said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings." to Chapter 11