

**Introduction and Background.** The Revelation of Jesus Christ was written during an extreme time of persecution of the Believers in Christ Jesus which possibly was that fire began by Nero after the great fire that nearly destroyed Rome in July of A.D. 64 and continued until his (Nero) suicide in A.D. 68. This book was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in September A.D. 70.

The purpose of this message was to provide pastoral encouragement to persecuted Christians by comforting, challenging, and proclaiming the sure and certain Christian hope, together with the assurance that in Christ they are sharing in the sovereign God's method of overcoming the forces of evil.

The central message of the Revelation is that "the Lord God Omnipotent reigns (19:6). Those who follow the Lamb are involved in a continuing spiritual conflict, and Revelation thus provides deeper insight into the nature and tactics of the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-12). The dragon develops a counterfeit trinity to make war on the saints (Rev 12:17). The first beast or monster symbolizes the reality of anti-Christian government and political power (13:1-10; 13:4); the second, anti-Christian religion, philosophy and ideology (13:11-17). Together they produce the ultimately deceptive and seductive anti-Christian secular society, commerce and culture, the harlot Babylon (Ch 17-18), composed of those who dwell on earth and thus bears the mark of the monster (beast) and their names are not registered in the "Lamb's Book of life."<sup>1</sup> Christians must discern whether a government is functioning under divine authority or as a divine authority. Christians must pray courageously, endure, and patiently accept the consequences of obeying the God whose image and seal they bear (Mark 12:16)

Seven letters were sent to seven churches with the intent that each member "hear" the message to each church (2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Within the letter is the "prophecy" (1:3; 10:11; 19:10; 22:6, 7, 10, 18, 19). John received these prophecies through a series of vivid visions containing symbolic images and numbers. John does not provide a chronological order in which historical events are to occur.<sup>2</sup> For example, Jesus is born in Chapter 12, is exalted in Chapter 5 and is walking in the midst of

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible, (Jack Hayford), Introduction, Pages 1954-1955

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible, (Jack Hayford), Introduction, Pages 1954-1955

His churches in Chapter 1. The beast who attacks the two witnesses in Chapter 11 is not brought into existence until Chapter 13. John records a series of successive visions, not a series of consecutive events.

Although Jesus' earthly ministry is telescoped between His Incarnation and Ascension in 12:5, Revelation asserts that the Son of God, as the Lamb, has completely finished His redemptive work (1:5,6) By His blood sinners, have been forgiven, cleansed (5:6,9; 7:14, 12:1-11), liberated (1:5), and made kings and priests (1:6; 5:10). Satan has been defeated (12:7-12) and bound (20:1-3). Jesus, raised from the dead, is enthroned as absolute Sovereign over all creation (1:5, 2:27). He is "King of kings and Lord of lords (17:14; 19:16) and is entitled to the same ascriptions of adoration as God the Creator (5:12-14). The only One who is "worthy" to execute the eternal purpose of God is "the Lion of Judah, who is not a political Messiah but a sacrificed Lamb (5:5-6) The Lamb is the primary title utilized 28 times in Revelation. He has the rightful authority and the power to control all the forces of evil and their consequences for His purposes of judgment and salvation (6:1-7:17). The Lamb is on the throne (4:1-5; 14:22:3) The Lamb, as "One like the Son of Man," is always in the midst of His people (1:9-3:22; 14:1) whose names are recorded in His Book of life (3:5; 21:27) and Jesus knows them intimately. They share fully in His present and future victory (17:14; 19:11-16; 21:1-22:5) as well as in His present and future "marriage supper (19:7-3; 21:2). He dwells in them (1:13), and they dwell in Him (21:22).<sup>3</sup>

As one like the Son of Man, He also is the Lord of the final harvest (14:14-20). He pours out His wrath in judgment upon Satan (20:10), his allies (19:20; 20:14) and the spiritually "dead" (20:12-15) The Lamb is the God who is coming (1:7,8, 11:17; 22:7,20) to complete the creation of the new community of His people in "a new heaven and new earth" (21:1)

The description of the Holy Spirit as the "seven Spirits of God" (1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6) is distinct in the New Testament. The number seven is a symbolic, quantitative number conveying the idea of completeness and when related to God, the idea of perfection. The seven "lamps of fire" (4:5) suggest His illuminating, purifying, and

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<sup>3</sup> The Holy Bible, (Jack Hayford), Introduction, Page 1956

energizing ministries. They are before the throne (1:4;4:5) and simultaneously are the seven eyes of the Lamb (5:6) signifies the essential triunity of God who has revealed Himself as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>

The Spirit is thus the Spirit of prophecy and every genuine prophecy is inspired by the Holy Spirit and bears witness to Jesus (19:10) The Prophetic Visions are communicated to John only while he is in the Spirit.

### The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- I. Revelation 1:1–3 (NKJV) **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, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup> 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.
  - a. God didn't intend to keep this hidden, but to show His servants things that must shortly take place between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ.
  - b. John bore witness of the word (1 John 1:1-2) (John 19:35)
    - i. John 1:1–2 (NKJV) **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.
    - ii. John 19:35 (NKJV) <sup>35</sup> And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.
  - c. Blessed are those who read, hear and keep close to those things that they hear.
- II. Revelation 1:4–6 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup> The Holy Bible, (Jack Hayford), Introduction, Pages 1957

washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

a. This begins the letters to the seven churches in Asia.

John is writing to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia which are a representee of all churches in every age.

b. He begins by pronouncing the blessings of grace and peace from: Who is (Father), Seven Spirits (Holy Spirit) Jesus Christ (Son) Jesus Christ is furthermore expresses as King of Kings

i. John 1:1 (NKJV) **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

ii. Proverbs 14:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup>A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

iii. Isaiah 55:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> Indeed I have given him *as* a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.

iv. Psalm 89:27 (NKJV) <sup>27</sup>Also I will make him *My* firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.

v. Colossians 1:18 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

c. V6. He made us kings and priest to the Triune God (1 Peter 2:5-9)

i. 1 Peter 2:5–9 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> Therefore it is also

contained in the Scripture, “*Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.*”

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient, “*The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,*”

<sup>8</sup> and “*A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.*”

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to

which they also were appointed. <sup>9</sup> But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

- ii. A present tense reference to the believer's function now, in witness and in worship (Rev 5:10)
- iii. Revelation 5:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup>And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

III. Revelation 1:7–8 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- a. He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him.
  - i. Matthew 24:30 (NKJV) <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
  - ii. Zechariah 12:10–14 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.  
<sup>11</sup> In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup> And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>14</sup> all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.

- iii. The Lord's return will be actual, personal and visible. (2<sup>nd</sup> Coming – Judgment)
  - 1. Acts 1:9–11 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”
  - 2. Clouds symbolize God's presence, protection and leadership.
  - 3. Daniel 7:7–10 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. <sup>8</sup> I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. <sup>9</sup> “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

4. Zechariah 14:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *And* all the saints with You.

5. Revelation 17:14 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> 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.”

iv. God seals the prophecy with the authority of His name. “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.” God is everything. He is absolute.

1. Rev 4:8; 11:17; 15:3;16:7,14; 19:15; 21;22)

IV. Revelation 1:9-20. Vision of the Son of Man.

a. Revelation 1:9–20 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at

His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. <sup>20</sup> 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 saw are the seven churches.

- b. John is in exile on Patmos, an island 10 miles by 6 miles, located 60 miles southwest of Ephesus in the Aegean Sea. Volcanic and mostly treeless. The Romans used it as a penial colony, forcing prisoners to work in the granite quarries. John's banishment was the result of his faithful witness to the gospel.
- c. V9-12: He was in the Spirit. This isn't a natural, engagement with the flesh, but with the Spirit. Verses 11-12 identifies who John is interacting with. The Alpha and Omega is the first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet signifying that God is everything. God almighty, Jehovah. This is the earliest reference in Christian literature to the first day of John to receive a momentous message.
- d. V11. God was precise on what He wanted John to do. Write what he sees in a book and send to the seven churches in Asia. (Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea)
- e. V12-15. Description of Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;
  - i. 7 Golden Lampstands – (The Churches)



1. The Purpose of the Lampstands can be found in Exodus 25:37 which is to bring light to those things that are in front of it.
2. 7 is the number for completeness
- ii. In the Midst "One like the Son of Man" (Jesus Christ)
  1. Clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. (Golden Band – wealth, something a servant would not of had) (Daniel 10:5-6).
    - a. Daniel 10:5–6 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup>I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz! <sup>6</sup>His body *was* like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.
  2. Servants was not allowed to wear garments in length to the ground but wore garments that stopped at the knee line. This was a clear indication they were servants and not royalty. Jesus did come to serve, but now Jesus is the King of kings. (priestly royalty)
  3. The clothing of the Lord symbolizes priestly royalty, and the white hair and flaming eyes symbolize eternity, wisdom and omniscience; the fine brass suggest immutability and omnipotence and the many waters represent commanding authority. (Daniels Vision: Daniel 7:9-10; 10:5-6) Omniscience is the state of knowing everything.
    - a. Daniel 7:9–10 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup>"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

- <sup>10</sup>A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.
- b. Daniel 10:5–6 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz! <sup>6</sup> His body *was* like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.
- f. V16-20. Jesus having the stars in His right hand and the sharp two edge sword from His mouth.
- i. The stars in his hand are the seven messengers (pastors) to the seven churches or the seven guardian angels assigned to the churches. The right hand connotes being sustained and protected.
  - ii. The sharp two edge is a representation of the Word coming forth from the mouth of Jesus Christ denoting supreme authority.
    1. John 1:14 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
    2. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
  - iii. V17. Ezekiel 1:21-28. Ezekiel's Vision of the Son of Man in Glory. (Daniel 8:15-23 – Description of the 4 Beast, the glory of God and the Angel touching and bringing strength to stand) Isaiah 41:4;44:6 and 48:12. Descriptions of Jesus Christ.

- iv. V18. Jesus lives and doesn't change. The keys of Hades and of Death: Jesus is now Lord over the realms of life and death. The power of satanic rule because of man's original rebellion is now curbed.
  - 1. Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
  - 2. Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Philippians 2:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
  - 3. Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
- v. V19. Jesus gives the command to John write the things that are (present) , that have (Past) and that will come (Future) and make it visible. Ch1 which you have seen; Ch2-3, things which are; Ch 4-22 Which will take place.

## Revelation Chapter 2

### I. Revelation Chapter 2:1-7 (The Loveless Church)

Revelation 2:1–7 (NKJV) **2** “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These glory things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: <sup>2</sup> “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; <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

<sup>7</sup> “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.” ’

- a. Each letter written to the churches all have similarities.
  - 1) the positive things about the church; 2) the negative things about the church that displease the Lord and 3) How to turn it around and what will happen if they do not,
- b. V1 Identifies who is speaking and who He is speaking to.  
**Description of Jesus Christ.** He who holds the seven stars in His right hand who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. (Jesus Christ remember Jesus

is the head, but we, the church are the body and He gave authority to the church. Ephesians 3:8-13 – Jesus gave Believers the authority: John 14:12; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15-18; )

- i. The church of Ephesus.
- ii. Unloving, Orthodox Church in the foremost city of Asia (Acts 19,20) and the home of John before and after his imprisonment on the island of Patmos.
- c. V2-3: What Jesus says He knows. The Commendation:
  - i. Your Works, labor and patience.
  - ii. Can not bear those who are evil.
  - iii. Tested those who say they are apostles and are not and found them liars. (1 John 4:1; Psalm 1:6)

1 John 4:1 (NKJV) **4** Beloved do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Psalm 1:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

- iv. Pros: You have preserved and have patience and have labored for Jesus' sake and have not become weary.
- d. V4-5: Criticism against the church at Ephesus
  - i. You have left your first love. Being relational is always the top priority, not works. Jesus wants relationship, fellowship and loyalty. The spiritual vitality springing from love for the Lord had degenerated to orthodox routines.
  - ii. Instruction: Remember where you have fallen, repent and do the first works
  - iii. If not, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
    - 1. Influence
    - 2. Power
    - 3. Kingdom Rights/Destiny

- iv. Matthew 21:41 (NKJV) <sup>41</sup> They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."
- e. V6-7. The Church of Ephesus hated the deeds of Nicolaitans and so did Jesus. The Nicolaitans is symbolic meaning "Conquering the Laity." This group claimed some type of superiority status that permitted idolatry and immorality.
- f. V7. The Promise: Admonishes those to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying and promises to the one who overcomes he/she will eat from the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

## II. Revelation 2:8-11. (Smyrna – Persecuted Church)

Revelation 2:8–11 (NKJV) <sup>8</sup> "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: <sup>9</sup> "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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> "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." '

- a. To the angel of the church in Smyrna. Smyrna was a poor persecuted church located in a beautiful city of wealth and commercial greatness with a large Jewish population.
- b. Revelation 2:8. **Describes Jesus Christ.** He is the first and last who was dead and came to life
- c. Revelation 2:9: What Jesus says He knows The Commendation:

- i. Your works, tribulations and poverty. (even though you are rich) The Jews made it particularly difficult for the church there.
  - ii. I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are synagogue of Satan.
    - 1. The official title was the synagogue of the Lord (Numbers 16:3)
    - 2. But the hostile , unbelieving Jews had become a synagogue of Satan. The synagogue of the Lord has now become the “church.”
- d. Revelation 2:10: the Exhortation.
- i. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. (Word of Wisdom).
    - 1. The devil is about to throw some of you into prison and you will be tested for 10 days.
    - 2. Told them to be faithful until death; I will give you the crown of life.
    - 3. Matthew 10:22,32–33 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.  
<sup>2</sup> “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 24:13 endures will be saved)
    - 4. James 1:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
    - 5. Confessing Jesus before humanity expresses covenant, loyalty and submission. If you deny Jesus Christ he will deny you before the Father in heaven and the Judgment Seat of Christ. Remember, Jesus Christ is interceding on our behalf before the Father in Heaven. If you deny Him, He will turn to the Father and

say, "I never knew them – deny your entrance into Heaven."

- e. Revelation 2:11. The Promise. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death. (**NOTICE:** Jesus didn't say I have this against you!)
  - i. The second death is the eternal separation from God.
  - ii. Revelation 20:6,14-15(NKJV) <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
  - iii. Even Daniel seen this: Daniel 12:2 (NKJV) <sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
  - iv. John 5:28–29 (NKJV) <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this (**HE JUST SPOKE ALL THOSE COMING, DEAD AND ALIVE TO BE RAISED TO BE JUDGED**) ; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

### III. Revelation 2:12-17 (Pergamos – the Compromising Church)

Revelation 2:12–17 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: <sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

<sup>17</sup> “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*.” ’

- a. Pergamos was a doctrinally compromising church in the oldest city of the Province and the official seat of the Roman government.
- b. V12. Jesus is described here as “He who has the sharp two-edged sword.”
  - i. Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (John 1:1,14)
  - ii. The Word of God is alive and powerful; can pierce through anything and exposes all things in one's life.
- c. V13. Jesus' Commendation:
  - i. I know your works and where you dwell where Satan's throne is, and you hold fast My name and do not deny My faith even in the days when Antipas was martyred.
    - 1. Satan's Throne: may refer to a 200-foot-high altar of Zeus that was erected or because it was the center of emperor worship.
    - 2. The city was also the center of the worship of Aesclepius, who was the Greek god of healing who's symbol was a serpent which to Christians symbolizes Satan.
    - 3. Antipas was eventually the first Christian in Asia to be martyred for his faith.
- d. V14-15. The Criticism.

- i. Those who hold the doctrine of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. (Numbers 22-25,31:15-16; Acts 15:28-29; 1 Corinthians 10;27-29)
  - 1. These were teachings that seduced the people of God into idolatry and immorality.
  - 2. Numbers 31:16-17. Children of Israel came back from war against the Midianites and Moses was angry with them because they kept the Women and Children alive. And Moses said that these women through the counsel of Balaam, caused the children of Israel to commit sexual immorality at Peor, where a plague destroyed thousands of Israel until a man thrust a spear in a woman and man committing sexual immorality and the plague stopped. Moses commanded that the male children and all women who had known a man sexually to be killed.
  - 3. Acts 15:22-29 (Jerusalem Decree from the Apostles)
    - a. V29. Specifically saying to stay away from: Acts 15:29 (NKJV) <sup>29</sup> that you abstain from **things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality**. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.
      - i. These four things are things that Baalam worship involves.
    - b. 1 Corinthians 6:13 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- e. Revelation 2:16: The Exhortation The instruction .
  - i. Repent or Jesus will come quickly and fight against them. Jesus gives the church at Pergamos ample time and chances to turn it around.

- f. Revelation 2:17: The Promise. To him who overcomes:
- i. I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. (John 6:48-54)
  - ii. I will give him a white stone and on that stone a new name written that no one knows except him who receives it.
  - iii. White stone represents righteousness and a new name that only the one who receives it will know it.

The first three churches Jesus Christ revealed Himself differently to all the churches, had exhortations for all of them along with what He had against them. But the three churches, Jesus gave time to repent before He would come and remove the lampstands (His presence and power). If they did repent, all three churches would receive something eternally forever.

He (Jesus Christ ) revealed himself to Ephesus (loveless church) as he who holds the seven stars in the Right hand who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands; to Smyrna (the persecuted church) he revealed himself as The first and last, who was dead and came to life; and to Pergamos (the compromising church) He revealed Himself as He who has the sharp two edged sword.

Jesus also gave a promise to the churches who repented:

**Ephesus**- to him who overcomes, I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God; to Smyrna to him who overcomes, he will not be hurt by the second death; and to Pergamos – to him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat and I will give him/her a white stone with a new name on it that only he who gets the stone will know.

#### IV. Revelation 2:18-29 (The Corrupt Church - Thyatira)

Revelation 2:18–29 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> “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: <sup>19</sup> “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last *are* more than the first. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless I have a

few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. <sup>21</sup> And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. <sup>22</sup> Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, 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. <sup>25</sup> But hold fast what you have till I come. <sup>26</sup> And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— <sup>27</sup> *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’*— as I also have received from My Father; <sup>28</sup> and I will give him the morning star. <sup>29</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

- a. To the Angel of the Church of Thyatira. The Corrupt Church. Thyatira was a morally compromising church in a commercial city with an association of craftsmen or merchants, each with its own patron diety. A city sponsoring frequent idolatrous feast and orgies. It was famous for goods made of wool and purple dye.
- b. V18. Description of Jesus Christ. Eyes like fire and feet like fine brass.
- c. V19. Jesus’ Commendation. I know your works, love, serve and patience.
- d. V20-22. The Criticism: You allow that women Jezebell who calls herself a prophetess to teach and seduce people into sexual immorality, eating things offered to idols .
  - i. Jezebell was the wife of King Ahab who promoted Canaanite religion in Israel (1 Kings 16:29-31; 18:4,19; 2 Kings 9:22)
  - ii. Her name is used symbolically for a false prophetess who led people into literal and spiritual fornication.

- iii. In verse 21, Jesus gave her time to repent. Jesus is continually giving opportunity for individuals to repent, He doesn't want anyone to perish.
  - 1. 2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all
  - 2. It is always a choice of the individual to repent or not.
- e. V22-23: This is the result of the rebellion of this individual who was identified as Jezebel:
  - i. I will cast her into a sickbed and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation unless they repent of their deeds.
  - ii. I will kill her children with death and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts and will give to each one according to their works.
  - iii. Punishment for sin may be experienced in the physical body even resulting in premature death.
  - iv. The rebellion of Thyatira can be seen in 2 Timothy 3:1-9.
- f. v24-29. The exhortation and promise. The instruction: To him who overcomes and keeps "My" works until the end, "I will give him power over the nations." They shall rule with a rod of iron, I will give them the morning star.

V. Revelation 3:1-6. The Dead Church. Sardis.

Revelation 3:1-6 (NKJV) **3** "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. <sup>2</sup> Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> You 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. <sup>5</sup> 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 before My Father and before His angels. <sup>6</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

Sardis was a dead church in the ancient capital of the kingdom of Lydia, and of King Croesus, 560-546 B.C. who issued the first gold coins. Here it represents a city of luxury, apathy and religion.

- a. V1. Description of Jesus Christ. He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars.
  - i. Reminder. The seven spirits of God is a metaphor of the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. I know your works that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (Got their attention)
- b. V2. The Commendation: I know your works, be watchful and strengthen the things which remain and are ready to die for I have not found your works perfect before Me.
- c. V3 The Instruction. Remember how you received, heard and hold fast and repent. Watch and if you do not I will come upon you as a thief in the night. (unexpected historical judgment)
- d. V4. Insight. You have a few names who have not defiled their garments and will walk with Me in white for they are worthy.
- e. V5-6. The Promise.
  - i. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments.
  - ii. I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
  - iii. White garments are the robes of the righteousness of Jesus Christ and thus victorious joy. Book of Life is God's eternal record of the redeemed. (Rev

13:8; 17:8; 20:12; Ex 32:32, Ps 69:28; Dan 12:1,  
Mal 3:126, Luke 10:20, Phil 4:3)

VI. Revelation 3:7-13. The Faithful Church – Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:7–13 (NKJV) <sup>7</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia 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”*’:<sup>8</sup> “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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> Because you have kept My command to persevere, 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. <sup>11</sup> Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’

Philadelphia was a faithful church in a small town that was established to be a center for Greek culture. The town was renowned for its surrounding vineyards but subject to frequent earthquakes.

- i. V7. Description of Jesus Christ. He who is holy, who is true. He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one opens.
  - 1. The key of David symbolizes authority. Rev 5:5; 22:16,22)

- ii. V8. Jeus' Commendation. I know your works and I have set before you an open door. You have little strength , kept My word and have not defiled My name.
- iii. V9. For those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, I will make them come and worship at your feet.
- iv. V10-13. The PROMISES!!
  - 1. Those who have His word (Jesus) word to persevere: I will keep you from the hour of trial which shall coe upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth.
    - a. John 17:6-15, Jesus prays to the Father to keep them (disciples) from the evil one.
    - b. James 1:12 (NKJV)<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.
    - c. Galatians 6:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
    - d. Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) **12** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
    - e. Matthew 10:22 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.
    - f. John 15:20 (NKJV) <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not



greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

2. V11. The Instruction to "hold fast"

a. Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup>He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

b. There is a blessing when one faces adversity and holds on to what God has said.

3. V12. The Promise:

a. He who overcomes. I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God. He will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God.

b. Psalm 23:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

VII. Revelation 3:14-22 The Lukewarm Church – Laodiceans

The Laodicean church was an arrogant, self-sufficient church in an affluent city.

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and

True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: <sup>15</sup> “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> 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—<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. <sup>19</sup> As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”

- a. V 14. Description of Jesus Christ. The Amen, the Faithful and the True Witness, The Beginning of the creation of God.
- b. V15. Jesus’ Criticism. I know your works, hat you are neither cold or hot, I could wish you were cold or hot.
- c. V16. Because of the lack of commitment and submission, Jesus saids that He will vomit them out of His mouth.
- d. V17-19. Jesus’ confrontation.
  - i. In their arrogance to be self sufficient, Jesus’ responds with the truth of deception: “you are wretched; miserable, poor, blind and naked. “
  - ii. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten – therefore repent.
  - iii. Jesus encourages them to buy gold refined in the fire that you may be rich and white garments that

you may be clothed that your nakedness will not be revealed and that you anoint your eyes with eyesalve that you may see. He is referring to being refined so that the sin can be exposed and moved away due to repentance and that their eyes can be opened to see truth.

- iv. The only thing this church had to do, was to repent, turn back to their first love, surrender and be in submission to the word of God.
- v. V20-22. The Promises
  1. Jesus' is always standing and waiting for us to open our doors to allow Him in. (HPC exist to have daily encounters with God manifesting His Presence in power for victorious living)
  2. He said if anyone will hear his voice and opens the door He will come into him and dine with him and he with Me.
    - a. He is saying we are going to commune together, we are going to have fellowship. The intent is the relationship that God had in the beginning with humanity.
  3. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne as I overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

#### Revelation Chapters 4-5:14

Up until now, John has written things which he had seen and now he will begin to write the things that will take place. This refers to the events that will happen on earth at the end of the "church age." Which represents a period of time that extends from Jesus' resurrection to His second coming.

As we will discover, the end of this age will usher in a period of which an entity known as the "Antichrist" will be free to do his work

and also will be a time of God's terrible judgment against the sins of humanity.

Up until this point, the Holy Spirit has been present in the churches on earth and among God's people. But as we come to this passage, we find that the Holy Spirit is now up on Heaven before the Throne of God. As John writes, "Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God (4:5) This is significant because in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 Paul tells us the following:

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The "lawless one or man of sin" is the Antichrist and the Restrainer is none other than the Holy Spirit!

So when the Holy Spirit and the church in which He dwells is taken up into heaven, the restraining force will be removed. The Antichrist will be free to do as he pleases and this will result in a time of tribulation the world has never before witnessed.

V. Revelation 4:1-5 (NKJV) **4** 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." <sup>2</sup> **Immediately I was in the Spirit;** and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had

crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup> And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thundering, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

a. Door standing open in heavens.

- i. Doors are access points to other rooms and surroundings. Revelation comes when one goes through the door. Until one makes a decision to go through, they will always wonder what is on the others side.
- ii. The voice of the Lord (first voice) gave John access to the heavens and he (John) got an invitation. "come up here!"
- iii. These are things that will take place. God was about to give John a view of things that had not yet happened but will happen shortly. These are not in any chronological order but was revealed as John was given them.
- iv. Immediately when John was caught up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven, he was in the spirit and there was One who sat on the throne (God the Father) see verse 8.
- v. Like: Jasper, sardius stone, rainbow like an emerald around Him.
  1. Jasper suggesting purity or holness.
  2. Sardius is camelian, deep red. Picturing God's avenging wrath.
  3. Emerald is green the dormant color in a rainbow symbolizing mercy.

b. Revelation 4:4-5, the 24 elders (12 heads of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles of the Lamb) representing the church indicating that God's people will be with Him in heaven by this point and will not experience the coming tribulation. The twenty-four elders are also a representation of the celestial of all the redeemed,

glorified and enthroned who worship continuously.  
White robes symbolize purity. The crowns suggest  
victory and joy. The Church is never defeated!!!!

- VI. Revelation 4:6-11<sup>6</sup> Before the throne *there was* 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> *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, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Hebrews 13:8) <sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

- a. The four-living creatures that John seen in his vision resemble the beings that Isaiah and Ezekiel observed in their visions (Isaiah 6:1-3 Ezekiel 1:5-10;10:9-14)
  - i. They are full of eyes and they have knowledge of God and His purpose
  - ii. The four creatures have faces: lion, calf , man and eagle Each of these suggest qualities that belong to God: Lion – Supremacy; Calf – Power; Man – Humility and Eagle – swiftness of action. These

beings lead into delivering of God's judgments.

What else are the leading here in heaven?

Worship!!!

- b. Lightnings and thundering describe the awesome and wondrous power of God. Seven lamps and the seven spirits of God speak of the Holy Spirit.
- c. The 24 Elders represents the church and its apostolic foundation which submits and humble surrenders to the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, and fall down and lay their crowns before the feet of Jesus Christ on the throne of God. The 24 Elders which who represent the church indicates that God's people will be with Him in heaven by this point and will not endure the coming Tribulation.
- d. The Church no longer seen after chapter Revelation 4. The Rapture of the Church not the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ where he physically steps onto the Mount of Olives has happened by this time.
  - i. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NKJV)
  - ii. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

- iii. The term “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is translated from the Greek word “harpazo” (har-pad-zo) meaning “to seize or catch up/away.” Acts 8:39 uses this same word to describe Philip’s being caught away by the Holy Spirit, thus identifying Who will remove the believers from earth at the rapture.

From scripture we can conclude that the following events will occur simultaneously at the time of the rapture:

- 1) Jesus returns to earth’s atmosphere but only as far as the clouds.
- 2) The dead in Christ will be resurrected to meet Jesus in the air.
- 3) All living Christians will be translated, changed from mortals to immortality, and will be caught up together with those who have just been resurrected from the dead.
- 4) We shall meet the Lord in the air.
- 5) We will be taken to heaven, to the Father’s house.
- 6) We will never again be separated from Christ.

V. Revelation 5:1-14 (NKJV) **5** And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne (Father) a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

<sup>4</sup> So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>5</sup> But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

<sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.



Versus 1-7:

- a. The right hand is the symbol of power and authority; the scroll is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.
- b. Written inside and on the back and sealed with seven seals indicates that nothing can be added to God's Last Will and Testament. The word tells us that no celestial being or another other person is worthy to open the seals
- c. There are seven seals on each portion of the scroll which represents judgments that will be rendered by God as each seal is broken by the Lamb.
- d. The elder describes the individual who can open the scroll as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the root of David (Genesis 49:9-10, Isaiah 11:1,10; Jeremiah 23:5)
- e. The Lion Christ is the greatest member of the tribe of Judah. Instead of the Lion, we see the Lamb which is a symbol of meekness and a sacrificial offering.
- f. Verse 7 parallels what Daniel seen in Daniel 7:9-14

### ***Worthy is the Lamb***

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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,

<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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!”

<sup>13</sup> 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!”

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

Versus 8-14:

- a. Everything in verses 8-15 is tied to the Lamb and worship. The living creatures hands they had a harp and a bowl full of incense which was the prayers of the saints.
- b. Don't' think your prayers have gone unheard. The angelic host has been storing them up in bowls of incense and are being prepared to be released upon the earth.

c. These verses show us that all glory, honor and power is given to the one who sits on the throne and the lamb.

i. Honor the Father, Honor the Son. John 5:23  
(NKJV) <sup>23</sup> that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

### **Revelation 6:1-2 (1<sup>st</sup> Seal - White Horse) (Daniel 7:7)**

VI. Revelation 6:1–2 (NKJV) ***First Seal: The Conqueror*** **6** Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” <sup>2</sup> 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.

a. 1<sup>st</sup> Seal – “Come and See” – Bear Witness. Jesus Christ is the Lamb.

b. The White Horse and the Rider on it could easily be mistaken as Jesus Christ, but Jesus in Heaven opening the seals and the rider is going throughout the Earth conquering and to conquer.

1). The Church is already carried to Heaven (Revelation 4:1). Jesus works through the church and the Holy Spirit, but in Chapter 4, the Church has already went through the open door to Heaven.

a) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7: That which is restraining (Holy Spirit). What is the Holy Spirit restraining? The Antichrist

b) To say that Jesus is going through the Earth preaching the Gospel is not chronologically correct.

2) The man goes forth on the white horse conquering with a bow.

- a) In Revelation 19:15, Jesus is clearly seen conquering with a sword.

Revelation 19:15: Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

- 3) This man that we see here is only wearing "1" crown, but in Revelation 19:12, Jesus wears many crowns.

Revelation 19:12: His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

- 4) Jesus has already won the victory, when He returns to the Earth, He is coming to Judge the Nations: Jesus is already on the throne.

- a) John 5:22-24; John 11:25-26; Matthew 25:31 & 2 Corinthians 5:10

Revelation 3:21: "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.

Who is the one riding on the white horse with a bow (no arrows)? None other than the Antichrist falsely claiming he is the Messiah who will bring peace and prosperity to the World.

He will take the top position of a leader, not by War (no arrows) but by his subtle, political diplomatic ability.

At first he will subdue three countries in his land by taking them out by their roots and becoming over the three and then the rest of the seven countries will surrender to him, unifying the 10 European countries in the former territory of Rome as Daniel 7 prophesies.

When Europe comes under the banner of one union, it will possess enormous economic and military power and the whole world will kneel down to its power.

When the Antichrist appears, he will make a covenant with Israel for 7 years (Daniel 9:24-27). When that day happens, the 1<sup>st</sup> Seal of the Tribulation will be opened.

1958 the European Economic Community was formed with it's capital in Brussels Belgium. In 1991, the Treaty of European Union set guidelines for political and economic union by the end of the decade. When this unification is complete, the people of these countries belonging to the EEC will not need a passport anymore to travel between the countries within the bloc and they will be able to hold jobs in these other countries within the EEC.. (North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces will be supplying with Military Power.)

## 2. Revelation 6:3-4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Seal – Red Horse)

### Revelation 6:3–4 (NKJV) ***Second Seal: Conflict on Earth***

<sup>3</sup> When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." <sup>4</sup> 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.

- a. Red Horse: to him on it, was granted to take peace from the Earth and that people should kill one another.
- b. Symbolizes War and Blood.
- c. The day Israel tries to pull down the Dome of the Rock, where Solomon's temple once stood, to rebuild the temple Holy Temple, the entire Arab World will launch an all out offensive against Israel (Dome of the Rock is sacred to the Arab World)

- d. The may be the time frame, when Ezekiel 38, comes into play. Russia has political and economical ties with every Arab state that surround Israel to include the seaports.

1) Red symbolizes Communism. By listening to the former Prime Minister, he declares that Russia is heading back into a Monarchy – as the days of Stayln – communism.

#### 1. Revelation 6:5-6 (3<sup>rd</sup> Seal – Black Horse)

##### Revelation 6:5–6 (NKJV) ***Third Seal: Scarcity on Earth***

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”

- a. Black Symbolizes famine and economic ruin.
- b. A balance signifies a time of great famine. Shortage of food so severe that the sale will be rationed out by being weighed in the balance.
- c. Famine and economic ruin is always in the aftermath of a war. The resources are used during this time and afterward none is left behind.
- d. “Do not harm the oil or the wine”. Throughout the Bible, oil and wine used for sacrifices to the Lord.
- e. Due to wine and oil still being readily available, the famine may be in s a specific area that would drive inflation to an catastrophic high that would push the price of goods 8x or higher.

## 2. Revelation 6:7-8 (4<sup>th</sup> Seal – Pale Horse)

Revelation 6:7–8 (NKJV) ***Fourth Seal: Widespread Death on Earth***

<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” <sup>8</sup> 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.

- a. Death and Hades (Hell) – public cemetery. Disease.
- b.
- c. Matthew 24:7-8: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. "All these are the beginning of sorrows.
- d.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Earth will die. In 2025, the World Census estimated **8.09** billion people lived upon the Earth.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of this is: 2.02 billion people
- e. More than 2.02 billion people will die and be buried in public cemetery's or cremated during this period.

## 3. Revelation 6:9-11 (5<sup>th</sup> Seal – Cry of Martyrs)

Revelation 6:9–11 (NKJV) ***Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs***

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?” <sup>11</sup> 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.

- a. Soul of those who had been slain because of the Word of God and because of the testimony which they maintained are the people who became martyrs during the first 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation.
- b. Jesus gives the white robes to comfort and tells them to rest.
- c. God continues His work of salvation even while the tribulation is going on. God doesn't want anyone to perish. **(2 Peter 3:9** - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.),
- d. The first 5 Seals was related to military conflict and conquest, civil wars, economic disruption, pestilence, murder; accidents and persecutions. (Lue 21:9)

#### 4. Revelation 6:12-17 (6<sup>th</sup> Seal – Great Earthquakes)

Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV) ***Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances***

<sup>12</sup> I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> 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!"<sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

- a. When such things begin to take place, everyone from Kings to Slaves will hide themselves in caves and in the rocks of the mountains.
- b. Even when this happens, people still do not repent to God, but they begin to pray to the rocks to "Fall on Us".
- c. Describes a cosmic catastrophe in conceivable to the human mind. It impacts 7 different structures of men.
- d. See Obed 15
- e. The great day of wrath. 1 Thess 4:17 and Revelation 4:10 being fulfilled just prior to this event. Matthew 24:29-31.

### **Revelation 7: The sealed of Israel.**

1. V1-8: The 4 angels are released holding back the four winds of the earth that brings death and destruction until the sealing of the 144,000 of Jewish Men from the 12 tribes of Israel.
2. V9-17. Those who came out of the Great Tribulation who have washed their robes and made them white and now stand before the throne day and night. Notice: robes but no crowns. Their reward is to worship before God night and day.

### **Revelation 8:1-2: The Seventh Seal**

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.

- Silence in Heaven for about ½ hour. Even while God executes judgment, He still wants human beings to repent and be gleamed in to the salvation of eternal life.
- 2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- The silence of ½ hour is to forewarn of greater judgment to come.

Revelation 8:3-5: 3. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And 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, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

- What is in the golden censer? The prayers of the Saints – taking into the Holy of Holies.
- In Old Testament times, Solomon's temple contained the Holy place behind a curtain, the Holy of Holies. Entrance to the Holy Place was restricted to the High Priest alone and he would go in once a year to make sacrifice and atonement for the sins of the children of Israel. (Hebrews 10)
- Jesus is our High Priest and Him alone stands before the Alter of God making intercession for us. (Hebrews 7)
- Once we get to Heaven, we still will pray. 1 Peter 2:9 saids "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light". I personally think, that when we get to Heaven, our prayers will not cease to exist, but we will continue to pray for those here on earth to receive salvation. (Ephesians 3:15: from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named)
- Verse 5: Jesus receives our prayers, offers them to God, God responds with answers and releases them to the Earth.

- From this point, God begins to avenge the Martyrs

Revelation 8:7 (1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet) The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

- Hail and fire mixed with blood thrown to the Earth: 1/3 of Trees, 1/3 of Earth and 1/3 of the grass will be burned up. 1 Weapon in the military strategic arsenal could cause this affect: Hydrogen Bomb
- August 1945, when the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, there was a sudden down pour of hail. When the explosion happened because of the air heated by the explosion went up with the vapor, it was cooled at the high altitude and it turned into hail and fell back to the Earth.
- The explosion of numerous nuclear bombs might well have looked like hail and fire mixed with blood.
- In case of this scenario, food shortages, water shortages, air shortages could occur. Trees purify air by turning carbon dioxide into oxygen therefore destroying the oxygen supply and causing major health issues.

Revelation 8:8-9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet) Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood; and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- Great mountain all ablaze thrown into the sea. Something will fall from the sky ablaze, landing in the ocean destroying 1/3 of the sea life and 1/3 of the Shipping.
- Could this be a place where military ships are gathered together for a confrontation or multi national military exercise? Could this be a nuclear weapon that is fired from space?

Revelation 8:10-11 (3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet) Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water; and the name of the star is Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

- Biological Bomb? Reason, water becomes polluted and everyone died who drank from the water supply.

Revelation 8:12 (4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet) Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened; and a third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

- If a nuclear war breaks out, the dust arising from the explosions would arise in the atmosphere and sweep over the Earth and the Earth would become darkened.
- Example: When a Volcano erupts, the ashes are thrown into the sky and the sky becomes dark (Mt. St. Helens).

Revelation 8:13: And I looked, and I heard an angel 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!"

- The 3 Trumpets about the sound will be more devastating and destructive than what anyone has experienced before or what has just happened.

Revelation 9:1-11 (Fifth Trumpet)

- John saw a star fall to the Earth
- Isaiah 14:12: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!"
- Luke 10:18-19: And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. "Behold, I give you the authority to

trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- Angels in chains waiting to be released
  - o Luke 8:31: And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.
  - o 2 Peter 2:4: For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
  - o Jude 6: And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;
- Out of the dust comes hordes of evil spirits that have been shut up. (Rev 9:3) I believe demons will hurt people as scorpions stings, but the 144,000 Jewish Men are sealed and will not be harmed. Just as we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, demons can't hurt us either.
- During this time the Martyrs under the Alter will be saved, the 144,000 Jewish Men will be saved and all those that accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ that has been preached by the 144,000 will be saved.

#### Revelation 9:13-21 (Sixth Trumpet)

- The Euphrates River has always been a place of rebellion: Adam sinned (Gen 2:14), Cain killed Abel, Tower of Babel, and Babylon all along the Euphrates river.
- At some point, God bound 4 rebellious angels and during the first ½ of the Tribulation will be released and 1/3 of the worlds population will die, relevantly 1 billion people. This is after Revelation 6:8 when the fourth seal is opened and roughly 1.6 billion will die then.
- V16: These angels will bring an army of 200,000,000 across the Euphrates which I believe will be the beginning of the armies massing together for the Battle of Armageddon. This will take place during the last 3 years of the Great Tribulation.
- The only country in the world that can mobilize that mass of army is China (1961 proclaimed they had 200,000,000 military personnel)

A Pastor's Perspective on the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Pastor Randy Winkles. - Introduction and Chapter 1

- John used modern day symbols in his time that he could use to best describe the warfare that would take place. What he seen was modern day technology unleashing death and destruction upon the world. But through all of this, god still gives people time to repent.

### **Revelation 10:1-6 (The Angel – One foot on the sea and one foot on the Earth)**

- Description of the Angel: Clothed in a cloud, rainbow on his head, face like the sun and feet like pillars of fire. Who can this angel be? Revelation 1:16: Jesus Christ
- The seven thunders uttered something secretive and God told John to seal them up. No one knows what these were.
- The first half of the Tribulation period now has passed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half will come with no delay.

### **Revelation 10:7 (The mystery of God to be finished)**

- As soon as the 7<sup>th</sup> Angel blows the trumpet, the judgment of the 7 Bowls begins. The mystery will then begin to unfold and usher in the millennial reign of the Lord.

### **Revelation 10:8-11 (The Little Scroll)**

- This book does not contain the 7 seals because the 7 seals have been open. But it does contain something sweet and something bitter (Ezek 3:1 – Ezekiel was told to eat the scroll before prophesying to the children of Israel)
- V11 tells of the bitterness: Prophecy that judgment is still to come.
- Psalms 19:9-11: God's Word is sweeter than honeycomb
- The prophecy also told of the Antichrist, who will rise in the form of a beast and run around killing innumerable Jews and others who do not kneel down before him, hence bitterness, misery and pain.
- Revelations Chapter 11-19 are the most tragic and destructive time in human history.

### **Revelation 11 (15 and 16 are in conjunction with 11)**

Revelation 11:1-9 (The Trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> Angel)

## **Revelation 11:1-2**

- The first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will be on peaceful terms with Israel, he has helped build the 3<sup>rd</sup> Temple in Jerusalem, but in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, Satan will enter into the heart of the Antichrist and he will make war and destroy everything that does not bow down and worship him.
- Those who worship God, he will protect which reflects those inside the Temple, but those outside will be abandoned for 42 months (3 ½ years)
- Daniel 9:27: Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."
- Matthew 24:15-16: "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

## **Revelation 11:3-13 (The Two Witnesses)**

- Two Witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days or 3 ½ years. The 144,000 Jewish Men are taken up into heaven in Chapter 14.
- What will they testify? Testify of Salvation through Jesus Christ and that the AntiChrist is not the Messiah.
- The Two Witnesses – the Olive Trees and the two Lampstands were seen by the Prophet Zechariah about 500 years before Christ
- Zechariah 4:1-14
- Who are these? Could they be Moses and Elijah who comforted Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-31) Why?



- Elijah prayed that it would not rain with King Ahab when the Israelites worshiped idols for 3 ½ years. The 2 Olive Trees will also shut the door of heaven and it will not rain. (1 Kings 17)
- Moses turned the Nile River into blood, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 ½ years of tribulation, the two olive branches will do the same, no rain, and blood.
- Elijah did not see death, he was taken up into Heaven riding on a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:1-11), Moses climbed Mount Nebo to die, but his body was never found. God buried Moses' body and no one is able to find his grave (Deut 34:5-6) and in Jude 9, Satan and Michael the Arch Angel, are contending for the body of Moses.
- If Anyone tries to hurt these two prophets, fire goes from their mouth and destroys them.
- By the time the 2 witnesses have fulfilled their mission, the Antichrist will rise against them and kill them and throw their bodies in the streets of Jerusalem for the whole world to see (Satellite TV – CNN?)
- The people will send gifts and presents to each other in rejoicing for these two who tormented them is now dead. 3 ½ days later, the Spirit of God will come in them and they will rise for the world to see and ascend into Heaven when they hear the voice say "Come up Here".

### **Revelation 11:14-18 (The Trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> Angel)**

- The Last Trump – God will take over the world (v 15)
- The 24 elders are so joyful they fall down and worship God
- What do they see in this song? 1) End of the Tribulation, 2) Millennial Kingdom, 3) Resurrection of the Dead along with final judgment of Him who sits on the throne, 4) Coming of the new heaven and a new earth.

### **Revelation 11:19 (The Ark of the Testament in the Temple)**

- Lightning, voices, thundering, earthquake and great hail signify the judgment to come

### **Revelation 15:1 – 16:21 (Plagues and the Judgment)**

- Revelation 15:1 – The Seven Last Plagues
- Revelation 15:2-4: The final harvest by Jesus. They don't stand within the sea, but outside of it, for they have come out of the sea. These are the ones who have been martyred during the tribulation period.

### **Revelation 16:2 (The Plague of the First Bowl)**

- Strong Smelling Sores came upon the bodies of those who bore the mark of the beast.

### **Revelation 16:3 (The Second Bowl)**

- When the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, it became like the blood of a dead man, killing every living thing in the sea. (Exodus 7:20-25)

### **Revelation 16:4-7 (The Third Bowl)**

- Rivers and fountains of water became blood; the people will have no drinkable water, they will suffer from thirst

### **Revelation 16 8-9 (The Fourth Bowl)**

- The heat of the sin increased greatly, killing innumerable of people. The survivors still don't repent

### **Revelation 16:10-11 (The Fifth Bowl)**

- Throne of the Beast, Antichrist, filling his kingdom with darkness. Decline of his kingdom and its power.

### **Revelation 16:12-16 (The Sixth Bowl)**

- Euphrates Rive will dry up and make way for the Kings from the East. As we studied earlier, the Orient's army of 200 Million will be watching for an opportunity to invade the West so it can attack the Antichrist. The Kingdom of the Antichrist

will suddenly begin to decline and slip into confusion. The political, economic and military power of the Antichrist will be weakened and the balance of the power will be broken and the army from the East will invade.

- The three unclean spirits like frogs go forth to the kings of the West and their kingdoms and seduce them to form an alliance against the Oriental invasion and gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty, the Battle of Armageddon.
- Verse 15 tells us of Jesus Coming to the field of Armageddon.

### **Revelation 16:17-21 (The Seventh Bowl)**

- Earthquake – divides Jerusalem in 3 parts; Cities all over the earth will be shaken, the earth's surface will undergo severe changes causing climatical shift changes causing calamities everywhere over the face of the Earth. .