

The Book of Revelation

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Chapter 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

95Ad / Nero – Dipped Wax / Domitian – filled Hatred

The year is approximately 95AD, Caesar Nero the brutal Roman emperor has passed away, he reigned from (AD 54-68), but the hatred for the Christian Church continues. Nero an insane man had such hatred for the Christians that he would have his army gather them up (all who would not renounce Christ, and publicly profess that Caesar is Lord), dip them in wax, tie them to a stake in his garden and light them on fire. Then he would ride his chariot through the garden, naked, and as he passed them he would scream "light of the world, light of the world". A mad man Nero was, but his successor, Emperor Domitian (AD 81-96), was no madman of insanity, he was just plain evil, filled with hatred towards the Christians.

Plan – Kill off Apostle – Movement Die / John – Boiling Oil / Apostle of Love

Emperor Domitian had a plan, kill off the apostles, those who bore eyewitness accounts, those who walked with Jesus Christ, and were personally taught by Him; kill them off and the movement would die along with them. The last apostle alive was John, the writer of this book. John was placed in a cauldron of boiling oil, and as church history records, he didn't die, he couldn't die. How fitting for the one that was known as the apostle of love, for love never fails, you can't kill love.

Island Patmos / 50 miles to Sea / Barren – Death Sentence / Special Revelation

So John is sentenced to the Island of Patmos, a rocky barren island 50 miles out to sea off of Ephesus, modern day Turkey, there in the Mediterranean Sea. It was considered a death sentence, a person would die of the lack of water, food, or other prisoners. But you can't kill off love, no matter how much hatred you have, and God miraculously preserves John, and it is here that God gives him this special word to share with the beloved. May I note here, that John received such an amazing revelation in such a hard place. I say that to you who are struggling through a hard time right now, for often those are the very places that we see God in a way we had never known before. John walked with Jesus for some 3 years, but he still needed this new revelation. So too is it for us.

Released / Persecution still Happening

A new Emperor comes into power, and John is released for the Island of Patmos and he brings this message to the Believers. Now it is amazing that John is released, for persecution is still continuing for the Christians. Church history tells us that over 3 million Christians would be martyred for their faith during this horrible period.

Satan tried silence Jesus – Message sealed with Blood / John not Silenced – Word Magnified

Satan tried to silence this word before as he crucified the Christ, but the message of God's love was sealed in blood and carried throughout the world. And now John's voice, as inspired by the Holy Spirit carries forth God's word again, never to be silenced, I find it interesting that John was boiled in a pot of oil, and oil being a symbol for the Holy Spirit, and that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God. For God says that He magnifies His Word above His name, amazing thought considering at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord:

(Psalms 138:2 NKJV) I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

(Philippians 2:9 NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

(Philippians 2:10 NKJV) 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,

(Philippians 2:11 NKJV) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Book about Every Knee shall Bow

This book very much is about that, that every knee should bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. The issue at hand will be whether a person calls Him Lord and Savior, or just Lord.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 1:1 NKJV) 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,

Misconception – Sealed book / Unveiling / See Jesus - Future

Verse 1 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ - Now there is a common misconception concerning the book of Revelation and a lot of people who never deal with the book of Revelation think of it as a sealed book. It is exactly the opposite. Rather than a sealed book it is the unveiling - it is taking the wraps off - it is taking the seal off - it is allowing you to see what the future holds as far as Jesus Christ is concerned, it allows you to see Jesus.

Apocalypse – Means Revelation

We always hear people talk about the apocalypse, the great battle at the end of the ages, or some great storm or meteorite that is coming upon the world, but that is not the definition of apocalypse. The definition of apocalypse is revelation.

Greek definition: apokalupsis, ap-ok-al'-oop-sis; disclosure:--appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.

So Unveiling – Revelation Singular

So it is the Revelation of the unveiling of Jesus Christ regarding the future which God gave to him to show to his servants, the things which must shortly. Notice that it is Revelation singular, it is the not Revelations plural as so often misquoted. It is one revelation, the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Servants / Imagine no Book of Revelation / God wants us to Know – Be Ready – Be Excited

Verse 1 - which God gave Him to show His servants – God gives it to John and John gives it to us, for God wants us to have it. Imagine no book of Revelation, imagine if God chose not to reveal the end times detail to us. Now all these things would still happen, everything would unfold exactly as He said and planned it would, we just wouldn't know it. But you see the Lord wants us to know what is to happen, what is to unfold so that we may become excited about it, so that we may be ready for it.

Ephesians 1 / Lord Gathering All things to Himself

In Ephesians chapter 1 it says that God is gathering all things to Himself, both that which is in heaven, and that which is on earth. That is what it is all about; the Lord is gathering everything to Himself, all things, which is what life is all about, God is gathering all things (on earth and in heaven) to Himself:

(Ephesians 1:9 NKJV) having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth;** in Him.*

(Ephesians 1:11 NKJV) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Time of Writing – Persecution / John brings Assurance – God Knows – In Control

At the time of this writing the church was being persecuted, how they must have been saying what is going on, Lord where is this all going, I thought you were coming back to set things right, but they just seem to get worse and worse. But John will bring this word to the people and bring assurance, God knows what is going, and all things are under His control. He knows the beginning and the end, and now He is telling you the future so that you may understand why things are happening around you.

So Too for Us / World out of Control / But as Unfolds – See He is in Control

So too for us, as we look at the world around us and we say what is going on, Lord the world seems so out of control, so wicked, we don't understand. We don't understand until we lay out the things going on around us to this world, and the picture becomes ever so clear. We say oh, just as you said it would (The revived Roman Empire before our very eyes, the Mark of the Beast, the One World Economy, One World Religion, and the rebirth of the Nation Israel), it is. I can take rest even in the midst of the storm, because I see that you know all things and are in control of all things, and nothing catches you by surprise.

Side Note / To Whatever Degree I Bring – the Degree I am in the Flow

Side note, listen gang, to whatever degree you are bringing the things of your to the throne of the Father, will be the degree that you are in the flow of where God is taking all things. All things are coming together for Him, and the degree that I point all things to Him, will be the degree that I am in the flow of what He is doing.

If Tired & Weary – Maybe going against the Flow / Things in Light of Authority – it Flows

If you find yourself tired and weary in life, it may just be because you are going against the flow of what God is doing. It is all about Jesus, not about me. But when all things in your life are put in the light and authority of the One who is on the throne, you will find that life is just flowing along. Friendships, family, activities, hobbies, all those things must be brought into the Light and Authority of what the Lord is doing.

Shortly – 2000 Years Ago / See God's Compassion

Verse 1 - things which must shortly take place – Shortly, that was 2000 years ago. Mind you a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day to the Lord. But we see God's love, compassion, and mercy in that He wishes that none would perish but that all should seek repentance:

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

(2 Peter 3:8 NKJV) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Mercy – No Mention

The Greek word for mercy in Matthew 5 is *eleeo*, el-eh-eh'-o; meaning, to compassionate (by word or deed, spec. by divine grace):--have compassion (pity on), have (obtain, receive, shew) mercy (on).

Simple definition of mercy is not getting what is deserved. It is interesting that the Greek word is last used in the NT in the Book of Jude (v22), and is not mentioned in the book of Revelation:

(Matthew 5:7 KJV) Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Tachometer / rpm / Little at First – Faster / Tach is Pegging

The word here for shortly in the Greek is "tachos", it is where we get our word tachometer. It is the "rpm", revolutions per minute of the engine. The higher the rpm's, the faster the engine is turning, and there is a point where you will hit redline and be turning your engine so fast it will blow. Same application here, we will see signs about us, a little at first, and then more, and more, and more, and more, so much so that we will hit the redline. Precious people the tachometer is pegging, look at the signs around us. The revived Roman Empire before our very eyes, the Mark of the Beast, the One World Economy, One World Religion, and the rebirth of the Nation Israel. I am excited, the engine is about to blow.

Signified – Written with Signs / Written in Code?

Verse 1 - And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John - The word “signified” means “written with signs”—which explains why people read the Book of Revelation and say, “It seems to be written in code.” Why was it written this way?

Language Changes / Signs are Timeless / F-15

First, the Book of Revelation was written with signs to convey information. Language changes with time. Read your King James Bible, written in 1611, and the changes in language that have taken place since it was written are obvious. Pictures and symbols, on the other hand, are timeless and thus convey more clearly the thoughts and intent of the writer. Imagine 2000 years ago trying to describe an F-15, and Apache helicopter, a Destroyer, or a submarine launching tomahawk missiles. How could you?

Arouse Emotions / Political Leader – Commercial System – Christians - Authority

Secondly, the Book of Revelation was written with signs in order to arouse emotions. It's one thing to say, “There's a world political leader coming.” It's something else to say, “The Beast is coming.” It's one thing to refer to a commercial system. It's something else to call it Babylon the Whore. It's one thing to say “Christians,” and another to say, “the bride of Christ.” It's one thing to talk about authority and something else to talk about the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. These images are powerful, vivid, indelible.

Useage

27 times the word “like” is used. (His feet were like brass).

83 times the word “as” is used. (His voice was as a trumpet).

35 times John will say “I saw”. (I saw 24 elders)

26 times “behold”. (Behold he cometh with the clouds).

72 times the word “great” is used. (for the great day of the Lord has come).

Over 300 times the OT will be referred to.

John will have 44 separate visions, and we will transition between heaven and earth 17 times.

54 times the pattern of “7” will be referred to in this book. The mathematical genius of this book goes beyond the human mind.

Descriptions of Jesus

Some of the most beautiful similitude's used in this book are the descriptions of Jesus Christ, for it is the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Alpha and Omega (1:8)
- Lion of Judah (7:17)
- King of Kings, Lord of Lords (19:16)
- Bright and Morning Star (22:16)
- But none used more than, The Lamb. 28 times in 22 chapters Jesus is referred to as the Lamb. We see His awesome power displayed in this book, yet He refers to Himself more times as the Lamb than any other phrase. That is great consolation to me, knowing that it is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, my sins, past – present – and future. Although the heavens and earth can not contain Him, I can (in a sense), as he lives in me, I contain Him. Christ in me, the hope of glory (*Colossians 1:27 NKJV*) *To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

(Revelation 1:2 NKJV) who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

Blessed – 3 Things / Reads – Hears – Keeps / Book should Change Life / It's a Promise

Blessed is he who does 3 things, Reads it, hears it, and keeps it. This book should change our lives, no one who sits here for the next 22 chapters should remain the same. This is the only book in the Bible that promises, guarantees a blessing for those that read it, hears it, and keeps it.

Many Churches won't Touch / Too Hard – Too Controversial / They miss Blessing

Go to many churches today and they are very uneducated about this book, for many churches shy away from the book. They say it is too hard to understand, they say it is too controversial, whatever it may be, they miss this verse, God promises a blessings to all who read it, hears it, and keeps.

Satan Wants to Keep You from Book / Genesis – Revelation / Sentenced - Judged

Satan wants to keep people away from this book, as he does so often with Genesis. The two most controversial books in the Bible as people argue over creation/evolution in Genesis, an end times stuff in Revelation. The reason Satan wants to keep people from these 2 books in Genesis the sentence is passed against him:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

And in Revelation the judgment is carried out:

(Revelation 20:10 NKJV) 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.

Book Entrusted to John / Bore Witness / Written to Encounter Jesus – Greater Intimacy

Revelation was entrusted to John because he bore record of the testimony of Jesus and of all the things he saw. This book is written to know Jesus, it is the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is written so that we may encounter Jesus Christ. As I study this book I will have a greater intimacy with Jesus, as promised here in this verse.

Not Growing? / Revelation – Information – Inspiration / Prerequisite – Receive & Release

People who say, "I don't seem to be growing in the Lord," must understand that when it comes to revelation, information, or inspiration, the Lord has a very definite prerequisite: Are we going to personally receive it in our heart and freely release it to others?

Abraham - Sodom

After visiting with Abraham, the Lord said to His angels, "I'm going to tell Abraham what is going to come down in Sodom because I know he will not only receive but share it" (see Genesis 18:17, 19):

(Genesis 18:17 NKJV) And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

(Genesis 18:18 NKJV) "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"

(Genesis 18:19 NKJV) "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

Measure Use – Measure Receive / Bible Studies for Entertainment – wont Receive

Jesus put it this way: Take heed how you hear—for the one who has shall be given more (Mark 4:24, 25). In other words, if you come to Bible study or your morning devotions saying, "Entertain me," or, "I'm curious about prophecy," you won't receive. But if you are hearing, studying, learning, praying, and reading for the purpose of embracing what you receive and sharing it with others, the Lord will give you continual revelation:

(Mark 4:21 NKJV) Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?"

(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

(Mark 4:23 NKJV) "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Mark 4:24 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

(Mark 4:25 NKJV) "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Revelation of Jesus Christ / What World Needs

The revelation of Jesus Christ is what the world needs. As a person, and the world, sees the revelation of Jesus Christ, their world will fall into place; things will come into order, even if on the outside the world appears to be falling apart.

Revelation 1:4-8

Words for Comfort, to Consider, and to Count on.

Great Sorrows / Great Comfort / Remind of His Sovereignty

Revelation is a book of great pain and many sorrows, the whole earth will be experiencing cataclysmic events, it will be a time a Great Tribulation. So before God unfolds the book before us He brings words of comfort to His children so that they may fear not, and trust His sovereignty.

Book about Every Knee shall Bow

This book very much is about that, that every knee should bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. The issue at hand will be whether a person calls Him Lord and Savior, or just Lord.

Ephesians 1 / Lord Gathering All things to Himself

In Ephesians chapter 1 it says that God is gathering all things to Himself, both that which is in heaven, and that which is on earth. That is what this book is all about; the Lord is gathering everything to Himself, all things, which is what life is all about, God is gathering all things (on earth and in heaven) to Himself:

(Ephesians 1:9 NKJV) having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

(Ephesians 1:11 NKJV) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Outline Revelation 1:4-8:

- Words for Comfort - (Revelation 1:4-6)
- Words to Consider - (Revelation 1:7)
- Words you can Count On – (Revelation 1:8)

(Revelation 1:1 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 1:2 NKJV) who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

Promised Blessing

Again the blessing is promised to those who read, hear and keep. So bring your bible, if you don't have one we'll give you one. Study to show yourself approved (2 Tim 2:15), search the Scriptures daily to verify all the things said here today (Acts 17:11).

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

(Revelation 1:5 NKJV) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

(Revelation 1:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 1:8 NKJV) "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."

Words for Comfort - (Revelation 1:4-6)

Asia – Turkey / Why these 7 – Perfect Picture

Verse 4 - John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: - Asia does not refer to Korea, Japan, or Viet Nam. It refers to present-day Turkey. Why was this letter written to the church in Turkey rather than to the church at Jerusalem, or Rome, Colosse, or Antioch? After all, it seems those would have been much more appropriate choices. Why was this letter written to seven churches in Turkey? Because no other churches could have so perfectly painted the picture they portray.

7 Numeric – days – notes – colors / Complete Picture

Why are there seven churches? Because seven is the biblical number of completion (7 days in week, 7 notes comprise the musical scale, and 7 colors comprise a rainbow). The 7 churches would comprise the complete church.

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today - Individuals

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church.

I Don't Need Church / Jesus is Into Church / Wrote Them – Gave Angel – Stands in Midst

You know some people will say I don't need a church, there are even men on television saying it now (hey just send your money here). Believers say it all the time (some people deceiving themselves that they are believers because they never here the word to show them they aren't saved. But some truly are saved but feel they don't need a church). Let me make this point, Jesus is so into Churches, that He wrote them letters, Jesus is so into Churches that He gives them each their own angel (Rev 1:20). Jesus told John to give the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the church specifically. Jesus is so into Churches that He will stand in the midst of them personally (Rev 1:12-13).

(Revelation 1:20 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 1:12 NKJV) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) 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.

If Jesus into Church – So too Should We

Jesus is into the Church, a group of believers gathering together. If Jesus is into it, then so too should we, for as we said this book is the culmination of all things being gathered to God, both that which is in heaven and on earth, all things are flowing to His throne, and I want to be in the flow of what God is doing, and God is in the church and flowing through the Church.

Grace & Peace / Church in Tribulation / Nero – Titus – Jer / Friends Burned / Sewers

Verse 4 - Grace to you and peace – This book was written to people going through tremendous persecution and tribulation. Written about 95-96AD, it was 66AD that Nero burned Rome and blamed it on the Christians thus starting an all out assault on the church backed by the mightiest military in the world. In 70AD Titus destroys Jerusalem, so the church in Jerusalem doesn't even exist at this point.

People reading/hearing this letter have seen family and friends burned at the stake, fed to the lions. Early church writings say that the church would meet in the catacombs, in the sewers, go from house to house in fear of being found out. Yet Jesus says to them, grace and peace. Such remarkable words to hear in such hard times.

Grace Today / Blaming – Burning – Eating – Piercing

The Lord still says to His church today, grace and peace, He says to you today, grace and peace. Christian no matter what someone is blaming on you, what is burning in your life, destroyed in your life, no matter what is eating at you, or piercing you, Jesus says to you, grace and peace. God says to you today that no matter what is going on in your life today, there is a sanctuary for you, where grace and peace is waiting for you.

Your Earthly Father

I do not know what type of earthly father you have. Maybe he was never there for you, maybe you had to perform to earn his love and be accepted, but please do not confuse your Heavenly Father with an earthly father who maybe mistreated you. Your Heavenly Father accepts you unconditionally and there is nothing you have to do to receive His love, His grace, and His peace.

Always this Order

The first step to being ready for the wrath that is coming in this book, is to be at peace with God. You will always find this order in the Scripture, grace before peace, because you cannot experience peace with God, until you understand and receive His grace:

(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:9 NKJV) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Terrible Judgment Upon People / We no Better – God Reached Us / May we be Gracious

We will read of terrible judgments that are coming upon people who have rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior, and the fact is that we are no better than they are, we too offended the Holy God and were on the same path as they are currently on had it not been for God's grace reaching down to us. As we grow in our understanding of His grace, may it become a characteristic of our lives, and may we be known as gracious people ourselves.

A People Telling of Peace / No Mercy / Grace Chp 22 / Peace Chp 6 / Know – No Peace

May we also be a people telling people of the peace of God offered to them. As I mentioned last week, you will not find the word "mercy" in this entire book. Nor will you find the "grace" again until the last verse of this book:

(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

You will only find the word "peace" again in chapter 6, and it is in reference to the peace being taken away from the earth. Know Jesus, Know Peace, No Jesus, No peace.

(Revelation 6:4 NKJV) 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.

Receive based on the Three / Complete Forgiveness - Acceptance

We can receive this grace because it comes from the 3, the trinity, it is complete forgiveness and we are completely received by God. Some have a concept that Jesus is the God of love, and the Father the is the God of wrath, and the Holy Spirit is just kind of there. But we can see in these 2 verses that grace and peace is complete, because it extends from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

(Revelation 1:5 NKJV) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Was – Is – Come / Eternal God / Justified – Sanctified - Glorified

Verse 4 - from Him who is and who was and who is to come - He was, is, and always will be, the Eternal God. This should bring us great comfort because grace and peace is being extended to us from the One that was; God is eternal, so He lives in the was, even though we are past the was, and he still loves us and extends His grace to us. All my failures in the past, all my failures today, all that I am, all that I ever will be. Because He is the Eternal God He can call me justified, sanctified, and glorified. He calls me "justified" because He was and He sees my sin judged on the Cross. He is, so He can call me "sanctified" because He understands the transformation process we are in. And because He is to come, he can call us glorified because He already sees the finished work.

Prophet – Priest - King

Interesting, when He came (was) He served as a Prophet, now He (is) serves as a priest as He lives to make intercession for us (Romans 8:26), and when He comes again He will be the King as He establishes His kingdom on earth. The one who was, and is, and is to come.

What Depth of Dimension / Revelation Given There – Not Here / Glorified – Hear / Calvin vs Aramin

How important that we see the depth and dimension of God. How important that we see that this revelation was given from there, and not here, therefore it is in a dimension that is far greater than ours, thus making all things possible. From God's dimension, one verse can speak of being glorified past tense, and the next verse can say He who has an ear let Him hear. That is why there will never be an answer here on earth about Calvinism and Arminianism, once saved always saved, or can you leave your salvation; we will never have the answer because those things are determined in a dimension that we are not part of.

Our Dimension – 3 not 1

In our dimension 3 cannot be 1, but in the eternal dimension it is possible. Beloved, expand your dimension by faith, don't limit yourself to what God can do. But always keep yourself within His limits, by faith, and that faith comes by hearing and that hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17), and although you will be stretched, you won't go off into strange doctrine

7 Spirits / Ish 11

Verse 4 - and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne - I am not totally sure exactly what all this verse means. Some say it is a reference to the seven Spirits refer to the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit as seen in Isaiah 11:2. But actually I only see 6:

(Isaiah 11:2 KJV) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

See Again in Rev 4 & 5

We will see this reference again in:

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

(Revelation 5:6 NKJV) 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.

1st Used

The word for spirit is "pneuma", and it is first used in the Bible and it is used in reference to the Holy Spirit; *(Matthew 1:18 KJV) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

Is the Holy Spirit / Giving Grace & Peace / Numerology – Fullness of Spirit

I know this reference has to be to the Holy Spirit and not angels because it is not for angels to extend grace and peace to the church, only God can do that. So this is a reference to the Holy Spirit and my best guess is that "seven" as it is used throughout the Bible numerically represents completeness or fullness, therefore I think it is referring to the fullness of the Spirit. All I know is that the seven Spirits are extending grace and peace to me, and I'll take it.

Faithful Witness / John 14

Verse 5 - and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness - Jesus Christ is indeed the faithful Witness.

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

(John 14:7 NKJV) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

(John 14:8 NKJV) Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

(John 14:9 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Expressed Image – Col 1

Jesus is the expressed image of God. The only way to know the Father is through the Son

(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

(Colossians 1:19 NKJV) For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

Firstborn / He Broke the Chains

Verse 5 - the firstborn from the dead - Cultist try to use this verse that Jesus isn't eternal, but was created.

This is referring to Jesus being the first to break the hold of death, and He led the captives free:

(Ephesians 4:8 NKJV) Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

(Ephesians 4:9 NKJV) (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

(Ephesians 4:10 NKJV) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Great I Am

Some other scriptures to counter the cultist with, Jesus makes it clear that He is the Great I Am, so much so they want to kill Him for saying it:

(Exodus 3:14 KJV) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

(John 8:58 KJV) Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

(John 8:59 KJV) Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

And Jesus used the 7 "I Am" statements in the book of John, clearly stating He is the Great I Am.

Psalm 89:27-37

Col 1:15-18

Rom 1:3-4

Heb 1:6

Rev 1:8 / Rev 22:13

Rules the Rulers / Veto Rights

Verse 5 - and the ruler over the kings of the earth – Doesn't matter who is in the White House, or Kremlin, Jesus is ruler over them and He has all veto rights, and will gather all things to Himself according to His will. Jesus rules the rulers!

Washed our Robes

Verse 5 - To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, - I like that, it was the ruler over the kings of the earth that washed my robe. A God who would get dirty for His people, that is love beyond outside of our dimension. Imagine the President coming to your house to do your laundry. Every time you wore that shirt you'd tell people this is the shirt the President washed for me. Jesus washed our robes, cleansed the soil of sin, the stench of death from it, and says here is your robe, the robe of righteousness:

(Revelation 7:14 NKJV) 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.

No Leader can Lead Us / Words to Persecuted / Sudan / Pre-Trib Rapture

There is no king, president, government leader that can serve me the way Jesus does, did, and will do, for He was, and is, and is to come. These words of assurance would have meant so much to these people going through persecution and suffering. How these words much sounds to our brothers and sisters in the Sudan, China, and Muslim nations. Grace and Peace extended from the trinity. It is this

grace and peace that convinces me even more that the church will be raptured before the Tribulation, for the tribulation is God's wrath against a Christ rejecting world. Tribulation today is the result of living in a fallen world.

Top 20% - Purging – American Fall / Remember these Words

You know Christian, you may not live in the top 20% of the world's wealth and then be raptured. God may allow a purging of His church before the rapture, God may allow America to fall because of our unwillingness to repent, terrorism may strike American soil before the year lets out. What ever, or however, may these words of grace and peace from Him who is, who was, and who is to come ring in your heart. Remember this book is written so that we might be ready. That we will always be in assurance of His grace and peace. That assurance needs to be applied today also as many Christians are struggling with their security and assurance that God loves them, He does.

Flight to Florida / Was – Is - Come

I am working on getting my son a flight to Florida to visit grandma and granddad. Now I am arranging his travel plans, he will fly solo. You know what, he never asks me if I have made the reservations, picked up the tickets, have enough money. He is a typical kid knowing that I'll take care of it all. You know our Heavenly Father wants us to be like in this area of His grace and peace, His love. For my son, the was, he doesn't even question if the ticket was paid for, he knows that it is. The "is", he has no thought on how he will get to the airport on the flight day, he knows we will get him there. The will be, he isn't in fear that when he lands that he will be stranded, he knows my father will be there waiting for him. The Lord gives us comfort in these first verses, so that when things start to unfold, we can have peace in knowing He is on the throne.

(Revelation 1:6 NKJV) and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Millennium

In the Millennium, we'll rule and reign on the earth as kings and priests (Revelation 5:10):
(Revelation 5:10 NKJV) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Cut-off

I like what one commentator said, people just don't know who we are yet, for if they did they would never pull-out or cut us off as they do. Same with your boss and neighbors.

John Can't Contain Self / Great Revelation in Great Trial

John says to Him be the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. I think as John reflects on all that God is, he just can't contain himself and lets out this praise and worship unto the Lord. Imagine John, he is 95 years old, his skin is probably sagging from age and being boiled in oil. He is on the island of Patmos, a death sentence (so they thought), rocky, barren, hot, lacking food and water, and after hearing all these words of comfort he can't contain himself and he breaks out into worship. We all dread trials and tribulation, but here John is in a horrible trial, and what happens, he sees a revelation of God like none that he could ever imagine, and he walked with Jesus for 3 years, he was there on the Mount of Transfiguration, but here he receives this awesome revelation of Jesus Christ, and his heart can't contain the beauty of it all:

(Matthew 17:1 NKJV) Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

(Matthew 17:2 NKJV) and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

(Matthew 17:3 NKJV) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Words to Consider - (Revelation 1:7)

(Revelation 1:7 NKJV) 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.

Exhortation / 30 times / Change your Life

Behold – this is an exhortation, something we are to consider. 30 times we will be told to consider something in this book. This is the first one, and it is that He is coming. God wants us to consider this because when we do, it will change our life, it will change the way we live.

Not for New Believers / Thessalonica / Purifying Effect – 40-50 years

You people say this end-times stuff isn't for new believers. It is interesting that the Apostle Paul was only in Thessalonica for 3 weeks before they ran him out of town. Yet amazingly when he writes to them he refers to the things he taught when he was there, which was about the resurrection, the rapture, the anti-christ, the Second Coming. Why, because if eternity is part of your thinking, it will change your life, it will have a purifying effect on your life. You will live as though He may come at any moment and I must be right and ready. Otherwise you will live as though you got at least 40-50 years before you have to get right and get ready. Eternity thinking will have a purifying effect upon your life.

Second Coming

This event is not the Rapture, but His Second Coming for every eye will see Him. Many will be deceived when the Rapture happened, but not Second Coming, for all will know, every knee shall bow and tongue confess.

Daniel Prophecy

Verse 7 - He is coming with clouds – As Daniel prophesied:

(Daniel 7:13 KJV) I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Jewish People

Verse 7 - even they who pierced - speaking specifically about the Jewish people:

(Zechariah 12:10 NKJV) "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.

OT Usage

Here are one of the many references to the OT in the Book of Revelation. Many people are not into the OT, but the better your knowledge of the OT, the better your understanding of Revelation will be. Daniel will be referenced 53 times, Exodus 27 times, Jeremiah 22, Psalms 43, Ezekiel 42, Isaiah 79, and Zechariah 15. Of the 404 verse in the book of Revelation, we will make reference or allude to over 550 OT verses (obviously duplicating several verses).

All will Mourn – Contrast to Verse 4

Verse 7 - And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him – Every knee will bow and every tongue will profess. What a contrast to verse 4, grace and peace.

All Things Flowing towards Throne / Can't Join Church – Born into It

Again, all things are coming before the throne, all things are flowing to the throne on earth and in heaven. How important to know that you don't become a member of the church by joining it, you must be born into it. Not one of us joined our family, every one of us were born into it. We don't have membership here because we don't want anyone thinking they are going to heaven just because they are a member of the church. You must be born into the family, you must receive God's grace through the Son, to have peace with the Holy God.

Words you can Count On – (Revelation 1:8)

(Revelation 1:8 NKJV) "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."

Greek Alphabet / Stores – Communicates All Knowledge

These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. An alphabet is an ingenious way to store and communicate knowledge. The 26 letters in the English alphabet, arranged in almost endless combinations, can hold and convey all knowledge.

Christ Supreme Sovereign Alphabet / Nothing Outside His Knowledge / No Sabotage

Christ is the supreme and sovereign alphabet, there is nothing outside His knowledge, thus there are no unknown factors that can sabotage His coming for us, and His Second Coming.

Almight 8 Times / His Power Supreme over All events / Nothing Outside His Dominion

The Almighty – occurs 8 times in this book, reminding that God's power is supreme over all cataclysmic events recorded in this book. He exercises sovereign control over every person, object, and event, and not molecule in the universe is outside that dominion.

All Words Recorded – All Words You can Count On

All the words recorded in this book, are words that you can count on. Good and bad!

Revelation 1:9-12

Turn and See

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

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

(Revelation 1:11 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 1:12 NKJV) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

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

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

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

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

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

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

(Revelation 1:20 NKJV) "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.

USA Today / As World Goes

USA Today" had an interesting article yesterday titled, "Poll Shows Americans are in a Funk." Right now they don't care about anything. Future terrorist attack in America--not a chance even though Bush/Cheney call it a "sure thing." This poll then went on to produce several articles based on that poll, such as: it's summer so off goes the brain, curiosity, attention span, and exploration of new ideas and issues, etc. You would hope that as the Church goes, the world would follow. But in all honesty, it is mostly as the world goes, the church follows.

Before Start this Book / John's Picture

The Apostle John gives us a deep picture in this passage today, a picture for each and every one of us on receiving new revelations from God. Journey with me back to that day.

95 / Most Wanted List / Oil / Patmos – no Maui

John around 95 years of age. John just a fisherman, now on the governments most wanted listed, featured weekly on Rome's Most Wanted, public enemy number one. Imagine going from fisherman, to be signaled out personally by the Emperor of Rome (Emperor Domitian), the mightiest and greatest power on the planet. Domitian had a hatred and vengeance towards the Christians and his plan was simple, kill off the last apostle, the last great leader, and the movement will die. So it was that John was dropped in a cauldron of boiling oil, yet John doesn't die. So not dying from it he was exiled to the island of Patmos. Patmos was no Maui, it was a rocky, barren, vegetation void island. It was 50 miles out to sea from Turkey there in the Mediterranean; it had no trees for shade. Basically prisoners were dropped off on the island and left to fend for self, endure the extreme heat, literally left to die.

Waiting for Death / Wishing for Death? / Questioning God / Body Worn Out

So here John is, in this place, waiting for death (one early writer said he was on this island for 16 months - when he received the Revelation we do not know). I wonder if after a few months of this John wishes he would have died in the cauldron, been put out of his misery, reunited with the one whom he had walked 3 years with. If he was anything like you and me, maybe even questioning God's sovereignty, why God, why have you forsaken me, I have been such a faithful witness, and yet at the age of 95 I'm carrying rocks (They would mine on Patmos), this old worn out body can't take this, why God, why?

Thoughts Interrupted – Voice as Trumpet

Whatever his thoughts may have been, there was a day, when those thoughts were interrupted, by a loud voice behind him, a voice as of a trumpet (verse 10):

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

Rather than Delusion – Heat Exhaustion / John looks into the Matter

Rather than thinking he was on the verge of death, entering into the state of delusion, experiencing heat exhaustion, dehydration, malnutrition, rather what does John do, he turns to investigate the voice that was behind Him. John turns to look into the matter (verse 12), and because he turns to look into the matter, and consequently because he was looking into it, he found himself looking unto Jesus Christ.

Verse 12-16 describe what he saw:

(Revelation 1:12 NKJV) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Verse 17 / Fell as Dead / Touched - Revived

Notice verse 17, when he saw Him, he fell at His feet as if he was dead, John was wiped out, had it, completely in awe. Then after falling down before the Lord, he was touched by the Lord, as the Lord touches Him with His right hand. And the Lord says these words to him:

(Revelation 1:17 NKJV) 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."

John Touched / Notice Order: Heard – Turned – Saw – Fell – Touched – Revived - Commissioned

John you see was touched. Notice the order, he heard, then he turned to see, then he saw, then he fell, then he was touched, then he was revived by the Lord who said don't be afraid, then he was commissioned out into ministry. John write these things down, this is a message that I want you to get out, that I am giving to you, to flow through you to others:

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

Important for Us to Hear / John Turned – Lead to Deeper Revelation / Walked Jesus 3 years

It is important to see this, that you would have ears to hear what the Spirit has to say to the Church. For you see John turned to see, to checkout what he was hearing, and it lead to his revelation, a deeper understanding, and renewed appreciation of Jesus Christ. This book isn't just to give us information of Bible prophecy, but a revelation of Jesus Christ, a fresh revelation of Jesus. John had walked personally with Jesus for 3 years, you would really get to know someone after walking every where together, sleeping under the same trees, eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner together every day, and sharing the eternal things together, but even John is going to see something new, learn something new about the One he thought he had known so well.

John 21 / Showed Himself Again

More personal application for us; In John 21:1, it says that Jesus showed himself to His disciples again:

(John 21:1 NKJV) After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

What Things – Death & Resurrection / We Believe – Lord wants to Show Again & Again / New

After what things, this was written after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus showed Himself again, after these things, and they were impacted by Jesus. We believe the crucifixion, we believe the resurrection, but gang, the Lord wants to show Himself over and over again to give us a fresh revelation of Himself. To give us personal direction, to show Himself to us again, and again, and again.

Jesus Same Today

Just as He showed Himself to the disciples then, so too does He still do it today. For He is the same yesterday, today, and forever:

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

John Heard – he Turned / Reminded of Others

When John heard a voice behind him, he turned to see what it meant. And in this, I am reminded of other who “turned to see the voice that spake with them.”

Luke 2 / It’s Late – Long Day / But They Went

When an angel appeared to them, telling them to go to Bethlehem, the shepherds could have said, “Forget it. It’s the middle of the night. Why go to Bethlehem now?” I’ve had a long day of work, it is checkout time with a little television. They could have said I don’t have time to turn aside, I got my profession to take care of, we don’t have time, we got to get to work.

But they didn’t. They went. The shepherds turned aside to go investigate what they had just heard. And they ended up rejoicing (see Luke 2).

(Luke 2:7 NKJV) And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

(Luke 2:8 NKJV) Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

(Luke 2:9 NKJV) And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

(Luke 2:10 NKJV) Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

(Luke 2:11 NKJV) "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

(Luke 2:12 NKJV) "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:13 NKJV) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

(Luke 2:14 NKJV) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

(Luke 2:15 NKJV) So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

(Luke 2:16 NKJV) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Matt 2 / Lives on Hold – 2 Year Journey

When they saw a star they’d never seen before, the wise men could have been discouraged to embark on the nearly two-year journey. They turned aside from their lives, they put their life on hold to go investigate. But they got on their camels, set out across the desert—and ended up worshipping the King of kings (see Matthew 2).

(Matthew 2:1 NKJV) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

(Matthew 2:2 NKJV) saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

(Matthew 2:3 NKJV) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

(Matthew 2:4 NKJV) And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

(Matthew 2:5 NKJV) So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

(Matthew 2:6 NKJV) 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

(Matthew 2:7 NKJV) Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

(Matthew 2:8 NKJV) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

(Matthew 2:9 NKJV) When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

(Matthew 2:10 NKJV) When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

(Matthew 2:11 NKJV) And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Shepherd – Wise Men / Things Used to get to Bethlehem – New Born Babe

All these things were used to get these people to see the newborn babe

One Group Didn’t Turn / Missed the Babe

There was one group, however, who did not “turn to see” and thus missed the Incarnation....

Wise men Asked – Scholars Answered / Knew the Prophecy

When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem and asked, "Where is Messiah to be born?" the Bible scholars were quick to answer, "Bethlehem." You see, they knew Bible prophecy like the backs of their hands. They knew the obscure verses in Micah 5 that foretold the place of His birth; the portions of Daniel 9 that foretold the time of His birth; the passages in Isaiah that prophesied He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7) and sojourn in Egypt.

(Matthew 2:3 NKJV) When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

(Matthew 2:4 NKJV) And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

(Matthew 2:5 NKJV) So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

(Matthew 2:6 NKJV) 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

(Isaiah 7:14 NKJV) "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

(Daniel 9:25 NKJV) "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

(Daniel 9:26 NKJV) "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

Bible Students – Wednesday Nighters

They were the Bible students, the Wednesday niters, the pastors, the elders, the note-takers. These were people who, if we're not careful, we could be.

Knew the Word – never made 5 mile Journey Jer – Beth / Pursuit of Personal Encounter

They knew the Word—and yet they never made the five-mile walk from Jerusalem to Bethlehem in pursuit of a personal, real encounter with God. And, gang, we are vulnerable to the same mentality.

My Greatest Struggle – Study – Tapes to Learn but not Encounter

One of my greatest struggles, something I must continually put myself in check on is this, I can study the Bible, listen to tapes, read commentaries, so that I may teach, and quote, and counsel, all the while missing God's purpose for me, and that is to have a new, fresh revelations of Jesus Christ daily.

We can Read Book Academically – Typology – Parallels / Miss the Revelation

We can read the Bible, the Book of Revelation academically. We can search for clues of typology. We can draw parallels to current events internationally—all the while missing the revelation of Jesus personally. Not so John. When he heard a voice, he didn't say, "I know the Bible. After all, I wrote a good part of it." No, he turned to see—and saw Jesus in the process.

We can Hear – But not go 5 Miles / I have Missed – I have Gone / Been Revived

We can hear God's voice calling us to investigate more, to turn and see, but we can be like those Bible scholars and not make the 5-mile trip from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. I know for myself personally I have passed on the 5 mile journey many a times. I said tomorrow, can't right now too busy with work, just can't put my life on hold right now. I can recognize what I missed, but there have been many a times I did make the 5 mile journey. I heard God's voice calling out to me, come turn and see what I have for you, something new, something fresh, always exciting for any time we encounter God it is exciting. God said turn aside, and I did, and like John I was revived in a special way after the Lord touched me with His revelation that he had for me.

William Wirt

"Seize the moment of excited curiosity on any subject to solve your doubts; for if you let it pass, the desire may never return, and you may remain in ignorance."

-- William Wirt (1772 - 1834) - US politician; Attorney General 1817-1829

John 21:1 / Again & Again

Jesus wants to show Himself to us again, and again:

(John 21:1 NKJV) After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

Life not just Event – Exciting Journey / Be Like John – Led to Greater Revelation

The Christian life is not just an event, we got saved, it is an experience and an exciting journey. And if we chose, we too can be like John and we can turn when we hear the voice behind us, and investigate what that voice is saying to us, and be lead into a deeper revelation of Jesus, a greater understanding, a touch by His right hand that revives us, and a receiving of direction from him for our lives and others around us.

Striking Parallel - Moses

We have a striking parallel in the Old Testament, Moses at the burning bush:

(Exodus 3:1 NKJV) Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

(Exodus 3:2 NKJV) And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

(Exodus 3:3 NKJV) Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

(Exodus 3:4 NKJV) So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Exodus 3:5 NKJV) Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

(Exodus 3:6 NKJV) Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

(Exodus 3:7 NKJV) And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

(Exodus 3:8 NKJV) "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

(Exodus 3:9 NKJV) "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

(Exodus 3:10 NKJV) "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

(Exodus 3:11 NKJV) But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

(Exodus 3:12 NKJV) So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

(Exodus 3:13 NKJV) Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

(Exodus 3:14 NKJV) And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Notice – When Lord Saw / Gave Information – Revelation (I AM) - Commission

Notice it says when the Lord saw that Moses turned aside to investigate, it was there that the Lord spoke to him (v.4), and gave him a new revelation of the God that he sought to draw near to. When Moses turned aside that is when the Lord spoke him, gave him information and revelation, and then a commissioning.

Moses – I'm Professional – Schedule to Keep – Plans Tonight

Moses could have said I don't have time to look, I'm a professional, I got a business to take care of, a schedule to keep, plans for tonight.

We Can Say Same Thing / We will Miss Revelation / Turning takes Effort

What a danger for us, how we can say these same things, I'm a professional, I got a business to take care of, a schedule to keep, plans for tonight, and we miss the revelation that God has for us because we won't take the time to investigate the things we hear from Him. Realize, to turn aside to look into, to turn and see, means you are turning from something, turning from what you are currently seeing. To turn takes effort on our behalf, and when God saw that Moses turned aside to look into the matter, it was then that he received the revelation.

IN the Spirit

John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and this just doesn't mean Sunday:

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

John Sensitive to Spirit / That's when we will Turn Aside / Take every Situation

John was in the Spirit, John was sensitive to the things of the Spirit. John was in the Spirit, and it is when we are in the Spirit that we will look into the things of God. It is there that we will take every situation in our lives and be listening, looking, asking:

- Why am I here,
- What is it that you want to show me Lord.
- The songs that I am singing, what do they mean to me, what am I expressing to you.
- These words that I am reading, what do you want for me or from me.
- Maybe you are hearing the Lord call you back to that special time when you would meet Him early in the morning, a special day of the week when you fasted.
- A ministry you were involved in.
- Maybe it is a personal sin, just a little one, but God calls out to you about it. When you do, and it is dealt with, you will have a new revelation of Jesus because you now see Him more clearly, and the freedom from that sin revives you as you experience a new freedom.
- It is us saying Lord I know you are speaking to me about this or that, what is it Lord, as we turn and investigate, praying through till we are clear on His will, seeking power to do whatever it is.

Those that Ask / Make 5 Mile Journey

For those who ask these questions, seek these things, for those that take the time to make the 5 mile journey to Bethlehem, they will be the ones who receive a revelation from the Lord.

Lord Wants to Guide Life / To be Exciting / Not just Know it - but Encounter It / Word - Flesh

Christian, the Lord wants to guide your life by revelations, he wants your life to be exciting. The danger we can fall into is that we know the Bible, I've read it, can quote it. It is good that we know it, but God doesn't want us just to know it, He wants us to encounter it, for He is the Word that became flesh.

Life that Count / That we Turn and See

I believe all of us want our life to count, so when we hear the Lord calling, may we investigate the matter, turn aside to see what the Lord has for us. That we would turn and see and say Lord what will you have for me today. Lord I want revelation from heaven, I want to be guided and directed by you. Lord give me the courage to turn and see, that I might have a renewed revelation of you. That I might be revived again, and again, as you show yourself again to the disciples. That we would make that 5 mile journey to Bethlehem.

(John 21:1 NKJV) After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

Revelation 1:9-20

The Glorified Christ

Before God Unfolds - Comforts

Picking up here in verse 9 again, and as we have seen in the past studies, before God unfolds before John the Great tribulation that is coming upon the world, God will spend chapter 1 bringing comfort and assurance to John and us, that He is on the throne, has all things in control, and nothing is outside of His control. He gives us words of comfort, a promised blessing for looking into these things (1;3), and a clear calling to be ready.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Glorified Christ

In this passage of Scripture today we will see the Glorified Christ, and what a sight it is.

Outline for the Glorified Christ: Revelation 1:9-20

- The Voice of the Lord – 1:9-11
- The Vision of the Lord – 1:12-16
- The Touch of the Lord – 1:17-20

The Voice of the Lord – 1:9-11

(Revelation 1:9 NKJV) 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.

John Tells How / Domitian / John Released

John now tells us how he received this revelation. John was sentenced here to die by the Emperor Domitian for his testimony of Jesus Christ. John is approximately 95 years old he is expected to die here, but he doesn't, and after he receives this revelation shortly thereafter he is released (Domitian is killed) and John will spend five more years preaching in Ephesus.

How Church Fair / Maybe Questioned

John must have wondered how the church was going to fair here in the future. In 66AD Rome was burned and blamed on by the Christians, 70AD Jerusalem falls to Titus and the church is no more. John has watched brothers and sisters being fed to lions, and now here John is banished to the Island of Patmos, not being able to comfort them with the words of the Lord. I wonder if John question why after 60 years faithfulness that he is now here at the age of 95, having to do manual laborer, hard labor, in such a horrible circumstances.

Last Years of Life - Easier

In the last years of life wouldn't we expect it to get easier, a place of rest and respect, but John ends up at Patmos, doing grueling labor at the age of 95, at a time when a body has a hard enough time just breathing, let alone laboring.

The Break – Expect - Death

Listen Christian, the break we all long for, maybe even expect, will not come until death, it is important that we know this or else we can find ourselves bitter and questioning, maybe even drifting or walking away from God when hard times befall us.

Redpath / Graham / John

Allen Redpath, one of the greatest preachers who ever lived, (he ended up getting involved in Calvary Chapel's in his later years), he wrote books and preached thousands of sermons. Yet at the age of 83 he was suffering greatly, near his death, he said he now sees that the toughest battles fought, are the ones right before the war is over. We see Billy Graham today at the age of 86, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, broken hip, 60 years of preaching and things are not easier for him. Imagine John almost 10 years older than Billy Graham and he's doing manual labor in the Mediterranean heat and sun. The battles are not going to get easier for those who desire to live godly:

(2 Timothy 3:10 NKJV) But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

(2 Timothy 3:11 NKJV) persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.

(2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV) Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Tribulum

This word for tribulation in the Latin, is "tribulum", and it was the sled that was dragged over the wheat to separate the wheat from the chaff there on the threshing floor.

Promised Tribulation

Tribulation is a promise for all believers. In John 16 Jesus promised us that in this world we will have tribulation. In the book of Acts we are told that in much tribulation we will enter the kingdom of God.

*(John 16:33 NKJV) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**"*

(Acts 14:21 NKJV) And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,

*(Acts 14:22 NKJV) strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**"*

Origin of Tribulation / First Fallen World

Why so much struggle then for us who have committed our lives to Christ? It is important to understand where the origin of tribulation comes from. First, at the fall sin entered into the world. Once sin entered into a world so did cancer, blindness, natural disasters, and the likes.

Second - Humanity

Secondly, tribulation entered into the world after the fall because of sinning humanity (the human race) who embraces values which are contrary to the Scriptures. It was at the fall that murder, rape, robbery, and the likes entered into the world. And for believers it can be more intense because we can become outcasts, banished, by our friends and family once we come to Jesus Christ.

Third - Satan

And then thirdly Satan sends tribulation our way because he hates us, because when he looks at us, he sees Jesus Christ who has covered us with His blood, and when looks at us, all He can see is the blood of Jesus which reminds him of his defeat there at the cross, and is always seeking to destroy us.

Origin Changes – Rev 6

It is very important to see and understand this. But equally as important to see is that the origin of tribulation changes in chapter 6; right now tribulation comes from Satan, but in chapter 6 the tribulation in

the world will no longer come from Satan but it will be directed from God, for it will be God's wrath against a Christ rejecting world.

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Church not Subject to Tribulation

Hence the church is raptured before the tribulation begins here because the church has not rejected Jesus Christ. We have been bought by the blood of the lamb. To the faithful church in Philadelphia Jesus says:

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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."

Important to Know – Mess up Theology - Walk

It is important for Christians to know the origins of tribulations, for if not it will mess up your theology (current and end times) and your walk. So Christian, don't be surprised when you do what is right and still face adversity and hardship. John is experienced tribulation because of his faithfulness.

John saw in Trib / Sanctified Lonliness

Now it was in tribulation that John saw the revelation of the glorified Christ. Christian, God will allow you periods of sanctified loneliness so He may give you a special revelation of Himself. Any time we see more of Him, any time He implants more of Himself to us and in us, we will be changed from glory to glory

Did for Moses – Daniel – Paul – Jesus / When He does – Make the Trip

God did it for Moses, Daniel, Paul, John the Baptist, and for Jesus Christ. When He does it to you know that you are in good company. When that time comes, turn and see and make that 5 mile journey from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Don't let a trial go to waste, every time you go down be sure to bring something back up with you.

Want to Be Effective Parent

Verse 9 - I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation – John identifies himself to us and them as a brother and companion, not the great apostle. You want to be an effective parent, pastor, mentor, discipler? Identify yourself with the people, let them know that you go through and have gone through the same things they go through. That you have the same struggles, setbacks, heartaches as they do. Beloved, we are in this together, let's walk it out together, and let's finish it together.

Word Made him

Verse 9 - was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. – The Word put him where he was, and the Word made him who he is was.

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

Spiritually Tuned

John was in the spirit and I do not believe he was referring to Sunday. I believe John was in that place where he had broken through the flesh and is now tuned in to the things of the Lord through the Spirit of God. One reason I believe he is in the spirit and not Sunday because if he was in the flesh and heard the voice of God he would not have become like dead, he would have died. I don't believe any one man's heart could see the glorified and risen Christ in the flesh without having their heart stopped.

(Revelation 1:11 NKJV) 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."

Repeats Alpha / God involved in Between / Bring Kids into Remembrance

John repeats the Alpha and Omega again. Why, because people need to understand that it is the Lord who will see them through. He is the beginning and the end, and He is all things going on in between, and presently. God is equally involved in your life at this very moment as He was in your beginning when you got saved, and as sure as He will be there for your end here on earth when you take that last breath. Parents, mentors and disciplers, continually bring your children and disciple to the remembrance that God is here – now. The beginning and the end, and everything in between.

Scriptures to Counter the Mormon and Jehovah Witness

Ask a Jehovah's Witness or Mormon the identity of the speaker in this verse, and he'll say it's Jehovah, or God the Father.

Turn him to Isaiah 41:4, which reads

(Isaiah 41:4 NKJV) Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.'"

"Jehovah," he'll say.

Then turn him to Isaiah 44:6, which reads:

(Isaiah 44:6 NKJV) "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

"Jehovah," he'll say.

Then turn him to Isaiah 48:12, which reads:

(Isaiah 48:12 NKJV) "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

"Jehovah," he'll say.

Then turn him to Revelation

(Revelation 1:8 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 1:11 NKJV) 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."

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

(Revelation 21:6 NKJV) And He said to me, "It is done! 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.

(Revelation 22:13 NKJV) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

The Jehovah witness will argue that all these still speak of God, and not Jesus, even though it is Jesus speaking in 22:13-16. But the clincher comes back in chapter 2, Jesus is the one who was dead, and rose again:

(Revelation 2:8 NKJV) "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:

The Vision of the Lord – 1:12-16

John uses Signs

Now John will describe his vision in signs types and symbols. He is not saying Jesus' voice was a trumpet rather it was as a trumpet. His hair was like wool but wasn't wool. His eyes were as flames but they were not actual flames. His feet were like brass but they were not actual brass. His voice sounded like many waters, but water didn't rush from His mouth. His face shined like the sun, but wasn't actually a sun.

(Revelation 1:12 NKJV) Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,
(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) 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.

Long time to Turn

Then John turns, do you notice how much time he had expired by the time John had turned to look. Notice all the things that were said in verse 11 before he turned, I wonder if he was stunned.

Candlestick – Lamp stand Difference

The difference between a candlestick and a lamp stand is the candlestick is self consuming and will burn itself out. A lamp is fueled by oil and needs to be refueled. Words for us as the church because we continually need to be refueled by the oil which is a picture of the Holy Spirit

Exodus 25 / Vine & Branches / Light of the World

The seven golden candlesticks refer to the golden lamp stand of Exodus 25, which, with three lamps on each side of a main stem, speak both of John 15, where Jesus said, "I am the Vine and you are the branches," and of John 8 where He declared Himself to be the Light of the world. As seen in Matthew 5, we are to let our light shine as well—which can only happen as we stay connected to the Stem of the candlestick, the true Vine, Jesus Christ.

(Exodus 25:31 NKJV) "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece.

(Exodus 25:32 NKJV) "And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(John 8:12 NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

(Matthew 5:14 NKJV) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

(Matthew 5:15 NKJV) "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

(Matthew 5:16 NKJV) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Made of Gold / 1 Piece / Beaten

Notice also the candlestick is made of gold, which speaks of divinity. But it was not molten gold, it was one piece of beaten gold because Jesus was beaten that we might be included with Him in the lamp stand.

(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

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

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

(Revelation 1:16 NKJV) 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.

Son of Man – Dan 7

The Son of Man a reference to Daniel chapter 7:13. The Son of Man will establish His Kingdom of earth: *(Daniel 7:13 NKJV) "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. (Daniel 7:14 NKJV) Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*

Physical Description / Glorified Christ compared to Lamb

These verses are the only physical description of Jesus Christ given in the Bible. John sees the glorified Christ and what a difference from the Lamb that was slain to the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the King seated on His throne;

Verse 13 – The Garment – As the Lamb His robed stripped and cast for lots, but as the glorified Christ He is robed in Majesty.

Entire Body / Isaiah 61

The Son of Man is clothed to His feet—which speaks of the priesthood (Exodus 28:42). His entire body is covered. Who is the body of Christ? We are. We're covered with the robe of His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10):

(Isaiah 61:10 NKJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Verse 13 – Golden Band – As a Lamb he was bound and lead by chains to a mock trial and charged by religious rulers, dying on the cross of a broken heart. As the glorified Christ He is girded by a golden band around His chest, the gold representing His deity that no man can touch, and a heart that can never be broken again for He has married His Bride.

Verse 14 – His Head – As the Lamb His head was blood soaked by 1.5 inch thorns piercing into His skull, but as the glorified Christ He is distinguished with respect and honor.

Hair – His Mind covered with Forgiveness

What does "white as snow" bring to mind? Isaiah 1:18, where we read, "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow..." Thus, white hair represents the forgiveness and mercy that permeate Jesus' mind. "I know where you've been," He says. "But you are cleansed. You are forgiven. You are white. That's the way I see you."

(Isaiah 1:18 NKJV) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

Verse 14 – His Eyes – As the Lamb a face so beaten He would not have been able to see, so much like the Lamb for eyes that would not see the sin and wickedness of mankind. But as the glorified Christ His eyes are as a flame where there will be nothing hidden that won't be revealed and exposed.

(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

Verse 15 – His Feet – As the Lamb, pierced. As the glorified Christ, solid and firm.

Verse 15 – His Voice – Silent as a Lamb lead to the slaughter. As the glorified Christ, the sound of many waters, like water rushing over a waterfall, sheer power and awe.

Verse 16 – His Hand – As the Lamb they were nailed pierced, as the glorified Christ a grip upon His people that no one shall pluck them out of His hands.

Verse 16 – His Mouth – As a Lamb beaten and bruised, but as the glorified Christ, a sword.

Not Hebrews 4 Sword

The Greek word for sword here is not the one we are most familiar with in Hebrews:

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

Tragan Sword – Death Blow

That's sword is a small handheld sword used for piercing. It was used with precision and skill. This word here is the word for the sword which is the 'tragan' word. That's sword was so big it was carried between the two blades of the back, and when it was used in battle it would deal the death blow for no one could survive a blow from it and live. This will be the word that is used in the book of Revelation as God brings his judgment of a Christ rejecting world, and no one will be able to survive the blow of his judgment.

Verse 16 – His Countenance – As a Lamb, beaten beyond recognition, but as the glorified Christ, shinning like the morning sun.

(Psalms 34:5 NKJV) They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces were not ashamed.

John Also a Poet / Passion / Parents & Passion

John isn't just a theologian, he is also a poet. He writes this book not just with facts but a passion. He isn't just a Bible guy, he is a man of passion. Parents that we would be like that with our kids, that we just wouldn't be Bible people, giving them verses, giving them knowledge, but that they would feel and sense our passion about this Word and our Lord. They would see that He is the passion of our life.

The Touch of the Lord – 1:17-20

(Revelation 1:17 NKJV) 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.

Touch Suffice All Fears / Great Shall Not – God who Touches – Speaks – Not be Afraid

It is always the touch of the Lord that will suffice any of my fears. Do you know Him as the great "shall not", or do you know him as the God who would touch you, draw you to Himself, and speak to you words of peace, words of love, words that would say fear not.

(Revelation 1:18 NKJV) "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.

Jesus King of King – Coming Again

Jesus in His glory we see here, Jesus is revealing that he is God. Jesus is revealing He is the King of kings in the Lord of the lords, and there is no other then Jesus Christ. And he is coming again.

John Falls – Our Measuring Stick

John when he sees this he falls on his face as if dead. This is our scale what we are to measure our self spiritually. Measure yourself against Jesus and you will never be judgmental against your brother and sister again.

Hades – Holding Place

Verse 18 - And I have the keys of Hades and of Death - Is man's holding place until the white room judgment:

(Revelation 20:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 20:12 NKJV) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, 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.

(Revelation 20:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 20:14 NKJV) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(Revelation 20:15 NKJV) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Believer Present / Bema Seat - Rewards

For the believer to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord immediately upon death or rapture. All who have received Jesus will appear before the "Bema (judgment)" seat of Christ, not to

determine salvation for that was determined on the cross, but to determine our rewards in heaven, what we did for Christ with the talents and gifting that He gave us.

(2 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV) So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV) For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV) We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV) Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

(2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV) For we must all appear before the judgment (bema) seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Unbeliever – Hades – Lake of Fire / You are a Spiritual Being

For the unbeliever to be absent from the body is to immediately be in the presence of Hades. And when the final judgment comes man will be moved from Hades to that place of eternal death and torment, the lake of Fire. You are a spiritual being in that you will be present in one of these two places. Death can be a great consolation or a terrible fear, but it is determined on this side of heaven, there is no purgatory.

Keys to Set People Free

The keys of hell and death are not to lock people up but to set people free. "I can get you out of your damnable, hellish situation if you'll let Me," Jesus says. "I can save you from hell eternally if you'll receive Me. My desire is to set you free" (see Luke 4:18). The Lord holds the keys to that which is imprisoning you, gang. Let this One with the eyes of a warm fire set you free.

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

After Voice – Vision – Touch / Direction

After the touch, after the vision, after the voice, God gives John a clear direction on what to do next so that he may not be filled with anxiety or confusion. And so too does the Lord do that for us, when our lives may seem all out of sorts, not sure what the Lord is doing, maybe even wondering if the Lord is doing. But when we allow ourselves to slow down, be in the Spirit, the Lord will give us direction on what to do, "do these things", and that is the touch of the Lord and it brings everything into order for our lives. I can not plead enough with you Christian, take the time to turn and see, so that you may receive direction and comfort from the Lord.

Book of Revelation Outline

Here we see the outline for this book John is told to write the things:

- The Things which you have Seen- Chapter 1,
- The Things which Are - Chapters 2 and 3,
- The Things which will take place after This - Chapters 4 - 22.

(Revelation 1:20 NKJV) "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.

7 Stars – Angels

The seven stars are the Angels of the seven churches. I believe this applies to both a literal angel that oversees every church, and this word for angels is also used for 'messenger' therefore it can be applied to the Pastor. And the reason I believe that is Angels don't need a message delivered to them it is the pastor and the people that need this message from God so that he who has an ear like him hear what the spirit says to the church. It is to church that needs to be ready, it is to church that needs to be prepared, therefore God sends us this message.

Chapter 2

The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to. (Great outline for child rearing, praise them for what they are doing right, present them with their errors so they can correct, and always give them a promise of your love for them, give them security).

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today - Individuals

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 2:1 NKJV) "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:

(Revelation 2:2 NKJV) "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;

(Revelation 2:3 NKJV) "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

(Revelation 2:4 NKJV) "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

(Revelation 2:5 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:6 NKJV) "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Left 1st Love / Period of Church History / Jesus will not Stay

The Church of Ephesus, the church that we know as the one who left their first love. The church of Ephesus speaks of the period of church history from A.D. 33 to A.D. 100. By A.D. 97—the year John recorded this book—the church was already a mess. The Book of Acts presents the model of the way the church was supposed to function. But Acts only covers a span of thirty years. By the time John penned Revelation a mere sixty years later, the purity of the church had been compromised to such a degree that they were in a position to hear the Lord say, "Unless you repent, I'll not stay in your midst" (see verse 5).

(Revelation 2:1 NKJV) "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:

To the Pastor

Verse 1 - To the angel of the church of Ephesus - This word for angel (angelos), is messenger. So it is more likely that these letters were meant for the pastors of those churches, for why would God write a letter to an angel.. I take special attention to these 7 churches as a pastor so I can see what pleases the Lord in His church, and what doesn't, and stay in line with God's will for the church.

I'm Not into Church

Where is Jesus walking? In the midst of the church. You will meet Christians who say, "Well, I'm not into church." That's too bad, because Jesus is. "Yeah, but the churches around here are really hurting," they'll say. So were these. And yet Jesus was in their midst. God showed us the model for the church back in Acts:

(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Background on Ephesus

Verse 1 - Ephesus - The city of Ephesus was the Roman Empire's capital for the Asia Minor area. It was a large metropolitan area. It had an amphitheater that seated over 25,000 people (consider our

machinery needed to build a modern stadium), it had a library that had over 500,000 hand written volumes. It was the banking, financial center of the whole region (liken it to our NY City). They had the temple of Diana there which at it's time was considered one of the 7 wonders of the world, it was supported by 127 pillars, each sixty feet high, and was adorned with great sculptures, and that temple had thousand's of temple prostitutes. We read about Ephesus in Acts 18-20, and the Apostle Paul said they were wholly given over to idolatry. This area was not much different from the region we live in today. This was an advanced city, very prosperous, yet very much given to the fulfillment of the lust of the flesh. That is a hard place to stay pure as the temptations no doubt bombarded the Christians living in that region.

Attribute of Jesus – Personal Identifier / I Walk – I still Hold

Verse 1 - 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands - Every church we will see an attribute of Jesus that was given in chapter 1, and is being used as a personal identifier of Jesus Christ to that Church, and is specific to the issue that applies to that church. Jesus is letting this Church I Am the One who walks among you, and the One who holds you in My hand. An important identifier to a Church that has left its first love, for it is you who has left God, not He that has left you, for He still holds you in His hand, and it is He that still walks among you.

The Praise of the Church

(Revelation 2:2 NKJV) "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;

(Revelation 2:3 NKJV) "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.

God Knows / Consolation - Concern

Verse 2 - I know - When God says I know, that means He knows all about us. Now that can bring consolation to us or it can bring concern. Consolation when we are struggling with something and don't know what to do about it, and we can take consolation in knowing that He knows, and he will take care of it. But it can bring concern when we aren't doing right, He knows, we can't fool Him. We may justify and convince our self, but He sees through all that, for He knows.

Work to Exhaustion / God Admires the Worker

Verse 2 - I know your works, your labor - This word for labor means to labor until the point of exhaustion. These people were workers for Christ, and verse 3 tells us all the things the Church of Ephesus did, they did for Jesus name sake. Jesus takes note of each Church and their works. God praises them for their work, Jesus admires the laborer.

Patience – Endure under Pressure / Keep Working through Obstacles

Verse 2 - your patience - Patience means to endure under pressure. So this church worked hard and under tough circumstances, no doubt because of the environment they lived in. It is easy to work for Christ when things are flowing; it is a whole different thing when a worker continues to work for Christ when obstacles and opposition arise against them.

Firm in Discipline / Judge – Identify / Restore – Remove – Reconcile / Immune System

Verse 2 - and that you cannot bear those who are evil - It appears this church was firm in their church disciple. Church disciple is vital to the church. We are not to judge for condemnation, but we are instructed to judge for identification. There are 3 words involved in church disciple, restore, remove, and reconcile. We are to restore a repentant brother back to Christ, remove a person who seeks and sows division within the church, and we are to reconcile with a brother that we have personal problems with so we can keep the unity in the family. This church was healthy, and did these things. A healthy body heals itself; the body has an immune system, and this church would put out a person that would infect others in the body.

(Matthew 7:1 NKJV) "Judge not, that you be not judged.

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

*(Matthew 7:16 NKJV) "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?
(Matthew 7:17 NKJV) "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
(Matthew 7:18 NKJV) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
(Matthew 7:19 NKJV) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
(Matthew 7:20 NKJV) "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

Tested the Spirits

Verse 2 - And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars -
This church would test the spirit. When someone came with some teaching, they would test them and if they did not line up they identified them and gave them the boot:

(Acts 17:10 NKJV) Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

(Acts 17:11 NKJV) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Jesus Praises the Worker – Discipline – Tested / Apply to Our Lives

So Jesus likes those that are workers, those that work to the point of exhaustion, and those that test the spirit and make sure they are in line with the Word of God, both in lifestyle and in ministry. All things we should lay hold of, and apply for our lives. But, this Church had a problem:

The Problem in the Church

(Revelation 2:4 NKJV) "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

(Revelation 2:5 NKJV) "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.

Great Outside – Love Weaning / Motion – Emotion / Home - House

The problem was, even as much as they were doing good works, and testing the spirits, they looked great from the outside, but the love was weaning. Lots of motion, but no emotion. The home was turning into a house. It was about the structure, the walls and ceiling, more than it was about who was sitting on the couch. Mind you, this church wasn't involved in habitual sin like some of the others we will study.

Calling us to Romance / Ephesus - Darling

Jesus is calling this church, and calling us to remain in a romance with Him. Ephesus means "darling", Jesus is saying come back to that time of romance and love we once had.

Letter to Ephesus / Called back to Love

Paul used the word love 20 times when he wrote the Book of Ephesians, and now here they are being called back to love.

(Ephesians 1:4 NKJV) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

(Ephesians 3:17 NKJV) that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

(Ephesians 3:19 NKJV) to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph 5 – Singing Praise / Melody in their Heart

This is what the church in Ephesus was doing in the beginning, the praises of God continually on their lips, the love of the Lord made a new song in their heart, and they found themselves overflowing with the love of God and the love for God:

(Ephesians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

(Ephesians 5:18 NKJV) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

(Ephesians 5:19 NKJV) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

(Ephesians 5:20 NKJV) giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I Remember that 1st Love / Talking & Telling

I remember that love, that freedom in forgiveness, when I first got saved. I couldn't stop talking about Him. Mature Christians would say the obnoxious new Christian; I'll tell you what, I led more people to the Lord as an obnoxious Christian, than I do a mature temper Christian. I couldn't get enough of the Lord.

So Fresh – Exciting / First Dated – didn't Stain Deck - Wall

That love was so new, so fresh, so exciting. You know when me and Renee first fell in love, there were things we didn't do in that honeymoon phase, but all things we have done in the past few months, sometimes to the point of exhaustion. We didn't pressure wash the deck and then stain it, we didn't lay sod, build a brick retaining wall for the flower bed, establish a wireless network for our computers, analyze our financial situation, and research the aspects of public school versus home school.

Made Home Nicer – But not part of Honeymoon

All these things made our house nicer, more cozy, more efficient in some cases, and necessary in others. But none were things we did in our honeymoon phase, our first love stage.

1st 6 Months – Phone – Walks - Dinner

In our first 6 months of dating, we spent countless hours on the phone talking, dining together was our special time, holding hands, going on walks, watching movies, simply just being together was all that mattered. Love was exciting, it was fresh.

Ephesus Come Back to Romance / Marriage turned Work – Worship / We Quit Looking

God tells this church of Ephesus to return to their first love, the way things were when they first fell in love with Jesus. How easy it is for my marriage to become more about works than about worship. How often our marriage is about all the stuff we have to get done, that we forget the fun part of love. Many times I catch myself looking at my wife and saying how beautiful. Our marriage can become so much work that I quit looking at her the way I first did when we first dated.

xxxxx

The passengers on the bus watched sympathetically as the attractive young woman with the white cane made her way carefully up the steps. She paid the driver and, using her hands to feel the location of the seats, walked down the aisle and found the seat he'd told her was empty. Then she settled in, placed her briefcase on her lap and rested the cane against her leg. It had been a year since Susan, thirty-four, became blind. Due to a medical misdiagnosis she had been rendered sightless, and she was suddenly thrown into a world of darkness, anger, frustration and self-pity. Once a fiercely independent woman, Susan now felt condemned by this terrible twist of fate to become a powerless, helpless burden on everyone around her. "How could this have happened to me?" she would plead, her heart knotted with anger. But no matter how much she cried or ranted or prayed, she knew the painful truth her sight was never going to return. A cloud of depression hung over Susan's once optimistic spirit. Just getting through each day was an exercise in frustration and exhaustion.

All she had to cling to was her husband Mark. Mark was an Air Force officer and he loved Susan with all of his heart. When she first lost her sight, he watched her sink into despair and was determined to help his wife gain the strength and confidence she needed to become independent again. Mark's military background had trained him well to deal with sensitive situations, and yet he knew this was the most difficult battle he would ever face. Finally, Susan felt ready to return to her job, but how would she get there? She used to take the bus, but was now too frightened to get around the city by herself. Mark volunteered to drive her to work each day, even though they worked at opposite ends of the city. At first this comforted Susan and fulfilled Mark's need to protect his sightless wife who was so insecure about performing the slightest task. Soon, however, Mark realized that this arrangement wasn't working—it was hectic, and costly.

Susan is going to have to start taking the bus again, he admitted to himself. But just the thought of mentioning it to her made him cringe. She was still so fragile, so angry. How would she react? Just as Mark predicted, Susan was horrified at the idea of taking the bus again. "I'm blind!" she responded bitterly. "How am I supposed to know where I'm going? I feel like you're abandoning me." Mark's heart broke to hear these words, but he knew what had to be done. He promised Susan that each morning and evening he would ride the bus with her, for as long as it took, until she got the hang of it. And that is exactly what happened. For two solid weeks, Mark, military uniform and all, accompanied Susan to and from work each day.

He taught her how to rely on her other senses, specifically her hearing, to determine where she was and how to adapt to her new environment. He helped her befriend the bus drivers who could watch out for her, and save her a seat. He made her laugh, even on those not-so-good days when she would trip exiting the bus, or drop her briefcase. Each morning they made the journey together, and Mark would take a cab back to his office. Although this routine was even more costly and exhausting than the previous one, Mark knew it was only a matter of time before Susan would be able to ride the bus on her own. He believed in her, in the Susan he used to know before she'd lost her sight, who wasn't afraid of any challenge and who would never, ever quit.

Finally, Susan decided that she was ready to try the trip on her own. Monday morning arrived, and before she left, she threw her arms around Mark her temporary bus riding companion, her husband, and her best friend. Her eyes filled with tears of gratitude for his loyalty, his patience, his love. She said good-bye, and for the first time, they went their separate ways. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday... Each day on her own went perfectly, and Susan had never felt better. She was doing it! She was going to work all by herself!

On Friday morning, Susan took the bus to work as usual. As she was paying for her fare to exit the bus, the driver said, "Boy, I sure envy you." Susan wasn't sure if the driver was speaking to her or not. After all, who on earth would ever envy a blind woman who had struggled just to find the courage to live for the past year? Curious, she asked the driver, "Why do you say that you envy me?" The driver responded, "It must feel so good to be taken care of and protected like you are." Susan had no idea what the driver was talking about, and asked again, "What do you mean?" The driver answered, You know, every morning for the past week, a fine looking gentleman in a military uniform has been standing across the corner watching you when you get off the bus. He makes sure you cross the street safely and he watches you until you enter your office building. Then he blows you a kiss, gives you a little salute and walks away. You are one lucky lady." Tears of happiness poured down Susan's cheeks. For although she couldn't physically see him, she had always felt Mark's presence. She was lucky, so lucky, for he had given her a gift more powerful than sight, a gift she didn't need to see to believe - the gift of love that can bring light where there had been darkness.

Dependence – Self Dependence

We can be like that, we go from that dependence to self-dependence. God pulls us from our emptiness, maybe even depression, He puts us back together, walks with us, holds us, comforts and protects us all the way through the storms, He teaches us how to navigate the storms, and then we start becoming self-sufficient again, He has taught us so well, strengthened us so strong, we can make it to work fine on our own. Yet He is still there, watching us cross the street, blowing us a kiss, in love with His bride, can't stop thinking about her, or protecting us.

My Marriage Today

In my marriage today, yes there are things that need to be done or the house will collapse, but in that balance there are things that can left, must be left, so that we can keep our romance kindled. We need to go back to what we did when we first fell in love. Go for walks again, dinner, and coffee in the morning.

Calls to Balance Work - Worship

God praises them for their labor and work, but He calls them to balance it with worship and love.

(Revelation 2:5 NKJV) "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.

Remember – Repent – Return

The Church of Ephesus is the Church known for leaving their first love. Ephesus means darling, and Jesus was calling them back to that place of romance with Him, when they first fell in love with Him. Could this be you today? Jesus gives them the cure, He tells them to remember, repent, and to return the things they once did. Verse 5 – Remember - The "tense" of remember is to "continually remember". Verse 5 - Repent - means to change direction, to change one's mind. He that has an ear let him hear, God is saying there is still time to correct this. Verse 5 - Do the first works (return) - what was it that you use to do, when was your relationship sweet with the Lord, go back and do those things again.

What were you doing when you were on fire for the Lord? "I was going to church." Go again!

"I was getting up early for morning devotions." Do it again!

"I sang praise to the Lord as I drove down the street." Sing again!

"I taught Sunday school or visited the shut-in" Then teach and visit again!

Remember how it used to be when you were amazed by the Lord's goodness—do again what you were doing then, and you will see the romance rekindled in your heart.

Acts 2:42

God gives us a simple model in the Books of Acts. Staying in the Word, strengthening each other through fellowship, going back to the Cross and remembering His work and love for us, and then that sweet time of just talking and walking with the Lord in prayer:
(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

God Likes You

Can I add this here, beloved, we all know God loves us, never leaves us nor forsakes us, but I believe we forget that He likes us. He likes hanging out with us, He likes being with us. Sometimes in love, as in a family – “we can feel compelled to be with them because they are family – ohh boy Thanksgiving dinner together, I have to be with you for you’re family, its almost an obligation. But then there are those people, you just like being around, so much so you have a special bond in your heart together. The Lord loves you, and He likes you, He has that special bond in Heart for us, and when we think on that, it will open us up to an attitude that I’m not going to work or something like that, but to see an old friend, to be refreshed by their presence.

Or Else / Not forsake Us / Records His Name / God is Love

Verse 5 - or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent.

- I believe this is very specifically talking about the church, and is not applicable to the individual. For the Lord said that He would never leave us nor forsake us. But, I do believe that if a church was all about programs, and not about the person (Jesus Christ), about the love that eminent from Him, then God will remove His name, and Himself from that Church. God is love, and if the love of Jesus isn't what that church is about, he will remove Himself:

(Exodus 20:24 NKJV) In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:2 NKJV) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:3 NKJV) And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

Churches Today – Works / No Love

We were part of a group of churches here in the area, but we removed ourselves (quietly), because we felt it wasn't where God was taking this fellowship, We were hoping to have churches united to reach the community with the gospel, but we soon found out it was more about the churches and their programs. One meeting was about getting affordable housing for the people, civil rights, winter shelters, etc, all good stuff, but Jesus was buried so deep beneath the work, you couldn't even sense the Spirit of God present.

(Revelation 2:6 NKJV) "But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

More in Pergamos

We will talk more in depth about the Nicolaitans when we get the church of Pergamos.

Establishment of Prieshood

Just what are the deeds of the Nicolaitans? Often a group gets its name and the name describes the actions of that group. The word Nicolaitan is made up of two Greek words. “Nicos” meaning “conquest” and “laity” meaning “people of the church. It is the establishing of a priesthood, of men saying you need to come to me if you are to see God.

Prieshood Abolished by Jesus / No Intercessor between God and Man

Now, the Lord said that they hated that. He said He hated it too. The priesthood was a part of the old testament arrangement when God was not approachable by man, by sinful man. And the priest would approach God for the people with the sacrifices, then he would come out from the Holy of Holies to pronounce God's blessings upon the people. He was God's representative to the people. He was the people's representative to God. He was a mediator. He was a go between. And that was necessary in the Old Testament period. But Jesus by His death abolished the priesthood. And now there's only one God and one mediator between God and man and that is the man Christ Jesus. He died in order to give you direct access to the Father. Now, He hates anyone who would come in between you and the Father, that your approach to God would have to be through some person. Not necessary, not possible unless that is the person of Jesus Christ. One God. One mediator between God and man. Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me. And so the priesthood had already begun to be established. We'll find it when we get to the church of Pergamos. That early in the church this idea of

special holy men who can intercede to God for you and would be intermediaries between you and God. Not so. The Ephesians did accept that. In fact, they hated that and Jesus said He also hated it.

No other Man in Brides Life

Jesus is saying I don't want anyone or anything coming between me and my bride. Stay away from my wife, or you will find out about a jealous husband, and it won't be pretty.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Eternal Motivation / Perspective / Live Life Backwards

What did the Ephesians lack? Love. What would they get if they changed their ways? The fruit of the tree of life, the fruit of the Spirit: love. Thus, the eternal motivation for the Ephesian church perfectly answered their greatest need. Jesus will end every letter to these 7 churches with an eternal view, to bring people to an eternal perspective. It is a key for life, live life backwards from heaven, eternity, and all the things of today and this earth will fit in their proper perspective.

The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to.

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today - Individuals

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 2:8 NKJV) "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:

(Revelation 2:9 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:11 NKJV) "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."

Persecuted Church / Favorite Letter – 160K / For Us Individually

Smyrna is the persecuted church, a church that endured tremendous persecution, yet stayed committed to the Lord. For many Christians around the world this letter to Smyrna is their favorite letter out of all the 7 churches because they suffer such great persecution. The Voice of the Martyrs estimates that approximately 160,000 Christians die every year for their faith. Statistics say there have been more Christians martyred in this century than any century ever. Maybe today this isn't applicable, but who knows years down the road. But as we said these churches also apply to us individually and thus we all go through hardships, often because of our faith, so God has a word for where we are at individually today, and preparing us for our tomorrows.

(Revelation 2:8 NKJV) "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:

No mention of Church Start

Scripture does not record the founding of the church at Smyrna, nor is the city mentioned in the book of Acts. All that is revealed about this congregation is contained in this letter. Presumably, a church was planted in Smyrna during Paul's Ephesian ministry (Acts 19:10), either by Paul himself, or by his converts.

Description of Smyrna - Izmir / Beauty of Asia / Loyal to Rome / Temples / Capital Offense

Verse 8 - Smyrna - 35 miles north of Ephesus, there on the Aegean Sea. It was called the Beauty of Asia (for it was/is such a beautiful city). Today it is called Izmir, with a population of about 200,000. At the time of this writing this city was known for its loyalty to Rome. There, like Ephesus was a pagan temple, it was called the Temple of the Roman Goddess (in which Rome was worshiped). This city built housing for the Roman soldiers, just a display of how loyal and pro-Rome they were. Caesar worship was preeminent. In 26AD they were awarded the so-called honor to build the temple of Tiberius (Tiberius is the title of an Emperor - who they considered God), they beat out 3 other cities for the honor, much like our Olympic bidding we just witnessed this past week. Caesar worship was very prominent there obviously, under Emperor Domitian, it became a capital offense to refuse to offer the yearly sacrifice to the emperor. You can see the setting for Christian persecution.

Pastor / Polycarp Disciple of John / 30yrs old – 100yrs old

Verse 8 - to the angel (messenger) of the church in Smyrna - Early church writings actually tell us who the Pastor was of this church, it was Polycarp, and there is much written about him that we can read about today, for he was one of the early church fathers. Polycarp was a disciple of John himself, and was approximately 30 years old at the time of this writing, and will pastor the church until he is almost 100 years old, that's a long time in the pulpit.

Verse 10 Coming / 70 yrs Later / Polycarps Death

As we see in verse 10, the tribulation was coming (future) upon them (personally as a church even though persecution is already underway, but the major force of it was yet to come, and John has the blessing to write to Polycarp giving him words of preparation, comfort, and encouragement before the full force comes upon them, and Polycarp himself. It will be 60-70 years after this letter (approx 155-165AD) that these words will come true for Polycarp. Polycarp's life, and then his death, would bring strength to the church. Foxes box of Martyr's tells of Polycarp's death; Polycarp was the last living disciple of one of the apostles, the apostle John. When the authorities came to seize Polycarp and arrest him for his failure to worship Caesar, the church hid Polycarp out at a farm, but eventually through the torture of one of the brothers, Polycarp's location was given to the Roman soldiers. The Lord had told Polycarp that the soldiers were coming, so Polycarp made them a meal and was napping while waiting for their arrival. When the soldiers came to the house he invited them in, served the meal to them, and made one request to them, that he might have 1 hour of prayer before he departed, which turned into 2, and then they departed. History said these soldiers were overwhelmed by his godliness and peace and actually felt guilty about bringing him in. So Polycarp was brought before the Roman officials and given the offer that if he would renounce Jesus as Lord and pronounce Caesar as Lord, which he refused. So they said they would burn him at the stake if he didn't pronounce Caesar as Lord, Polycarp said:

"These 86 years I have served my Master, and He has been faithful every day, should I at the last blaspheme His Holy Name"

They said well then you are going to the flame, and Polycarp said,
"You deliver me to the flame that burns but for an hour, and before you stand the flame that burns without end."

They took him to the stake, before a filled Roman arena, and witnesses said as the flames were lit they burned in an arch around him, not touching him. One of the soldiers in anger ran and stabbed him with a spear, and when his blood poured out, it put the fire out. So then they buried him with wood, and finally burned him, and they said the aroma that came from his burnt body was that of a sweet savory. Reports said that when the story of Polycarp went through Smyrna, 1500 believers on one day would not renounce Christ and were martyred, and then another day 800.

Only Beginning of Persecution / Christians Blamed for Everything / Today? / Chaplain

This was only the beginning of the wave of persecution that went through the Roman Empire against the Christians. Tertullian said in his writings, that at this time there was such hatred towards the Christians that they would be blamed for everything, he said if the Nile dried up, they would blame it on the Christians, if the Tiber river overflowed its bank and flood the city, it was the Christians fault, if there were earthquakes, droughts, death, or famine, then the cry of Roman was always it is the fault of the Christians. Today you will hear it in various circles, and I believe it will increase more and more as we approach the last days, and that is that people say one of the greatest obstacles against world unity, are bible believing Christians. In ministry I have shown up when there was death, and actually had hatred vented towards me, saying how could your God allow such a thing, where was your God when cancer slowly ate away at my father's life.

During Tribulation – This Message on Internet or CD

I pray that in the last days, during the great tribulation, that Christians will gain strength from this letter written to the Church of Smyrna, and I pray that somehow this Bible study is preserved and that Christians meeting underground may listen to it and gain strength during their period of severe suffering. And we as a church say to them, hold on, *Be faithful until death, and I (Jesus) will give you the crown of life (verse 10).*

Bury Brother – not a Baptist

A word for the church to consider, when you face this type of tribulation, to the point of death, you will be burying a brother, a sister, not a Baptist, or Pentecostal, or Calvary Chapelite. Ohh that the church would unify today, and do damage on the works of satan.

Smyrna – Bitter – Myrrh / Used Embalming – Pain Killer

Verse 8 - Smyrna - means bitter, and is related to the word "myrrh". Each of the 7 churches we will see that their name reflects their situation - as Ephesus means "darling" and they had left their first love and God was calling them back to a romance with Him. Myrrh, was used for embalming and as a pain killer.

Myrrh was a resin from the balsa tree, and its agent was only released after it was crushed, and they say when it was crushed it would let off a sweet smelling fragrance.

Myrrh when Jesus Born / Gold – Frankincense - Myrrh

Myrrh was brought to Mary and Joseph while in Egypt with child Jesus, Interestingly gold was for kings, frankincense for priests, and myrrh was a burial spice, already gifts symbolizing His deity, priesthood, and purpose for coming, to die, as myrrh was used for embalming:

(Matthew 2:11 NKJV) And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Second Coming – No Myrrh

As interesting, when Jesus returns in His Second Coming, Isaiah writes “all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord” (see 60:6). The people of Sheba will bring gold for the King; frankincense for the Priest. But they won't bring myrrh because when Jesus comes back, He's not coming to die. He's coming to rule and reign:

(John 19:39 NKJV) And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

(Isaiah 60:6 NKJV) The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

Myrrh on the Cross

When myrrh was offered to Jesus on the cross He refused it because He had to take the full wrath of God, all the pain for us:

(Mark 15:23 NKJV) Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take it.

This Church Crushed – Gave off Fragrance of Christ / May the Same for Us

So this church of Smyrna when it was crushed gave off a great fragrance to other Christians. May that be our story when we go through a crushing in our lives as we experience the pains of living in a fallen world. Again, for many Christians around the world this letter to Smyrna is their favorite letter out of all the 7 churches. There have been more Christians martyred in this century than any century ever.

Jesus Identifies Self with Church / Gives what need to Hear

Verse 8 - 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life - Jesus identifies Himself with each church (from chapter 1) and what they need to hear, as applicable to their situation, and for the Church of Smyrna, he assures them of the resurrection, the power of the gospel. These letters are so masterfully and wonderfully written that it is beyond human genius to write such writings. They have to be God inspired the way they tie each word together. These letters increase my faith.

The Praise of the Church

(Revelation 2:9 NKJV) "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.

I Know / Think they Quit Works - I Serve to see Daughter Killed

Verse 9 - I know your works, tribulation - Like Ephesus, the Lord praises them for their works. You would think a people going through such suffering would say forget it, I am not serving you, I step out to serve you and my daughter gets murdered, or my house gets burned, I can't work for you anymore, but they don't, they continue to do the work of the Lord, and God praises them for it.

Christians Quit / Where are You – My Marriage – Job – Father / Polycarp

How many Christians do we know that they totally walk away from the Lord, they lose a job, a spouse, diagnosed with an illness and they say forget it, I want nothing to do with you. This church suffered greatly, yet they would not turn away from the Lord. Polycarp said:

"These 86 years I have served my Master, and He has been faithful every day, should I at the last blaspheme His Holy Name."

Complete Poverty / Name it Claim It

Verse 9 - *I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich)* - Smyrna was an important center of the Roman imperial cult, and anyone refusing to acknowledge Caesar as Lord would certainly be excluded from the guilds. This would mean unemployment and poverty. The word used here for poverty means "abject poverty, possessing absolutely nothing." So much for the name it claim it, and that all Christians should prosper, or even that we should live easy lives.

Jesus says I Know / You are not Forgotten / I Know the Cost / Hold You in Nail Scarred Hands

Jesus says "I know", I know what you are going through, I see. Important words for us today because when we go through hardship we are so quick to say or think, God has forgotten me. Jesus says to them and us, I know fully and completely what it is costing you to walk with me. Jesus would say to Smyrna, to any of us who are suffering, I know, I know, I am he who holds you in my hand, my nail-scarred hand.

I Know – I became Poor for You / Emptied Myself

I know He says, I became poor that you might become rich, I emptied Myself, took on the form of man, so that I might redeem man, abandoning it all for your sake:

(2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

(Philippians 2:5 NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

(Philippians 2:6 NKJV) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

(Philippians 2:7 NKJV) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

(Philippians 2:8 NKJV) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

(Philippians 2:9 NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

(Philippians 2:10 NKJV) 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,

(Philippians 2:11 NKJV) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(2 Corinthians 6:4 NKJV) But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

(2 Corinthians 6:5 NKJV) in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

(2 Corinthians 6:6 NKJV) by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love,

(2 Corinthians 6:7 NKJV) by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

(2 Corinthians 6:8 NKJV) by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true;

(2 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV) as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed;

(2 Corinthians 6:10 NKJV) as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Blaspheme of Jews / Large Jewish Community – Accepted by Rome / Slander Christians

Verse 9 - *and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.* - A large Jewish community also thrived in Smyrna. The Jews, of course, did not have to patronize the imperial cult since their religion was accepted by Rome; but they certainly would not cooperate with the Christian faith. So, from both Jews and Gentiles, the Christians in Smyrna received slander and suffering. Unbelieving Jews commonly accused Christians of *cannibalism* (based on a misunderstanding of the Lord's Supper), *immorality* (based on a perversion of the holy kiss with which believers greeted each other; cf. Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26), *breaking up homes* (when one spouse became a Christian and the other did not, it often caused conflict; cf. Luke 12:51–53), *atheism* (because, as already noted, Christians rejected the pagan pantheon of deities), and *political disloyalty and rebellion* (because Christians refused to offer the required sacrifices to the emperor). Hoping to destroy the Christian faith, some of Smyrna's wealthy, influential Jews reported these blasphemous, false allegations to the Romans. These haters of the gospel were a synagogue of Satan, meaning they assembled to plan their attack on the church, thus doing Satan's will. They may have claimed to be a synagogue of God, but they were just the opposite

(Revelation 2:10 NKJV) "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.

Be Faithful / Checking Address / Jesus doesn't Always Deliver Way we Think

Verse 10 - Be faithful unto death - I would be checking the address on the envelope and be hoping that I got Ephesus' or Pergamos'. This church had lost it all, everything except life itself, and Jesus says do not fear, some will be thrown in prison, others will die. Jesus doesn't always deliver they way we expect or would like Him to, this is what the Scripture says, and it flies in the face of any thought or teaching that Christianity is an easy walk.

Roman Prison – not Rehabilitation / Exiled – Scourged - Executed

When you were thrown in prison in the Roman Empire, it wasn't for rehabilitation, where you got a cell, a bunk, 3 meals a day, cable television, and a workout room. Rome was much smarter than that, a person went to prison while they waited for their trial, after you trial you were either freed if found not guilty, but if guilty you were either exiled (to like Patmos), flogged (scourged), or executed (crucifixion).

10 Days / AD100 – 313 / 10 Periods Roman Persecution / 5 – 7 Million Killed

Verse 10 - and you will have tribulation ten days – this period of actual church history was in the years A.D. 100 through A.D. 313, there were ten Roman emperors who correspond to the ten days spoken of here. They launched such massive attacks against the believers that between five and seven million Christians were killed during their rule. The persecution had begun globally, but it had yet to reach the church of Smyrna in full force yet, but it would:

There were ten intense periods of persecution by ten Roman emperors (these dates are approximate):

- Nero—64–68 (Paul was beheaded under his reign)
- Domitian—95–96 (John was exiled during that period)
- Trajan—104–117 (Ignatius was burned at the stake)
- Marcus Aurelius—161–180 (Polycarp was martyred)
- Severus—200–211
- Maximinius—235–237
- Decius—250–253
- Valerian—257–260
- Aurelian—270–275
- Diocletian—303–313 (the worst emperor of all).

Crown / Smyrna called Crown City / Church wouldn't sell Out

Verse 10 - and I will give you the crown of life - Smyrna was called the crown city because the acropolis was encircled with flowers, a hedge, and myrtle trees. The Lord uses this symbolize to make His point to these people. No doubt there would be a temptation to grab the crowns the world had to offer, take the easy route available in the world, take care of number 1, but these people refused to take the temporary blessings of the world, in exchange for the Eternal Blessings of the Lord. Jesus chose the crown; *(John 19:5 NKJV) Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"*

Several Crowns for Us

There are several crowns waiting us, an imperishable crown, a crown of rejoicing, a crown of righteousness, the crown of life, and the crown of glory. What could the world possibly offer us that could compare to these crowns:

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **an imperishable crown.***

*(1 Thessalonians 2:19 NKJV) For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*

*(2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV) Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

*(James 1:12 NKJV) 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.*

*(1 Peter 5:4 NKJV) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that does not fade away.*

Literal Crowns or Not / Cast at Feet

Are these literal, who knows, but Revelation 4 the elders are casting their crowns at His feet, so we should want to have some crowns ourselves so we can get in on the action:

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) 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:

The Problem in the Church

Historically – Persecution – Purity / Russia – MidEast - China

Throughout its history, the seemingly paradoxical truth has been that the more the church has been persecuted, the greater has been its purity and strength. For decades, churches in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were oppressed by their atheistic communist governments. Believers continue to be persecuted in Muslim countries and elsewhere to this day. They are forbidden to openly proclaim their faith. Many are imprisoned and some martyred. In the Soviet Union books, even Bibles, were scarce. Yet not only did those churches survive, they prospered. The lifting of the Iron Curtain revealed a powerful, pure church, one characterized by genuine faith, deep spirituality, humility, zeal, love of the truth, and single-minded devotion to the Lord.

Persecution equals Spiritual Strength / Forged in Furnace of Adversity

Scripture links persecution and spiritual strength. “Consider it all joy, my brethren,” wrote James, “when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2–4). Peter encouraged suffering Christians with the truth that “after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you” (1 Pet. 5:10). The purest Christian graces are those forged in the furnace of adversity.

Purifies Church / False Believers Drop

The church at Smyrna displayed the power and purity that comes from successfully enduring persecution. Persecution had purified and purged it from sin and affirmed the reality of its members' faith. Hypocrites do not stay to face persecution, because false believers do not want to endure the pain. Trials and persecution strengthen and refine genuine saving faith, but uncover and destroy false faith.

Smyrna Church Poverty / Immeasurable Spiritual Riches / Smyrna - Philadelphia

Though they suffered physical privation and poverty, the Christians at Smyrna clung to their immeasurable spiritual riches. Fittingly, the church at Smyrna is one of the two churches (along with Philadelphia) that received no rebuke in its letter from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Persecution Inevitable / Smyrna example how to Respond

As Scripture makes clear, persecution and trials are an inevitable and essential part of the Christian life (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12). The example of the church at Smyrna instructs all churches on how to properly respond when they come.

Each Church – is an Individual / Hanging on To / I Know / Bankrupt – Forgotten / Blessed / Aroma

Each of these 7 churches can be applied to a Christians life individually, and if you feel that you are going through some bitter and crushing times, may the words of the Lord to the Church of Smyrna bring you encouragement. Perseverance is not getting on through; it is hanging on to, hanging on to Jesus Christ. May you hear the words of the Lord saying, “I know”, I know what you are going through. I know you feel bankrupt and empty, but you are not forgotten. The Lord says blessed are you when people revile and persecute, for yours shall be the kingdom of God. As you are being crushed, your aroma, your fragrance is not just for your fellow man, but it rises up to Me, and it is a sweet smell, I am pleased with you my child:

(Matthew 5:10 NKJV) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:11 NKJV) "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 2:11 NKJV) "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."

Jesus gives Each a Promise / Need to Hear / No Second Death

Jesus gives every church a promise to hold on to, and He promises this church just what they need to hear, though they may be killed, they shall not die the second death.

2 Deaths in Bible / Spiritual Beings – Eternal Beings / Physical – Spiritual Death

The Bible tells us there are 2 deaths, for each of us are spiritual beings, dwelling in a physical body. Being a spiritual being means you are eternal, and will live for eternity. Everyone lives for eternity, and they will either live with God, or live separated from God. The first death is the physical death of the human body.

Everyone Dies / Great White Throne

Everyone apart from the rapture will face the first death. The second death, is for the unbeliever only, it is called the Great White Throne Judgment, which is the sentencing of the unbeliever to spiritual death which is eternal separation of God, to the Lake of Fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, for eternity, for a spiritual beings are eternal beings.

Believer not Experience 2nd Death / Absent - Present

The believer will not experience this second death because God says to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord:

(2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV) We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Put on Incorruption / Basking in His Glory & Love

We will put on incorruption and live with the Lord forever in His presence, basking in his love and glory:

(1 Corinthians 15:42 NKJV) So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

(1 Corinthians 15:43 NKJV) It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

(1 Corinthians 15:44 NKJV) It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

(1 Corinthians 15:45 NKJV) And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

(1 Corinthians 15:46 NKJV) However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

(1 Corinthians 15:47 NKJV) The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.

(1 Corinthians 15:48 NKJV) As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.

(1 Corinthians 15:49 NKJV) And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

(1 Corinthians 15:50 NKJV) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

(1 Corinthians 15:54 NKJV) So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

(1 Corinthians 15:55 NKJV) "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Jesus Says – Hard as Get – Lose nothing that Matters / No Second Death

Jesus says as hard as it gets, you will lose nothing that matters, in eternity. My promise to all that overcome, you will not be hurt by the second death.

Overcome / Polycarp

To him who overcomes I will give the crown of life, and the death will not and can not touch you.

Whatever you may be going through, or may go through in the future, persevere, don't get through, but hang on to:

"These 86 years I have served my Master, and He has been faithful every day, should I at the last blaspheme His Holy Name."

The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today – Individuals / Postal Route

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 2:12 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

(Revelation 2:13 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:15 NKJV) "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

(Revelation 2:16 NKJV) 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

(Revelation 2:17 NKJV) "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."

Known as Church of Compromise

Pergamos is know as the church of compromise.

(Revelation 2:12 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

No mention of Church Start

Scripture does not record the founding of the church at Pergamos, just like Smyrna, nor is the city mentioned in the book of Acts. All that is revealed about this congregation is contained in this letter. Presumably, a church was planted in Pergamos during Paul's Ephesian ministry (Acts 19:10), either by Paul himself, or by his converts.

Not Port City / Not Major Trade Route / Considered Asia's Greatest City

Pergamum was about one hundred miles north of Ephesus, with Smyrna located about halfway in between. Unlike Ephesus and Smyrna, Pergamum was not a port city but was located about fifteen miles inland from the Aegean Sea. Nor was it on any of the major trade routes. Yet, as its ancient capital, Pergamum was considered Asia's greatest city. The Roman writer Pliny called it "by far the most distinguished city in Asia". By the time John penned Revelation, Pergamum had been Asia's capital for almost 250 years (since 133 B.C., when its last king bequeathed his kingdom to Rome).

Impressive / Built on 1000 ft Hill

Much of Pergamum was built on a large, conical hill towering some one thousand feet above the plain. So impressive is the site even in modern times that the famed nineteenth-century archaeologist Sir William Ramsay commented, "Beyond all other sites in Asia Minor it gives the traveler the impression of a royal city, the home of authority: the rocky hill on which it stands is so huge, and dominates the broad plain of the Caicus [River valley] so proudly and boldly"

200K Library / Mfg of Parchment / 10K Amphitheater

Pergamum was famous for its university with a library of about 200,000 volumes, and for manufacturing parchment resulting in a paper called pergamina. The city also had a 10,000 seat amphitheater.

Center of Worship / Emperor Worship / Sacrifice 1X a year / Dangerous for Christians

Pergamum was an important center of worship for four of the main deities of the Greco-Roman world, and temples dedicated to Athena, Asklepios, Dionysos, and Zeus were located there. But overshadowing the worship of all those deities was Pergamum's devotion to the cult of emperor worship. Pergamum built the first temple devoted to emperor worship in Asia (29 B.C.), in honor of Emperor Augustus. Later, the city would build two more such temples, honoring the emperors Trajan and Septimus Severus. The city thus became the center of emperor worship in the province, and there, more than in any other city in Asia, Christians were in danger of harm from the emperor worship cult at the time of this writing. Elsewhere, Christians were primarily in danger on the one day per year they were required to offer sacrifices to the emperor; in Pergamum they were in danger every day. It is likely that the martyr Antipas (2:13) was executed, at least in part, for refusing to worship the emperor.

The Praise of the Church

(Revelation 2:13 NKJV) "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."

Tough Circumstances – Held Fast

Despite the difficult circumstances in which they found themselves, the believers at Pergamum courageously maintained their faith in Jesus Christ. He commended them for continuing to hold fast His name. Christian it is so easy to quit, I know, but hold fast, hang in there. Think back at how many Christians have quit, and consider, none of their lives improved when they did quit. Hold fast, finish well.

Birthplace of Zeus / 150ft Temple

According to Greek mythology, Pergamos was the birthplace of Zeus. "Satan's seat" is in reference to the one hundred-fifty-foot-high structure (that's almost 15 stories) dedicated to Zeus in the middle of the city of Pergamos.

Asklepios – god of Healing / Healing at Temple – if Touched by Snake

Others connect Satan's throne with the worship of the god Asklepios that was prevalent in Pergamum. Asklepios was the god of healing, and people came from all over the ancient world to Pergamum, seeking to be healed at his shrine. Asklepios was depicted as a snake (the god of healing, whose insignia was the entwined serpent on the staff - this is still a medical symbol today – Satan's counterfeit from Numbers 21 when Moses lifted the bronze serpent up on the poll.), and nonpoisonous snakes roamed freely in his temple. Suppliants seeking healing either slept or lay down on the temple's floor, hoping to be touched by one of the snakes (symbolically representing the god himself) and thereby be healed. Such symbolism would undoubtedly remind Christians of Satan, Satan, of course, is likewise symbolized as the serpent

Antipas – Fried to Death / Means Against All / Little Written – Singled Out

The historian Tertullian tells us that, because Antipas, a physician in the city of Pergamos, wouldn't renounce his faith, he was fried to death. Anti-pas means against all. There is little written about this man, but he makes the praise report, singled out by name for his stance against Satan. God praises the believer who stands in hard times.

The Problem in the Church

(Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "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."

Story of Balaam / Donkey – 3X / Moa-babes / Hook'em Physically

You remember the story of Balaam. Asked by Moabite King Balak to pronounce a curse on the people of Israel, God forbade the prophet Balaam to go. But Balaam went anyway, and after a short discussion with a donkey, he wound up on a mountain overlooking the encamped Israelites upon whom he was to issue a curse. After three failed attempts, realizing he couldn't curse them, Balaam resorted to an alternate plan. Get your woman, the Moa-babes, all gussied-up, strut past the men of Israel, bat their eyelashes, invite

them back to the tents, and then after they hook with the physical, then they can introduce idol worship to them through which Israel will thereby bring a curse upon herself" (see Numbers 22).

Doctrine of Balaam – Objectionable Marriages – Mixed Marriages

What, then, is the doctrine of Balaam? It is Pergamos: objectionable marriage with the world. It is getting God's people involved with/mixed with the things of the world. God does not want mixture in His church.

Greek Word Pergamos / Unequally Yoked – Sexual Sin / Not Open-Minded

The Greek prefix per, means opposition. The suffix gamos, " means "marriage." Pergamos, then, means "objectionable marriage"—a fitting description of the next phase of church history. So the church at Pergamos allowed people to be unequally yoked, they turned a blind eye to sexual immorality, indulgence in the things of the world. God says I have a problem with this, and if God has a problem with it, then you and I should too. We can't allow compromise in our lives and in this church, no matter how acceptable it is in this world around us. It is not being open-minded, it is being deceived by Satan.

Period of Church History / 10 Emperors / 5 million

The resultant of this compromise can be seen in the period of Church History that this church represents, and is still prevalent today. The year was A.D. 312. The last of the ten Roman emperors who had persecuted the church was dead, ushering in a power play for the reins of the empire. During these 10 periods of persecution some 5-7 million Christians were killed.

10 Waves / Church of Smyrna

There were ten intense periods of persecution by ten Roman emperors (these dates are approximate). The church at Smyrna represents this church period from approximately 64-313AD:

- Nero—64–68 (Paul was beheaded under his reign)
- Domitian—95–96 (John was exiled during that period)
- Trajan—104–117 (Ignatius was burned at the stake)
- Marcus Aurelius—161–180 (Polycarp was martyred)
- Severus—200–211
- Maximinius—235–237
- Decius—250–253
- Valerian—257–260
- Aurelian—270–275
- Diocletian—303–313 (the worst emperor of all).

Civil War / Cross in Sky / Born-again / Christians Sided with Him

After Diocletian, there was a civil war in Rome, a fight for power, a fight for total power and control of the Roman Empire. One of the rulers was a young man named Constantine, and according to legend, he said he saw a cross in the heavens and heard a voice saying, "In this sign conquer." And as a result, young Constantine fell to his knees and became a born-again believer. According to history, however, what really happened was that, substantially outnumbered, Constantine noticed that Christians were not enlisting in anyone's army. Realizing that if he converted to Christianity, he would have access to a potential infusion of new troops, he became a Christian. And the Christians responded by siding with him.

Disaster for Church / Edict of Toleration / Official Religion / Babies – Armies Baptised

But it would turn out to be an unmitigated disaster. As a result of Constantine's Edict of Toleration, which forbade persecution of Christians, Christianity became the official religion of Rome. In fact, soon all Roman babies would be legally required to be baptized into the Christian faith, whole armies marched through the river and were considered baptized.

Constantine the Politician / Everyone Happy – Merged the Pagan / The Coin

Yes, the Christians were in power, but, understanding the political expediency of concession, Constantine compromised with the pagan priests and traditions that permeated Rome. Constantine ever the politician said. "Let's find common ground. Let's meet halfway." So a marriage took place that was perhaps most clearly illustrated by the coin issued shortly thereafter. Christian symbols were stamped on one side of the

coin and pagan symbols on the other. From A.D. 313 to A.D. 600, church and state worked together as a political power—and as a result the church began a downward spiral from which she has yet to recover, as we shall see.

Christians out of Catacombs / Hooray / Nothing bad About Smyrna

Now Christians are out of the catacombs, they are no longer meeting underground in the sewer system. They go from poverty and wearing rags, to real jobs and nice clothing. They began opening businesses, they started moving on up. Persecution is over, hooray, so you say, and yes no one enjoys suffering and persecution, but important to remember the Church of Smyrna, the persecuted church, the period of church history when over 5 million Christians were martyred, and yet God had nothing bad to say about that church, only praise and the promise of eternal life. God says to Pergamos, I have a few things against you, you best repent.

Merged / Priests – Temples – Holidays / Satan Changed Strategy

This began the process by which Christianity merged with the Roman state. Heathen priests became Christian priests; heathen temples became Christian churches; heathen feasts became Christian festivals. Christianity was no longer a personal matter, but a national identity. The church married the political system, so that worldliness was synonymous with the church. Satan changes his strategy rather than attacking the church and watching it purify and grow, he infiltrates it from the inside to weaken it. Persecution will have you living a life of purity because you will be looking for His soon return, ease of life many times has a person looking around instead of up. The comfortable life can effect your theology.

Pontiff Maximus / Constantine Passed it to Priest / 200 Years after Peter

Did you know each Roman Emperor called himself and considered himself the supreme being, “pontiff maximus”, thus they demanded worship. But Constantine, he passed that on to one of the priests, and told all of Rome that this priest was now “pontiff maximus”. So if you are ever wondering where the establishment of the Pope in Rome began, it began here with Constantine. By the way this is some 200 years since Peter, so he could not have been the first “pontiff maximus”.

1 Religion / Catholic - Universal

Also to note, Constantine said there is only 1 religion, Christianity, it will be the universal religion. Catholic means universal, and to establish the headquarters of this universal Catholic religion, he put the word Roman in front of it so no one would even consider establishing the headquarters anywhere else, and it worked for 1700 years later the Roman Catholic Religion is headquartered in Rome, and the “pontiff maximus” still sits over it.

Our Holidays - Christmas & Easter / Nimrod – Semiramis “Queen of Heaven” - Tammuz

Here is an interesting story, do you really want to know where Easter and Christmas came from, Genesis 10 was the beginning of the Babylonian religious system:

(Genesis 10:8 NKJV) Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

(Genesis 10:9 NKJV) He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

Nimrod had a wife whose name was Semiramis and she became known as "The Queen of Heaven." She had a son, which she claimed to be virgin born (which a can't figure out if she was already married – by the way her husband was off to war at the time of her virgin birth) and she named him Tammuz. He was being groomed to be the center of worship by the people. One day while hunting, a wild boar gored him; he lay dead for three days and when he was found he revived. They celebrated his birth on the 25th of December. They would burn a Yule log on the fire until it was completely consumed, but in the morning a tree would appear, brightly decorated in the home (the parents would bring it in after the children fall asleep). It was an evergreen tree, which was a symbol of perpetuated life. Constantine took the practice of "Saturnalia" and incorporated it with the Christian calendar, calling it Christmas and celebrating the birth of Christ. To celebrate his resurrection from being gored by the boar, they began to decorate eggs and to have a celebration in the springtime, which later became known as Ashtar (we call it Easter), the Greek for Semiramis. The egg, again, is a symbol of continued life. Does all this sound familiar? These are the true roots of these holidays, and they were thousands of years before Christ.

Easy for Constantine to Do / Early Christians Hiding / Jesus not Born Dec 25

One of the reasons it was easy for Constantine to do is that in the early days of the Christian Church they wanted to celebrate the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Of course there was great persecution going on in those days, and many underground churches. So they said let us celebrate at the same time as the pagans do, and nobody will know that we are celebrating Christ rather than Tammuz. By the way, it is highly unlikely that Jesus was not born on the 25th of December, for the shepherds do not have the flocks in the fields at that time of year. Our Christmas truly is celebrated at the same time as Pagan celebration.

Satan's Counterfeit Plan / But how?

How can this be you might be wondering, their story was first, before the birth of Jesus, how can that be? It is quite fascinating to realize that Satan developed his own counterfeit to God's Plan, which he knew. Of course some people use this story to say that Christianity is a copy of this story. Truly if you don't think it all the way through, it could cause you to question. But as always, let the Scriptures be the anvil that breaks all the hammers that come against it.

Signs in the Stars / Genesis - Matthew

Here are two solid reasons for how the counterfeit superseded the original. It would seem that God had set His plan in the stars, which were set for signs and for seasons:

*(Genesis 1:14 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be **for signs** and seasons, and for days and years;*

The Scriptures can lead us to believe that the Gospel is really there in the signs of the Zodiac; but, Astrology has become a perversion of that. This all came about at the time of Nimrod, who was one of the instigators of building the Tower of Babel to reach into Heaven. You may say I am stretching the Scriptures there in Genesis, but the Book of Matthew concurs:

(Matthew 2:1 KJV) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

*(Matthew 2:2 KJV) Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? **for we have seen his star in the east**, and are come to worship him.*

When the birth of Christ took place there were still men in the East, who could read the stars and they were brought from afar, to worship the child that was born, by these signs. There are many interesting books on the Zodiac and the message of the gospel in the Zodiac. If you are interested in a more detailed study of the origins, that we find in the 10th chapter of Genesis, there is a book "The Genesis Record" by Dr. Henry Morrison. It traces each one of Noah's sons' national roots.

Gospel before Foundation of World / Satan comes before the Throne

Secondly, Folks, Satan inspires people. He is the prince and power of the air, he fills and energizes people who are tuned into his station. Now Satan knows the story, he goes before the throne, he has been able to come and go. He knows enough of the details to create a counterfeit.

He knew back in the garden what it meant, he knew that he would hurt Jesus (gore Him):

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

How did he know the resurrection after 3 days, because the story of the resurrection was laid out before the foundations of the world:

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot

*(1 Peter 1:20 NKJV) He indeed was **foreordained before the foundations of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you*

(1 Peter 1:21 NKJV) who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

*(Revelation 13:8 NIV) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to **the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

And we know that Satan has access to come and go before the throne as he desires (but that will come to an end in the Last Days). We read this in the story of Job. Satan comes and makes accusations against you and me, and he comes and hears all that the Lord is doing:

(Job 2:1 NKJV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

(Job 2:2 NKJV) And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

(Job 2:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

Satan Energizes People / Nimrod Willing Participant

The death and resurrection of Christ was told before the foundations of the world, and Satan knew enough of the story to build his counterfeit. It wasn't hard to find a willing participant in the Nimrod family, for they were rebellious against God, and was looking for the souls of men. Nimrod is still stealing the souls of men today in a sense, for those that will use this story as justification not to follow the real-thing, Jesus Christ.

He energizes people, and people will follow his lie. Joseph Smith is a modern day example:

(Ephesians 2:1 NKJV) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

(Ephesians 2:2 NKJV) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

God warns in the OT

God warns of following the Queen of heaven (Jer 7:18, Jer 44:18-25). God warns not weep for Tammuz (who is also know in false religions as Astoreh, Venus, and Jupiter):

(Ezekiel 8:13 NKJV) And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."

*(Ezekiel 8:14 NKJV) So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, **women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.***

(Ezekiel 8:15 NKJV) Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."

In Jeremiah 10, we see God's warning against this pagan practice. They are told not study the stars (astrology), we see a picture of the Christmas Tree:

(Jeremiah 10:1 NKJV) Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

(Jeremiah 10:2 NKJV) Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

(Jeremiah 10:3 NKJV) For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

(Jeremiah 10:4 NKJV) They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

God hates this Mixture / Will Destroy Babylonian Religion Rev 17

There you have a brief history of things you celebrate and are influenced by. The Lord comes down heavy, in Chapter (17) of Revelation, on the Babylonian System that has invaded the church and he speaks of God's coming judgment against this system. God says I hate the mixture of the Babylonian system with my pure church.

(Revelation 2:15 NKJV) "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Establishment of Priesthood

Just what are the deeds of the Nicolaitans? Often a group gets its name and the name describes the actions of that group. The word Nicolaitan is made up of two Greek words. "Nicos" meaning "conquest" (where the sports company Nike gets its name) and "laity" meaning "people of the church. It is the establishing of a priesthood, of men saying you need to come to me if you are to see God.

Priesthood Abolished by Jesus / No Intercessor between God and Man

Now, the Lord said that they hated that. He said He hated it too. The priesthood was a part of the old testament arrangement when God was not approachable by man, by sinful man. And the priest would approach God for the people with the sacrifices, then he would come out from the Holy of Holies to

pronounce God's blessings upon the people. He was God's representative to the people. He was the people's representative to God. He was a mediator. He was a go between. And that was necessary in the Old Testament period. But Jesus by His death abolished the priesthood. And now there's only one God and one mediator between God and man and that is the man Christ Jesus. He died in order to give you direct access to the Father. Now, He hates anyone who would come in between you and the Father, that your approach to God would have to be through some person. Not necessary, not possible unless that is the person of Jesus Christ. One God. One mediator between God and man. Jesus said I am the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father but by Me. And so the priesthood had already begun to be established. We'll find it when we get to the church of Pergamos. That early in the church this idea of special holy men who can intercede to God for you and would be intermediaries between you and God. Not so. The Ephesians did accept that. In fact, they hated that and Jesus said He also hated it.

No other Man in Brides Life

Jesus is saying I don't want anyone or anything coming between me and my bride. Stay away from my wife, or you will find out about a jealous husband, and it won't be pretty.

Why Spiritual Hierarchy?

Why do people want that spiritual hierarchy? They want it because they do not want to enter into the spiritual work themselves. They would rather pay a professional, and then it will be his responsibility to pray for me, to tell me what the bible says, to do all the works of the ministry. It is a justification to them for not seeking the things of the Spirit, but the things of the world. God hates it, so should we.

(Revelation 2:16 NKJV) 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Only Remedy / Change Mind / Holiday Seasons

The only remedy for any sinful behavior is to repent. Repent is from "metanoeo", a word used in Scripture to describe a change of mind that results in a change of behavior. While tolerance is lauded in our modern culture, tolerating heretical teaching or sinful behavior in the church is not a virtue but a sin. What about celebrating holidays, well if you aren't worshipping Tammuz, then I say don't get caught-up in the distraction, but use the holidays to point people back to the reason for the season. Unfortunately, I see so many Christians get caught-up in the rush, they totally blow God off during the season, so change your mind about that.

Unequally Yoked / Sexual Immorality / Church Tolerance / Teenagers

God gives a strong word here about being unequally yoked, married/mixing with the world. He gives a strong word against sexual immorality. You are not married in God's eyes, you are married when you say I Do before the throne of heaven and in the witness of man. Many churches have accepted this compromise now, the world has worn them down. Tolerance of the church has produced acceptance, and now that acceptance has led to promotion. I feel for you teenagers, for all the bombardment that is before you with these sexual images, time after time those images are being written to the hard drive of your brain, and you become programmed to "double click", all it takes is a little hormone raging, and there is plenty of that, but hold-fast, stay strong, you'll be glad you did.

Pergamos Failed to Heed Biblical Warning / Married the World / Church of Ephesus

The church at Pergamum, like much of today's church, had failed to heed the biblical warnings against worldliness. Consequently, it had drifted into compromise and was in danger of becoming intertwined with the world. That would be the next step in the downward spiral from the Ephesian church's loss of its first love for Jesus Christ. If you are compromising in your life, your love for the Lord will quickly wear, and eventually you will be like Ephesus, you will have left the romance place with the Lord, and just be going through the motions of love.

Churches Today / Consumer Oriented

Today's user-friendly, seeker-oriented, market-driven, consumer oriented churches doesn't preach much against worldliness. To do so might make unbelievers (not to mention many believers) uncomfortable, and is therefore avoided as poor marketing strategy.

Bible Has much to Say About Worldliness

But unlike much of the contemporary church, the Bible does not hesitate to condemn worldliness for the serious sin that it is. Worldliness is any preoccupation with or interest in the temporal system of life that places anything perishable before that which is eternal. Since believers are not part of the world system (John 15:19), they must not act as though they were. "Do not be conformed to this world," wrote the apostle Paul, "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2). Because they have been redeemed by God's grace, believers are called to "deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:12). "Pure and undefiled religion," notes James, consists in keeping "oneself unstained by the world" (James 1:27), because "friendship with the world is hostility toward God[.] Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (James 4:4). First John 2:15–17 makes the believer's duty to avoid worldliness unmistakably clear: Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

*(John 15:19 NKJV) "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but **I chose you out of the world**, therefore the world hates you.*

(Romans 12:1 NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

*(Romans 12:2 NKJV) And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

(Titus 2:11 NKJV) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

*(Titus 2:12 NKJV) teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,*

(Titus 2:13 NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

*(James 1:27 NKJV) Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, **and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.***

*(James 4:4 NKJV) Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? **Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***

*(1 John 2:15 NKJV) **Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*(1 John 2:16 NKJV) **For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life;** is not of the Father but is of the world.*

(1 John 2:17 NKJV) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

*(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

*(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "**Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord.** Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

How do You Know – the Word

How do you know who's who or what's what in a world so prone to the Pergamos tendency? Stick with the Word—with that which divides sin's mind-set from that which is right eternally (Hebrews 4:12). For every church Jesus gives a description of Himself that relates to the issue and needs of that Church. In verse 12 he says He who has the sharp two-edged sword. Stick with the Word and you will not be drawn into the world of Pergamos:

(Revelation 2:12 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, "These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 2:17 NKJV) "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."

Overcome by Faith

Verse 17 - To him who overcomes – We overcome by faith in the blood of the Lamb.

(1 John 5:4 NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.

(1 John 5:5 NKJV) Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Hidden Manna / Exodus 16 / John 6

Verse 17 - I will give some of the hidden manna to eat – According to Exodus 16:33, the Israelites were to memorialize that divine provision by keeping a jar of manna inside the Ark of the Covenant during their travels. The hidden manna represents Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life who came down from heaven:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

White Stone / Not Guilty

Verse 17 - And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone - The secret ballot of John's day was a stone. A black stone was "no"; a white stone "yes." We still refer to this practice when we say someone was "blackballed." Thus, Jesus was saying, "If you turn away from paganism, compromise, and the Pergamos mentality, I'll give you a white stone, which means you're not guilty; you're righteous; you're free."

New Name / Equal in Heaven / Yet Special for You

Verse 17 - on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it – Jesus will be something to you, which He is to no one else. Although we will all be equal in heaven, all together in heaven, yet we will each have something intimate and personal with Him.

Be an Antipas – Be Against Things Lord is Against / Receive the Hidden Manna

Beloved, be and Antipas, be against all these things that the Lord is against. Jesus says nothing this world has to offer you can compare to the hidden manna that I will give you,

The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today – Individuals / Postal Route

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 2:18 NKJV) "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:

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

(Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:21 NKJV) "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

(Revelation 2:22 NKJV) "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

(Revelation 2:23 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:24 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:25 NKJV) "But hold fast what you have till I come.

(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

(Revelation 2:27 NKJV) '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;

(Revelation 2:28 NKJV) "and I will give him the morning star.

(Revelation 2:29 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Corrupt Church

The Church of Thyatira is known as the Corrupt Church.

(Revelation 2:18 NKJV) "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:

Inland / Hq of Ancient Guilds – Potters – Dyers – Robe / Abundant Crop

When you leave Pergamum, you begin to move inland. Thyatira and the remaining three churches are inland. Thyatira, 40 miles southeast of Pergamum, was situated in a very beautiful location as it sat between 2 rivers. This city became prosperous under the sponsorship of Vespasian, the Roman emperor. It was the headquarters for many ancient guilds: the potters', tanners', weavers', robe makers', and dyers' guilds. It was the center of the dyeing industry. The area was also known for its abundant crops.

No record of Church Start / Lydia – Seller of Purple

As is the case with the churches at Smyrna and Pergamum, the Bible does not record the founding of the church at Thyatira. According to Acts 16:14, "A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God," was converted under Paul's ministry at Philippi. Verse 15 records that members of her household also came to saving faith in Christ and were baptized. It is possible that Lydia and her household participated in starting the church at Thyatira. More likely, the church there was founded as an outreach of Paul's ministry at Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

(Acts 16:14 NKJV) Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

(Acts 16:15 NKJV) And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Not Religious Center / Small Jewish Population

Unlike Pergamum or Smyrna, Thyatira was not an important religious center. The primary god worshiped by the Thyatirans was the Greek sun god, Apollo. Nor does there appear to have been a sizable Jewish population.

Noted Numerous Guilds / Each Guild – Own Deity / Had to Attend Feasts / Money Talks

Thyatira was noted for its numerous guilds (roughly the equivalent of today's labor unions). The pressure faced by the Christians in Thyatira came from the guilds. To hold a job or run a business, it was necessary to be a member of a guild. Each guild had its patron deity, in whose honor feasts were held—complete with meat sacrificed to idols, drunkardness, drugs, and sexual immorality. Christians faced the dilemma of attending those feasts or possibly losing their livelihood. To not attend would mean they would be ostracized, and if business was bad, they would blame it on the Christians because they offended the deity, and he then would not prosper the works. It was a tough place to be a Christian. It is true, money talks, and when it gets down to money, you can truly see where a Christian's heart is.

Us Today – No Happy Hour / Thyatira Believers – on Extreme End

For us today, people think you are odd for not going to happy hour (and if you do you feel odd, if you don't feel odd you may want to ask yourself why – this most likely was the case for the church at Thyatira, for many of the Christians were no different from those who were pagans and unsaved). My business group at work has 2-3 picnics every summer, all the crabs and beer you can eat and drink, and people think it strange when I say no I am going to Bible study, for they always hold them on Wednesday (by the way parents, know that your kids activities on Wednesday and Sunday are a direct attack by Satan on your family, not just how the schedule worked out). Back to the guild at work, I remember when I played softball at the Space Center, when I got saved, shortly thereafter I quit drinking with the team, and it was like you could draw a line right down the middle, things were never the same. The believers in Thyatira faced these things at the extreme end.

The Praise of the Church

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

Praise for 6 Things / The Lord Knows

Jesus praise them for 6 things here (works, love, service, faith, patience, and for works again), the Lord always recognizes you efforts and labor of love, even if your fellow man doesn't, know that the Lord does.

Serious Charges Coming – Today more Hospitals – No Muslim Hospitals

In the next verse the Lord is going to bring some serious charges against this church, but it is important to point out that this received praise from the lord for their labors. Do you realize the church today is doing more works today than ever in the history of the church. Look at all the hospitals built in the name of Christianity around us today, consider all the orphanages, addiction centers, feeding centers, relief efforts around the world today, all lead by Christian organizations. You'll have to search long and hard to find hospitals built in the name of Islam or Buddhism. God acknowledges this church's works.

The Problem in the Church

(Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:21 NKJV) "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

V.18 – Eyes of Flame – Searches Heart / Judging – Seeing Through / Good Community Rep

Verse 18 - 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: & Verse 23 - that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. There are things in this church that God is judging, and He uses the description of Jesus having eyes like a flame of fire, that He is seeing through their wicked ways, and He is bringing judgment against them as brass throughout the Scriptures

represent judgment. A church or individual may feel satisfied with itself, have a good reputation in the community, or even with other churches. But the penetrating eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ see it as it really is. If you have been playing games, don't pray about repenting, repent!

Seduce – Depart from Truth / Keep it Plain / Jezebel Taught Lies

Seduce means to “depart from the truth”. The greek word is “planah”, and it is as simple as the play on words, keep it plain, add nothing to it, but this Jezebel departed from the truth and taught it, and the people followed. As we will see this was a dreadful time in church history.

Symbolizes OT Jezebel / OT Unlocks – Wicked Woman / Picture of 600-1500

The reference to Jezebel is a symbolism of that woman Jezebel in the OT. As said before, an understanding of the OT unlocks this book of Revelation for us. What is the story of Jezebel. She was a wicked woman, and we need to know her story, to know what was going on in this church, and we will see it was an exact picture of what happened in the history of the church from 600-1500AD.

Wife of Ahab – Most Evil King

Jezebel is the wife of King Ahab, whom the Bible says was a king who the most evil king of all, and did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings before him:

(1 Kings 16:30 NKJV) Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

(1 Kings 16:31 NKJV) And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

(1 Kings 16:32 NKJV) Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

*(1 Kings 16:33 NKJV) And Ahab made a wooden image. **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.***

Wooden Images – Worship of Baal / Jezebel Father – Astarte – Semiramis / Grooves of Trees

Ahab made wooden images of false gods, and built a temple for the worship of Baal; of course Ahab would do this because Josephus tells us that Jezebel's father, Ethbaal was not only the king of Sidon, but also the high priest of Astarte (which is another name for Semiramis (called the Queen of Heaven, who God says don't worship (Jeremiah 7&44) – reference last study). Astarte was the god of sensuality and fertility. They would worship Astarte in grooves of trees, and right in the middle of the groove was an altar. All kinds of sexual immoralities were performed there; it was a shady scene to say the least. You can see the picture coming together of what was going on here at the church of Thyatira.

Jezebel- Spiritual Fornication / Other gods – Sexual immorality – Worship of Idols

Jezebel was bringing the children of Israel into spiritual fornication. They were turning to other gods, and their practices included sexual immorality, eating food sacrificed to idols, and the worship of carven images. The very things God commanded them not to do:

(Exodus 20:1 NKJV) And God spoke all these words, saying:

(Exodus 20:2 NKJV) "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

(Exodus 20:3 NKJV) "You shall have no other gods before Me.

(Exodus 20:4 NKJV) "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

(Exodus 20:5 NKJV) you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Jezebel – Chased One / Picture of Adultery / Thyatira

Jezebel in the Hebrew has 2 meanings, “chased one” and “dung hill”. A perfect picture of adultery, it looks so good on the outside, and a person chases after it, but once they get it, partake of it, they realize they are in dung, a hill of dung, and its consequences make life stink. So Jezebel of old, is the picture of what is going on here in Thyatira, a church that was being seduced from the truth and led into practices that were not true to God's Word.

God Sends a Drought 3yrs / Jezebel Killing Prophets of God

Now back to Jezebel, God's anger was kindled against Israel, so God sent a drought upon the land for 3 years, and God used His prophet Elijah to proclaim it to King Ahab. Then after 3 years God told Elijah to go back to Ahab and set up the showdown between God and the false prophets of Baal and Asherah

there on Mount Carmel. Now during this 3 years of drought, Jezebel is killing the prophets of God who would not renounce their faith and become priests of Baal.

(1 Kings 18:1 NKJV) And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

(1 Kings 18:2 NKJV) So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.

(1 Kings 18:3 NKJV) And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.

(1 Kings 18:4 NKJV) For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

(1 Kings 18:17 NKJV) Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

(1 Kings 18:18 NKJV) And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

(1 Kings 18:19 NKJV) "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

(1 Kings 18:20 NKJV) So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

Showdown / Jezebel vows Death to Elijah / Jezebel Killed / Fate in the End

So the showdown happens they each take a bull on lay it on piles of wood (with no fire – and see whose God would light the fire), and you know the story, the prophets of Baal and Asherah are screaming and yelling, cutting themselves, nothing happens, Elijah mocks them and says hey maybe your god can't hear you because he is on the toilet (1 Kings 18:27). All day nothing happens. Then Elijah's turn comes, he cries out to the Lord and fire comes down and consumes the sacrifice. Elijah then yells out to the people to kill the prophets of Baal, and they do. Jezebel puts out a hit on Elijah, but it never comes to past, as Jezebel is the one who dies as Ahab is killed in battle, and when Jehu becomes king, he commands her death, as Jezebel's own servants throw her out the window. This too will be the fate of all Jezebel religious systems when God says, "enough", you had time to repent, now feel my wrath.

Naboth's Land / False Witnesses / Thyatira – Corrupt Church

There is another story of Jezebel that plays into this, and that is the story of her husband Ahab wanting a piece of land next to his, but the owner (Naboth) would not sell to the wicked king. Ahab comes home all dejected and sad, Jezebel says don't worry, I'll get the land for you. So she sets up the land owner up by getting false witnesses to bring false accusations against him, they stone him, and Ahab buys the land. So we see Jezebel's way of acquiring wealth and fortune is by way of deceit and violence. Remember this story because it plays into the picture of the historical church that Thyatira represents, for it is known as the corrupt church:

(1 Kings 21:1 NKJV) And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

(1 Kings 21:2 NKJV) So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

(1 Kings 21:3 NKJV) But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

(1 Kings 21:4 NKJV) So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

(1 Kings 21:5 NKJV) But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

(1 Kings 21:6 NKJV) He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

(1 Kings 21:7 NKJV) Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

(1 Kings 21:8 NKJV) And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

(1 Kings 21:9 NKJV) She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people;

(1 Kings 21:10 NKJV) and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

(1 Kings 21:11 NKJV) So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

(1 Kings 21:12 NKJV) They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

(1 Kings 21:13 NKJV) And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

(1 Kings 21:14 NKJV) Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

(1 Kings 21:15 NKJV) And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

Jezebel Recap – Fornication – Idols – Kills Prophets – Acquires Wealth

So Jezebel, she leads the people into spiritual fornication, the worshipping of idols and the allowing of immoral practices. She kills the true prophets who preach words that counter her lies. And she acquires wealth through deceit and violence. This is what this Jezebel was bringing into the church of Thyatira. Thus why Thyatira was a corrupt church, even though they were doing great works.

Pagan Practices / Religious doctrine of Jezebel –Continual Sacrifice

We can see this in churches today, where they have taken pieces of the world, pagan practices, and incorporated them as part of their church rituals and traditions. The religious doctrine of Jezebel, the doctrine of Baal and Astarah, required the person to come back time and time again to make sacrifice unto their god. The only way to remain in favor with that god was to continually come and make sacrifice.

Thyatira – Continual Sacrifice / Church Promotes Continual Sacrifice / Undermining Christ's Atonement / It is Done

Thyatira means continual sacrifice, and again each name of these 7 churches have meaning to what their situation is (Ephesus means darling – left first love, Smyrna means crushed and they were being persecuted, Pergamos mean mixed marriage and the church married the state of Rome). This is what was happening at the church of Thyatira, and in the period of church history that Thyatira speaks of, they promoted continual sacrifices while undermining the sufficiency and power of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. That is why in verse 18 Jesus identifies Himself as the Son of God, to point out that He is the Holy One that came and died, and that nothing could ever compare to His sacrifice. When Jesus hung on the cross, He said, "it is finished":

(John 19:30 NKJV) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

(Hebrews 7:26 NKJV) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

(Hebrews 7:27 NKJV) who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

(Hebrews 9:28 NKJV) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

(Hebrews 10:10 NKJV) By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

(Hebrews 10:11 NKJV) And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

(Hebrews 10:12 NKJV) But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

Dark Ages – People Kept in Dark / Flows from Pergamos / 600-1500AD

This period of church history flows in from the last period we studied in the last church (Pergamos), where the church married into the state, the marriage of the church with the world. This period was called the dark ages because the people were kept in the dark. The church leadership would say what you need to know we will tell you. They took the Scriptures out of the people's hand, and told them only the priest had the ability to understand the Scriptures. This period went from approximately 600-1500AD.

Not Bashing – Just Historical Fact / Protestant – Laodicea

Please, for this next section, please don't think that I am Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Episcopalian bashing, but we are truly just looking back on historical facts as it has been recorded for us not only in church history, but also secular historical writings. Next week the church period will be the period of the Protestant Reformation, and there we will see that God has strong words there also. When we get to the church of Laodicea, I believe there is not a church in America that will not feel the heat from what God has to say about that church, and it does represent in part the church period we are currently living in – you say you are rich and in need of nothing, but you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked (Rev 3:17), the lukewarm church.

1st / Dark Ages – Kept in the Dark / Could not Approach God / Needed the Church

So back to the Dark Ages, first, the people kept in the dark in that they were told they could not approach God directly on their own, they had to go through someone or something, and the church promoted their authority over the people, that the people needed the church to get to God.

Bible taken Away from the People / Church will Tell / Mass in Latin / Still today

They did this by taking the Bible away from the people. They were told that the common person could not understand the Bible, therefore they needed the priest and the church to interpret it for them, and that the church would tell them what they needed to know. So based on that, how would you know that the things of Jezebel were wrong. There was even a period where the mass was only spoken in Latin, and how few people actually knew Latin. Sadly this still lingers in the Catholic church today, for if you were to engage the average Catholic member, you would see how little of the Scriptures they actually know, and are hard pressed to quote a verse out of the Bible.

Confessional / Purchase Indulgences / Purgatory / Wealth - Jezebel

This period is where the confessional was established, where man had to go through the priest to confess his sins and obtain forgiveness, they could not go straight to God, they had to rely on man. This set up the purchasing of “indulgences”, where if you knew you were going to go out and blow it big time that night, you could swing by the church first and pre-pay forgiveness by paying the church, then you could sin without guilt and really enjoy it. Remember Jezebel, she gained great wealth by deceit and violence, and here we see the amassing of wealth through the selling of indulgences.

Gave People helps / Mary Queen of Heaven – Rosary / Idol Worship

To help man get to God, the church gave helps. The people were told they could pray to Mary, and to help them, they could get a statue and bow down before it and pray to Mary that she might intercede on their behalf before God, or rub these beads (the rosary) and pray a repetitive prayer to her. This turned into idol worship, as people began to worship Mary; exactly why God says you shall make no graven images, because God knows man’s heart and knows they would worship the idol. The same holds true for idols of Jesus. God forewarned that man was not to enter into worship of the queen of heaven:

*(Jeremiah 7:18 NKJV) "The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for **the queen of heaven**; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.*

(Jeremiah 7:19 NKJV) "Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the LORD. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?"

(Jeremiah 44:15 NKJV) Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:

(Jeremiah 44:16 NKJV) "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!

*(Jeremiah 44:17 NKJV) "But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the **queen of heaven** and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.*

*(Jeremiah 44:18 NKJV) "But since we stopped burning incense to **the queen of heaven** and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."*

*(Jeremiah 44:19 NKJV) The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the **queen of heaven** and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"*

Mary was the most blessed among woman, and I like her lasted recorded words in the Bible, and I am sure they are by design, for the Lord foresaw Mary worship, “do whatever He says”.

(John 2:5 NKJV) His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Icons / Prevalent in Europe

Icons were brought about at this time, and are still very prevalent in some areas of Europe, I saw them a lot when I was in Russia. The icon was given to the people, for a price, and the person when they prayed to God would look through the icon. The icon was made of glass, or a fabric with a picture on it, something of that nature, and the person would hold it up between themselves and heaven, and pray, because they had to have something in between them and God, because they were sinners.

All Take Away Power of the Blood

All these things take away from the power of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, all these things are contrary to what Jesus said – It is Done!

(Hebrews 10:10 NKJV) By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
(Hebrews 10:11 NKJV) And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.
(Hebrews 10:12 NKJV) But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

2nd / Sacrifice not Sufficient / Man's Work

Secondly, let's talk about the promotion that the sacrifice of Jesus was not sufficient therefore man had to add to that his works and ways;

Thyatira – Continual Sacrifice / Transubstantiation

"Thyatira" speaks of "continual sacrifice." You see, the Catholic Church traditionally, historically, and presently embraces the idea that in Communion, the elements are transformed into the literal, physical body of Christ in a process called transubstantiation.. They think that the continual sacrifice of Christ is what really brings grace, or salvation—which is in direct contrast to what Jesus declared from the Cross when He cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The price is paid. The work is done. To make the bread and wine the body and blood, again and again, is to continually break the body of Christ again and again. Jesus said do this in remembrance of Me; He did not say do this to me again and again. Catholic priests ensure that during the Mass, all of the wine is drunk and all of the bread eaten because they believe the elements are the actual body of Christ and, therefore, cannot be poured down the drain or thrown out.

(Luke 22:17 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

(Luke 22:18 NKJV) "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

(Luke 22:19 NKJV) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

(Luke 22:20 NKJV) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

(Hebrews 9:28 NKJV) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Purgatory / Lighting of Candles / Jezebel Wealth

This is where the doctrine of purgatory was introduced, and it was told the people that Jesus sacrifice was not enough therefore you would have to earn your way into heaven by suffering in purgatory first.

Purgatory, simply what it says, it was to purge a person's soul so that they may be acceptable, cleansed, and can enter into heaven. Now if those alive wanted to help they could burn a candle for a loved-one in purgatory to speed up the process, and each candle had to first be purchased from the church.

Remember Jezebel, she gained great wealth by deceit and violence, and here we see the amassing of wealth, and don't forget the selling of indulgences.

Mass for the Dead

If a person wants to speed up a loved one exit from purgatory they could also pay for a "mass for the dead" and the church would perform the mass for a price.

3rd / Forced Conversions / Reversal / Muslim's & Jews

Thirdly, there was the horrific place of forced conversions. Just as the Christians were killed for their faith, the opposite happened during this period that if a person would not accept Christ, they would be killed, and it all started back in the period before when the church married the state and came into power.

Millions of Muslims (Islam came into being around 600AD) and Jews were killed if they would not accept Jesus as their savior. Others if they were not killed they would be tortured severely, this was known as the Inquisition.

Inquisition for Heresy / Remember Naboth – Elijah & the Prophets / Wycliffe / Follow Me

There was also another side of the inquisition; it was a judicial institution, established by the papacy in the Middle Ages, charged with seeking out, trying, and sentencing persons guilty of heresy. Heresy would be anyone that challenged anything that we just discussed in reference to the reading of the word, purgatory, lighting of the candles and the rest. Just as Naboth was killed by Jezebel after a false counsel was established, just as Jezebel was killing the prophets of God and promoting the prophets of Baal, so were millions of believers being killed at this time. One notable story is of Hugh Latimer and John Hus, followers of John Wycliffe. What did Wycliffe want to do? He said it wasn't right that one had to go

through a priest to get his sins forgiven. He said purgatory and the selling of indulgences were an abomination. He said the Mass being held in Latin—a language people couldn't understand—was nothing of what Jesus was about, Wycliffe was killed for it. His tow followers would die also at the stake for wanting to get the Word of God into the people's hand. As the fire that would burn them at the stake was lit, John Hus turned to Hugh Latimer and said, "*Today they are igniting a candle that will never go out.*" Because they didn't burn Wycliffe at the stake, they went back and dug up his bones and burned those. This was a very, very, dark time in the history of the church. I will never try to defend church history, all I will say is that I am glad that Jesus said – follow me, and that He didn't say follow my people.

Great Wealth / Crusader Period – Land Gained

During the Inquisition Period from A.D. 600–A.D. 1500, the Catholic Church amassed great amounts of wealth through political power plays. The crusaders, in the name of regaining Jerusalem (from the Muslims), also gather land and territory along the way. Consequently, the Catholic Church is extremely wealthy due to their land holdings and banking system, just like Jezebel.

(Revelation 2:22 NKJV) "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

(Revelation 2:23 NKJV) "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.

Parents your Kids Watching You

Verse 23 - "**I will kill her children with death** – You parents who think your sin and disobedience to the Lord won't affect your kids need to take careful note here. The children will not be punished by God for the sins of their father, but parents your kids are watching your every move, and they can bring judgment upon themselves if they enter into sin and disobedience.

Jezebel Reproduced still Today

As for the spiritual children of this Jezebel system, it is still around today, and many followers are deceived and going to the sickbed, and many to death.

Rewards not Reference to Salvation / Millennial Kingdom

These rewards are not a reference to salvation for Ephesians says we are saved by grace not of works; these rewards are a reference to when we will rule and reign with Him in the Millennial Kingdom:

(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (Ephesians 2:9 NKJV) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

(Ephesians 2:10 NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years.

If Someone trying to Seduce my Wife

The Lord brings some harsh and heavy words here to this church and us today, but how would I feel if someone was trying to seduce my wife, to draw her away from me, to destroy our relationship. My emotions would be anger, jealousy, and frustration. Same holds true for my children.

(Revelation 2:24 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 2:25 NKJV) "But hold fast what you have till I come.

Play on Words / Holdfast to what Know / Look at Book

This is a play on words, Jezebel says I have deep truths and revelation for you. God is saying I'm not going to bring you some deeper new truths, just hold fast to what you already know, stick to the basics. The word is the word, take nothing away from it, nor add anything to. Look how the Lord begins and ends this book:

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

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Application for Us / We can trust a Church – Program / No longer Leaning on Lord

What does this have to do with us? I think a whole lot because the error of Thyatira is possible today. We can also have idols. We can look to a church, a person, a program and say, "I'm going to put all my hope in that structure, or those guys"—no longer just loving the Lord, staying close to the Lord, getting our cues and directions from the Lord, but leaning on idols and structures and people.

Understanding of Bible / Keep it Simple

Likewise, there can be those who imply that the common people can't understand the Bible because they have not attended seminary and therefore cannot grasp the intricacies of theology. Not true. While Greek and Hebrew can, indeed, help give illumination, the Book we hold in our hands was written for you and me, for the man and woman on the street. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't know God's will or His heart, His ways or His Word. We must make sure we say no to idolatry, to systems of religion, to spiritual hierarchies. May God give us wisdom. May God help us to keep the focus on Jesus. May God give us the grace to keep it simple.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

John 6:28 / Adding Nothing – taking Away Nothing

John 6 Jesus tells us what the work of God is. It is believing in Jesus, adding nothing to, no taking anything away:

(John 6:28 NKJV) Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

(John 6:29 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Believe – Know – Be Ready / Do not be Seduced / Escape Tribulation

John wrote the gospel of John so that we might believe, the 3 epistles if John so we might know that we have eternal life, and he is writing Revelation so that we might be ready, and for all who would believe, that they may escape the Great Tribulation. Again no believer will go through the great Tribulation, we will see that clearly in the church of Philadelphia, but this word is alive, and it is for today, and it speaks to the person who has not made that decision for Christ, do not be seduced, hear these words of truth so that you might be ready, and escape the wrath to come here on earth in the great Tribulation, and before the White Throne judgment where God will judge all that rejected Christ as their Savior.

(Revelation 2:27 NKJV) '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;

(Revelation 2:28 NKJV) "and I will give him the morning star.

Jesus Bright Star / Partake of Him & With Him

Jesus is the bright and morning star, and all who believe will be a partaker of Him and with Him:

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 22:17 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 2:29 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Hold Fast / Love verse 25 / In the Air – Then as Lion / He that has an Ear

Verse 25 - But hold fast what you have till I come. - I love verse 25, until I come again, He is coming again, first for His church where He will meet us in the air, then His Second Coming where all will see Him not just as the Lamb that was slain, but as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the one who rules and reign, and that every eye will see, and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. He that has an ear, let him hear!

Chapter 3

The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church

- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today – Individuals / Postal Route

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 3:1 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:2 NKJV) "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

(Revelation 3:3 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:4 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:5 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:6 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Dead Church

The Church of Sardis is known as the Dead Church.

The Praise of the Church

No Praise Church Whole / Just a Few Remnant

As a church, the Lord does not have any thing praiseworthy for the church as a whole; no mention of love, works, patience, or anything praise worthy, like the churches we studied in chapter 2. The Lord does however give praise to a few individuals in verse 4, but as for the church in whole, nothing:

(Revelation 3:4 NKJV) "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.

The Problem in the Church

(Revelation 3:1 NKJV) "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.

No Recorded Church Start

Verse 1 - And to the angel of the church in Sardis write - Though the details are not recorded in Scripture, the church at Sardis was probably founded as an outreach of Paul's ministry at Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

City at Junction of 5 Roads – Major Trade / Made Garments / Earthquake / Temple Artemis

Ancient Sardis, the capital of Lydia, was a most important city. It lay about fifty miles east of Ephesus at the junction of five main roads; so it was a center for trade. Sardis was also known for its manufacture of woolen garments. Sardis came under Roman control in 133 b.c. A catastrophic earthquake destroyed the original city in a.d. 17, but it was rebuilt with the generous financial aid of Emperor Tiberius. In gratitude, the inhabitants of Sardis built a temple in his honor. The city's primary object of worship, however, was the goddess Cybele—the same goddess worshiped at Ephesus as Artemis (Diana). Hot springs not far from Sardis were celebrated as a spot in which the gods manifested their supposed power to give life to the dead—an ironic note for a city whose church was dead

Military Center – 1500ft - Impregnable / Cyrus in 549BC / Antiochus 218BC / Thief in Night

Previously, before the earthquake, Sardis was a military center, for it was located on an almost inaccessible plateau. The acropolis of Sardis was about 1,500 feet above the main roads, and it formed an impregnable fortress. Three sides of it were nearly cliffs, and the front side was a steep slope that was rocky and often muddy. Because of its location it was considered impregnable, yet twice it was taken. Once by Cyrus (Persia) in 549BC. Cyrus and troops had surrounded the city, looking impregnable Cyrus told his men if anyone can figure a way in, I will reward him with great riches. Well one soldier noticed one of the sentry's on the wall there in Sardis (on one of the cliff sides) drop his helmet. Then later he noticed the soldier making his way down to the helmet on some type of trail. The soldier knew that the man had not come from the front of the city, so realized that there must have been a secret entrance somewhere into the city. So they sent scouts found the trail, found the secret entrance, and then in the middle of the night the army attacked the city. They were literally unopposed, no soldiers were posted, because the whole city slept. They slept because they were so confident that their city was secure, and therefore so were they. Then again in 218 B.C. Antiochus the Great captured Sardis because a Cretan slipped over the walls while the sentries were careless. The city was known as the city that was taken like a thief in the night.

Picture of Person so Comfortable – Settled / Become Apathetic / Overtaken by Enemy

Sardis is the picture of a person, a church, who are so comfortable, so settled, because of their position, that they become apathetic, so apathetic, so sleepy and drowsy that they can be overtaken by the enemy because they no longer remain watchful.

7 Spirits / Jesus Identifies – One Examining gives Life by Spirit / Day of Pentecost

Verse 1 - '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 - In verse 1 Jesus identifies Himself as the One that holds the seven Spirits of God (As Jesus identifies Himself to each church, it is exactly what that church needs and is applicable for their situation). The 7 Spirits represents the fullness of the Holy Spirit. The one who is examining them is the one who gives life through the Spirit, the one who gives life to the Church. On the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit fell upon the Church and 3,000 were saved, and we read of a Church that was alive and mighty as we read the Book of Acts. However the church of Sardis was dead.

(Revelation 3:2 NKJV) "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 Rebukes / Name Alive – Ready to Die – Works not Perfect

3 fold rebuke:

- *Name that is alive:* outwardly they had a good name and reputation, but inwardly they are dead.
- *Ready to die:* the Lord tells them to strengthen the things which remain or they too will die.
- *Works not found perfect:* Perfect means to bring to completion, and they started good, but did not bring it to completion. Christian have you brought to completion the things God has called you too. In your home, your marriage, your personal work, your ministry?

Period of Reformation / Recap – Ephesus – Smyrna – Pergamos – Thyatira / Wycliffe

Verse 2 - strengthen the things which remain – this brings us to the period of church history known as the "Reformation". Ephesus was the church period from 60-100AD where the early church had already cooled off and left their honeymoon romance with the Lord. The Church of Smyrna was the period from 100-313AD where millions of Christians were killed for their faith by 10 waves of persecution that come from the Roman Empire. But then the worse thing that could happen to Christianity happen in 313AD when Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion, the church was merged in with the State, and along with it came all the pagan practices that were affluent in Rome at this time. Then came the period represented by the Church of Thyatira, the Dark Ages as the people were kept in the dark. The Scriptures were taken from the people, the all sufficiency of the blood of Jesus was diminished as people were directed by the church to add works to their faith, and then great persecution lead by the Catholic Church swept across the lands, trying to force Christianity on the Jews and Muslims, and killing Christians

who protested this heretic teaching. Men like Wycliffe stood up and said this is wrong, give the Word back to the Bible, get back to the basics, but they were killed, and then.....

Glorious Move / Birth of Luther / Father – Coal Mine – Law University – Lightning

A glorious move took place, culminating in the year 1483 in Eisleben, Saxon Germany, when a coal miner and his wife gave birth to a baby boy they named Martin. "This boy is not to follow me into the mineshafts," said Martin's father. So Martin enrolled in the university to study law. While walking on campus one day, a thunderstorm arose unlike anything he had ever seen. Petrified, Martin cried out to St. Anne, the patron saint of coal miners, "If you save me from this lightning, I will become a monk." Spared, and true to his word, Martin Luther enrolled in seminary, a Catholic seminary.

Tried Earning God's Favor / Audience with Pope

After two years, he earned his Doctorate, but the more he studied theology, the more he knew he could never be righteous enough to earn God's favor. To this end, he regularly beat himself, slept outside in freezing temperatures, and fasted for long periods. Still not experiencing the reality of God in his life, he decided to journey to Rome for an audience with the pope. On his way to Rome, however, he contracted a dangerous fever. While recovering in an Alpine monastery, one of the monks, sensing Luther's struggle, told him to read the Book of Habakkuk.

Read Habakkuk

Why Habakkuk? Habakkuk was also one who wrestled with issues. Luther took his advice and when he came to the fourth verse of the second chapter, "The just shall live by faith"—he finally understood. "That's it!" he cried. "If I'm going to be just, it's not because of what I do or who I am, but by faith in what God's done and who He is". That lightning bolt hit him just as powerful as the other one had missed him. However, upon arriving in Rome, with his heart full of excitement, Luther was shocked by the abuses and hypocrisy he found there:

(Habakkuk 2:4 NKJV) "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."

(Romans 1:17 NKJV) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

1517 – 95pt Theses / Retract or Die / Here I Stand

Returning to Germany, he realized he had to take a stand. So in 1517, he nailed a parchment containing 95 theses challenging the pope to the university door in Wittenburg. Three and a half years later, Rome answered, "Retract or die." After burning this response, Luther was summoned to Rome. In 1521, the Diet of Worms was convened, at which the Church realized, that due to his popularity, they had a problem in Luther. "We're giving you a second opportunity to recant," they said—to which Martin Luther gave his classic reply: "Here I stand. I can do no other, so help me God."

Gave rise to Jesuits – Faithful to Pope / Reformation Sweeps across Europe

Luther's stand gave rise to the birth of the Jesuits—an order dedicated to enforcing papal power no matter the cost. Meanwhile, the Reformation swept across Europe. Luther in Germany, Zwingli in Switzerland, Knox in Scotland all called for a return to the Bible—which strengthened the determination of the Jesuits to stand by the pope and stem the tide of what they perceived to be heresy....

Bohemia 1600 – 4million - 80% / 2 yrs Later 800K

Of the four million people living in Bohemia in 1600, 80 percent were "Protest-ants"—sympathizers of the Reformation. Two years later, the population of Bohemia numbered a mere eight hundred thousand. Austria and Hungary were also early hotbeds of the Reformation. Today, when we think of these countries, we think Catholic. Why? Because the worst bloodshed in history took place in the wake of the Reformation—even worse than the persecution of Christians under the Roman emperors and the holocaust of Nazi Germany under Hitler. This upheaval and bloodshed was so far-reaching that the seeds of the events in Bosnia and Northern Ireland today have their roots in those terrible, brutal times.

Pope John Paul - 1995

Again I do not want you to think I am Catholic bashing, I am just recanting history for you, a history that the late Pope John Paul 2nd recognized himself, for on May 23, 1995, in Russia, the pope made a speech and said, “we seek forgiveness for all those who lost lives by the Holy Catholic Church”.

Reformation produced great Names – Great Movements

Protestantism has produced some great men, and I will mention some, although I am going to leave out a great many. I think of the Reformation leaders: **Martin Luther** and **John Calvin** stand out, head and shoulders, above all others. Of course, there was **John Knox**, a great man of God who did so much for Scotland. Later on, there was **John Bunyan**, the great Baptist who wrote Pilgrim's Progress, which tells of his own life and how God marvelously saved him. **John Wesley** was the founder of the Methodist church. God marvelously saved that man and used him in such a way that he is given credit by historians for saving England from the revolution which destroyed France and prevented it from ever becoming a first-rate nation again. Wesley has been called the greatest Englishman of all. He certainly did more for that country than any other Englishman who has ever lived. Then there was a man like **John Moffat**, the Scotchman who went to Africa, and **David Livingstone** who first opened up that continent. **William Carey** went to India and later was followed by a sickly young man by the name of Henry Martyn. Finally, I always like to include Titus Coan, who led the greatest revival since Pentecost out in the Hawaiian Islands. The reformation period was from 1517AD to 1800AD.

Name – Denomination / People proud of Name – Life Left Long Ago / Movements Shadows

Back in verse 1 where God says you have a name, the word translated “name” is onoma in Greek, from which we get our word “denomination.” People today will say we are Lutheran, we are Methodist, we are Baptist, we are Calvary Chapel. Some people so proud of their name, they don't realize the life of that name may have died and departed long ago. You can go a long time on a name. Look at so many of these movements and they are just a shadow, a shell, of what they once were.

God not Rebuking Doctrine / Rebuke is Dying / Enemy will not Wake You

Notice that this rebuke to this church is not against their doctrine or that they are living a life of immorality (like Pergamos and Thyatira). This rebuke is that they are dying, silently and slowly. What the enemy apathy is for it takes its time. Christian know this, Satan will never disturb your sleep, he will hit the snooze button for you over and over again.

Everything in Place – 3 Sunday Service – Beautiful Building /

Everything is in its place for this church. They have three services on Sunday, a worship team, they are having church picnics and pot lucks; they have a nice building with a bookstore, and even have their own softball league. The Lord says you have a name you are alive, look alive, but you are dead!

Remnant

Sardis means “remnant” and all these movements only have a remnant of what they once were. We see so many moves of God begin with a man, then turn into a movement, but they start to rest in the past and turn into a monument, and eventually a mausoleum.

Danger Signs of Church / Rest in Past / Process - Social – Material – Men think - Doctrine

What are the danger signs that a church is dying, or an individual? A church is in danger when it is content to rest on its past laurels, when it is more concerned with liturgical forms than spiritual reality, when it focuses on curing social ills rather than changing people's hearts through preaching the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ, when it is more concerned with material than spiritual things, when it is more concerned with what men think than what God said, when it is more enamored with doctrinal creeds and systems of theology than with the Word of God, or when it loses its conviction that every word of the Bible is the word of God Himself. No matter what its attendance, no matter how impressive its buildings, no matter what its status in the community, such a church, having denied the only source of spiritual life, is dead.

Doctrine So Right – Dead Right / Evangelism – Missions – Lake of Fire / Looking down - Past

Our doctrine can be so right, it is dead right. We are so sure of it we quit evangelism, we quit looking and wondering if that person is perishing to everlasting lake of fire, we quit missions, we seeking after the

things of the Spirit, go from looking at others in love to looking down on others, or right past them, but all the while convinced we are so right. We quit looking to the Spirit of God, we quit calling out for the Spirit to move, we forget the need and the necessity of the Spirit, *'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God, God identifies Himself to the Church, for exactly what they needed, and it was the Spirit.*

Europe today / 25 People – Mosques / America 80%

Go to Europe today where the reformation swept through, and you will see some of the most beautiful and awesome churches you could imagine. Go into one on a Sunday and many have less than 25 people sitting in a sanctuary of 500 seats. Forget the mid-week service it hardly exists. In fact many of those churches today have been converted in Muslim Mosques. Do you know that recent statistics say that 80% of the church growth in America is by transfers, people just changing churches. That means that some churches are dwindling, but more so it means that only 20% of church growth is by new converts acceptable Jesus as Lord. Do that math on a country of 300 million.

Verse 22 - **for I have not found your works perfect before God:** one other note, speaking of the reformation period, it was far from complete. Many of the denominations that came out of the Reformation period also brought along some of the remnants of the previous movements. For instance many churches brought along infant baptism, anti-Semitism (Luther himself was not favorable towards the Jewish people). Some of these denominations avoid or totally neglect the gifts of the Holy Spirit, prophecy, and the Second Coming of Christ, including the Rapture of the Church.

Lord's Counsel

The Lords counsel is given to that church, and the protestant churches today:

(Revelation 3:3 NKJV) "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.

Remember – Not Rediscover / Not Lacking Information – but Experience of Truths / ACTS - Spirit

The word remember is in the continual tense, meaning to continually remember. He says remember what you have heard, He doesn't say go back and improve on what you have heard, or rediscover something new, but to remember you already know is true. The church isn't lacking information, but is lacking the intimacy and experiencing of the truths we already know. This church was no longer operating depending on the Spirit, and if you look at these churches that came out of the Reformation, today most all believe doctrinally in the things of the Spirit, but practically they distance themselves from them or have just plain forgotten the need of the Spirit moving through the Church. God says go back and hold fast to them (Word and Spirit), repent, return again to the original model, as it was shown to us in the Book of Acts, a church that made every move as directed, led, and empowered by the Holy Spirit:

(Revelation 3:1 NKJV) "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.

How Do I Get the Spirit

How do I get this Spirit you may ask, how do I come in fellowship with the Spirit? You wait just as they did, you seek the Spirit like a precious jewel, and you do not leave until you have it, and since we are leaking pots, we must seek it daily:

*(Acts 1:4 NKJV) And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, **but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;***

(Acts 1:5 NKJV) "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

(Acts 1:6 NKJV) Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

(Acts 1:7 NKJV) And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

(Acts 1:8 NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Sardis Slept / Don't Let Enemy in Home - Family

Verse 3 - *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 – Sardis slept while the enemy came into he city, may we not be guilty of spiritual slumber as the enemy slips into our homes, our families, and this world around us.*

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:4 NKJV) "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.

Church Overall / Still a Remnant

In the midst of this dead church, filled with unregenerate people, a few true Christians were scattered like flowers in a desert. There were not enough of them, however, to change Christ's overall evaluation of the church as dead. But He had not forgotten those who remained faithful to Him, He remembers His remnant, for God will always have His remnant. Sardis means "remnant," Sardis is a fitting name, for there was only a remnant of faithful people left, as the church in whole was dead. Each name of each church has meaning to the situation that Jesus is addressing, this book is masterfully and wonderfully written, and it could only be by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

(Revelation 3:5 NKJV) "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.

Maker of Garments / Visual Illustration / God's Children Clothed in White

Verse 5 - He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments - Remember Sardis was known for its making of garments, and the Lord uses their surrounding to give them a visual illustration. They knew that on the market a soiled garment would not be received by the buyer, would not be appealing. The purer the garment, the more appealing. The Lord promises His children that they will be clothed in white, in righteousness, right standing before Him, acceptable:

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Was Actual Church – Unbelievers Present / Hamburger - Whopper

Verse 5 - and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life - This letter in its day was sent to actual physical churches, not much different from us and our church today. So this letter would show up at the church, and people would gather together, and the pastor would read it to them. Sitting there in the pews (if you will) would be some believers, and others, who had not made a decision for Christ, they were investigating. Some were sitting there and they thought they were saved, but they were just fooling themselves, thinking I said a prayer now I set for eternity. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian anymore than eating at Burger King makes you a Whopper. It is only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that makes you a Christian. These people sitting in the church at Sardis, Jesus said you had better wake up, or you'll miss Me.

Luke 20 / Your Name is Written

In Luke 20 the disciples were all excited after their first mission trip, how they healed the sick and cast out demons, and Jesus said as great as that is, here is the greatest thing to rejoice over, your name is in my Book:

(Luke 10:19 NKJV) "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.

(Luke 10:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

No Name – No entry / Start in the Book

Later in Revelation we see no name, no entry into heaven:

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:8 NKJV) "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.

It is my belief in the study of the Scriptures that everyone's name is recorded in the Book of Life, but after they commit the unpardonable sin, the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the rejection of the Spirit's testifying

to that person their sin and the need for the Savior Jesus Christ, their names are then blotted out. Moses said to the Lord, then blot my name out, as if it was already in there:

(Exodus 32:31 NKJV) Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!

(Exodus 32:32 NKJV) "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin; but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

(Exodus 32:33 NKJV) And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book."

Your Name Blotted Out / Social Circles – Relationships

Christian, to not be blotted out of the Lambs Book, may mean you will have to be blotted out of some registries here on earth. Friends may scratch you out of their phone book once you get saved, you may be scratched off the party invitation list, from social clubs.

Proud to Confess

Verse 5 - but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels – the tense of I will confess is that God says I will boldly confess, agree fully, a surety, with confidence and proud of it to confess thy name. The Lord is proud to confess you as His, because He knows the power of His atonement, and what it accomplishes, and that we will not be dressed in soiled rags in heaven, but fine linen, white robes, pure and clean.

(Revelation 3:6 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Thought they were Secure / Tell-Tale Signs / Need the Spirit

Sardis thought they were secure, resting so comfortable in their fortress on the mountain. Good time for all of us to examine ourselves and see what are we resting in. The other day I smelled antifreeze when I got out of my truck, than the next day I noticed it was running a little hotter than usual, but it was well before the redline, just a few days later I'm on the side of the road broken down. All the tell-tale signs were there, but because everything was still running and getting me where I wanted to go, I ignored the signs and kept going. Sardis, the churches of the Reformation, Churches today, and individuals - because everything is still running, they ignore the signs that there is trouble, that there are things God is not pleased with, things we are not strengthening and as a result are dying. *'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God..... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'*

The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Part 1 (3:7-8)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

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John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

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He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God:

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church

- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today – Individuals / Postal Route

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 3:7 NKJV) "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':"

(Revelation 3:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:9 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

(Revelation 3:12 NKJV) "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And 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.

(Revelation 3:13 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Faithful Church / Edge of our Seat – God considers Faithful / End – Honest Confession

The Church of Philadelphia is known as the Faithful Church. This study should put us on the edge of our seats saying, what does God consider a faithful church, a faithful individual; am I being faithful. If at the end you say I have fallen short, I have been relaxed in these things, then only an honest confession before the Lord can these things then be changed. God can't change your heart until you change your mind.

No Problem / But not Perfect / Imperfect People – Aware of their Imperfection / Good Model

The church of Philadelphia and Smyrna are the only 2 churches that God doesn't lay a charge against, and say this is the problem I have with you. Having no charge laid against them does not make them a perfect church, for there are no perfect churches. All Churches struggle because all are made up of imperfect, sinning people. The church is not a place for people with no weaknesses; it is a fellowship of those who are aware of their weaknesses and long for the strength and grace of God to fill their lives. It is a kind of hospital for those who know they are sick and needy. Like all churches, the one in Philadelphia had its imperfections. Yet the Lord commended its members for their faithfulness and loyalty. They and the congregation at Smyrna were the only two of the seven that received no rebuke from the Lord of the church. In spite of their fleshly struggles, the Christians at Philadelphia were faithful and obedient, serving and worshiping the Lord. They provide a good model of a loyal church.

Other Churches got All 7 Letters / How can I be Faithful – Read Over and Over

I would expect that all 7 churches got all 7 letters, for as the Lord does now, so did He then, that we would/they would look at all 7 letters and say this is what the Lord has a problem with, this is what the Lord praises. So if I was the other churches I would be reading the letter to Philadelphia over and over again, so I could bring myself and church to that place of being a faithful Church.

Some Martyred / Muslims 14th Century / Never Did End – 1000 Today / God's Faithfulness

Some Christians from Philadelphia were martyred with Polycarp at Smyrna. The church lasted for centuries. The Christians in Philadelphia stood firm even after the region was overrun by the Muslims, finally succumbing in the mid-fourteenth century. There are some historians that say that this church

never did end, that from Jesus to today there has always been a church there in this city. Go there today and it is true, this area of modern day turkey that is a predominate Muslim nation, you will find 5 congregations (totaling 1,000 professing Christians) there in this city of 20,000 people. I can believe the historians that say there has always been a church there, for a faithful church will always have its remnant, God preserves them as a testimony of His faithfulness.

(Revelation 3:7 NKJV) "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":

No Recorded Church Start / Ephesians 19

Verse 7 - And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write - Though the details are not recorded in Scripture, the church at Sardis was probably founded as an outreach of Paul's ministry at Ephesus (Acts 19:10).

Philadelphia / Main Route – Gateway to East – Hellenism – Place of Great Opportunity

Verse 7 - And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: Philadelphia was situated in a strategic place on the main route of the Imperial Post from Rome to the East, and thus was called "the gateway (keys) to the East." Rome kept many soldiers there so they could be dispatched quickly within the region by using the roads available to them. Though situated on an easily defensible site on an 800-foot-high hill overlooking an important road, Philadelphia was not founded primarily as a military outpost (as Thyatira had been). Its founders intended it to be a center of Greek culture and language, a missionary outpost for spreading Hellenism to the regions to the east. Philadelphia succeeded in its mission so well that by A.D. 19 the Lydian language had been completely replaced by Greek. It was also called "little Athens" because of the many temples in the city. The church was certainly located in a place of tremendous opportunity with all the people passing through the city, and the gateway to the east at their door.

Earthquake / 17AD / Monument to Caesar

The only major problem with the location was that the area was prone to earthquakes. Philadelphia sat on a geological fault, and in 17 B.C. it was destroyed by a severe earthquake that also destroyed Sardis and ten other cities. It was rebuilt by Rome, and in gratitude for Caesar Tiberius's financial aid in rebuilding their city, the Philadelphians joined with several other cities in erecting a monument to him.

Philadelphia / Phileo / Eumanes – Attalus 189BC / Buildings – Monuments – Coins - Conversation

Philadelphia - There are three Greek words for love. Eros is erotic or sensual love. Phileo is brotherly love. Agape is God's love. The city of Philadelphia was founded in 189 B.C. by a man named Eumanes II. When he died, he was succeeded by his younger brother, Attalus II, who named buildings after his older brother, minted coins bearing his brother's image, and talked about his brother constantly. Consequently, the people of the town began to call this place Philo-delphia, or the city of brotherly love. Jesus said by this all will know you are My disciples, by your love one for another.

Each Name Applicable / Recap 6 Churches / Church Loved One Another - Lost

The name of each Church has application for us, it gives us insight into the church and what was going on there. Ephesus means darling, and they left their first love, Smyrna means crushed and they were being persecuted, Pergamos means mixed marriage and the church married the state, Thyatira means "continual sacrifice" and they were no longer resting in the finished work of Jesus, but adding on to it to gain God's favor, Sardis means "remnant" and the church was known as being dead, it was just a remnant of what it once was, and here Philadelphia means "brotherly love", and this church was known for its love for each other, and the love for the lost as they were active in evangelism:

(John 13:34 NKJV) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

(John 13:35 NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Holiness identification / Undiminished – Holiness / Church walked in Holiness

Verse 7 - 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true: Jesus identification of Himself directly applied to each of the churches, and in this case since their in no rebuke, His identification is of praise for

that church. Jesus' identification of Himself as He who is holy can be no less than a direct claim to deity. The Lord Jesus Christ possesses in undiminished, unaltered essence the holy and sinless nature of God. Because Christ is holy, His church must be as well. "Like the Holy One who called you," wrote Peter, "be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Pet. 1:15). This church of Philadelphia walked in His holiness and the Lord praises them for that, and we should seek the same:

*(1 Peter 1:15 NKJV) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
(1 Peter 1:16 NKJV) because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

True Identification / Truth in midst of Falsehood / Philly located in Heathen Culture

Verse 7 - "These things says He who is holy, He who is true: Not only is Jesus Christ the Holy One; He also describes Himself as He who is true. Truth is used in combination with holiness to describe God in Revelation 6:10; 15:3; 16:7; 19:2, 11. Alēthinos (true) denotes that which is genuine, authentic, and real. In the midst of the falsehood, perversion, and error that fills the world, as it did there in Philadelphia, the Lord Jesus Christ is the truth (John 14:6):

*(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
(John 14:7 NKJV) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."*

Keys of Death – Rev 1:18 / Represents Authority / For setting People Free

Verse 7 - "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": In chapter 1, we read that Jesus holds the keys of hell and death (1:18). A key in Scripture represents authority; whoever holds a key has control (cf. 1:18; 9:1; 20:1; Matt. 16:19). Remember those keys were not for locking people up, but setting them free, to free them from their bondage and imprisonment. Sin is a cruel taskmaster, but the Lord came to set us free

(Revelation 1:18 NKJV) "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.

(Luke 4:18 NKJV) "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

Adds – Keys of David / Shebna – Selfish gain / Given to Another – Nailed – Steadfast / Picture Jesus

But Jesus goes on to say He holds an additional key: the key of David—which takes one back to the key of David spoken of in Isaiah 22, wherein we read of a man named Shebna, who was the treasurer in the kingdom of Judah during the reign of Hezekiah. After Shebna used temple money to purchase a sepulcher (fancy grave) and chariots for himself, Isaiah came on the scene and said, "What are you doing? You had opportunity, but you abused it." (anytime we use the riches of the kingdom for selfish gain we are putting it in the grave, it perishes) So the key to the treasury was taken from off Shebna's shoulder, where the key was traditionally worn, and given to a godly man who wore it wisely. Isaiah went on to speak of this one who used the keys properly as being "fastened like a nail," or steadfast and dependable (this was also a prophecy of the Messiah). So we think the One who was fastened—not like a nail, but with a nail. We think of the One who perfectly carried the key of the government upon His shoulder (Isaiah 9:6). We think of Jesus.

(Isaiah 22:22 NKJV) The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

(Isaiah 22:23 NKJV) I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house.

(Isaiah 22:24 NKJV) They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

*(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; **And the government will be upon His shoulder.** And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus Sure Thing – Even if Earth Quakes / Jesus opens Treasury of Heaven – Use for Father

Jesus is saying He is something we can grab onto and hold on to, and he will not move, and we can trust in that, even if your earth quakes. Jesus also is saying I have the riches of the Kingdom of heaven, I

open the treasury for your access, and no man can shut it, now use it for the glory of your King, not your self.

The Rock

I'm reminded of a story of a man who was kayaking in the ocean and got tossed from his craft when high waves came up. He managed to swim over to a rock and grab on to it. He dug his hands into some clefts in the rock and hung on. The waves would hit him and pound him up and down, throw him all around the rock, but he never let go. Finally the seas calmed, and he made it to shore. People ran to him saying you are lucky to be alive, you are lucky you didn't drown. Man you were tossed all over that rock from the waves, and he answered and said yea, but did you notice the rock never moved.

Now Praise of Church

That brings us to the praise of the church

The Praise of the Church

(Revelation 3:8 NKJV) "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.

NT – Doors speaks of Opportunity

Jesus said I know your works, the Lord knows their labor of love for the Kingdom. In the New Testament, an "open door" speaks of opportunity for ministry (Acts 14:27; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3). Christ is the Lord of the harvest and the Head of the church, and it is He who determines where and when His people shall serve (see Acts 16:6-10). He gave the church at Philadelphia a great opportunity for ministry: *(Acts 14:27 NKJV) Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had **opened the door** of faith to the Gentiles.*

(1 Corinthians 16:8 NKJV) But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

*(1 Corinthians 16:9 NKJV) For **a great and effective door has opened to me**, and there are many adversaries.*

*(2 Corinthians 2:12 NKJV) Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and **a door was opened** to me by the Lord,*

*(Colossians 4:3 NKJV) meanwhile praying also for us, that God would **open to us a door** for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,*

*(Acts 16:6 NKJV) Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.***

*(Acts 16:7 NKJV) After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, **but the Spirit did not permit them.***

(Acts 16:8 NKJV) So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

(Acts 16:9 NKJV) And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

*(Acts 16:10 NKJV) Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, **concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.***

Philadelphia – Center of Evangelism / Trade Routes – Keys to East / Love thy Neighbor

It is no surprise that Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love is the center of evangelism (major trade route and gateway (keys) to East), the Greeks set the city up for spreading the Grecian cultural with their false gods and lifestyle. This church took back the city for God, the gateway to the east, and used it for missions, for missions and evangelism is the heart of the Father. Jesus said to love thy neighbor, and there is no greater love that you can give to your neighbor, coworker, that person behind the counter, then to tell them about Jesus Christ, His love for them, and how they can have a personal relationship with Him, and be right with Him, by having their sin that separates them from God dealt with:

(Matthew 19:19 NKJV) 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

(Matthew 22:35 NKJV) Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Evangelizing – Fossilizing / Use the Doors of Opportunities

As a church or an individual, if you are not evangelizing, than you are fossilizing. You will become like the dead Sea there in Israel, water flowing in, nothing coming out. You will become like the church of Sardis we studied last week, a dead church, or at best the next church we study, Laodicea, the lukewarm church. Do you feel dry or crusty in your Christian experience? Does your Christian experience seem routine maybe even boring? Is just church again? Maybe you are fossilizing because you are not evangelizing, going through doors of opportunities for ministry. Or you/we could be the faithful church, like Philadelphia, and use the doors of opportunities that He opens for us.

Period Church History / Wont Die – Won't be Comfortable

The church of Philadelphia represents the period of church history from 1800 to the present. It represents a church and people who refuse to die or be locked into a denomination that is unwilling to change, nor a church or individual that is lukewarm that is just waiting for the Lords return in the comfort of their comfortable church, comfortable home, comfortable job, sitting on the comfortable sofa watching the news taking comfort that they don't live there.

We get to Live in this Period / Sees the Cross / Change Eternity

This is the period, we get to live in, what a gift, we get to respond to the open doors of opportunity that the Lord gives us to be missionaries for him. A missionary isn't some one who crosses the sea, but sees the cross (Leonard Ravenhill). We have the opportunity to change eternity and the Lord opens the doors of opportunity, and then He opens the door of the treasury of heaven, and says go for it.

He does Work – Just go through Door / Candace

He does all the work, and al we have to do is go through the doors. I remember my friends little girl Candace, she was 3, and all of us would go fishing together. Now there was no way she was going to catch a fish because she couldn't keep her line in the water for longer than 10 seconds. So I would hook my fish, make sure I had him good, and then I would let the line out and let him run. Then say Candace hold my rod while a bait your hook. Reel it in a little, a little more, and then she would feel the tug on the line and get all excited, I caught a fish, I caught a fish, and then I would come up and put my arms around her and we would reel the fish in. So to the Father, he has already done the work, He just wants someone to wrap His arms around and say lets reel them in. It is a joyous life fishing with the Father.

Opens – Closes / Encouraging Words / No Need to Ram / Keep Trying Doors

He opens and He closes, words I need to hear, words that encourage me. He opens them, I don't have to blast the doors down, get the pry bar out, get the ramming rod, I just have to try them. This door is closed, this door is closed, ahh here is one that is open. Too many people wait around for a closed door to open, not trying another, and some keep working on that closed door never getting it, it is closed, for now, try it again later.

Little Kid with Sail Boat

Pastor Church tells the story, You're sort of like the little kid who spent several months in building a model sailboat. Had every detail down to perfection. And after he finally got the thing all set, the mast upon it and everything else, he took it down to the pond and he set it in the water and he set the sails and the rudder so that it would go across the lake. And he watched the little sailboat as it started across the lake and he went running around the end of the lake but as he was running around looking at that sailboat out there, a gust of wind came and blew the thing over and it sank in the middle of the pond. He looked up and he said, That's a good wind for flying a kite, and he goes off and gets his kite.

Great Way to Live / No Pressure

So if God closes one door, look for another. Don't try and break it down but God has something else in mind. And I've learned that that's a great way to live. To just let God open doors, let God shut doors and that takes a lot of pressure off.

He also Closes Doors / Opportunities Pass / Given to Other - Esther

He also closes doors, and too bad the church there at Sardis, and churches and individuals today don't realize that. It doesn't matter how good it looks, if it is shut, then move on and try something else. Christian, know that there is a time when the doors do shut, those that once were open. Opportunities can pass before you. That neighbor may move away, the person may pass away, that co-worker may get a new job. God may offer you the opportunity, but if you don't step up, God will give the opportunity to someone else. I am reminded of the example given in Esther, the royal decree had been given to kill all the Jews, and Queen Esther a Jew herself had access to the king, her uncle Mordecai said you must speak to the king on our behalf. Esther said if I go before the king without him calling me, I can be killed. Mordecai said if you don't do it, God will raise someone else up, and you would have missed the opportunity, for you very well could have been put here for this very reason:

(Esther 4:14 NKJV) "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

The Faithful Church / How Many Doors / Fishing Partner

God considers the faithful church, the faithful individual, the ones that go through those doors that He has opened. Christian, how many doors have you gone through this month, how many have you tried. God is just looking for a fishing partner.

Next Study / 3 Reasons

Next study we will see, the 3 reasons the door was open for this church, 3 things God considers a successful church, a faithful church (remind you this is right from the mouth of Jesus):

- 1.) for you have a little strength**
- 2.) have kept My word,**
- 3.) and have not denied My name.**

The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Part 2 (3:8-9)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.***

Chapter 2

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- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

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Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

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(Revelation 3:13 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

Faithful Church / Edge of our Seat – God considers Faithful / End – Honest Confession

The Church of Philadelphia is known as the Faithful Church. This study should put us on the edge of our seats saying, what does God consider a faithful church, a faithful individual; am I being faithful. If at the end you say I have fallen short, I have been relaxed in these things, then only an honest confession before the Lord can these things then be changed. God can't change your heart until you change your mind.

The Praise of the Church

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Recapping / Open Doors / Name Unlocks

Recapping last study on this faithful church, Jesus commended them for their works, which were going through the open door. Open doors in the NT represent ministry opportunities, so this was a church that was seizing the ministry opportunities that the Lord opened for them. And each opportunity came with the unlimited supply of God's riches for the works of the ministry as we saw the meaning of the key of David back in Isaiah 22. Each name of these churches helps us unlock what was going on in those churches, and for Philadelphia, it was a beautiful and wonderful thing, it was love. They were loving one another, and they were loving the lost and dying world around them.

Philadelphia / Phileo / Eumanes – Attalus 189BC / Buildings – Monuments – Coins - Conversation

Philadelphia - There are three Greek words for love. Eros is erotic or sensual love. Phileo is brotherly love. Agape is God's love. The city of Philadelphia was founded in 189 B.C. by a man named Eumanes II. When he died, he was succeeded by his younger brother, Attalus II, who named buildings after his older brother, minted coins bearing his brother's image, and talked about his brother constantly. Consequently, the people of the town began to call this place Philo-delphia, or the city of brotherly love.

Beautiful when Christians Love One Another

Jesus said by this all will know you are My disciples, by your love one for another. It is such a beautiful thing when Christian just love their brother, speak great things about them, so contrary to the world.

God's love was in that church, it was clearly demonstrated by their love one for another:

(John 13:35 NKJV) "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Russian Train

Psalm 133 was a Psalm we sang most every morning when I was in Russia 1993 doing an Inductive Bible Study Seminar. At the end of one Seminar we were to take the train that night for an overnight trip to another city. Our train was leaving around 9 pm, we had to flag a taxi to get down there. We had said our goodbyes to the 75 students ranging from young to old, all who had to take 4 days off from work to attend, some traveling for a day to get there themselves. We got to the train, its dark, snow is falling, then we look out the window and we saw them, most ever student coming down the ramp on to the platform. Some walked the whole way, others took the bus, none could afford a taxi, it was 1 hour each way to come see us off. We hugged and when it was time for all aboard, we gathered in a large circle, held hands and prayed, and then at the end of the prayer spontaneously worship broke forth. I remember it like it was yesterday, I remember looking up and seeing the snow fall across the lights through the dark, it was sheer beauty. And I'll never forget here comes the Russian national hockey team, 30 some big rugged young men. Now our circle took up most the platform, and there was just a narrow opening before the door of the train, and I'll never forget, they filed into a single file line, reverently quit talking, and filed passed us on to the train, then got in their sets put the windows down, and hung out the window watching and listening. Ohh behold how good and pleasant it is, when brethren dwell together:

(Psalms 133:1 NKJV) Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

(Psalms 133:2 NKJV) It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.

(Psalms 133:3 NKJV) It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing; Life forevermore.

3 Reasons Door Open / 3 Things Successful

Three reasons the door was open for this church, 3 reasons this church had such brotherly love, 3 things God considers a faithful church (and remind you this is right from the mouth of Jesus):

- 1.) for you have a little strength**
- 2.) have kept My word,**
- 3.) and have not denied My name.**

For you have a little strength

Little Strength / Dangerous Place

1.) for you have a little strength, - A little strength may not sound so good, until you consider many churches have no strength except their own strength and do not realize they have no strength of the Lord. I believe one of the most dangerous places to be as a Christian, is to think you are strong, because it is there that you will fall.

(1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Verse of Comfort / 2 Cor 12

This verse should comfort us, for I always am keenly aware of my lack of power, and God recognizes that we are weak, and he supplies us with His power when we need it. When we are weak then He can show His power:

(2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV) And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

No Worry what Not – He all we Need / Will Supply / Go through the Door

We need not worry what we are not, for He is all we need. He holds the keys to the treasury of heaven, and He will meet and supply all our needs. Christian fear not, go through the door:

(Philippians 4:19 NKJV) And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Can do a Lot with Little Strength

Physically there are many things I can do with little strength; in my little strength I can carry 5 people. Yes with just a little strength I turn the ignition and steer the car. It isn't that much different spiritually as we use what little strength we have, and call out to the Lord for His abundant power and might, and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us:

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Have kept My word,

Holiness / Kept – Guard – Eye Upon / The Word Non-negotiable

2.) have kept My word, - Back in verse 7 Jesus identified Himself as the Holy One, and that was an indicator of what this church was, they were living a life of holiness because they were keeping His Word. This word kept means to guard from loss or damage by keeping an eye upon. The Word was important, it was non-negotiable, the Word was the Word, it was not up for debate, this is what it says, that is what it means, and we keep His Word. People are suffering needlessly, both saved and unsaved, because they are not keeping an eye upon the Word, which will guard them from loss and damage in their lives.

Police Chaplain

This Word, when I applied to be a Chaplain I didn't know they were looking for a specific person. It wasn't until later that I found out they accepted me because they wanted to meet the needs of all the Police Officers that were Fundamentalist. I always thought a Fundamentalist was just someone who believed in the inspiration of the Word. Just yesterday I actually went and looked it up in what the definition is theologically:

FUNDAMENTALISM. A conservative system of theology which, historically, has held to five major tenets of the faith: (1) miracles of Christ; (2) virgin birth of Christ; (3) substitutionary atonement of Christ; (4) bodily resurrection of Christ; (5) inspiration of Scripture. Fundamentalism stood opposed to liberalism and modernism.

Not Believe – Virgin – Miracles – Ress / Sanctity of Marriage / 5th Grade Reading

There are many people (professing and un-professing) who don't believe in the virgin birth, the sinless life, His sacrifice on the cross, His resurrection. They do not believe in sanctity of marriage, or sexual immorality whether heterosexual or homosexual. You know what, that is between them and the Holy and True God. But don't say "that is not what the Bible says", or "that is not what the Bible means", for you need only a 5th grade reading comprehension to say that is what it says, that is what it means. Amazing when I read the Bible with my son when he was in 5th grade, he never said that isn't what it says, that doesn't mean that. I'd say what does it say, what does it mean, so what does it mean to you, and we didn't wrestle over what it says and means. Unfortunately those wrestling's will come when his sin nature rises and grows. For all who say that isn't what it says, sin is still sin, hell is still hell, and Jesus is still Jesus, and the Jesus of this Bible has a place prepared for me, and He promises me that He is coming to get me, because the Bible says so. There is a saying, God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. Actually God said it, that settles it, and it doesn't matter if you believe it or not, for it won't change the fact of the matter – God said it, that settles it. This church in Philadelphia was faithful to the Word, they kept it, from Alpha to Omega.

Moses Burning Bush / Teach Word Here – Not Profane

When Moses turned aside to see the burning bush, the Lord said Moses take off your shoes for you are standing on Holy Ground. Moses was standing on Holy Ground because he was coming into the presence of the Lord, and the Lord was going to speak, speak His Word. Later the Word would become flesh and dwell among man. When we teach the Word here, we believe we are coming into Holy Ground, when we open the Word at home, we should not take it as opening up the newspaper but coming into the presence of the Holy God, and looking for Him to speak to us personally. When the Bible says that something is profane, it means to make something common, and there is nothing common about this Word. Each day we forgot that in our personal bible study, every time we forgot that when we come

together here in this sanctuary, we diminish its power in our life. When we open the Word, and people move and chat while the Word is going forth, don't be surprised when we stop the teaching to correct the problem. Moses, take off thy shoes for you are standing on Holy Ground. The Church of Philadelphia kept the word, and God commends them for it:

(Exodus 3:3 NKJV) Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

(Exodus 3:4 NKJV) So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Exodus 3:5 NKJV) Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

(Exodus 3:6 NKJV) Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Word Greater than Name

The Lord says that He magnifies His Word above His name. That is a powerful statement considering that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and tongue confess. For the church at Philadelphia, the word was non-negotiable, and they lived the Word, from the Alpha to the Omega:

(Psalms 138:2 NKJV) I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

(Philippians 2:9 NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

(Philippians 2:10 NKJV) 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,

(Philippians 2:11 NKJV) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:12 NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

(Philippians 2:13 NKJV) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

And have not denied My name

Not into Their Name – But His Name / Truth / Devotion to Jesus – Warmth of Passion

3.) and have not denied My name – Notice the Church of Philadelphia isn't in to their name (their denomination), but they are into the name of Jesus – big difference (Remember Sardis was into their name – but God said they were dead). Jesus identified Himself as the True one back in verse 7, and this church here never denied the truth even with all the pagan temples and culture around them, they were faithful to the Lord. This church had a devotion to the name of Jesus. They were faithful even in the hard times. I love the compound definition of devotion – a warmth of passion glowing hot as fire for an object. Our object of passion is none other than the Holy and True, Jesus Christ.

Get Calls from People / Asking Questions

You know I get calls from people looking for a church, so they call and ask questions, interview the church if you will. I commend that, you need to lead your family wisely and protect them. But I'm thinking that maybe I might, after they are done asking questions, ok can I ask you some questions now. Are you going through open doors, do you look for them, do you believe the Word is the Word and that settles it, do you have a devotion for Jesus, do you have a warmth of passion glowing hot as fire for your Lord and Savior. Well if not, then you can't come here, we want to be like the Church of Philadelphia.

3 Things / Just ABC's

We really haven't said anything profound have we? We pretty much have just talked the basics of Christianity. Exactly! This Christian walk is simple, and God wants to keep it simple. Hey do you want to be a Christian that God considers faithful, just do the basics. Christians need no new information, just to apply the information we already know to be true.

(Revelation 3:9 NKJV) "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.

Not Anti-Semitic / God not Done with Israel

Some people use this verse to fuel their anti-Semitism, which is totally out of the context of the Scripture and God's heart. We will clearly see through our study in Revelation that God is not done with Israel, they are special people to the Lord.

Jews Cast Heat Off / Smyrna

We had previously in past studies spoke about how the Jews in order to cast heat off of themselves would direct it towards the Christians (Judaism was already accepted by the Roman Empire, they considered it not a threat to them – but Christianity was a different story). Or, in places where Jews were not pressured, they would bring pressure against the Christians because they were spreading the gospel that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah. Interesting the other church God said this about was Smyrna, the only other church God had nothing negative to say about.

Application for Today / Authority – Experts / You Fools

But specifically what is the application for us today, how can this verse feed us. Plenty I must say. Notice 2 things happening here through 2 words, synagogue and Jews. The synagogue was a place of religious authority, and the Jews in the synagogue were the “so-called” experts on religion. So what happened there to the members of the Church of Philadelphia, and still today are these people of authority, the so-called experts (some have never even read the Bible), telling you and telling others, that you are wrong, that you guys that study the Bible, believe the Bible is the Word of God (every word), that not everyone goes to heaven, prophecy, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and the Words in Red, are wrong, in fact many say you are fools.

One All will Acknowledge You were Right / Hard to Stand – Stand for you are Right

The Lord says all the attacks you get from the world, the people who think they are so smart and so right, they will see they are wrong, and will one day acknowledge their wrong. I know it can be so hard to stand for Christ against those that challenge us, but the Lord says your day will come. I know that can make you feel like you have little strength, but stand strong for your are right.

The Problem in the Church

Not Perfect / Go back 7-8 Often

No problem, not perfect, but no problem. Go back to verses 7-8 often to make sure that God won't have a problem with you.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Speaks of the Tribulation / The Rapture

Speaks of the Tribulation and the Rapture, and God's promise to keep us from that dreadful time on the earth. This is where we will pick-up in our next study.

The Faithful Church

A church that is known for their love one for another; a church that goes through open doors to extend the love of God to the world around them. A church that is living in holiness and truth, has a little strength, keeps His Word, and has a devotion for the Lord. Things to pray about individually and as a church.

The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Part 3 (3:10-13)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each

Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:7 NKJV) "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":

(Revelation 3:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:9 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

(Revelation 3:12 NKJV) "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And 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.

(Revelation 3:13 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Faithful Church

The Church of Philadelphia is known as the faithful church, as the Lord gives them praise for their works, and has nothing negative to say to them.

The Praise of the Church

Recap – Name – Doors – Holiness – Truth – Strength – Word - Devotion

The Faithful Church is a church that is known for their love one for another (Philadelphia means brotherly love); a church that goes through open doors to extend the love of God to the world around them (for that is what this church was doing – a missionary, evangelizing church). A church that is living in holiness and truth (as Jesus identifies Himself with who they were in verse 7). They were faithful in 3 areas, they had a little strength (and thus needed to rely on the Lord's strength), they kept His Word (it was non-negotiable), and they had a devotion for the Lord (their love was burning hot as fire for their Lord). All things we should pray about individually and as a church to be.

Noble Vine / Highest Quality Seed

This verse touches my heart as the Lord speaks of His chosen, this was the church of Philadelphia, and this is what I want to live up to:

(Jeremiah 2:21 NKJV) Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality.....

The Problem in the Church

Not Perfect / Go back 7-8 Often

God says nothing negative about them. They were not perfect (for they still were in the flesh), but God had no problem with them. Go back to verses 7-8 often to make sure that God won't have a problem with you.

Missed Tackles / God like that with Us

It is amazing at how many tackles my son can miss in a game, and my wife at the end of the game say, didn't he have a great game. I'll be like, what! Isn't that the Lord with us? Looking past our faults and failings, and only seeing His child's good things.

Father at the Game

FATHER AT THE GAME - Some years ago Columbia University had a great football coach by the name of Lou Little. One day Lou had a boy try out for the varsity team who wasn't really very good. But Lou noticed that there was something unique about him—while he wasn't nearly good enough to make the team, he had such irrepressible spirit and contagious enthusiasm that Lou thought, This boy would be a great inspiration on the bench. He'll never be able to play, but I'll leave him on the team to encourage the others.

As the season went on, Lou began to develop a tremendous admiration and love for this boy. One of the things that especially impressed him was the manner with which the boy obviously cared for his father. Whenever the father would come for a visit to the campus the boy and his father would always be seen walking together, arm in arm, an obvious indication of an exceptional bond of love between them. They could always be seen on Sunday going to and from the university chapel. It was obvious that theirs was a deep and mutually shared Christian faith. Then, one day, a telephone call came to Coach Little. He was informed that the boy's father had just died—would he be the one to tell the boy? With a heavy heart Lou informed the boy of his father's death, and he immediately left to go home for the funeral.

A few days later the boy returned to the campus, only two days before the biggest game of the season. Lou went to him and said, "Is there anything I can do for you? Anything at all?" And to the coach's astonishment the boy said, "Let me start the game on Saturday!" Lou was taken aback. He thought, I can't let him start—he's not good enough. But he remembered his promise to help and said, "All right—you can start the game," but he thought to himself, I'll leave him in for a few plays and then take him out. The day of the big game arrived. To everyone's surprise the coach started this boy who had never played in a game all season. But imagine even the coach's surprise when, on the very first play from scrimmage, that boy was the one who single-handedly made a tackle that threw the opposing team for a loss. The boy went on to play inspired football play after play. In fact, he played so exceptionally that Lou left him in for the entire game; the boy led his team to victory and he was voted the outstanding player of the game.

When the game was finally over Lou approached the boy and said, "Son, what got into you today?" And the boy replied, "You remember when my father would visit me here at school and we would spend a lot of time together walking arm in arm around the campus? My father and I shared a secret that nobody around here knew anything about. You see, my father was blind—and today was the first time he ever saw me play!"

Certain things See – Heaven / Earth

Our Father in heaven is like the Father spoken of here in this story. There are certain things He can not see from the earthly perspective, and there certain things He only sees from His heavenly perspective. It is because of resurrection vision that we are able to "play above our heads" in the game of life and "see" the purposes and power and love of God, as He watches on, cheering us on, saying that's my boy, that's my girl, did you see that play. I wonder if the Lord turns to the angels in heaven and says did you see my child today, did he have a great day or what, and the angels look at each other, was He watching the same person today that we were.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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. (Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Speaks of the Tribulation – Rapture / 2 Thess – Estb Patience of Soon Return

Verse 10 - Because you have kept My command to persevere: what exactly does that mean. Verses 10-11 speak of the Tribulation and the Rapture, and God's promise to keep us from that dreadful time on the earth. 2 Thessalonians gives more detail, which tells us that God is establishing us in the patience of His soon return, waiting for His return:

(2 Thessalonians 3:5 KJV) And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

Church – Doors – Strength – Word – Devo / Is into Bible Prophecy / His Soon Return

The church that goes through opens doors, that take the opportunities, that uses the treasury of heaven, that has a little strength, that keeps His word, that hasn't denied His name, is also a church that is interested in Bible prophecy, it is a church that is keeping an eye towards the sky waiting for His return.

Effect Way Live – Holiness – Evangelism / Acts 1 – Church History Faded / Churches Today

They knew they would see their Lord soon, and it affected the way they lived, they lived a life of obedience to the word, from personal holiness to evangelizing to the lost among them. In Acts we saw

that the early church was looking for His soon return. But we can see in church history that only in a couple hundred years the interest in prophecy died out. In fact if you go to many Bible teaching churches today, you will find few teaching on prophecy, and the end times stuff. Many Christians do not even know what the Rapture is, and many Christians do not even believe in the rapture, not to mention the unbeliever:

(Acts 1:6 NKJV) Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

(Acts 1:7 NKJV) And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

(Acts 1:8 NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(Acts 1:9 NKJV) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

(Acts 1:10 NKJV) And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

*(Acts 1:11 NKJV) 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.**"*

No Word Rapture – Bible / Harpazo – Rapiemur / Twinkling of Eye

You may say well my Bible concordance doesn't even have the word rapture in it, so yea what are you talking about. We get the word rapture from 1 Thessalonians 4, where the Lord says that we should be caught up together. The word translated "caught up" is a Greek (harpazo) is the word rendered *rapiemur* in the Latin, and is the word from which we get the English word "rapture". The word literally means to violently seize up, snatch up, suddenly catch away, as if a pair of giant hands were to grasp you by the shoulders and snatch you off the earth. This event will occur suddenly, in less than the time it takes to blink an eye; in fact, the Greek word translated "in a moment" in First Corinthians 15:52 means "an atomic moment", i.e., a moment of time so small it cannot be subdivided further. So regardless of what one may call the event - the "rapture", "being caught up", "being snatched away", it is clear that the event will occur.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

*(1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV) Then we who are alive and remain shall **be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

(1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

*(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Paul says We

By the way, notice that Paul said "we", he lived expecting the rapture to happen in his lifetime. Those who live that way today are in good company.

Crazy Talk / Noah and Rain

This rapture thing is crazy, you guys at Calvary Chapel are half-baked. Guess what, one day a man named Noah told everyone to get ready, rain is coming upon the land soon, and people would have said are you crazy, what are you talking about, what is rain, for it had never rained on the earth up to the point of the flood.

I will Keep You – Because Obedient / Definite Article – Specific Time

Verse 10 - *"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole:* Because of their obedience, the faithful church, God said I will keep you from the hour of trial. This hour in the Greek structure is a definite article, meaning it speaks of a specific time. It speaks of the Tribulation Period (Revelation 6-19), and God says I will keep you from it, you will not go through it. This is what we know as the Rapture of the Church, God removing His children before He pours His wrath out upon a Christ rejecting world. It will be a terrible time on earth, plagues, famines, pestilence, it will be hell on earth.

Keep From / People Martyred Saved after Rapture

Jesus says to believers that He will keep us from the hour of trial, not protect us in it. Keep means to guard from damage. We will read throughout the tribulation period martyrs being slaughtered for their faith, for not bowing their knee to the anti-christ. Those being martyred doesn't sound like they are being kept from danger. The ones being martyred are the ones who missed the rapture:

(Revelation 6:9 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:10 NKJV) 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?"

*(Revelation 6:11 NKJV) 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.***

*(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

(Revelation 13:10 NKJV) 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.

*(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years.*

Whole World

Verse 10 - which shall come upon the whole world – notice it is upon the whole world.

To Test – Purpose of Tribulation / We already Found Faultless

Verse 10 - to test those who dwell on the earth – and it's purpose is to test those who dwell on the earth. We test something to see if it is pure, if it has a fault in it. We have already been tested, and found without fault because we are examined through the lens of the Cross of Christ.

Coming Quickly – Without Warning / 3 Views – Pre – Mid – Post / Next Study

Verse 11 - "Behold, I am coming quickly!" – the word quickly (tachos) means to come suddenly, without warning, surprise, so for us it can happen at any time, so be ready. There are 3 basic camps on when the rapture will happen. Pre-tribulation Rapture which is before the Tribulation starts. Mid-Tribulation Rapture which is right at the 3 and ½ year point of the 7 year Tribulation period. And then the Post-Tribulation Rapture of the Church which is after the Tribulation is over. Next study we look at several points of exactly why Scriptures support a Pre-tribulation Rapture of the Church, and one of the points is that He is coming quickly, which means you never know what day it may be, other than it is soon. What position you take on the rapture, will greatly effect the way you live your days here on earth.

We see Signs / Major Prophecy / Tsunami – Katrina – Israel – Microchip

We see the signs all around; the signs are getting louder and clearer every day. Here are the major areas of prophecy the Scriptures speak of, and we will go in detail on them for our Prophecy Update on December 31st:

- Israel / Jerusalem / The Middle East
- Russia (Gog and Magog)
- Earthquakes / Famines / Droughts / Pestilence / War
- Mystery Babylon, One World Religion, The False Prophet
- Babylon, the World Headquarters – Literal or Figurative
- European Superstate / The AntiChrist / One World Government
- Kings of the East
- The Mark of the Beast
- Knowledge shall Increase
- The Great Deception
- Apostasy / Iniquity / Sin Will Abound

But how about just these past few months. The Tsunami killed 250,000. Hurricane Katrina, look at Israel, still front page news with the Gaza withdrawal, not to mention their very existence. How about the chip technology, the signs are getting loud and clear.

Tachometer / rpm / Little at First – Faster / Tach is Pegging

Verse 11 - "Behold, I am coming quickly!" The word here for shortly in the Greek is "tachos", it is where we get our word tachometer. It is the "rpm", revolutions per minute of the engine. The higher the rpm's, the faster the engine is turning, and there is a point where you will hit redline and be turning your engine so fast it will blow. Same application here, we will see signs about us, a little at first, and then more, and more, and more, so much so that we will hit the redline. Precious people the tachometer is pegging, look at the signs around us. The revived Roman Empire before our very eyes, the Mark of the Beast, the One World Economy, One World Religion, and the rebirth of the Nation Israel. I am excited, the engine is about to blow.

Hold Fast – Your Crown / Hold to Verse 7-8 / What Crowns? – Those Invested In

Verse 11 - Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. – Hold fast to what, all the things we have just spoke about (the Word, His Name, Evangelism), and also, our crowns. What are our crowns? Your crowns are the those that you have invested the word of God in, have watered, or maybe been blessed to have been part of the harvest. The crowns the Lord speaks of are those who will be in His presence, and we had a part of it:

(1 Thessalonians 2:18 NKJV) Therefore we wanted to come to you; even I, Paul, time and again; but Satan hindered us.

(1 Thessalonians 2:19 NKJV) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

(1 Thessalonians 2:20 NKJV) For you are our glory and joy.

Hold fast to Them / Pray – Call – Make sure they Continue On

Jesus says hold fast to them, to the ones you have seeded, watered, and harvested, the ones that we have an influence in their spiritual lives, the people God has brought our way, the doors of opportunity He has opened for us to minister to them. Pray for them, call them, meet them for coffee, make sure they continue on.

Noah's Day – Mocked 120 yrs / Moken Illustration

Precious people, in Noah's day they never heard of rain, as many people will say they never heard of the rapture. In Noah's day they mocked him saying you've been talking about this thing called rain now for 120 years, where is it you crazy man. I've had it said to me more times than I can count now, people saying, where is this rapture the Bible talks about, that you keep talking about, that is pure craziness. Here is a story for you, of your day that is perfect illustration of the rapture.

Sea Gypsies See Signs In The Waves

March 20, 2005 – Aired on CBS 60 Minutes (CBS): December 26, 2004, The tsunami may have lasted only a couple of hours, but it will not go away. New casualties are still being discovered: Thais, Swedes, Sri Lankans, and Indonesians. The death toll has topped 175,000. And there's more than 125,000 still missing and presumed dead, death toll will surpass 250,000.

But there's one group who live precisely where the tsunami hit hardest who suffered no casualties at all. They are the sea gypsies of the Andaman Sea, or as they call themselves, the Moken. They've lived for hundreds of years on the islands off the coast of Thailand and Burma. They are, of all the peoples of the world, among the least touched by modern civilization.

And, as Correspondent Bob Simon reports, they miraculously survived the tsunami because they knew it was coming. It's their intimacy with the sea that saved the Moken. They're born on the sea, live on the sea, die on the sea. They know its moods and motions better than any marine biologist. They're nomads, constantly moving from island to island, living more than six months a year on their boats. At low tide, they collect sea cucumbers, and catch eels. At high tide, they dive for shellfish. They've been living this way for so many generations that they've become virtually amphibious. Kids learn to swim before they can walk. Underwater, they can see twice as clearly as the rest of us, and by lowering their heart rate, can stay underwater twice as long. They are truly sea urchins.

60 Minutes discovered a Moken village on an island two hours by speedboat from the coast of Thailand. It had become something of an exotic tourist Mecca before the tsunami. A Bangkok movie star and amateur photographer named Aun was here on Dec. 26, 2004, taking pictures of Moken village life, when someone noticed the sea receding into the distance. Aun's pictures showed the Moken on the beach crying. Did she have any idea why they were crying? "I feel like they know what bad will happen," says Aun. Her pictures also show the Moken fleeing towards higher ground long before the first wave struck. Aun pointed out how high the water first came. And that was just the first wave. The worst was yet to come, and the Moken knew because of signs from the sea.

It wasn't only the sea that was acting strangely. It was the animals, too. On the mainland, elephants started stampeding toward higher ground. Off Thailand's coast, divers noticed dozens of dolphins swimming for deeper water. And on these islands, the cicadas, which are usually so loud, suddenly went silent.

Saleh Kalathalay, a skilled spear-fisherman who was on a different part of the island, also noticed the silence. He ran around warning everyone. Did they believe him? "The young people called me a liar. I said, 'We've told the story of the wave since the old times,' but none of the kids believed me," says Kalathalay. "I grabbed my daughter by the hand and said, 'Child, get out of here, or you'll die!' She said, 'You're a liar, father, you're drunk.' I hadn't had a drop to drink."

Kalathalay brought the skeptics to the water's edge, where they, too, saw the signs. Eventually, everyone, the Moken and the tourists, climbed to higher ground and were saved. But there's nothing left in the village. Why does Kalathalay think the tsunami happened? "The wave is created by the spirit of the sea," says Kalathalay. "The Big Wave had not eaten anyone for a long time, and it wanted to taste them again." Do the Moken consider themselves unlucky because their village was destroyed, or lucky because they survived? "I think they just take it as a matter of fact," says Dr. Narumon Hinshiranan, an anthropologist, and one of the very few experts who speak the Moken language.

*How did the Moken know that the tsunami was coming? "The water receded very fast and one wave, one small wave, came so they recognized that this is not ordinary," says Hinshiranan. "And then they have this kind of legend that passed from generations to generations about seven waves." It's a legend recited around campfires, bearing an astonishing resemblance to what actually happened on Dec. 26, 2004. They call it the Laboon, the "wave that eats people," and it's brought on by the angry spirits of the ancestors. Before it comes, the sea recedes. Then the waters flood the earth, destroy it, and make it clean again. "So basically, the tsunami myth is that the world is reborn after it is covered with water," says Simon. "So, we're back to the Biblical flood." "Yes," says French anthropologist Jacques Ivanoff, the world's foremost authority on the Moken. He's been living with them on and off for more than 20 years. **60 Minutes** joined him on a voyage of discovery.*

Ivanoff was going to the Moken islands off the coast of Burma, a military dictatorship closed to the outside world. There had been no news of what had happened to these Moken since the tsunami. "We knew that the Moken survived the tsunami, the Moken in Thailand survived," says Simon. "We really don't know for sure what happened in Burma, do we?" "Nobody can know, because no information gets out of Burma," says Ivanoff. "Everybody has to say nothing happened. That means the tsunami stopped at the border – that's it, finished, end of the story." Ivanoff's boat, a converted cargo ship called the Moken Queen could have sailed right off the pages of Joseph Conrad. The captain was called "Long Ear," and the crew was Burmese. The deck was shrouded in nets to keep out malarial mosquitoes. All sense of time of the 21st century seemed to evaporate into the tropical night air as the boat probed farther and farther into what often seemed to be the heart of darkness. "You are outside of everywhere. You are nowhere, in fact," says Ivanoff. At dawn, two Moken boats came out of nowhere. The Moken on the two boats hadn't seen each other since the tsunami and started exchanging tales of survival. While the Moken off Thailand had been on dry ground, these Moken in Burmese waters had been in their boats, at sea. "The water had such unbelievable strength," said one Moken man. "It was swirling like a whirlpool as if it was boiling and coming from the depths of the earth." Like their Thai cousins, these Moken also knew what to do. Since they were at sea, they made for deeper water and were spared. Others, like some Burmese fishermen near them, were not. "How come they knew something was wrong, and the Burmese fishermen did not," Simon asked the Moken man. "They weren't Burmese businessmen; they were fishermen. They should know the sea, too." "They were collecting squid, they were not looking at anything. They saw nothing, they looked at nothing. They don't know how to look," says the Moken man. "Suddenly, everything rose up, their boats were thrown up in the air. The violence was unbelievable." A family of Moken was living on a boat on the beach when the Moken Queen got to shore. But during the tsunami, they had also been at sea. Simon started by introducing himself.

The Picture – Woman at Shore / People Missing Rapture

I will never forget the picture that I saw. It was taken by the above photographer. It was a picture of a woman screaming as the waters receded, she knew the Tsunami was coming. I look at that picture and it makes me think of all the people that will scream the same way, but after the rapture. They will say it is true, what they said is true, and I missed it, and know I must go into the horrible Tribulation period they spoke of. Imagine missing the rapture, after you have been told, horrible, horrible.

We must Hold Fast – Never stop Preaching / People Saved after Rapture

We must hold fast, and we must be like the Church of Philadelphia, we can not stop preaching this word. I believe I/we are the church that will be raptured, and I take comfort in that, that when it happens, all the people I told about the rapture and the way to peace with God, will remember my words, and though they will have to endure horrendous times, they will know they can still respond to that message of peace with God, and prayerfully many will turn to Him. I believe the moment after the rapture, will be the largest single day of professions for Christ in the history of the gospel, and it will all be because we kept the Word, we kept telling people the word.

(Revelation 3:12 NKJV) "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And 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.

Pillar in Temple – Honor Someone / Pillar in Jesus Temple

Verse 12 - I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more -Remember Philadelphia was known as little Athens because it had so many temples. If you wanted to honor someone there in Philadelphia, you would have a pillar erected in one of these temples in honor of that person. Jesus says you will be a pillar in My temple, for which there can be no greater honor, no pillar or honor in this world can compare to God saying, imagine this, that He will honor us. We will not be pillars outside the temple, but inside, there in the Holy of Holies.

Name Changed Several Times

Verse 12 - New Name - Remember the city was destroyed in 17AD by a great earthquake and Rome helped rebuild it. In gratitude for Caesar Tiberius's financial aid in rebuilding their city, the Philadelphians joined with several other cities in erecting a monument to him. Going beyond the other cities, Philadelphia actually changed its name to Neocaesarea for a number of years. Several decades later, the city again changed its name to Flavia, in honor of the ruling Roman Imperial family. It would be known by both names, Philadelphia and Flavia, throughout the second and third centuries.

God's name on Us – No More Ray

God is going put His name upon us. Their will be no Ray Bollas in heaven, no one can say I was talking to Ray today, and the other person will say Ray, I knew him on earth what a jerk, there will be no Ray Bollas in heaven, thank God I'll be getting a new name.

(Revelation 3:13 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Learn from Mokens / When – Time / Want – Accumulate – Nomadic / Goodbye

We can learn more from those Mokens, the story goes on about them. There are certain words that don't exist in their language. For instance "when", because they have no concept of time. They just live for that day, no planning and stressing over tomorrow. Another word is "want", "take" because they don't accumulate anything. They say baggage is not good for a nomadic people, it just ties them down. How so are we just pilgrims, strangers passing through this earth. They also have no word for goodbye, or hello, because goodbye and hello are points in time, and they have no concept of time.

*Simon: My name is Bob. Moken man: Bob, Bob, Bob, Bob. We had come here to find out whether these people had survived the tsunami. We wound up captivated by their culture. We had never seen anything like it. The Moken don't know how old they are. Ivanoff says this is because, "Time is not the same concept as we have. You can't say for instance, 'When.' It doesn't exist in Moken language." And Ivanoff says "when" is not the only word missing from the Moken language. "Want" is another. "Yes, you use it very often," says Ivanoff. "Take that out of your language and you see how often you use it. 'I want this, I want that.'" There is also no word for "take." "You take something," says Ivanoff. "You give or you take. You don't want." The fact is, the Moken want very little. What they don't want is to accumulate anything. Baggage is not good for a nomadic people. It ties you down. They have no notion and no desire for wealth. Is there any other word missing from the Moken language? "No goodbye, no hello," says Ivanoff. "That's quite difficult. Imagine after one year, you live with them, and then you go. You go. That's it. Finish." And, there are no greetings. While **60 Minutes** was on a Thai Moken island, a flotilla from Burma dropped by. They didn't seem terribly excited by this. But visits from relatives, and they're all relatives, happen all the time. And since there is no notion of time, it doesn't matter if the last visit was a week ago or five years ago. There's just a constant commingling. And, in the wake of the tsunami, they're all busy now, rebuilding their boats and their lives.*

"What I saw since the tsunami is yes, they take this opportunity to make the strong group stronger," says Ivanoff to Simon. "For instance, you are sitting on his boat." "Is it OK with him," asks Simon. "No problem," says Ivanoff. "He wanted to work a bit on the boat, but..." "But he doesn't mind waiting," asks Simon. "Of course not," says Ivanoff, who says this is not a problem. But the Moken do have problems. The Burmese have turned some of their islands into military bases. And the Thais are having them make trinkets for tourists, a trend that could ultimately threaten their way of life far more than any number of tsunamis. But the Moken don't seem terribly worried by all this. Perhaps that's because "worry" is just one more of those words that don't exist in their language.

How to Live Today / No Goodbye – See ya in the Air

How we should live in these last days, I pray I will never have to use the word goodbye, as we all see each other in the air on that glorious day.

The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Part 4: (Revelation 3:10-11)

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.***

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise

each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:7 NKJV) "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':"

(Revelation 3:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:9 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

(Revelation 3:12 NKJV) "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And 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.

(Revelation 3:13 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The Faithful Church

The Church of Philadelphia is known as the faithful church, as the Lord gives them praise for their works, and has nothing negative to say to them.

The Praise of the Church

Recap – Name – Doors – Holiness – Truth – Strength – Word - Devotion

The Faithful Church is a church that is known for their love one for another (Philadelphia means brotherly love); a church that goes through open doors to extend the love of God to the world around them (for that is what this church was doing – a missionary, evangelizing church). A church that is living in holiness and truth (as Jesus identifies Himself with who they were in verse 7). They were faithful in 3 areas, they had a little strength (and thus needed to rely on the Lord's strength), they kept His Word (it was non-negotiable), and they had a devotion for the Lord (their love was burning hot as fire for their Lord). All things we should pray about individually and as a church to be.

The Problem in the Church

No Negative / Precious Promise – Kept from Hour of Trial

God says nothing negative about them, and God gives the faithful church a most precious promise, He will keep us from that hour of trial (the Tribulation), chapters 6-19 of Revelation, where things will be so horrible on this earth that people will wish they were dead, and there will be a period that they won't be able to die. God promises that His church, His Bride, will not have to endure that terrible period. God promises to seize up, snatch away, rapture His Bride.

No Word Rapture – Bible / Harpazo – Rapiemur / Twinkling of Eye

You may say well my Bible concordance doesn't even have the word rapture in it, so yea what are you talking about. We get the word rapture from 1 Thessalonians 4, where the Lord says that we should be caught up together. The word translated "caught up" is a Greek (harpazo) is the word rendered *rapiemur* in the Latin, and is the word from which we get the English word "rapture". The word literally means to violently seize up, snatch up, suddenly catch away, as if a pair of giant hands were to grasp you by the

shoulders and snatch you off the earth. This event will occur suddenly, in less than the time it takes to blink an eye; in fact, the Greek word translated "in a moment" in First Corinthians 15:52 means "an atomic moment", i.e., a moment of time so small it cannot be subdivided further. So regardless of what one may call the event - the "rapture", "being caught up", "being snatched away", it is clear that the event will occur.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

*(1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV) Then we who are alive and remain shall **be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

(1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

*(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

3 Camps – Pre-Mid-Post / Your View Effect way Live

There are 3 basic camps on when the rapture will happen. Pre-tribulation Rapture which is before the Tribulation starts. Mid-Tribulation Rapture which is right at the 3 and ½ year point of the 7 year Tribulation period. And then the Post-Tribulation Rapture of the Church which is after the Tribulation is over. Why get all concerned about this issue?" you might say. My answer is because I believe one's view on Bible prophecy and the timing of the Rapture will affect the way one lives out his/her faith here on earth.

Early Church / 2 Factors On-Fire / Didn't Come Back & Not Sorry

Two factors kept the early church on fire: the empowering of the Holy Ghost and the belief that Jesus would return during their lifetime. "But He didn't come back in their day," you say. And you're right—but do you think those early believers are in heaven now, saying, "We didn't get bogged down in materialism or trivial pursuits. We sought the Lord. We witnessed fervently. We lived for the kingdom. If only we knew He wasn't coming, we could have played more racquetball"? No! They're ecstatic that they chose to do what Jesus says to do in every generation—to watch, to be ready, to live for His coming, and you can be sure they heard those words, well done thy good and faithful servant. Christian, please don't let this just be a Bible Study to you, let this study change your life, let this study put life in the proper perspective.

Your Position - Won't Effect Salvation – But will Effect Way Live

Whether or not you believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture will not affect where you'll ultimately end up. If you're a believer, you'll be in heaven no matter what position you hold. But your viewpoint concerning the Rapture very definitely affects how you live your life this side of eternity.

Daniel reading Prophecy – Lead him to Action / Not Debates – Interesting / But to Respond

We saw Daniel reading the writings of Jeremiah, and he saw that as the Lord had prophesied through Jeremiah, that Jewish captivity in Babylon would only last 70 years, and Daniel saw that the time was near, the 70 years were almost up. We see that the reading of prophecy did not just spark an interest in Daniel, it wasn't something that he had interesting conversation and debates with others over, rather it moved him to action. We can read that he was moved to prayer and fasting. We read of him seeking the Lord's will and direction for his life in light of the meaning of the prophecy revealed to him. That is what prophecy is to do, it is a primary reason God gives it to us. It is not to intrigue us, or to engage us in debates, but to change us, and to seek the Lord as to how do we respond, what are we to do in light of this information, pertaining to these last days:

(Daniel 9:1 NKJV) In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

(Daniel 9:2 NKJV) in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.
(Daniel 9:3 NKJV) Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

Study to Share / Written so we Might be Ready

So we are to study to show ourselves approved, and we must also be able to share this information with others. We must be able to show them in the Scriptures why it is a Pre-tribulation rapture, and why they need to be ready. Remind you, this book of Revelation was written so that we might be ready, and to have others be ready:

(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(2 Timothy 2:1 NKJV) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

10 Reason Pre-Tribulation Rapture

We will look at 10 Scriptural reasons of why it is a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church:

- 1.) Plainly – Jesus said no man knows the day or hour of the Rapture
- 2.) Periphery – We are to be continually looking for Jesus
- 3.) Purity – Not knowing when the Rapture will occur produces a life of purity.
- 4.) Philadelphia – God promises the Faithful Church they will be kept from Tribulation
- 5.) Pattern – The pattern (outline) of Revelation shows a Pre-tribulation Rapture
- 6.) Peace – The promise of a Pre-tribulation Rapture is to give us Peace in our heart.
- 7.) Purpose – A Pre-tribulation Rapture fits with the Purpose of the Tribulation
- 8.) Penalty – God has not appointed us to Wrath, the Penalty has already been paid.
- 9.) Presented – As Presented in the Scriptures God removes His Righteous.
- 10.) Promised – God has Promised His Bride a Honeymoon.

1.) Plainly – Jesus said no man knows the day or hour of the Rapture

Plainly – Words in Red / Imminent – Matt 6:33

Just real plainly, real simply, we start with the Words in Red, Jesus said no one knows the day or hour. Thus it leaves the believer in the place of imminent return, since we don't know, it could be at any moment, maybe this very moment. God planned it that way because the believer that lives with His imminent return in mind, will be a believer that is living Matthew 6:33, seeking first the Kingdom:

(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

(Matthew 24:38 NKJV) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

(Matthew 24:39 NKJV) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

(Matthew 24:40 NKJV) "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

(Matthew 24:41 NKJV) "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

(Matthew 24:42 NKJV) "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

(Matthew 24:43 NKJV) "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

(Matthew 24:44 NKJV) "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

(1 Thessalonians 5:1 NKJV) But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:2 NKJV) For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Pre-Trib allows Unknown Return / Post-Trib would known 3.5 years / Pre-trib Witnesses

Pre-Tribulation Rapture allows for the unknown time of the Lord's return. According to Daniel's prophecy, three and a half biblical years (a Biblical year being three hundred sixty days) from the day Antichrist enters the temple and demands worship midway through the Tribulation, the Lord will return.

Consequently, if believers were on earth during the Tribulation, they would be able to predict the exact time of the Second Coming—three and a half biblical years, or forty-two months, or one thousand two hundred sixty days after Antichrist enters the temple. Even the Mid-tribulation people could get real close once they saw the 2 witnesses witnessing in Jerusalem knowing they will witness for 3.5 years. The

problem for their view is plainly, 1 Thessalonians 5:2 and Matthew 24:42 make it clear that no one knows the hour of His coming.

2.) Periphery – We are to be continually looking for Jesus

Pre-trib Eyes Focused / Mid-Post looking for Anti-Christ

A Pre-tribulation rapture of the church keeps our eyes (periphery – vision) focused on Jesus Christ, where they should be. If you do not believe in a pre-Tribulation Rapture, you cannot look for Jesus Christ because, according to your eschatological viewpoint, Antichrist must appear first. Therefore, you find yourself scanning the news, checking out current events, watching the global scene for Antichrist rather than for Jesus Christ.

Angels to Disciples – Eye on Sky / Not Europe – Temple – 2 Witnesses

The angels told the early disciples keep your eye on the sky, because as He went, so will He come. They didn't say keep an eye on the temple, or Europe, or be looking for 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, but keep looking for Him:

(Acts 1:9 NKJV) Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

(Acts 1:10 NKJV) And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

(Acts 1:11 NKJV) 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."

Yes we Scan / Excitement – The Tachos / Keep Eyes Looking for Him – Effect our Lives

Yes we scan the newspaper and watch the world events because they give us excitement that Jesus' appearing is soon, and we know it is closer today than yesterday (the tachometer is pegging out, the engine is going to blow). But any other view has us looking for the rebuilding of the temple because the anti-christ is going to go in there and commit the abomination of desolation. We are looking at world leaders and saying who can arise out of Europe and be the anti-christ. All things that can take our eyes off of looking for Jesus Christ, and it will greatly effect the way we live.

3.) Purity – Not knowing when the Rapture will occur produces a life of purity.

Purifying Effect / 1 John 3 / I Want for You

"I want you looking for Jesus every day," John said, "because he who has the hope of the imminent, sudden appearing of Christ and the Rapture of the church purifies himself" (see 1 John 3:3). That is why I believe your view on the Rapture is of utmost importance. Live in constant expectancy of Jesus' return, gang. Be watching and be ready. The realization that Jesus could come at anytime produces a great purifying effect in our lives. The apostle John said:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Vital Church Teaches This / Sadly Most Don't

It is a tremendous purifying hope that He could come at anytime. It is vital that the church teaches continually on the rapture, sadly most don't.

Find Doing when Lord Returns / Be the Wise Servant - Intelligent

There are many things I don't want the Lord finding me doing when He returns. I want to be busy about the things of the Lord. Jesus calls such a one as a faithful and wise servant, the word for wise is intelligent. Philadelphia is known as the Faithful Church:

(Matthew 24:45 NKJV) "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"

(Matthew 24:46 NKJV) "Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing."

(Matthew 24:47 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

Tendencies of Those that Don't

On the opposite side, look at the effect of the servant that says the Lord delays His coming. He began to live a careless life, abusing people, and drawn to drunkardness. Notice the 2 things they are prone to, drinking (carnality), and abusing (brutality):

(Matthew 24:48 NKJV) "But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

(Matthew 24:49 NKJV) "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

(Matthew 24:50 NKJV) "the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

(Matthew 24:51 NKJV) "and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Church History / Early Church on-Fire Evangelism / Dark Ages – Carnality & Brutality

Remember our past studies on church history as we looked at the 7 churches. The early church believed in the prophecy of Jesus' soon return, and they lived like it. A life of purity, a life of evangelism, so much so they turned the whole world upside-down, so much so that the gospel reached the whole world. But as we studied the church period where they quit looking into and studying prophecy was the period known as the Dark Ages as the church was infested with carnality and brutality.

Evil Servant / Now Rotten / Like Apple – Instrument out of Tune

In the Greek, the word there for evil servant was used in that day as: that which once was good, but now is rotten. Like an apple that once was crisp and is now pruned and rotted. Like a musical instrument which once was in-tune and produced sweet music, but now is out-of-tune and produces pain to the ear.

Young drawn to Lust / Older Drawn to Materialism / Fights in Home

How many young people would not be drawn to the lust of the flesh if the rapture was a forefront of their minds. The older are drawn to materialism. How many fights and arguments in the home would not be if the rapture was in the forefront of a husband and wife minds. I surely don't want to be fighting with my wife when the rapture happens.

Whole Point – Be Ready / Produces Purifying Effect

Jesus whole point of the story (Matt 24) is to be ready, to watch. Looking for His soon return, looking and expecting the rapture produces a purifying effect in our lives.

Important have Same Attitude / Gospel – Material – Purity / Lord creates that Belief

How important that we have the same attitude of the Lord's return as did the early church. It gave them urgency in getting the gospel out, it gave them the proper perspective on the material things, and an emphasis on purity. As they believed that Jesus was coming at any moment to wind things up. The Lord created that belief in the early church that His return was soon, and I believe He does it in every generation, but I look at the signs before us today and have to have the expectation that we are the generation that will see His return.

More Look for Jesus / More become Like Jesus

The more you look for Jesus Christ, the more you will become like Him. Only a Pre-tribulation rapture view will have us focused on Jesus Christ:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

4.) Philadelphia – God promises the Faithful Church they will be kept from Tribulation

God's Promise to Faithful Church

God promises the Faithful church that they will be kept from the hour of trial.

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

I will Keep You – Because Obedient / Definite Article – Specific Time

Because of their obedience, the faithful church, God said I will keep you from the hour of trial. This hour in the Greek structure is a definite article, meaning it speaks of a specific time. It speaks of the Tribulation Period (Revelation 6-19), and God says I will keep you from it, you will not go through it.

Keep From / People Martyred Saved after Rapture

Jesus says to believers that He will keep us from the hour of trial, not protect us in it. Keep means to guard from damage. We will read throughout the tribulation period martyrs being slaughtered for their faith, for not bowing their knee to the anti-christ. Those being martyred doesn't sound like they are being kept from danger. The ones being martyred are the ones who missed the rapture:

(Revelation 6:9 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:10 NKJV) 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?"

*(Revelation 6:11 NKJV) 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.***

*(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

(Revelation 13:10 NKJV) 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.

*(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years.*

The Very name of Philadelphia / Not my Brother

The very name of Philadelphia is brotherly love, and that name is used for a reason. I and you, would never allow our brother or sister to suffer. If we knew trouble was coming we would go and pull them out before the affliction would come upon them.

Come Quickly / Unannounced

May I also not that Jesus said to the Church of Philadelphia that He comes quickly. The word quickly (tachos in the Greek) means to come suddenly, without warning, surprise, so for us it can happen at any time, so be ready:

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

5.) Pattern – The pattern (outline) of Revelation shows a Pre-tribulation Rapture

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Pre-trib is Outline / Twisted Pretzel / 5 after 11 if Mid / 5 after 19 Post / Pre it flows

Pre-Tribulation Rapture follows the outline of the Book of Revelation. If you don't embrace a Pre-Tribulation view, your understanding of Revelation becomes as twisted as a pretzel because you've got to put chapters 4 and 5 after chapter 11 (after 2 witnesses killed), if you hold to a Mid-Tribulation stance; after chapter 19 (after the 2nd Coming of Christ) if you take a Post-Tribulation point of view. Only a Pre-Tribulation placement of the Rapture allows for a consistent flow of the Book of Revelation.

Meta Tauta

The Lord gives us another key to unlock this book, it isn't a hard book to understand as many people say or perceive. The Greek word (*meta tauta*) which means "after". So the Lord says after these things, then

this begins. In our outline the things which are (the 7 Churches) then after the church period starts the next the Tribulation period. Chapter 2-3 are the Churches, then we begin chapter 4 with (*meta tauta*). I like how verse 1 has a trumpet sounding and a call to come up here, (*Revelation 1:19 NKJV*) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this (*meta tauta*).

(*Revelation 4:1 NKJV*) After these things (*meta tauta*). 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." (*meta tauta*).

(1 *Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV*) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(1 *Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV*) Then we who are alive and remain shall **be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

(1 *Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV*) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

No Mention of Church till Chapter

The word "church" is not used again in the book after 3:14. After chapter 4-5 there is no picture of the church until after the Tribulation period is over.

6.) Peace – The promise of a Pre-tribulation Rapture is to give us Peace in our heart.

Comforting One – Escape Agony / Mid or Post no Comfort

The doctrine is to be a comforting one, to bring peace to the heart (1 *Thessalonians 4:18*). The belief that the Rapture happens after or in the middle of the Tribulation is anything but comforting because it means believers must endure unbelievable agony before they are taken to heaven.

(1 *Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV*) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(1 *Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV*) Then we who are alive and remain shall **be caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

(1 *Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV*) **Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Imagine hell on Earth – Boils – Locust – Famine – Drought – Scorched / Comforting Words?

Imagine if the word said, "you will go through hell on earth, you will have boils on your skin, locust attacking you, famine, drought, the earth will be scorched, earthquakes, and continual persecution from the anti-christ, you will go through extreme agony, now comfort one another with these words. No, no, we will be caught-up, taken out of here, we are heaven bound for a marriage supper with the Lamb, now comfort one another with those words.

7.) Purpose – A Pre-tribulation Rapture fits with the Purpose of the Tribulation

Pre-Trib Fits with Purpose / Wrath – Christ Rejecting / Must Judge – to be Righteous Judge

A Pre-tribulation rapture of the church fits with the purpose of the Tribulation. The Tribulation is God's wrath against a Christ rejecting world. God must judge a rebellious world or else He is not a righteous judge, he would be more a social worker than a judge. Imagine a judge today who allowed every criminal to go free saying maybe grace will change his heart, and that same person came back into the court time and time again. God's grace has its limit.

(*Revelation 6:15 NKJV*) 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,

(*Revelation 6:16 NKJV*) 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!"

(*Revelation 6:17 NKJV*) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

3 Specific Purposes – Shake – Wake - Make

As we study the Tribulation in chapters 6-19, we will see God doing 3 very specific things:

- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To Wake-up a Nation (Israel)
- To Make-up the Kingdom

Shake – Cruising / Keep Preaching

The purpose of the tribulation will be to shake-up the heathen. People are just cruising through life, thinking all is well, life is good, got my 2 cars, house, nice job, because I'm a nice person. They have no idea they are destined to hell because they have not sought a Savior for their sins. Christian keep preaching, keep sharing, keep telling them about the Rapture, because when you are gone, they will remember your words. When they enter into the Tribulation period after missing the Rapture, their life will be shaken, and they will see the need to be rescued. Part of the reason of the Tribulation is to shake-up the heathen:

(Revelation 6:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:14 NKJV) Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Wake – God not Done with Israel / All Saved – God Protects in Trib – Wounds of Friends

Secondly, part of the reason of the Tribulation is to Wake-up a nation, the children of Israel. God is by no means done with the nation of Israel, and we will read in the coming chapters how all of Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25-27). It will be during the Tribulation period that they will see that they missed their Messiah, and they will come to Him, and He will protect them (Rev 12:6). They will ask Him where did you get those wounds, and He will say in the house of My friends:

*(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.***

*(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) 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.

*(Zechariah 13:6 NKJV) "And one will say to him, '**What are these wounds between your arms?**' Then he will answer, '**Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.**'"*

Jacobs Trouble / Deuteronomy – Scattered – Regathered in Last Days / God Not done

Jeremiah 30 says that the children of Israel will go through the Tribulation (known as Jacob's Trouble), but during that time all of Israel will see their Messiah. In Deuteronomy it is prophesied that Israel will be scattered, but then re-gathered, and in the Last Days (latter) they will go through great Tribulation. And so it was in 70AD they were scattered, and 2,000 years later on May 14th 1948 they were gathered, and then into the Tribulation they will go. God is by no means done with the Nation Israel and He will wake them up in the Tribulation Period:

*(Jeremiah 30:7 NKJV) Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, **But he shall be saved out of it.***

(Deuteronomy 4:27 NKJV) "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.

(Deuteronomy 4:28 NKJV) "And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

(Deuteronomy 4:29 NKJV) "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

*(Deuteronomy 4:30 NKJV) "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you **in the latter days**, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice*

(Deuteronomy 4:31 NKJV) '(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

Make-up Kingdom / Sort-Out

Thirdly, the purpose of the Tribulation is to make-up a Kingdom. God through the Tribulation will sort out those who love Him, and those who will not bow a knee, and then establish His Millennial Kingdom, then after that His heavenly Kingdom. Let me just add here, any Christian who says I really don't care about ruling and reigning with Him in the Millennial Kingdom, I just want to make it into heaven, you will care

when that day comes, and you'll be sorry that you didn't invest now, for what we do in our lifetime on earth will determine what we do in the Millennial Kingdom:

(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:5 NKJV) But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

(Revelation 20:6 NKJV) 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.

Verse 10 – Against Whole World / To Test / Church Already Tested – Found Pure

Verse 10 says it is coming against the whole world, to test them. Its purpose is to test those who dwell on the earth. We test something to see if it is pure, if it has a fault in it. We have already been tested, and found without fault because we are examined through the lens of the Cross of Christ:

(Revelation 3:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

(Ephesians 5:26 NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

(Ephesians 5:27 NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

8.) Penalty – God has not appointed us to Wrath, the Penalty has already been paid.

Wrath of Lamb / Church Not Appointed to Wrath / Our Hero took our Wrath

The Tribulation is the outpouring of the wrath of the Lamb—and God has not appointed us to wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11). The wrath that should have been hurled at you and poured out on me was absorbed by our Hero, our Lord, our Savior on the Cross of Calvary:

(1 Thessalonians 5:8 NKJV) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

(1 Thessalonians 5:10 NKJV) who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

*(1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV) **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another**, just as you also are doing.*

Comfort with These Words

Notice again, it says to comfort one another with these words.

9.) Presented – As Presented in the Scriptures God removes His Righteous.

Not Appointed to Wrath / Not Judge Righteous with Wicked / Abe – Lot - Peter

God has not appointed His children to wrath, as He will not punish the just (righteous) with the unjust (unrighteous). We see that pictured very clearly with the story of Lot and the judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham asked the Lord will you judge the righteous with the unrighteous, and God said surely not. So we see God pulling "righteous" Lot out before the destruction came down. In reference to this, Peter writes, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations" (2 Peter 2:9). The word translated "temptations" is the same word translated "tribulation."

(Genesis 18:25 NKJV) "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

(Genesis 18:26 NKJV) So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) 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;

(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

(2 Peter 2:6 NKJV) and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);

(2 Peter 2:9 NKJV) then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

(Genesis 19:12 NKJV) Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city; take them out of this place!

(Genesis 19:13 NKJV) "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

Pictured in Enoch / Noah type of Israel / Wake-up Nation

The Rapture before the Tribulation is illustrated in Enoch, who was taken to heaven prior to the Flood (Genesis 5:24). "Wrong analogy," some protest. "The correct picture is Noah who went through the tribulation of the Flood." But wait a minute. Noah is not a picture of the church, but of Israel, who will indeed go through the Tribulation—and will at last come to Jesus as a result. Part of the Purpose of the Tribulation is to Wake-up a nation::

(Genesis 5:24 NKJV) And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) 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:

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) 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.

Daniel 3 - Missing / Nebe 666 / 3 Hebrew Boys – Jesus Appears – 7times / Where is Daniel

Rapture before the Tribulation is illustrated in Daniel 3. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar, they were thrown into a fiery furnace. But where was their friend Daniel? Either he did, indeed, bow to Nebuchadnezzar—which is completely contrary to the rest of the book—or, his omission is in itself a picture of the Rapture. Bible scholars believe that, very likely, he was away on official business as an emissary. All we know with certainty, however, is that he was taken out of the scene. Interesting, the statue that Nebuchadnezzar build and demands people to bow down and worship is 6 cubits high, 6 cubits wide, and has 6 stringed instruments playing around it. – 666. As too will the Anti-christ, his number being 666, will demand all to bow down and worship him. Also as interesting is that the heat is to be turned up 7 times hotter (how long the Tribulation – 7yrs). In the heat of the fire the Lord appears to the Hebrew boys, just as the Lord in the midst of the fire of the Tribulation will appear to all the Hebrews.

(Daniel 3:1 KJV) Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits (60), and the breadth thereof six cubits (6): he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

(Daniel 3:5 KJV) That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

*(Daniel 3:19 NKJV) Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace **seven times more** than it was usually heated.*

(Daniel 3:24 NKJV) Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king."

(Daniel 3:25 NKJV) "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Daniel 9 / 70 Weeks / 69 to Palm Sunday / Church Period / Final 7

Pre-Tribulation Rapture squares with the prophecy of Daniel. At the end of Daniel 9, Daniel was given the timetable for all of Jewish history in units of heptads, or weeks. It is clear from this all-important passage of Scripture that the sixty-nine weeks of Daniel refer to the time between the commandment to rebuild the temple, given in 445 B.C. by Artaxerxes, and the coming of Messiah, fulfilled perfectly on Palm Sunday when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. But Daniel was also told, "Seventy weeks are determined upon Israel." To what does the seventieth week of Daniel refer? To the Tribulation. You see, the seventy weeks of Daniel refer to Israel. The church was not present for the first sixty-nine weeks. And the seventieth week doesn't begin until after the church is raptured. In other words, if the church was not present in the first sixty-nine weeks, why would she be present in the last week? She won't. She'll be in heaven:

(Daniel 9:24 NKJV) "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

(Daniel 9:25 NKJV) "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

(Daniel 9:26 NKJV) "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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."

Great Confusion / Matt 24 – the Elect

One of the greatest confusion in the Scriptures, where a lot of Mid-tribulation and Post-tribulation theology comes from is the misunderstanding of Matthew 24 in speaking of the Elect going through the Tribulation, and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened:

(Matthew 24:21 NKJV) "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

(Matthew 24:22 NKJV) "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

3 Elects – Christians – Israel – Saints Saved in Tribulation

On the basis of this verse, people say "Aha! Here we see the elect in the Tribulation"—failing to realize that the term "elect" refers to three groups of people: Christians (Colossians 3:12), Israel (Isaiah 45:4), and those who will be saved in the Tribulation (Matthew 24:21, 22).

(Colossians 3:12 NKJV) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

(Isaiah 45:4 NKJV) For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me.

(Matthew 24:22 NKJV) "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Elect of Matt 24 – Israel / Sabbath Day / Christians not under Sabbath

To which of the elect does Jesus refer in Matthew 24:21? I believe the answer lies in the verse preceding it... But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day (Matthew 24:20). Even to this day, transportation in Israel is shut down on the Sabbath. Since the Sabbath means nothing to Gentile nations, the application to Israel is clear. As we have seen, Israel (the Elect) will go through the Tribulation, but God will whisk them away to safety (pray that journey isn't on the Sabbath). For today, for the believer, we are no longer under the Sabbath law:

(Matthew 24:20 NKJV) "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

(Matthew 24:21 NKJV) "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

(Matthew 24:22 NKJV) "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

(Colossians 2:15 NKJV) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

(Colossians 2:16 NKJV) So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

(Colossians 2:17 NKJV) which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

Pray Accounted Worthy / Our Worthy is Jesus on Cross / Found Faithful like Philadelphia

Jesus told us to pray that we would be raptured before the Tribulation. In speaking of the Tribulation in His Olivet Discourse, Jesus said, "Watch and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things" (see Luke 21:36). How are we accounted worthy? One way: We are worthy because of what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary. We are found worthy, for we are the Faithful Church of Philadelphia.

(Luke 21:31 NKJV) "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

(Luke 21:32 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

(Luke 21:33 NKJV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

(Luke 21:34 NKJV) "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

(Luke 21:35 NKJV) "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

(Luke 21:36 NKJV) "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

10.) Promised – God has Promised His Bride a Honeymoon.

Fits with Jewish Marriage

Pre-Tribulation Rapture makes sense historically and scripturally. In accordance with Jewish custom, when a man came of age to marry, he would add a room on to his father's house for himself and his bride. When the addition was complete, and when the father gave the go-ahead, a trumpet would sound, and the bridegroom would go to meet his bride. Now the bride would not know the specific day (but the general day) thus she would have her wedding dress ready, and her hair done, and her and her bridesmaids would be waiting for the trumpet to sound and the groom to come get her. When she heard the trumpet sound, then she would run out the door and meet the groom in the street half-way. We see the story illustrated in the Scriptures by the parable of the 10 virgins who were to be ready for the groom to come get them, at whatever time:

(Matthew 25:1 NKJV) "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

(Matthew 25:2 NKJV) "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

(Matthew 25:3 NKJV) "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

(Matthew 25:4 NKJV) "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

(Matthew 25:5 NKJV) "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

(Matthew 25:6 NKJV) "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

(Matthew 25:7 NKJV) "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

(Matthew 25:8 NKJV) "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

(Matthew 25:9 NKJV) "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

(Matthew 25:10 NKJV) "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Following Ceremony / To Fathers House 7days / End - Presented

Following the wedding ceremony, the bridegroom would take his bride to his father's house, where they would be tucked away for seven days in the newly completed "bridal suite." At the end of seven days, the bridegroom would come out with his bride and introduce her to the community.

That's What Happens to Us / Mansions – Presented

That's exactly what's going to happen with us. Jesus, our Bridegroom, is preparing a place for us in heaven, His Father's house (John 14:2). At the appointed time known only by the Father, a trumpet will sound and Jesus will meet us, His bride, in the air to escort us up to the "Bridal Suite" He has prepared for us. We will remain with Him in heaven for seven years before we are presented to the world, where we will rule and reign with Him.

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(John 14:4 NKJV) "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

*(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) 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."*

(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

(Revelation 19:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Conclusion

Pre-Trib – Proper Perspective

A Pre-tribulation understanding of the Rapture will put life in proper perspective, and it will lead us to seek first the Kingdom of God:

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Be Looking / Spirit of Prophecy / Become Like Him

We need to constantly be living looking for His soon return. That is the spirit of prophecy, and the Lord commends His children for their continually looking for His soon return. For as our eyes are looking for Him, we will become what we behold, and we will become like Him.

The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Look for in Church – as Individuals / Praise – Problem -Promise

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things to the 7 churches so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.***

Chapter 2

- The Church of Ephesus (2:1-7)
- The Church of Smyrna (2:8-11)
- The Church of Pergamos (2:12-17)
- The Church of Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter 3

- The Church of Sardis (3:1-6)
- The Church of Philadelphia (3:7-13)
- The Church of Laodicea (3:14-22)

Now personally and practically for each of us, it is important to read what Jesus says is important for the church, and this is what we should look for in the church we choose to fellowship. And equally as important is what Jesus says is important for us as individuals. Jesus will praise, present, and promise each church. He will praise each church on the good things they are doing, He will then present each Church with a problem He sees in that Church (except Smyrna and Philadelphia), and then give each Church a promise they can hold on to

So the Outline for each of the 7 Churches will be the same:

- The Praise of the Church
- The Problem in the Church
- The Promise for the Church

Actual Churches – Church History – Churches Today – Individuals / Postal Route

When we study the 7 churches in chapters 2-3 we will see these 7 churches are Actual Churches in the day this was written, they also represent periods of Church History, conditions of Actual Churches today, and they represent each believer individually as each believer can fall somewhere into what is being said about that particular church. The order of these churches was an actual mail route in Asia Minor, it was a postal route, and God today still sends a personal letter, a love letter, to us.

(Revelation 3:14 NKJV) "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:

(Revelation 3:15 NKJV) "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

(Revelation 3:16 NKJV) "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

(Revelation 3:17 NKJV) "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;

(Revelation 3:18 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:19 NKJV) "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

(Revelation 3:20 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:21 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 3:22 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

Know as Lukewarm Church / Opp of Philadelphia / Church Period - Present

The church of the Laodiceans is known as the "lukewarm church". This church we will see is just about a mirror opposite of the Church of Philadelphia, but is still a church I might add. Each church as we have said is a picture of a period in church history, and Philadelphia and Laodicea are the present church period. Laodicea is probably the picture of the majority of American Churches and Christians.

Come back Often – Examine Ourselves

As a church, we as Christians, need to come back to often and examine ourselves, for it is easy to get into this lukewarm state.

(Revelation 3:14 NKJV) "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:

Prosperous – Banking – Entertainment – Black Wool

The church of Laodicea is only 40 miles south of Philadelphia. This city was extremely prosperous. It was the banking center of that region. It was the wealthiest city of the 7 cities we have studied. In 60AD the city was destroyed by an earthquake yet when the Roman Empire offered to financial aid them in reconstruction they refused it saying we are in need of nothing. They also were into entertainment, as history tells us they had a 30,000 seat amphitheater and everyday the Roman Circus performed there, practically 24 hours a day. Laodicea was also known for the special wool they produced from black sheep. They produced shiny black garments.

Tri-City / Hieropolis – Colosse / Greatly Miscalculated / Known as Lukewarm

Laodicea made up a tri-city metropolitan that included Hieropolis and Colosse. As we have seen in the past cities Jesus used their surroundings to describe what was going on spiritually and so He does with

Laodicea. Hieropolis had hot springs (boiling hot in some cases), Colosse had cold springs (extremely cold in some cases). So this wealthy city of Laodicea built aqueducts from Hieropolis and Colosse. The plan was to bring hot water down for bathes, and cold water down for refreshing drinks. However they greatly miscalculated and by the time the hot water from Hieroplois reached them it was tepid (room temperature – lukewarm). Same with the water running from Colosse – lukewarm. The city was known as the lukewarm city.

Militarily Weak – Political Compromise

Also, the city was built in such a way (enemies would block the aqueduct system depriving the city of water) that they could not defend it militarily, so continually they had to use politics and make compromises with aggressive nations to keep out of war.

Ophthalmologic Center

The city was also known as the ophthalmologic center of the region. Then manufactured an ointment for the eye that would clear up many of the various eye infections that were common for that day and region.

Name Compound Word / People – Decide / Heart of People – Not Lead by Jesus

The Laodicea comes from the compound Greek words “loa” and “dicea”, “loa” means people, and “dicea” means decision or rule. So the compound name/word means “people decide”, “people rule”. We will see then that the heart of the problem of this church was that the people/church were not lead by the Lord, but by people. This church was so much decided by the people that in verse 20 we see Jesus is outside the door knocking saying let me in.

Different Introduction / Church Of – Not At

Verse 14 - "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write – notice this introduction is different form the other 6, they all started with the Church at xxxxxxx, but here it says to the church of the people.

Churches Today – Man Wants / Rather Man Needs / Entertainment – Education Center

Too many churches today are run by what man thinks the people need/want, rather than looking for the leading of the Lord and what He wants for the people. So many churches are looking to entertain people, make them feel good, rather than telling them what they need – in fear of them becoming upset and leaving. Somehow this is where the church has moved to today, and the fact is one of the primary purposes of the church is to teach. The church is a teaching center, yet churches today that teach are considered out of date. Could you imagine going to a University and saying why are you teaching? Now we expect them to teach, so that students may learn, and the Church should be no different in that manner.

The Amen / With Certainty – So Be It – True – Fixed Unchangeable / Give what Need

Verse 14 - 'These things says the Amen - Jesus as with each of the other 6 churches gives and identification of who He is (as taken from chapter 1). In all cases that too applies to the spiritual situation of that church. Here Jesus calls Himself the Amen, which means “so be it”, “with certainty”, “that is true”, “fixed and unchangeable”. All these definitions are what this church needed to hear for Jesus makes sure they know He is the sure things, and everything else fading away. Forget what men want, give them what they need:

(Isaiah 65:16 NKJV) So that he who blesses himself in the earth Shall bless himself in the God of truth (Hebrew word for Amen); And he who swears in the earth Shall swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten, And because they are hidden from My eyes.

(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Faithful & True Witness / Never Witness in Lukewarm State

Verse 14 - 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: - One thing you can be sure of, you can never be a faithful and true witness if you are living in a lukewarm state. Jesus identifies to them what they need to be, is what He is, so come to Him and naturally that is what you will become. I think one of the most humbling words we as Christians can hear

are, "I didn't know you were a Christian". Man that cuts through to the heart. Ohh well I didn't think you were a Christian by that language you use, or I always see you in the clubs/bars, those jokes you tell, you watch those racy TV shows that I do.

Beginning of Creation / Jesus Not Created

Verse 14 - the Beginning of the creation of God: - This is a verse the cultist use trying to say that the Word says Jesus is created. That isn't by any means what it says here. It is saying that Jesus is the creator, just like it clearly says in other passages (see notes from Chapter 1):

(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

(Colossians 1:17 NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

(Revelation 1:8 NKJV) "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."

Last Days Church / Evolution Impact

It is important to note how much of an influence the theory of Evolution has in the day we live, it has even been accepted in many churches. Evolution is part of the End Times deception. For the unbeliever that accepts Evolution and rejects the Lord, I picture how horrible it will be for all of eternity having that image of the fish with legs on the bumper of their. Their arrogance and pride as they laughed and mocked God as they put it on their car, and they will have all of eternity with that running through their minds – ohh how could I have been so foolish, so prideful.

The Praise of the Church

No Praise / Materialistic – Consumed with World

God has no praise or commendation for they are a people who were materialistic and consumed with the things of the world.

The Problem in the Church

(Revelation 3:15 NKJV) "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

(Revelation 3:16 NKJV) "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Lukewarm / Every Morning Tea / My Mind Expecting Something Pleasant

The Lord has nothing good to praise this church about and goes right to their problem, they are lukewarm, just like the city they live in. Every morning I make hot tea and read; it is a very pleasant time, but I only make it about a half a cup and the tea is at room temperature. When I take that swallow of room temperature tea I am like ahhhh. So too, every day I drink ice tea, and when it reached room temperature I want to spit that swallow out. My mind is set and expecting that nice hot tea, as I raise it to my lips my mind is looking forward to it, my mind is expecting to enjoy that sip. I believe that is how the Lord feels about us, He is expecting to experience pleasant enjoyment from us, but we give Him something other.

Vomit – Violently Expel

That is what He says, vomit, I will vomit you out. The word vomit means to violently expel something from the body that is poisoning the body, causing ill health, something that is hurting the rest of the body.

Lukewarm Person – Just Indifferent / No fire for Anything / Afraid Rub Off

When a person is lukewarm they are just indifferent to whatever it is that you are talking about the Lord. Hey we are going street witnessing – yea that's cool. Hey bible study tonight – yea that's cool. Man the Lord blessed my socks off this week – that's cool. Man I am going through some tough times – really? Bummer. They have no fire for anything. They are more excited about football and work than they are Jesus Christ. I am concerned their lukewarmness will rub off on me. I love being around fired-up Christians because they get me fired-up.

Mirror Opposite of Philadelphia / Devotion – Warmth of Passion

Talking of the mirror opposite of the Church of Philadelphia, they were known to God for their devotion, the passion they had for the Lord. Remember the definition of devotion is “a warmth of passion glowing hot as fire for the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Revelation 3:17 NKJV) "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;

Rich & Prosperous / Great Day to be Christian / Another Latte

They were rich and prosperous, life was good. Hey it is a great day to be a Christian, would you like another latte.

Wretched – Words of Jesus / 4 Things to Do / Are You Lukewarm / He who has Ear

Verse 17 - and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked – These are the words of Jesus, and He says you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. That is His definition. No need to add further commentary. Jesus gives them counsel on how to break free of this state, 4 things to do. If you feel you are in a lukewarm state, there is a way out, and Jesus shows the way. I think most Christians at some point go through these periods, but Jesus shows us how to break out of it. He who has an ear, let them hear what the spirit says to the church.

(Revelation 3:18 NKJV) "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.

#1 Buy Gold

Banking Center / Great Investment – Jump in Fire / Refiner – Face / Jump In

Verse 18 - "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich – Remember this banking center, invest your money to increase your prosperity. Do you want to make a great investment, do you want to be prosperous? Jesus says jump into the fire. To make gold into jewelry, they would take the nuggets of gold, put them into the smelting pot and heat them until they melted, and then the goldsmith would scrape off the impurities with a scoop. He would know when it was done when He could clearly see his face in the reflection of the gold. The picture of the Lord wanting to see His reflection in you, and if you feel dry, lukewarm, then Christian jump into the fire.

Philly Opp – Doors Opp / Find a Ministry to Stretch – Leave Comfort Zone

Jesus doesn't cast them off, but calls them out. The mirror opposite of Laodicea was Philadelphia and we see Jesus calling them the faithful church and what was one of the things they were doing, going through the doors of opportunity and doing ministry on behalf of the Lord. Christian find a ministry to serve in, a ministry that will cause you to have to leave your comfort zone, and seek the Lord. The lukewarm Christian stays comfortable, and they never stretch themselves to a place where it hurts, is risky, is costly.

Opposite of Smyrna

Jesus said to the Church of Smyrna (the persecuted Church) I know you are poor, but you are spiritually rich. How different is our perception of things compared to God's. So when hard times come don't despise them but embrace them as the Lord is enriching you. Jump into the fire:

(Revelation 2:9 NKJV) "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.

Why Missions / Street Witnessing / Carries over into Word

Why is it that people come back from mission trips so on-fire for the Lord. Why can't they get enough of the word when they come back. In the fire you find yourself reignited, for serving kindles the fire. When I go street witnessing I look for every reason not to go, I literally force myself to go, but every time after I am done I come back fired-up, feeling like I can run through brick walls. It just carries over, and I can't wait to get into the Word, and to seek the Lord in prayer.

Spurgeon – Catch On-Fire

Spurgeon said catch on fire for Jesus Christ and people will come watch you burn. Parents do you want your kids on fire for Jesus, then catch on fire, get excited about the Lord, and watch what will happen.

Aqueduct – Long Run

Mind you Christian we need to prepare for the long run, the long haul. The mistake they made there in Laodicea was that they miscalculated how long the water had to travel, and came to find out it wasn't hot at the end. In ministry prepare for your ministry for the long haul. Too many people start off hot but can't maintain the zeal over the long haul. Ministry is a marathon, so plan accordingly so you don't end up lukewarm at the end.

#2 White Garments

Shiny Black Garments / Their Spiritual State

Verse 18 - "I counsel you to buy from Me and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed – Remember they were known for these shiny black garments, Jesus likens that to their spiritual state and says put on the robe of righteousness.

35 Years Prior – Colosse / Put Off – Put On / Seek Things Above

35 years prior the Apostle Paul wrote this church along with the church of Colosse and said to put-off the old man, and to put-on the new man. Paul challenges them spiritually to seek the eternal things (Col 3). How easy it is for us to go back after we have been saved awhile and try back on some of our most favorite garments. The church there in Laodicea quickly spiritually declined.

(Colossians 4:16 NKJV) Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Colossians 3:5 NKJV) Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(Colossians 3:6 NKJV) Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

(Colossians 3:7 NKJV) in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

(Colossians 3:8 NKJV) But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

(Colossians 3:9 NKJV) Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

(Colossians 3:10 NKJV) and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

(Colossians 3:11 NKJV) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

(Colossians 3:12 NKJV) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

(Colossians 3:13 NKJV) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

(Colossians 3:14 NKJV) But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

(Colossians 3:15 NKJV) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

(Colossians 3:16 NKJV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

(Colossians 3:17 NKJV) And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Town Prostitute

A true story from way back. A man grew up as the son of the town prostitute. The town joke was him; they would say, "who does he look like? They would not allow him in the stores or on the walkway. He started to go to church, and he met the Pastor. The Pastor said, "you know who you look like? And the man thought to himself, the last person I expected it from was the Pastor. Pastor said, "you look like the son of God, go claim your inheritance." He was two times elected governor of his state.

We Forget We Are Kings Kids / Put on the Royal Robe / Claim Inheritance

I believe we take our eyes off the things above because we forget that we are the Kings Kids, and that we have an inheritance waiting for us, thus we can easily get caught up and distracted by the things of the world. Jesus said put on your royal robe, and start living and acting like the son and daughter of the King. Remembering who you are, will put your life here on earth in its proper perspective. Claiming your inheritance will never leave you lukewarm.

White Shirt – Well Aware of Surroundings

I notice that when I wear a bright white dress shirt, I am more aware of my surroundings. I don't want to smudge it or stain it with coffee because that stain will stand out and be real noticeable. When I put in the forefront of my mind my holiness, I will be more sensitive to defend it. That will include taking every thought captive, not allowing myself to be stained by the things of the world as in my conversation, what I watch, who I hang out with, for I am desiring to keep my white garment white.

#3 Anoint Your Eyes

City Known Eye Salve / Spiritual Eyes / Read to See / Examine Self / Not All we Think Are

Verse 18 - and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see – So again this city known for their eye salve (ointment), and Jesus says anoint your spiritual eyes. We need to read this word for our self, not for your spouse, or that person that bugs you, or your kid, but for you. Read it and let it burn through your heart, and ask the Lord how am I doing in relation to this word. Christian, many times you will find you are all that you think you are, we will see we are not as rich as we may think we are, doing as well as we as we think we are. David cried out to the Lord search me:

(Psalms 139:23 NKJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

(Psalms 139:24 NKJV) And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

(Revelation 3:19 NKJV) "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Feel Convicted / Good He Loves You

If you feel convicted then good, because it says He loves you, for He whom He loves He rebukes and chastens.

Be Zealous / Be Excited You can Correct Now / Change Mind – Change Heart

Verse 19 - Therefore be zealous and repent – Jesus says to be excited about repenting, because he is saying that you can correct this today, now, this very moment, you do not have to leave here today still in this state of being lukewarm. God can't change your heart until you change your mind. Change your mind at this moment, and God will start to change you.

#4 To Dine with the Lord

(Revelation 3:20 NKJV) "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.

Lord wants Fellowship / Supper in those Days / Drive Through Fellowship / Go Back

Jesus wanted to come into their life, into their church and dine with them. Remember this is the church of the Laodiceans, not the church at Laodicea; the church and people were not lead by the Lord, and the Lord here is calling out to them to let Him back into leading their lives. All the Lord wants is fellowship with you. Supper in those days was as much about fellowship as it was food. There was no television to run to, no phone, no internet, or newspaper. They sat and ate and talked for hours. They looked at each others faces, they listen to what the other had to say, they wanted to hear about their day, the kids, what was going on in their lives. That is what the Lord wants with us, to have times of deep meaningful fellowship, so He can hear from us, look into our eyes, hear what is going on in our lives. Sadly we enter into a lukewarm state because we have kinda of a drive-through fellowship with the Lord. Ok Lord fill me up, McSpirit to go, Value Meal, Super-size me. Go back and dine with the Lord, and watch yourself being warmed by His presence and refreshed by His Spirit, no more lukewarmness:

(Psalms 16:11 NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Back to Communion Table

At the Lord's Communion table is where you can break free from the lukewarm spiritual condition as you go back to the cross and the Lord warms your heart as you reflect on His love and forgiveness, and the Lord refreshes you as He blows a cool wind across you and you reflect the freedom that you have from the bondages of sin and death.

Appeal to Lost

As we have said before that this letter would be read in that actual church, and just like any church not everyone sitting there would have had a personal relationship with the Lord. So this appeal is for the lukewarm to come dine with Him, and for the person (notice it says anyone – individually) to open the door and receive Him in to fellowship with them. In the Greek structure this knocking is a gentle continually knocking, not a banging. He is not going to force anyone to fellowship with Him. He says if you hear my voice, so the knocking is His voice. The famous painting by Holman Hunt displays Jesus standing at the door knocking, and a friend said Holman you forgot to put a door handle in your picture, and he said no, its Revelation 3:20, there is only 1 handle and it is in the inside, and only the person can open the door. Man is a free-will agent, and God will not force Himself upon anyone, He respects your decision. Maybe you are here and you have heard the knocking of the Lord's voice in your life, you know that the things that you have heard are true, you know you have not received Him, you are empty, tired of the struggle, know that your sin separates you from the Holy God.....you simply need to ask for forgiveness. Sadly million of people before you have heard this knock, and said tomorrow, or later, and the last knock came, and they missed the Savior at the door. Don't take that chance, you know not what tomorrow brings, today is the day, now is the time:

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The Promise for the Church

(Revelation 3:21 NKJV) "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.

Eternal Vision – Out of Earthly Grasp

The Lord gives them a promise to hold on to, an eternal vision to lift them out of their earthly grasp. Open your heart to the Lord and He will open heaven up for you, and you will sit with Him.

(Revelation 3:22 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." "

Chapter 4

The Throne of God (Part 1) 4:1-7

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.***

Revelation Book of Grace & Mercy

Revelation is a book that is all about grace and mercy as God gives man every opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness while forgiveness may be found in this period of grace. Any person that enters the Tribulation has brought it upon themselves.

Awesome Scene / Don't be Country Bumpkin

We have left the earthly scene and are now in the heavenly scene. The things we see here in chapters 4-5 can be mind-blowing, but they are written for our understanding so that they may comfort us, and when we get there we know what is going on, As Pastor Chuck puts it, don't be some country bumpkin on his first trip to the big city continually saying, what's that, what's that? So listen if you get there and you are the one who is saying what's that, what's that, and someone asked you where you went to church on earth, please say you went to CC Delta or something, don't say you went here.

Transition to Things Last for Eternity / Set Mind Above

We now transition to the things that will last for all eternity, for the things that we now see around us are fading, and someday will be no more, but the things spoken of here in chapters 4-5 will endure for

heaven. The Lord spoke to us last study to continually be setting our minds on the things above, and our hearts too, for where your treasures are, so will your heart be also:

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

(Revelation 4:2 NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

(Revelation 4:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

(Revelation 4:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) 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:

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

The Outline for this study:

- On the Throne (4:2-3)
- Around the Throne (4:3-5)
- Before the Throne (4:6-11)

(Revelation 4:1 NKJV) 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."

Meta Tauta / After Church Period

Verse 1 - After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven - Here again is the Greek word we spoke about before (meta tauta – after these things). After what things? After the period of church history, after the rapture happens, after those things then will begin the 7 year Tribulation Period, the 7 year Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It follows the divine outline of this book:

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this (meta tauta).

19 Times / No More

19 times in the first 3 chapters the word church is used, and then no more for the rest of the book. In chapter 13 we will hear a phrase we are so familiar with, but it will be missing a key word – the church: *(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."*

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Open Door of Heart / Door of Heaven

Verse 1 - a door standing open in heaven – Last study we closed with Jesus standing at the door of your heart and knocking, so that He may come in and fellowship with you and you with Him. When you open the door of your heart to the Lord, the Lord will open the door of heaven to you.

Sound of Trumpet / Hear those Words – Kingdom Business

Verse 1 - And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here – The sound of the trumpet, should sound familiar to us as we studied the immanency of the rapture. I can't wait to hear those words from the Lord, "come up here". And when He says them I want to be interrupted in what I was doing, and I want to be interrupted doing Kingdom business:

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

(1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Meta Tauta – Used Twice / Wicked Tribulation – Words of Comfort

Verse 1 - I will show you things which must take place after this." – Meta Tauta is used again, twice in this verse so we don't miss it. He wants us to know that we are out of here before the Tribulation starts. As we start chapter 6 and go through 19, the things we read will be frightening, and the Lord wants us to have assurance that we will not endure them, that we won't be here, for He has not appointed us to wrath, and He has promised us a honeymoon with Him, and He wants us to take comfort in the knowledge of that:

(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

(1 Thessalonians 5:10 NKJV) who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

On the Throne (4:2-3)

(Revelation 4:2 NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Twinkling of Eye / No More Ray – No More Battles

Verse 2 - Immediately I was in the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 15, says that we will be changed in a twinkling of an eye, immediately. Praise the Lord no more Ray, for I am tired of the battles; my thoughts, my actions. The day is coming that I will no longer have to wish I didn't say that, think that, or do that, for the day is coming that immediately we will be in the Spirit:

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:53 NKJV) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Behold One Sat / 1st Thing to See / Patmos to Heaven / You Too

Verse 2 - and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne - Notice the first thing John sees, he sees the One seated on the throne. What a view for a man who had spent all these years on this rocky barren, seemingly god forsaken island of Patmos. Imagine this for ourselves, we as sojourners are finally home at last, maybe your life feels like Patmos, it is all going to change in a blink. Christians in a blink, you will see Him – think about that.

Jesus the Amen / Throne Fixed Forever / People's moveable Thrones

Last study Jesus identified Himself as the Amen, which means fixed, unchangeable, and immovable. The throne we worship and look to is un-moveable, fixed and set forever. People today have moveable thrones as they are into this and into that, into the next relationship, the next purchase, the next party, the next source of entertainment, and never being satisfied, so always looking for that next throne. God sits upon the fixed and set throne, and all man's needs can be found there, never moving or changing, always satisfying:

(Revelation 3:14 NKJV) "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:'

(Revelation 4:3 NKJV) 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.

Jasper – Sardius / Light & Love / All Possible because Choose the Nails

Verse 3 - And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance – Notice John says was like a jasper, not was a jasper – He is using picture language trying to describe eternal visions with limited earthly vocabulary. Remember Paul when he was caught up to heaven said I'm not even going to try to describe what I saw. Look at John's description of Jesus. Jasper is a clear stone, diamond like, a beautiful reflection of light. Sardius is a ruby red stone. Those stones a description of Jesus, light and love. God is light (1 John 1:5), God is love (1 John 4:8) demonstrated through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. It is His Light and Love that makes it all possible for us to come before His throne, the access has been provided because He chose the nails, because He had you, He had me on His mind that day in the garden, to the cross, and on the cross.

Cross- Examine Self

Christian maybe you are going through something in your life, wonder how God can allow it, where is He, what is He doing.....may you cross-examine yourself, may you go back to the cross and see Him laying everything down for you, and may you examine your questions in light of the cross.

Breastplate – High Priest / Rueban – Benjamin / On My Heart

These 2 stones may bring to memory the breastplate that the priest wore over his heart because the people were to always be on his heart – Jesus is our High Priest. The first stone was the jasper stone and it was for the son Rueben. The last stone was the sardius stone, and it was for Benjamin. The breastplate was worn over the chest of the priest because the people were to be on their heart. Rueben means "behold a son", and Benjamin means "a son of the right hand". From the first son to the last son, and every son in-between, you are on my heart says the Lord:

(Exodus 28:29 NKJV) "So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.

(Hebrews 4:14 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Jesus is Seated / Works Done

Notice that Jesus is seated on the throne, He is not standing because the work is finished. In the temple if you recall there was no furniture to sit on because the offerings there at the temple were never done, but Jesus is seated on the throne, it is done. As His works are done, so too are ours, we need not do anything more for our salvation than received the finished works of Jesus. His last words on the cross were, "it is done":

Your Life Too / Jesus will see His Own Through

That also goes for your life too, Jesus is not pacing about heaven worrying about your finances, your kids, He is resting as it relates to your marriage, your job, your child, because He knows that He is going to see His own through:

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Around the Throne (4:3-5)

Rainbow / Noah Found Grace

Verse 3 - *and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald* – This rainbow immediately takes our minds back to the flood, and the story of a man who found grace in the sight of the Lord:

(Genesis 6:6 KJV) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

(Genesis 6:7 KJV) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

*(Genesis 6:8 KJV) **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.***

Hebrews – Boldly Come

In the book of Hebrews we are told to boldly come before the throne of grace:

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

Throne Place of Grace / Understanding – Performance - Legalism

The throne is a place of Grace - Grace is God's Riches at Christ's Expense. May we be a people who live in grace, and see that it is all the Lord and that we need not put ourselves on some performance trip. The understanding of grace will naturally lead you to performance, but performance will not lead you to grace but a burden of legalism. May we be a people who receive grace, and may we be a people that give grace as it has been shown to us. Grasp grace, and you will be in His Grasp.

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

24 Elders / Represent church – Robes and Crowns

Read 10 commentaries and you'll get 5 different views on who these 24 elders are, but I believe who they actually are, is not the main point, it is who they represent is what is important. I believe they represent the church, because they are wearing white robes which the saints will wear in heaven, and they have crowns which all the saints will have (we'll talk more about that in verse 10). In Revelation 5 we will see these elders singing a song that only the church can sing, for we are the redeemed ones:

(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 5:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 5:10 NKJV) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

12 Tribes – 12 Apostles / Old & New Covenant

Some believe (myself included) that these 24 are the 12 sons of Jacob who represent the 12 tribes of Israel. And the 12 apostles. This is gathered from Matthew 19 speaking of the 12 apostles on the 12 thrones. And Revelation 21 where the new Jerusalem will have 12 gates, each representing the 12 tribes of Israel. So these 24 would represent the believers of the Old Covenant, and the believers of the New Covenant, all which make up the kingdom of God, the saints in heaven.

24 Priestly Divisions

Some believe they represent the 24 priestly divisions as established by King David (1 Chronicles 24:1-19), for this tabernacle on earth was just a shadow/picture of the tabernacle in heaven:

To be an Elder / Seated Throne – Comforting – Teaching – Worshipping

Now, here is some application for us here and now, do you want to be an elder here on earth (in your home, at your school, in your community, at your church), then we get a great example of what an elder on earth should be doing, for we can see what these elders in heaven do:

- They sit at the throne beholding the Lamb:

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

- We see an elder seeking John out while he wept, and comforts him:

*(Revelation 5:4 NKJV) So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.
(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) 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."*

- We see an elder asking John who are these wearing these robes, John says I don't know, so the elder tells him:

(Revelation 7:13 NKJV) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(Revelation 7:14 NKJV) 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."

- We see the elders worshipping the Lamb and singing a new song:

(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 5:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 11:16 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

(Revelation 11:17 NKJV) saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned."

(Revelation 19:4 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

Elder – Worshipper – Comforter – Conversation – New Song – Stays Fresh

So we see an elder is a worshipper of God, an elder is one who is comforting those who hurt/weep, an elder is a person who seeks out spiritual conversations with people so they can bring them into spiritual truths. And an elder is someone who worships the Lord, they stay fresh (singing a new song) and excited about the Lord for they are continually where God's Spirit is moving.

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Audible / Forget the Sign – New Heart

Now comes the audible after the vision. These scenes are mind-blowing. People who tell me they want a sign from God I tell them they are crazy. Let me tell you I don't want to see any of this stuff until I am in my glorified body, that one that will have a new cardio-vascular system in it (whatever that may be) for I know this of mine would not be able to endure verse 5.

No Guitars in Church

Heaven is brilliant in color as we have seen, and it is loud. If you think heaven is some somber place, verse 5 tells differently. I think of those dear ole saints who say we shouldn't have drums and guitars in the church for worship, just wait until they get to heaven, for heaven is going to rock.

Before the Throne (4:6-11)

(Revelation 4:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:7 NKJV) 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.

Creatures / Ezk 1 & 10

The Greek word translated "beasts" (OKJV) actually means "creatures." These living creatures are described in greater detail in Ezekiel 1 and 10, where we are told they are cherubim. Cherubim are first seen in the Garden of Eden. After driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden after they had sinned, God employed cherubim with flaming sword to keep Adam and Even from eating of the tree of life and living forever in their fallen condition (Genesis 3:24). In the Book of Exodus, cherubim are seen again on the mercy seat—a fitting place for them to be, as we shall see....

4 Faces / Matt – King - Lion / Mark – Ox – Servant / Luke – Man – Humanity / John – Eagle – Deity

Since the early days of church history, Irenaeus and others recognized that the four faces of these cherubim correspond with the four Gospels:

- Matthew presents Jesus as King, typified by a lion.
- Mark presents Him as a Servant, the ox representing servitude.
- Luke presents Jesus in His Humanity, seen in the face of a man.
- John presents Jesus as the Son of God, pictured by the eagle who not only soars higher than any other creature, but is the only animal able to look directly into the sun, even as only the Son of God beholds the glory of the Father.

Numbers 1 - 2

But there's something else about these four faces that is interesting. That is, in chapters 1 and 2 of the Book of Numbers, God declares that His people were to camp in a certain order as they traveled through the wilderness.

Levites around Tabernacle / Serving sees Glory / Lets us Serve – Drawn close to Glory

He told the Levites to surround the tabernacle on the north, south, east, and west sides. Why? Those serving the Lord—whether in their neighborhood, on their campus, or in their church always end up camping closest to where God's glory is. That's the beauty of serving the Lord: You get to camp out closest to His glory because when you're serving Him, sharing your faith, praying for others, teaching Sunday school you experience most fully the chabod—the glory of God. That's why God lets us serve Him. He doesn't need us. Rather, He allows us the privilege to serve because in so doing we draw closest to Him:

(Numbers 1:49 NKJV) "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel;

(Numbers 1:50 NKJV) "but you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle.

(Numbers 1:51 NKJV) "And when the tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.

(Numbers 1:52 NKJV) "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies;

(Numbers 1:53 NKJV) "but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony."

On the 4 Sides

Numbers 2 goes on to say that on each of the four sides were to be three tribes.

- Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, numbering 186,400, were to camp on the east side and were known as the Camp of Judah. What is the symbol, the ensign of Judah (according to the Jewish Talmud)? The Lion. Why were they on the east side? Because when Jesus comes back, roaring with authority, He's going to come from the East, and the sun rises in the east.
- Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin, numbering 108,100, were to camp on the west side, and were known as the Camp of Ephraim. Their symbol was an ox.
- Reuben, Simeon, and Gad, numbering 151,400, were to camp on the south side and were known as the Camp of Reuben, whose symbol was a man.
- Dan, Naphtali, and Asher, numbering 157,600, were to camp on the north side and were known as the Camp of Dan, signified by an eagle.

Makes the Cross

With the largest number of people camped on the east, the smallest number on the west, and an almost identical number of people on the north and south sides of the tabernacle. There was no northwest, or southeast, no rounding, they were literally blocks, and this would line up with how an army would march. The configuration is that of a Cross—which is as applicable practically as it is significant spiritually....

Israel Stiff-Necked / God sees the Cross / So Too with Us

The children of Israel were stiff-necked people, often rebellious, yet the Lord showed them grace, mercy and love, when the Lord would look down upon them in their gunk and junk, He would see the cross and show His mercy and grace upon them. So, too, we think we deserve to be cursed because we rebel,

murmur, and complain. We think we deserve to be cursed because we don't do what we should and, instead, do what we shouldn't. But God looks upon us and sees us in light of the Cross. Therefore, all He desires to do is bless us, and shows us grace, mercy, and love.

When we Grasp This – Covered by the Cross / Boldly Come Throne Grace – No Matter my Prayer

When we grasp this, really lock in on it, I will begin to see myself as God does, a precious treasure. God when He looks upon me, when He looks upon you, He see us covered by the cross. When I can see that is how the Father sees me, then I need not worry about coming to Him, I can boldly come before this throne of grace, it won't matter how my prayer life was that day, or if I haven't read in a month, no matter how stiff-necked and rebellious I was, I can come to Him and know that I am accepted, I can boldly come before the throne of grace.

Sea of Glass – Place of Peace / Throne of Grace

Verse 6 - Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal - Ever see a sunset or sunrise on a perfectly still lake or ocean, the way the light reflects off of it, it is pure beauty, and that is what awaits us, a place of peace, the throne of grace.

The Throne of God (Part 2) 4:8-11

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

John Sees – Describes Heavenly Scene / Imagine Renewal / Patmos – Boiled – Disfigured / Saw his own Reflection – 1 John 3

John is describing the heavenly scene, and I can only imagine how it must have renewed John. John is on the island of Patmos, banished for his testimony of God. Church history says that the Roman Emperor Domitian ordered for him to be put in a cauldron of boiling oil, but John did not die. Imagine the lifelong pain that he would endure living with 3rd degree burns over his entire body. One extra biblical legend grew from this occurrence, which said John saw his reflection in a river and was shocked by his own face; it was then that God told him to write:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

50 Miles Away his Church / Brethren Killed – Catacombs / Come Up Here – Sees Renewed

John in severe pain daily, banished to this rocky barren land forced into manual labor at the age of 90, knowing that 50 miles away his fellow brethren are being tortured and killed in some places, that the church is meeting in sewers and catacombs, and then God says come up here and let me show you a few things. How this must have renewed John.

We Have our Measure Earthly Struggles / Marriage – Kids - Health / Perspective

We have our measure of earthly struggles, with tough marriages, broken marriages – divorce, kids in rebellion, kids in general, personal illness, family illness, aging, jobs, finances, we need to be renewed, we need to have our hearts raised above this world so that we might be renewed, refreshed – to have life, and all the events of life, put into its proper perspective.

The Outline for this study:

- On the Throne (4:2-3)
- Around the Throne (4:3-5)
- Before the Throne (4:6-11)

On the Throne (4:2-3)

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

(Revelation 4:2 NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

(Revelation 4:3 NKJV) 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.

Rapture / No more Church / Twinkling / The One on Throne / Light & Love / Rainbow of Grace

After what things? The Church Period, the Rapture of the Church. The church wont be mentioned again for the rest of this book, the children of God will be referred to only as the saints. Immediately John was in the Spirit as we will too be, in a twinkling of an eye (an atomic second - 1/10,000/second) we will be changed and see the One seated on the throne. His appearance will be brilliant, like a diamond and ruby, representing His Light and His Love. The rainbow representing His grace (as with Noah), for as He looks at us He sees us in the Light and Love of the Cross.

Around the Throne (4:3-5)

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Elders – Represent OT – NT Saints

These 24 elders are a representative of the all the saints of God, both Old and New Testament, for the saints are robed in white and are given crowns, and it will be the saints that can sing the song of Redemption (Rev 5)

Before the Throne (4:6-11)

(Revelation 4:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 4:7 NKJV) 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.

Creatures – Cherubim's

These creatures are angelic beings, more specifically known as cherubim's. You can read more about these cherubim's in Ezekiel 1 & 10.

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) 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: (Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

Heaven is Real / Earthly Tabernacle a Shadow

Heaven is real, so much so that God says the earthly tabernacle is just a shadow of what heaven is:

(Hebrews 8:1 NKJV) Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

(Hebrews 8:2 NKJV) a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

(Hebrews 8:3 NKJV) For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Not in Material Sense / But look at Parallels

There is no temple in heaven in a material sense, but the parallels are as follows:

- Earthly temple / Heavenly sanctuary
- Holy of holies / The throne of God
- Seven-branched candlestick / Seven lamps of fire before the throne (7 Spirits of God)
- Bronze laver / Sea of glass
- Cherubim over the mercy seat / Four living creatures around the throne
- Priests / Elders (kings and priests)
- Brazen altar / Altar (Rev. 6:9-11)
- Incense altar / Incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5)
- Ark of the covenant / Ark of the covenant (Rev. 11:19)

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

Holy 3X – Triune God

They repeat "holy" 3 times for the triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Holiness – Set Apart / Simple Definition / Separate in Love – Giving – Forgiveness

Holiness means to be set apart, and God is Holy. I like the simple definition of holiness; "that which is God, and that which is not of God". Only 2 things exist, the Creator, and those created: there is the Creator, and everything else is created – the angels, heaven and earth, the devil, and you and me. That makes Him separated, set apart, Holy. God is also separate from us by the way He loves; His love comes with no strings attached, unconditional. He loves us even when there was nothing worth loving – dead in trespass and sin. We love our spouse because we saw something in them that drew us to them. God loves even when there was nothing loveable about us, that makes Him separate from us. His giving is different from ours, He gives freely of Himself, as we look at what is in it for us (can't believe I did all that for them and they didn't say thank you) – that makes Him different, separate from us. His forgiveness is different from ours, He forgives and wipes it from His memory bank, we forgive but never forget, that makes Him different, separate from us.

We will be Here Worshipping / Didn't just Let In – Made us Son's & Daughters

We will be before this throne room scene, part of this scene, worshipping His holiness, His separate love, forgiveness, and giving; worshipping that He didn't just let us in, but made us sons and daughters, called us His own.

2X see Full of Eyes / They see Holiness – Causes them to Break forth in Praise

Verse 6, and again in verse 8 it is repeated that these cherubim's are full of eyes, for what they see is holiness, and that which they see causes them to break forth in worship, of praise and adoration. This

same eyesight is what the Lord wants for us, unfortunately we only see with these two eyes what is immediately in front of us, and we miss what is all around us, which the presence and glory of the Lord, the holiness of the Lord. When we see the beauty of His Holiness we will be drawn into worship, as the Scripture says, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

(Psalms 29:1 NKJV) Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength.

*(Psalms 29:2 NKJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; **Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.***

Nothing as Beautiful as Holiness / Holiness Beauty never Fades / Attracted To

There is nothing as beautiful as holiness. People are attracted to purity. You young men and ladies, the world promotes the physical beauty, markets it and packages it; but let me tell you that beauty will fade quickly, literally overnight – wait till you see what they look like in the morning. But meet a man or woman of God, set-apart for God, and you will see beauty that never fades, a beauty that draws hearts. Guys and gals, if you want a spouse to be attracted to you, live a life of holiness, a life set-apart for Jesus, they will be attracted to you and you won't have to live a life under the pressures of Madison Avenue. How many unsaved men I have met who when referring to a godly woman they are attracted to will say, "there is just something about her". I'll say that's because she is godly, she won't want nothing to do with you:

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) 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:

Make Worship Part of Devotion / Acknowledge – Lifted Up – Takes you to this Place - Throne

Verse 10 - *the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever* – Christian, make worship a part of your morning devotion. Listen to a worship song or two before you get into your prayer. Every prayer time I incorporate "Acknowledgement" into my prayer, I acknowledge who I am praying to and meeting with, and I then find myself being lifted up, lifted up and out of my circumstances, and I feel my spirit lifted up. When I dwell on His holiness it takes me to the same place these angels and elders are, there before the throne, before the presence of the "Great I Am". If you want heaven today in your life, than be a worshipper of God.

Us Casting / Just get me In / So Sorry – Wedding – Birthday – Christmas / Wise Men Came

Verse 10 - *and cast their crowns before the throne, saying* – The elders, a representation of us, so it us casting our crowns at Jesus' feet. "Just get me in, that's good enough for me", is the unexpressed attitude of many believers. As long as I get in I'll be happy – No you won't, you will be so sorry that you showed up empty-handed. Have you ever gone to a birthday party without a gift, didn't have time, said I'll mail you one later. Ever go to a wedding and it is an extravaganza, and then you feel silly that you cheap-ed out on your gift. Ever get a Christmas gift from somebody and you didn't get them anything. Just get me in, you'll be sorry that you didn't come with any gifts to present the King. The wise men came and laid gifts at the feet of baby Jesus, they laid them in adoration of who they were beholding – the Holy One, that is the scene going on here, and you will want to be more than an observer.

Only Chance we Get / Tachometer / Reading about Us Right Here / Imperishable Crown / Picture of Us – We Read of Others – Now Read of Self

This is the only chance to get crowns, here on this side of eternity. Time is running out, and that is if He should tarry, but need I mention that the tachometer is redlining, pegging out, and the engine is about to blow. What crowns will you have to cast? What crowns will you have going at your present rate? Don't let the triviality of the world cloud your eternal vision – what you read here, you will one day experience. As we study the Old Testament, the New Testament, we read of stories of other people, people just like us, but other people none the less. But here, we are reading of ourselves, a prophetic picture of a day yet future in our life.

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

*(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **an imperishable crown.***

(1 Corinthians 9:26 NKJV) Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

(1 Corinthians 9:27 NKJV) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

5 Crowns – All Tested by Fire

5 Crowns spoken of in the Scriptures, all which would have gone through the testing of the fire, what was the heart and intent behind your works that you did, all your motives revealed:

(1 Corinthians 3:11 NKJV) For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 3:12 NKJV) Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

(1 Corinthians 3:13 NKJV) each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

(1 Corinthians 3:14 NKJV) If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

(1 Corinthians 3:15 NKJV) If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Crown of Righteousness / Love-Looking His Appearing / Hang Out – The Degree

The crown of righteousness is given to those who love His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8). A person who lives in constant expectation of Jesus' return is going to live righteously (1 John 3:3) because one of the most purifying truths in all of the Bible is the fact that Jesus could come back at any moment. The person that is looking for His soon appearing is the one that is walking with Him daily – for how can you look for Him without thinking about Him. If you love the Lord, you're going to hang out with the Lord; and if you hang out with the Lord, you're going to have life abundantly. The degree to which you spend time with the Lord is the degree to which you'll have abundant life. Yes individually or coming together corporately to worship Him, to study of Him to know more of Him is part of the crown of righteousness, you're storing treasures every time you walk in this door, to enter into a time of prayer, because you are looking at Him:

(2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV) Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(John 10:10 NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Crown of Life / Trials & Temptations

The crown of life is given to those who with patience endure trials and temptations (James 1:12). Yes every time you endure a trial or temptation without reacting in the flesh, you are storing up a crown. Remember that next trial, hey I'm storing up some treasures. The carnal world we live in, there are plenty of opportunities every day to store some crowns up. Hey is your boss a jerk, thank him for the crowns. Every time you say no to your flesh, a lust, you are storing a treasure.

(James 1:12 NKJV) 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.

Martyr's Crown – also Called Crown of Life / A Life Laid Down

The martyr's crown is for those who lay down their lives (Revelation 2:10). It is my opinion that this refers not only to those who die a martyr's death, but also to those who lay down their lives in obedience to what they know is right. Martyr means witness, so it isn't that you died therefore you are a martyr, rather you were a witness for Christ, and that led to you being killed. A person who witnesses so strong that people see that you deal with trials and temptations so differently from the rest of the world. How is your witness? Sure, it might seem easier to leave him, to walk out on the marriage, to do your own thing, but I believe those who say, "I'm going to die to self and do what the Lord would have me do even if it kills me," will receive a crown because they chose to lay down their lives rather than give in to their own fleshly inclinations:

(Revelation 2:10 NKJV) "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.

Crown of Glory / Servanthood / Get in the Game / Levites and Tabernacle

The crown of glory is given for servanthood (1 Peter 5:4). Another reason to get off the sideline into the game. Teaching Sunday School, picking that person up and taking them to the store or church, cleaning those dishes, the Soup Kitchen, Mission Trips. One experiences the glory, the weight, and the reality of God to the extent that one serves Him (remember the Levites (servants of God) camped around the tabernacle, the closet to the glory (kabod) of God):

(1 Peter 5:1 NKJV) *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:*

(1 Peter 5:2 NKJV) *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;*

(1 Peter 5:3 NKJV) *nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;*

(1 Peter 5:4 NKJV) *and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that does not fade away.*

Crown of Rejoicing / Soul Winning

The soul-winners crown is given to those who share their faith (1 Thessalonians 2:19). The Lord says He who wins souls is wise – why because you are storing up crowns in heaven:

(1 Thessalonians 2:19 NKJV) *For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?*

(1 Thessalonians 2:20 NKJV) *For you are our glory and joy.*

(Proverbs 11:30 NKJV) *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, **And he who wins souls is wise.***

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

(Philippians 4:1 NKJV) *Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.*

The Crown of Thorns

We get these heavenly crowns because He took our earthly crowns:

(Matthew 27:29 NKJV) *When they had twisted a **crown of thorns**, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"*

Created for His Pleasure

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

OKJV

I like the Old King James Translation of this, we were created for God's good pleasure;

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Foundational Verse – Why Do I Exist – Meaning of Life / Genesis - Fellowship

This verse is a foundational verse for the all of mankind, it is the answer to "who am I", "why do I exist", "what is the meaning of life", and "what is my purpose in life". Every man was created by God, for God's pleasure. We have to go back to the beginning, in the beginning, to see that God's pleasure is to walk and fellowship with you, just as He did with Adam which means "man".

Picture the Day / All eyes on the Lord / Starts forming the dirt / The Animals watch

When I read the Bible I like to put myself in the story, like I was standing right there. So Picture the day in this tropical climate, the lush green garden, a cool mist coming out of the ground, and along comes the Lord. We know from Scripture that wherever the Lord is, all eyes are upon Him. When Jesus walked the earth everywhere He went all eyes were upon Him. When Jesus returns all eyes will turn to see Him, God is the center of His creation. So can you picture all the animals in the garden? When God passed every eye turned to Him, but He didn't just pass, He stopped and started to do something in the dirt. The attention of all the animals are locked in on what He is doing. A lion comes over cocking his head in wonderment, two beavers leave the water to get a closer look, a giraffe uses his height advantage to get a better look, some squirrels hang out on branches to get a bird's-eye view, and a few rabbits hop over to watch. They all watch in silence as God puts some dirt here, some dirt there, and begins to shape it.

Formed / Jeremiah 18 / Ish 64 / The Master Potter

The Hebrew word used here in Genesis 2:7 for "formed" is the exact same Hebrew word used for "potter" in Jeremiah 18. The picture it brings to mind here in the garden is God forming Adam just as a potter forming a piece of clay. God knew specifically what He was going to make when He started to form Adam:

(Jeremiah 18:1 NKJV) *The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:*

(Jeremiah 18:2 NKJV) *"Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."*

(Jeremiah 18:3 NKJV) *Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.*

(Jeremiah 18:4 NKJV) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

(Jeremiah 18:5 NKJV) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

(Jeremiah 18:6 NKJV) "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

(Isaiah 64:8 NKJV) But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

Rozelle / Finished Product

Mike Rozelle, who is considered to be a Master Potter, which is no small claim, in other words he is considered one of the best in the world in this field. He and his wife Pam do the "Potters Field Ministry", they go around the world ministering. Pam sings, and Mike gives a Biblical teaching about this verse, while he gives a live demonstration on how to make a clay pot. One thing I'll never forget Mike saying was that every time he begins with that lump of clay, he doesn't even see the clay, but only the finished product, he sees that beautiful finished product. So too with God, for he is the Master of Master Potters.

Every Move shape takes place / Adams face - 930 / The Creator hands get Dirty / Chose Nails

Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God had as He formed Adam's face, the face He would look at and fellowship with for 930 years. Here is the creator of the universe getting His hands dirty to create man, the same hands that 4,000 years later would be blood soaked because He would choose the nails to ensure that this fellowship would never end – for all those who wanted to fellowship with Him.

Your body contains:

Enough iron to make a small nail,
Enough salt to fill an ordinary shaker
Enough sugar to fill a small bowl
Enough lime to whitewash a small chicken coop
Enough phosphorus to make a dozen matches
Enough fat to fill a twelve-pound pail

Recycle Yard / 3 Dollars

I think if you went to the recycle yard your body might be worth 3 dollars, but as we study through this Bible, we see the Scarlet Thread, that it cost God His only Son to buy us out of the prison of sin and death.

Shaping Done - God Leans Back / Animals Silent / the Breath

After all the shaping was complete I picture God leaning back to stop and admire what He had fashioned. All the animals remain silenced wondering what is it, and then the Creator of the universe leans forward, possibly chest to chest, and breaths life into the nostrils of Adam.

(Genesis 2:7 NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

No Life until He Breaths

The breath of God breathed into man, and then he came alive. The Hebrew word "rauch" is used for breath, wind, and Spirit. Man doesn't become a living soul until God breathes into man. Every life today, still comes from the breath of God, whether you believe in Him or not, every life begins when God breaths into man:

*(Job 12:10 KJV) In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, **and the breath** of all mankind.*

(Acts 17:24 NKJV) "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

*(Acts 17:25 NKJV) "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, **since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.***

*(Daniel 5:23 NKJV) "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and **the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.***

Root of Adam means Dust / Man Dust until God Breathes

Adam means man. The root of Adam means dust, coming from the ground. We are nothing but dust until the breath of God moves over us:

*(Genesis 1:2 KJV) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.***

(Psalms 103:14 NKJV) For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Creator stands / Lifts His Creation / Animals erupt

The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts Adam to His feet and presents him to the rest of His creation. At this point the garden erupts into a euphoric cheer, lions are roaring, monkeys screeching and shaking the trees, squirrels chattering, and birds singing. All of creation rejoicing, the animals in amazement at the beauty of God's creation, the crown of God's creation, MAN.

Very Good / Intensifier / Final Creation / Crown

At the end of every day of creation God said "it was good", until the sixth day, when God said "it was very good". The word "very" as used here is used often with other words to intensify them; in this case it would mean especially good, exceedingly good, great. Why did God say it was so good? Because in His final act of creation, He created man. Do you know what the Hebrew word for man is here "Adam", but it is used in its generic sense meaning "mankind". So here we see God is talking about all of the human race, and that includes me and you. And God said it was VERY good. The creation of man was God putting the crowning jewel on top of His creation. And He said, "It was VERY good". Adam was first, but it very well could have been us, for we, man, are created in God's image.

*(Genesis 1:4 NKJV) And God saw the light, **that it was good**; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

*(Genesis 1:10 NKJV) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw **that it was good.***

*(Genesis 1:12 NKJV) And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good.***

*(Genesis 1:18 NKJV) and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw **that it was good.***

(Genesis 1:21 NKJV) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

*(Genesis 1:25 NKJV) And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good.***

But things change on His last creation:

*(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good.** So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

It is Good / Not Craving – but when Adam Bites into It

When God said it was good, It is not this watermelon is so good, or that God had a craving for some juicy watermelon, but that God would say this is good for when Adam bites into it he will enjoy it so much.

When Adam takes its to his bride they will enjoy it together, to see their kids enjoy, it is good. How generation after generation will enjoy it. It pleases God's heart to please His children.

The Sun to Warm the Face / Stars – Vastness – Thinking of Me

When God created the sun He said it is good, how my children will enjoy the warmth of it upon their face. How they will marvel at stars at night, see the vastness of it yet know that I know exactly where they are at this moment, and that I am thinking of them, it is good.

Adam & God Walk in Coolness of Day / Walk and Talk / For Fellowship – Not Workers

Adam and God would walk together in the coolness of the day, they would fellowship together, they would walk and talk together. God created man for fellowship, not to have servants (even though service will

naturally come forth from fellowship with Him, for every kids wants to be part of what Dad is doing).

God Chosen You for Fellowship – Desires to Draw You to Self

God has chosen you for fellowship and desires to draw you to Himself.

My Bride / Not to Cook – Companionship – Lover – Best Friend

I have a wonderful bride, have a license and all for her. I did not marry her for service, I can cook and clean just fine on my own, I married her for companionship, to be my lover and my best friend.

My Son / Not Cut Grass / To know his Creator – Watermelon – Direction – Guidance – Play Catch

I didn't have a son to cut my grass and clean my car, but to enjoy watching him grow into a man, to invest my life in his life so that one day he would know who his Creator was. To enjoy watching him eat that watermelon, and to walk together and him ask me questions, look to me for direction and guidance, to catch ball together.

Created Fellowship – Crowning Jewel

We were created for fellowship with Him, we are the crowning jewel of His creation.

Can only Love to Extent Hurt / His Heart Broke – 6 Hrs / Yet for Good Pleasure / Die to Fellowship

A person can only love to the extent you are willing to be hurt. The Lord's love for us went to the extent of a broken heart as man would chose to walk elsewhere. His love went to the extent of grueling hours that Friday on hill in Palestine. We have the have the capacity to break His heart, yet the Sovereign Almighty God leaves Himself vulnerable to be hurt, and he says for his good pleasure thou was created. He demonstrated to us that He would be willing to die to fellowship with us.

Do You Know This God

Do you know this God?

Chapter 5

The Lion, the Lamb, and the Scroll

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Stage Set / Last Days of Earth

Chapter 4 we saw what heaven will be like around the throne of God, as we see the brilliance of God and heaven, now the stage has been for what the Last Days on earth will be like.

(Revelation 5:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 5:2 NKJV) Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

(Revelation 5:3 NKJV) And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

(Revelation 5:4 NKJV) So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 5:6 NKJV) And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

(Revelation 5:7 NKJV) Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Lion – Lamb - Scroll

This is the story of the Lion, the Lamb, and the Scroll. This passage here is foundational for the understanding of why things are the way they are on this earth.

(Revelation 5:1 NKJV) 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.

Scroll / Papyrus – Horizontal / Book of Revelation - Written 1 Side – 15ft long

The "book (OKJV)" John sees is actually a scroll. If similar to other scrolls in John's day, it was made of eight-by-ten-inch sheets of papyrus, which were connected horizontally and wound around a wooden handle. Epistles the size of Jude, Philemon, and II and III John would all be written on one single piece of papyrus. The Book of Revelation, on the other hand, would require a scroll fifteen feet long. Due to the coarse back of the papyrus, the three-inch-wide columns of writing were penned on only the smooth side.

Written Double Sided – Sealed / Title Deed to Property / Backside to Reclaim

Here, however, we see a scroll written on both sides and sealed with seven seals, which can be perplexing until one studies Jewish history—wherein are found numerous examples of a certain kind of document with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals: a title deed to a piece of property. Initially, a title deed would be written only on the smooth side and sealed with a single seal (Jeremiah 32:6–29). But if the owner became unable to meet his financial obligations, he would have to relinquish his title deed—upon the backside of which would be written his debts and upon which would be placed seven seals. If at any time during the ensuing seven years he could pay off his debts, the seals would be broken and the title deed returned.

God Owns Earth – gave it to Adam

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was the Lord's and the fullness thereof. It belonged to God by virtue of divine creation. But God then gave the earth to man. When He created Adam and placed him on the earth, He told Adam that he was to have dominion over the earth. He was to take care of it and treasure it as a beautiful gift of God.

*(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; **have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Tempter Came / Left Kingdom God – Enter Kingdom of Satan

But when Satan came and tempted Eve to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden, of which God had told them specifically they were not to eat of that tree, and if they did they would surely die, when Eve ate and gave to Adam and he ate in disobedience to the command of God, but it was also obedience to

Satan. A double action. And in so doing, Adam and Eve left the kingdom of God, the kingdom of light and life and they entered into the kingdom of Satan, the kingdom of death and darkness.

Adam Forfeited Earth to Satan / Satan god of this World

And in so doing, the earth, which was theirs was given over to Satan. They forfeited this beautiful earth into Satan's control. And Satan has control over the world today. Paul calls him the god of this world.

Jesus referred to him as the prince of this world.

(2 Corinthians 4:3 NKJV) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

(2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

(John 12:31 KJV) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Jesus came to Redeem the World / Wages of Sin Death / Redeemed not with Gold

When Jesus came to the earth, His purpose in coming to the earth was to redeem the world back to God. It once belonged to God, God gave it to man, man in a sense gave it to Satan, but Jesus came to redeem the world back to God, to pay the price of redemption. The price of redemption was death, for the wages of sin is death. That was His death upon the cross, the shedding of His blood. The giving of His life for man's sin--the price of redemption. He paid the price to redeem us from sin. Peter said:

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

(Romans 6:23 NKJV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Had to buy Land to Get Bride / Law of Kinsman / Book of Ruth / Matt 13

In order to get us, Jesus had to buy the whole world back. That is what is called the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer, as taught in the Old Testament Scriptures. We saw it so beautifully displayed to us in the Book of Ruth as Boaz would buy the land to get the Gentile bride. Boaz only wanted the Bride, but as we read he had to purchase the land in order to get all that came with the land. Boaz is a type of Jesus, and Ruth the Gentile Bride is a picture of us, and Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law is a picture of Israel, and she too would be included in the purchase. The Book of Ruth unlocks this passage for us here in Revelation 6. Jesus gave the parable in Matthew 13, saying He bought the field to get the treasure.

(Leviticus 25:47 NKJV) 'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,

(Leviticus 25:48 NKJV) 'after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;

(Leviticus 25:49 NKJV) 'or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.

(Leviticus 25:50 NKJV) 'Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him.

(Matthew 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Jesus did not Dispute Satan

Satan, when Jesus began His public ministry, after He was baptized and the Holy Spirit had come upon Him, Satan took Him to a high mountain. He showed Him all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. And Satan said to Jesus, All of these will I give to You if You will bow down and worship me. For they are mine and I can give them to whomever I will. Jesus did not dispute the claim of Satan. But acknowledged that he was the possessor of the earth at that time. Now if you offered to give me all of Pasadena, I would say you are a nutcase, you have no claim to Pasadena, therefore you have no power to give it to me. Jesus never disputed Satan's ownership. Jesus came to redeem the world back to God. But not by bowing down to Satan but by going to the cross and giving His life as a ransom for all. And so Jesus in answer to Satan said, It is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve (Matthew 4:8-10). But Satan is the god of this world and is in control to the present time.

(Matthew 4:8 NKJV) Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

(Matthew 4:9 NKJV) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

(Matthew 4:10 NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Satan will give to Anti-Christ

Now a little further on in the Book of Revelation when we get to chapter thirteen, we're going to find that there's going to arise a world ruler and Satan is going to empower this man. He is going to give to him his throne and his authority. This man will be known as the antiChrist. And Satan empowers him with his power and with his authority and Satan will seek to be worshipped through this man. Of course, Satan has desired worship. His fall was perpetrated by his desire of being exalted above the other angels, above the stars of God. And his endeavor to elevate himself to the position of worship that belongs only to God. And so, Satan still possesses. He hasn't yet turned the world over to this antiChrist. We will get that, as I said, in chapter thirteen of the book of Revelation where Satan turns over the power and authority of the earth to him. He offered it to Jesus. He will give it to his emissary in chapter thirteen.

(Revelation 13:1 NKJV) Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

(Revelation 13:2 NKJV) 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.

Jesus Paid Redemption Price – But hasn't Claimed / Hebrews 2

Now Jesus paid the price to redeem the world back to God. However, He has not yet laid claim to that which He purchased. In the book of Hebrews, it talks about how that "Jesus was made a little lower for the suffering of death, that He might be crowned with glory and honor. And that all things might be put under His feet. But the writer said, We do not yet see all things put under Him" (Hebrews 2:7-9). We have this period of time since the price of redemption was paid until the Lord redeems His purchased possession.

(Hebrews 2:7 NKJV) You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.

(Hebrews 2:8 NKJV) You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

(Hebrews 2:9 NKJV) But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Jesus not Claimed yet – Period of Grace – before Kicking Out / Glad not 1990 / Still Today

Why hasn't Jesus claimed, why hasn't He kicked Satan out and reclaimed His land? Because when Jesus kicks Satan out, He will have to kick everyone else out who is not in His family – and that we will see begins in Revelation chapter 6, when He breaks the first seal, and the tribulation begins. It is the end of grace, it is the end of man receiving Jesus and following Him by their own free-will, it will be the worst time ever on the face of this planet. So Jesus for these last 2,000 years has been extended grace to all of man, that more may receive Him freely as King. I am ever so thankful that He didn't come back in 1990, because I got saved in 1991. I am glad he didn't come back in 2004, because I watched people get saved in 2005, and I am glad that I can stand here today and still point the way to salvation and be glad that He has not come back to reclaim the land, and I can tell those of you who have not received the free gift, now is the time, for today is the day, for I can not promise anything but today, this moment, and even this moment might pass.

Book Ephesians / Down payment

In the book of Ephesians, we are told concerning the faith that God has given to us the gift of the Holy Spirit "which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession." So in the meantime, God has given us the Holy Spirit. It's sort of a down payment. It's sort of God's indication that He is intent, He is earnest in His intention of redeeming you. And so the blessed gift of the Holy Spirit and as Paul talks again to the Ephesians, "We are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise":

(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

(Ephesians 1:14 NKJV) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

All of Creation Groans / Yet Future

In the book of Romans, Paul said that "we and all of creation are groaning and travailing together until now as we wait for the manifestation of the sons of God, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23). That is yet future, the redeeming of the world.

(Romans 8:22 NKJV) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

(Romans 8:23 NKJV) Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

(Romans 8:24 NKJV) For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

(Romans 8:25 NKJV) But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Full Understanding / Satan behind – AIDS – Hurricanes – Rape / Gives us Answers for Today

When we get the full understanding of this, we find out why the world is the way it is. So many people are confused with why this world is in such a mess. When people say, “Well, if God is so good, why are there wars, cancer, floods, AIDS, depression, rape, and injustice?”—they’re blaming the wrong person. The planet God gave man was absolutely perfect. Man is to blame for turning the planet over to Satan. And he is the reason the people to whom John was writing were watching their brothers and sisters incarcerated or fed to the lions, crucified, or dipped in hot wax. This book was written not only to deal with prophecy, but primarily to deal with the questions with which John’s flock wrestled—and the questions with which Christians have wrestled ever since.

(Revelation 5:2 NKJV) Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

Not Who Willing – but Able / Hitler – Napoleon – Wanted Power / But who is Worthy

In other words, “Who is able to meet the requirements, to pay off the debt?” Notice he does not say, “Who is willing?” Nebuchnezzar, Alexander the Great was willing. Genghis Khan was willing. Charlemagne was willing. Napoleon was willing. Hitler was willing. There have been lots of people who have said, “I want to be in power. Give me a crack at it. Let me see what I can do.” But the angel doesn’t ask, “Who is willing?” The angel asks, “Who is worthy?” Who was and is the near kinsman to Adam, that they might be in the family line to buy back this earth.

(Revelation 5:3 NKJV) And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

(Revelation 5:4 NKJV) So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Sobbed Convulsively / Not Redeemed – Perpetual Ownership

The Greek word translated “wept much” actually means “sobbed convulsively.” Because under the law of redemption found back in Leviticus chapter twenty-five, under the law of redemption, a person who sold his property had the right to redeem it if it was in the city, within a walled city, he had the right to redeem it within a year. If it wasn’t redeemed within the year, the transfer of the property became complete and it remained in the new ownership perpetually. But if it is outside the city walls it could be redeemed at the 50th year, the year of Jubilee:

(Leviticus 25:23 NKJV) 'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

(Leviticus 25:24 NKJV) 'And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

(Leviticus 25:25 NKJV) 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

(Leviticus 25:26 NKJV) 'Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it,

(Leviticus 25:27 NKJV) 'then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.

(Leviticus 25:28 NKJV) 'But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.

(Leviticus 25:29 NKJV) 'If a man sells a house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year he may redeem it.

(Leviticus 25:30 NKJV) 'But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It shall not be released in the Jubilee.

(Leviticus 25:31 NKJV) 'However the houses of villages which have no wall around them shall be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee.

No Man can Redeem / If not Redeemed – Stays under Satan’s Control / Satan the Destroyer

No man can redeem the world. No man is worthy. No man can save himself, much less others. And surely no man can redeem the world. And so John begins to sob. Why? If the earth is not redeemed in the specified time, the consequence is that it stays under Satan’s control forever. This is more than John could take. The thought of the world going on under Satan’s power. The thought of the powers of

darkness ruling and continuing to rule over the world. Satan's name, we'll get later on in the Book of Revelation as he unlooses the evil spirits that are in the abusso, his name in the Hebrew is Abaddon and in the Greek Apollyon which means destroyer. Satan is a destroyer! Look at how many lives are being destroyed by Satan! If you are under Satan's power tonight, he is in the process of destroying your life and if you will look at yourself honestly, take a true inventory, you would have to admit that your life is being destroyed because you've given yourself over to the flesh, which is destructive. And it is destroying you.

Look at last 30 Years / Consider the Kids

Imagine just the changes we have seen in the last 30 years. Think how far perversion has come to be totally acceptable in our society, top ratings on the TV. Look at the increases in natural disasters, wars, virus and plagues, and think how much worse they will be in another 30 years. If I didn't know this book, and this story, I too would sob convulsively thinking what life will be like for my son and grandchildren. Imagine 6000 more years of this (let alone 43000 – to year of Jubilee), how wicked this world would be, if it even would be, most likely would destroy itself by then.

John Sobs at the Thought of Satan

And so the thought of the world staying under Satan's control and power is more than John can handle. And John begins to sob with the thought that the world is going to be under Satan's control forever.

(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) 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."

Lion of Judah / Scepter shall not Depart

Verse 5 - Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah - The "Lion of the tribe of Judah" takes us back to Genesis 49, where Jacob calls his twelve sons together to pronounce a blessing upon them. As he comes to Judah, Jacob likens him to a lion's whelp, and then says that power and authority would be his until the coming of Messiah...

(Genesis 49:8 NKJV) "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

(Genesis 49:9 NKJV) Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

(Genesis 49:10 NKJV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

AD 12 – Roman Decree

The year is A.D. 12. In the springtime, the Romans issue a decree declaring that the Jewish people would no longer be able to carry out capital punishment. The rabbis' response to the decree was immediate because they believed capital punishment was the cornerstone of government as defined in the Noahic Covenant. When they were denied this fundamental right of government, and thereby rendered powerless as a nation, the rabbis rushed into the streets of Jerusalem, rending their clothes and smiting their breasts. Remember when they wanted to crucify Jesus they had to ask the Romans to do it because they were no longer allowed to:

(John 18:31 NKJV) Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

Rabbis Wailing – Scepter Departed – Jesus 12 in the Temple

In fact, we are told (Josephus the Historian) the whole city was filled with the wailing of rabbis who understood that something terrible was happening. The scepter had departed. The authority was gone. Yet Messiah had not come—or so they thought. For on that very day, guess who was sitting in the temple in Jerusalem as a twelve-year-old confounding the scribes and thinkers of the day: The Lion of the Tribe of Judah—Jesus Christ.

We Wail – Not Realizing Jesus is in our Midst Working

So, too, how often we throw dirt in the air and wail and moan, ripping our clothes and crying, "Where are You, Lord?"—when He's right in our midst, working everything out perfectly.

Root of David / Jesus has Claim to Throne / Till Enemies Your Footstool

Verse 5 - the Root of David: Jesus was born in the house and lineage of David, but obviously Jesus is eternal, but the main point being made here is that Jesus has the right to the claim of the throne. He is King Jesus, and He sits on the throne for ever. And back in Acts, Jesus will put all things under His foot, and the 7 seals and all we see in Revelation is final culmination of this:

(Acts 2:34 NKJV) "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,

(Acts 2:35 NKJV) Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

Expecting a Lion – Seeing a Lamb

At this point, John turns around, expecting, no doubt, to see a massive figure, a roaring lion, but instead will see a Lamb.....

(Revelation 5:6 NKJV) 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.

The Lamb in the Midst

Back in chapter 1 we saw Jesus in the midst of the 7 churches, and here He still is in the midst of His people now in heaven, just as He was in the midst in AD 12. We know He will be with us in heaven, how important to see Him in our midst today. In heaven we will lay our crowns at His feet, may we here on earth lay all our troubles and burdens, and our very life before Him:

(Revelation 1:13 NKJV) 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.

Lamb – Pet Lamb / Transfer of Guilt

Verse 6 - stood a Lamb as though it had been slain - The Greek word translated “Lamb” is in the diminutive form—meaning a pet lamb. That first Passover sacrifice would then become the pattern for all Passovers thereafter. The idea was to make sin personal, it is no big deal to go to the store pickup a lamb and kill outside the house. But imagine getting a lamb, so soft, innocent, and cute, and having it live in the home, on the grounds for 4 days. And then after the family had been attached to the lamb, seeing the father take a knife, slice the throat of the lamb, catching its blood, and then sprinkling it over the doors of the home. Sin would become personal, sin would become very real, and sin would mean something to you. The Lamb was a picture of God who would become the Lamb, that would take your sin personally. Before they would kill the lamb they would lay their hands upon the head of the lamb, confess their sin – transfer of guilt, and then kill the lamb. Thus Jesus did for us, and we would lay hands upon His head and transfer our guilt unto Him. The picture is a pet lamb, a member of the home, not store bought and common – personal and here now.

(Exodus 12:3 NKJV) "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

(Exodus 12:4 NKJV) 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

(Exodus 12:5 NKJV) 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

(Exodus 12:6 NKJV) 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

(Exodus 12:7 NKJV) 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Marred Beyond Recognition / Still Bears the Mark in Heaven / Reminder in Heaven

According to Isaiah 52, Jesus' visage is marred more than that of any other man. Possibly for all of eternity Jesus will bear the scars that He received purchasing us back, redeeming us from destruction, so that we may be called sons and daughters. But until the redemption is complete, until the scroll has the seven seals removed, it is possible that He will still bear the marks of the price of redemption that we might see what He was willing to endure because He loves you so much that words cannot describe it. Jesus said to His disciples, “Greater love has no man than this, than a man will lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). And when we see the marks of the cross, we'll realize the depths of His love and I'm sure that it will tug at each of our hearts.

As Though / 7 Horns – Power / 7 Eyes – Perfect Insight / 7 Spirits – Fullness of God

Verse 6 - , having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the -
Notice it says “as though”, John is using picture language here, it isn’t that Jesus has 7 horns and 7 eyes. Horns represent leadership and power in the Scriptures so the 7 horns speak of perfect power. The number seven is the number of completeness. And thus the complete power or the omnipotence of Jesus! And the 7 eyes speaks of His perfect insight, the number seven again, all seeing or the omniscience of Jesus. Seeing all things. So the seven horns, the omnipotence; the seven eyes, the omniscience of Jesus—the characteristics and attributes of deity. The 7 Spirits of God speaks of the fullness of God’s Spirit.

(Revelation 5:7 NKJV) Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Dramatic Moment

What a dramatic moment! Here we see the scroll in the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne, the strong angel with a loud voice asking who is worthy to take the scroll and loose the seals. No one found worthy until Jesus steps forth there in the midst of the throne, taking the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sits upon the throne.

Great News – We Don’t have to be Worthy

You know what is some of the greatest news of this passage, and that is that we do not have to be the worthy one. What a relief that we can rest in that, that we can rest in the One that is worthy.

Context / Holy – Holy- Holy / Separate – Love – Giving - Forgiveness

May I remind you that all of this we are reading and visualizing is in the context of God’s Holiness. Back in chapter 24/7 around the throne the praises of God goes out – Holy, Holy, Holy. Holy means to be separate, set apart, and the Lord is separate. Only 2 things exist, the Creator, and those created: there is the Creator, and everything else is created – the angels, heaven and earth, the devil, and you and me. That makes Him separated, set apart, Holy. God is also separate from us by the way He loves; His love comes with no strings attached, unconditional. He loves us even when there was nothing worth loving – dead in trespass and sin. We love our spouse because we saw something in them that drew us to them. God loves even when there was nothing loveable about us, that makes Him separate from us. His giving is different from ours, He gives freely of Himself, as we look at what is in it for us (can’t believe I did all that for them and they didn’t say thank you) – that makes Him different, separate from us. His forgiveness is different from ours, He forgives and wipes it from His memory bank, we forgive but never forget, that makes Him different, separate from us.

The Lamb

John is before the throne of God watching the worship of the saints before the Holy God. To see the beauty and awe and then everything come to a screeching halt because no one was found worthy to take the scroll. John weeps convulsively because then nothing would ever change down on earth, and things would just continue to get worse and worse. The Church would never be taken-up, the saints would never enjoy the marriage supper of the Lamb, Satan would never be cast into the Lake of Fire, and the New Heaven and the New Earth would never be established. But the Lamb steps forward, as one who had been slain. Up to this point (chapters 1-4) Jesus has been described in 24 different ways, but we will see that His predominate description used most often to describe in through the rest of the book (27 times) is the Lamb. When the seals are loosed and all the tribulation begins, the battle with Satan and unrepentant rebellious men, I would expect to continually hear the description as the Almighty One, The Awesome God, but Jesus chooses the Lamb. When the wrath begins, He still identifies Himself as the Lamb, the way the truth and the Life is through the Lamb, always has and always will be. The Lord wants all men everywhere to see Him as the Lamb that was slain, for their sin. The Lamb, God wants the Lamb to be central in every aspect of our lives, in our marriages, in our child rearing, in my eye gate, in my ear gate, in my business dealings, in all that I am, may it be in Light of the Lamb.

Revelation 5:7-14

He is Worthy to be Praise (the Ultimate Worship Service)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / 4 – throne / 5 – Title Deed / Weeps – Lion – Lamb / Met the Terms

Chapter 4 we saw what heaven will be like around the throne of God, as we see the brilliance of God and heaven. In chapter 5 we saw the Title Deed to the earth, and John weeping for no man was found worthy to take the scroll thus meaning the earth will just grow worse and worse, Satan will continue to be the god of this world devouring many. But the Lion steps forth, the God-Man Jesus Christ for He alone is worthy to take the scroll. He can take the scroll because He paid the price, the terms and conditions to redeem the earth and man, the price was death for the wages of sin is death. So the Lamb that was slain takes hold of this Deed, and we pick up here:

The Ultimate Worship Session / Millions

We will see in these verses, the Ultimate Worship session, a worship session that exceeds count, millions of millions of saints, angels, and creatures all worshipping the Lamb, and we will be there!

3 Waves / 3 Reasons

We will see the worship in 3 waves, and we see all worshipping for;

- Who He Is – The Lion and the Lamb
- Where He is – not in the manger, not on the cross, not in the tomb, but the resurrected Christ there at the throne.
- What He Does – He is worthy to take the Title Deed, the Scroll, and bring all things before the Throne.

Wave 1

(Revelation 5:7 NKJV) Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) 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.

Beautiful Melody / World not in Harmony / God Gathering all Things Together

Verse 8 - **each having a harp** - A harp is a 10-stringed instrument that makes beautiful melodies and how fitting that harps are played before the Throne of God, making sweet melody. The world is not in harmony in God, but God is gathering all things both in heaven and on earth, to bring the Creation back in harmony with the Creator:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Prayers Bouncing / Prayers never Lost - Tears Stored /

Verse 8 - **and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.** – Ever feel like your prayers are bouncing off the ceiling? Remember this verse next time you say what is the use, my prayers seem to go no where. Your prayers are never lost, they are never forgotten, just as every tear you have ever shed has been captured by the God who holds you through it all:

(Psalms 56:8 NKJV) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Zacharias / Decades Later / Still in Active Box / How full is Your Bowl

I am reminded of Zacharias back in Luke 1:13 when the angel said your wife will be with child. What do you mean? Zacharias must have thought. I haven't prayed that prayer in decades—which shows us even the prayers we forget about are still in God's "Active" box. Therefore, I'm convinced that many of the blessings in our lives are answers to prayers we prayed years previously. According to our text, our prayers are kept in vials, or bowls. How full is yours?

(Luke 1:13 NKJV) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John....."

(Luke 1:18 NKJV) And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

Every Prayer Captured – Stored / Heaven will Reveal God's Answers

Every prayer you have ever prayed has been captured, recorded, and remembered by God. It is my personal opinion that part of heaven will be the enjoyment of God revealing to us how and why He

answered each of those prayers. Telling us what was happening behind the scenes, revealing mysteries to us. We will just sit and look upon Him with amazement and say you are so marvelous, great and marvelous are your ways O'Lord Almighty, just and true are your ways:

(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) 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!

(Revelation 15:4 NKJV) 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."

Thy Kingdom Come / Seals – Final Countdown

For 2,000 year there has been a prayer that has not come to full fruition, yet it has been prayed millions of time, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done". When the seals start to be broken in chapter 6, then we will be on the final countdown of those prayer request being fulfilled;

(Matthew 6:9 NKJV) "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

(Matthew 6:10 NKJV) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Harp & Prayers Together / Never more in Harmony / True Super Bowl

Harp and prayer together in this verse, it is no coincidence for you will never be more in harmony with God than when you are tuned into prayer. I don't necessarily mean bowed knees, 4am, but more specifically when you are in communion with Him, in sweet fellowship, at one with Him. Every Prayer is stored in His Bowl – How full is your Bowl, which is the true Super Bowl.

(Revelation 5:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 5:10 NKJV) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Only Church can Sing This Song

Who is the only group of people who can say, "Out of every kindred and tongue, nation and people, we have been redeemed by the blood"? Only the church can sing this song because this is the song of the redeemed.

Redemption Only through the Blood / No Purgatory – Works / Blood Only

Any time you find reference to "redemption" in the New Testament you will always find that it is in the context of "the blood". There is no other way by which man can be saved, redeemed, except through the blood of Jesus Christ. No works, no prayer, no purgatory, but the blood and the blood only. A simple definition of a cultist is, "Jesus Christ, and _____ (then they add something to Jesus Christ). Jesus Christ, specifically the blood of Jesus Christ, PERIOD:

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

We are there – Before Tribulation

This is a very important verse! Only the church—which means the church is in heaven in chapter 5 before the Tribulation begins in chapter 6. ”.

95 – 24 – 23 manuscripts

Important Note: Notice it says, redeemed "us". Your translation may say in verse 9 "and have redeemed them". You may even have one of those asterisk make next to that verse and it read something like, "new manuscripts say – them". It is important that we look at this clearly, especial if you meet someone who says, see the church isn't in heaven yet, because the verse says "them" not "us". If it says them, then that leaves us out of the "them". The English translation of the Book of Revelation was done by translating from 95 Greek manuscripts. The so-called higher thinkers say, well only 23 of those 95 manuscripts say "us", so that leaves 72 that don't say "us". That is incorrect, for not all the manuscripts were complete manuscripts, remember these are old documents, many were in pieces. So of the 95, only 24 manuscripts contained chapter 5:9-10. Of those 24, 23 say "us". So that puts "us" in chapter 5, which puts us before chapter 6, which means we are out of here before the Tribulation begins. I am going to go with what John says at the end of this book, don't change a word:

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

New Song – Not so New

This new song is not new as consider new, we see the call through the Scriptures to sing a new song:

(Psalms 33:3 KJV) Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

(Psalms 33:4 KJV) For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

(Psalms 40:3 KJV) And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

(Psalms 40:4 KJV) Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

(Psalms 96:1 KJV) O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

(Psalms 96:2 KJV) Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day.

(Psalms 96:3 KJV) Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people.

(Psalms 96:4 KJV) For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.

(Psalms 96:5 KJV) For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

(Psalms 96:6 KJV) Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

(Psalms 96:7 KJV) Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength.

(Psalms 96:8 KJV) Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

(Psalms 96:9 KJV) O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

(Psalms 96:10 KJV) Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

(Psalms 96:11 KJV) Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

(Psalms 96:12 KJV) Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice

(Psalms 96:13 KJV) Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

(Psalms 98:1 KJV) A Psalm. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

(Psalms 98:2 KJV) The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.

(Psalms 98:3 KJV) He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

(Psalms 98:4 KJV) Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

(Psalms 98:5 KJV) Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

(Psalms 98:6 KJV) With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

(Psalms 98:7 KJV) Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

(Psalms 98:8 KJV) Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

(Psalms 98:9 KJV) Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

See also Psalm 144 and Isaiah 42.

Definition of New / Fresh / True Worshipers – Lamb Slain – Sin Personal / Always Fresh

The definition of new that is used here, means “fresh”, it is the Greek word “kainos”, while “neos” the other Greek word for new means, new as in respect to age. So God is calling us to sing a fresh song, worship should always be fresh, never stale, never the same ole, same ole.. We can see in the context of Revelation 5:9-10, true worshippers are those that see the slain Lamb, and it reaches their heart that it was their sin personally – the Lamb that was slain – Jesus died for my sin, my sin personally, then a person can not do anything else but enter into praise. When you see that, then you will always be taken back to the new life, the release from sin and death, and nothing will be the same ole, ever!

When You see The Lamb – Fresh Song

When you see the Lamb that was slain, you will have a song in your heart. The person who chooses to live holy will have heaven in their heart and a song on their lips. Worship will always be fresh when you see the Lamb that was slain.

Bloodless Songs / Seeker - Bloodless Gospel / Nothing but the Blood / Billy Graham

There is a movement among “seek friendly” churches today to remove all songs and even messages that speak of the blood of Christ, they don’t want to offend people. It is a bloodless Gospel, to make it more palatable to the people. But let that precious song be sung, what can wash away my sins, nothing but the

blood of Jesus, ohh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow, no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus. Billy Graham was asked, Billy now that you are older, do you find yourself preaching more on a particular subject, and he said yes, I preach more on the blood of Jesus.

Do Well Learn Song – No Overhead Slides

So you would do well to learn this song here on earth before we get to heaven, so we can worship with our eyes upon the Lamb, and not on the overhead screen with the words to the song.

Wave 2

(Revelation 5:11 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 5:12 NKJV) 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!"

7 Fold Attributes of Christ

Notice the 7 fold attributes of Christ here in verse 12. He is worthy, power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, and glory. Reasons why we praise Him!

Innumerable / Angels can now Enter In / He is Worthy

Verse 11 - the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands – Means the number of them was innumerable, couldn't be counted, what a scene this will be. Millions upon millions of angles and saints singing, and the angels can now enter into this song because before in verses 9-10 they weren't singing because they were not redeemed, but they can proclaim that He is worthy.....

Million – Ultimate Worship Service / Refreshed here on Earth / Bible College

Millions of millions, can you imagine this worship service, how awesome. But I am always refreshed with our worship here, I look so forward to it. When I was in Bible college we use to say, you know sometimes when we teach things just don't come out right, we feel like we kinda of grounded out to the pitcher, but worship, now there is a place that every time at bat we can hit a homer.

May I Note / His Presence Draws Worship out of Us / Hebrews / Not Sleepy Time

May I also note this, as we look at the ultimate worship session. People say, ohh I heard it all before, I know the Bible, ahhhh sleepy time think I'll just stay home. Do you want a piece of heaven on earth (for all these things are a shadow of things to come – meaning worship here is a shadow of this ultimate worship service we see in Revelation 5). Let me tie 2 key verses together from the Book of Hebrews, Do not forsake the assembly of the brethren, and Jesus worships in our midst. When we come together, we are gathering together and we are a shadow of this throne room scene that we are reading about. We are gathering, and Jesus is in our midst, and we see the Lamb that was slain and that leads us into the depth of worship. As we see here in Revelation 5, it is His presence that draws worship out of us. When you see that, it will never be the same ole, didn't we sing this song last week, why is he on the worship team. Worship is one of the greatest gifts that God has left His church. You rob yourself when you say, ahhh, sleepy time, think I'll chill, daydream for awhile, enter in:

(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

(Hebrews 2:11 NKJV) For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

(Hebrews 2:12 NKJV) saying:

"I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

Men – Forget Macho Stuff / Enter into Holy of Holies / Lift up Holy Hands

Men, forget that macho stuff, can't raise my hands, or can't lift my voice, people might see me, forget the crowds of people and enter into the Holy of Holies and enter into worship. I lift my hands up, unto the heaven (as we look to see who might be looking), enter in, let the world fade away. Sing a fresh worship song, and let it refresh you!

(1 Timothy 2:8 NKJV) I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

What a Ministry

What a ministry it is to lead others into worship. My word to any worship lead, you go, and the people will follow.

Wave 3

(Revelation 5:13 NKJV) 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!"

3rd Wave / Maybe Sparky in Heaven / Creation Groans

The scene builds again, the 3rd round of worship, and it now includes every creature that is in heaven, the earth, and under the earth. Not totally sure what all that means, but for you pet lovers who are wondering if "sparky" is going to be in heaven, this could be your verse. All I do know is that all of creation has been awaiting this moment, and groans to be redeemed:

(Romans 8:20 NKJV) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

(Romans 8:21 NKJV) because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

(Romans 8:22 NKJV) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

(Revelation 5:14 NKJV) Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Jesus is the Amen

Jesus is the "Amen", which means, so be it, fixed, done, and immovable. All the promises of God are yes and Amen:

(Revelation 3:14 NKJV) "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:

(2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV) For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Jesus Said

Jesus said:

(John 17:24 KJV) Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

(John 17:25 KJV) O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

(John 17:26 KJV) And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Only Place Jesus asks for Something

It is the only place that I see Jesus asks something for Himself, and that something is for us to be with Him where He is, and there we are. We will all be there together, beside Him, and each other. We will be side-by-side, arm-in-arm. There will be no church divisions, no discrimination, no racism, no political parties, no prejudice, there will only be royalty there (verse 10 kings and priests). Every face that you look into will be a prince or princess. That face may include that family member you haven't spoken with since that argument, or that brother or sister that offended you in church, those from the church split, Russians will be there, Chinese, people from Arab nations (from every tribe and nation), there will be no division there, only royalty. And when we rule and reign with Him during the Millennial Kingdom, we will rule in that manner – in unity, in agreement, in love, with no bias and no prejudice. Today, in our homes and amongst our brethren, may we live - they kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

His Presence Draws Worship Out / Fresh Song

The presence of Jesus will draw worship out of us, as we see the Lamb that was slain, nothing but the blood could redeem us, and that will draw our hearts then and now to sing a fresh song, to the worthy One, and we will be one together:

Source Of Life – by James Anderson

Verse 1

It was my sin
That nailed Him to a tree
It was His love
That held Him there for me
There is no way
I ever could repay
This debt of love
On me will stay

Chorus 1

Source of life
It's You I need
Cleanse my heart
With You I plead
Until the day I bow
Before Your throne
I'll live for You
And You alone
I'll live for You
And You alone

Chapter 6

The 4 Horseman of Revelation: 6:1-8

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

Start breaking Seals / Long road to Chp 20 / Chp 1-5

So today we start breaking seals, and it will be a long road to chapter 20, the Kingdom Age, that is why we spent so much time on chapters 1-5, so that we may enjoy the hope that is promised to us, that we won't be here for chapters 6-19. Let's read 1-8 for context:

(Revelation 6:1 NKJV) 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."

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

(Revelation 6:3 NKJV) When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

(Revelation 6:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:6 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 6:7 NKJV) When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

(Revelation 6:8 NKJV) 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.

Seals Part of Term & Condition

These seals are part of the terms and conditions to return the earth to its rightful owner. The price has been paid in full by Jesus Christ, but now come the terms. What we will see in this study are the consequences of man's sin, the repercussion of sin. Know this, your sin will always bring repercussion, it will always find you out. God will forgive it, but you still must suffer and face its consequences – it is the Law of sowing and reaping.

(Numbers 32:23 NKJV) "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Come and see

Come and see – as each horse is called forth, John will hear, Come and see. This is a word for every person, come and see, for all these things will come to pass (Matt 24 and you can either be watching them from heaven, or participating in them here on earth as one of the players. If you have not made a commitment to Jesus Christ, living for Him today, here is what you have to look forward to:

(Matthew 24:35 NKJV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

(Matthew 24:36 NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

White Horse

(Revelation 6:1 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 6:2 NKJV) 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.

First Saved – Jesus / Counterfeit 100 – Hold against Light / Angel Light – Opposite of -

In my early reading of the Bible when I first got saved, I thought the rider on the white horse was Jesus, because he came out on a white horse, Revelation 19 says Jesus will come out on a white horse. That is the very tactic of Satan, and that is to try to imitate the original so close, that an untrained eye could not tell the difference. You don't see counterfeit 3 dollar bills do, now only 5-20-100's. The thing today is to take a 5 dollar bill and bleach the ink out of it, and then on a regular ink-jet printer, reprint it as a 100 dollar bill. When someone uses one of the special markers to test if the material of the bill is real, it will pass the test, the only way to determine that it is fake is to hold it up to the light and see to the right the face of Lincoln on the hologram, not the face of Franklin. Satan can transform himself into an angel of light, that means to have the ability to impersonate (Anti means instead of, not opposite of). Here we see Satan (giving power to the Anti-christ) trying to impersonate the true Christ. Jesus wears crown, so does the Anti-christ. Jesus on the white horse, so is the anti-christ. The Christ is the Prince of Peace, so will the Anti-christ come as a man of peace. By the way did you know that the "peace sign"

historically/originally was the sign of a broken inverted cross, it come about from Caesar Nero and his deep hatred for Christians – he was a picture of an Anti-christ, although he was not "the" Anti-christ.

(Revelation 19:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) 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.

(Matthew 24:24 NKJV) "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

(Matthew 24:25 NKJV) "See, I have told you beforehand.

(2 Corinthians 11:13 NKJV) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJV) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Bow – Gen 9 – peace / Millions Missing

He comes with a bow, but no arrows, he is not coming as the front man of war, he is coming as a man of peace The word "bow" tends to conjure up an image of a bow and arrow. But I'm not sure that's correct. The first time a bow is mentioned in the Bible, it refers to a rainbow—the token of God's promise that He would not destroy the world with a flood (Genesis 9:13). Now think with me: Right after the church is raptured, the world will be in chaos. Imagine if just 20% of America raptured, that is say 50 million, we become a 3rd world nation overnight (doctors, teachers, leaders, police – the ACLU will stay in tact). 100's of millions missing, what will saw in New Orleans with the looting, raping, killing, will be nothing compared to what will happen world-wide. This may be the perfect opportunity for the Anti-christ to take center stage. Or it may be after the complete failure of all the political parties throughout the world failing to respond and remedy the situation, that the world will be ready for 1 Leader, who can bring order back into the world.

Broker Peace in Israel / Not War but Peace

We are sure of this, the Anti-christ will be the broker of peace in Israel. Daniel says a man will come, making a covenant with Israel—a seven-year peace treaty. And the whole world will say, "Hooray! At last someone has solved the problem of Jerusalem. There's peace between the Israeli and the Palestinian, between the Arab and the Jew." Thus, this bow could be the same type God displayed to Noah—a rainbow. In any case, he comes with a bow, but no arrows, he is not coming as the front man of war, he is coming as a man of peace, later we will see him turn to a man of wrath (as he tries to wipe out the nation Israel). We see it in the crown he wears.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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."

(Daniel 8:23 NKJV) "And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.

(Daniel 8:24 NKJV) His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; He shall destroy fearfully, And shall prosper and thrive; He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

(Daniel 8:25 NKJV) "Through his cunning He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; And he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; But he shall be broken without human means.

Crown – Victor – Temporary / Break Covenant at 3.5 years / the Deceiver

A crown is given to him, a victors crown but it is only temporary. The Greek word translated “crown” is stephanos, and it was the victors crown at the Olympics: the soldiers mockingly made this crown (with thorns) and crushed it upon Jesus’ head. A diadem is a permanent crown; In Revelation 19 Jesus will come out wearing the permanent crown. A stephanos, on the other hand, is a wreath made of olive branches that only lasts a short while, it will eventually fade away. It will only be 3 ½ years before the truth comes out of who the Anti-christ truly is, but for those 3 ½ years many will be deceived.

People Deceived – Hook – Line – Sin / Don’t Rule Us / Shut up Christians

It is no difference today as so many men and woman are deceived into think they are following the truth, yet are buying the line of the enemy hook-line- and sinner, right to the pit of hell for not seeking a Savior for their sin. In 2 Thessalonians, Paul warns that men do not want to know the truth, they don’t want to hear the Bible, they do not want to hear that what they are doing is wrong, they say we will not have this man rule over us. We chose to control our lives, it is my way, they are not sins, there is nothing wrong with what I am doing, you Christians shut up, you are over the edge constantly talking about sin, you are just uptight and legalistic. Go away – and they will get their wish.

(2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

(2 Thessalonians 2:10 NKJV) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

(2 Thessalonians 2:11 NKJV) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

(Luke 19:14 NKJV) "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

Wonderful Life / What earth Like without Restrainer / No acts of God until Seal 6

Do you remember the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life”, good ole George Bailey, Clarence the angel, Zuezie and her petals, Ernie the Cop, Nick the Bartender, Mr. Gower at the Drug Store, and let us not forget the hardhearted Mr. Potter, what a classic. George wished he was never born, and the movie unfolds what a difference the Life of George Bailey made in the town. Well if you have you ever wondered what this earth would be like with man in full-control (no restraining from God – no Christian witness), well in these 8 verses today you will see. In verse 16 it says this is the wrath of the Lamb, but what you will notice is that we will not see an “act of God” until at least the 6th seal, and I am not totally sure that is an act of God, it could be nuclear exchange. But for sure we see God’s wrath when the 7th seal is loosed, which are the 7 trumpets.

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Wrath begins at Rapture / Yea no Christians / Restrainer 1st Removed – Holy Spirit

Although we will not see “acts of God” until at least the 6th seal, we do see the wrath of God start before the 1st seal is broken, yes.....God’s wrath begins on this earth when the rapture takes place, when the restrainer is removed. When the church is removed, the world will get what they have so long wanted, get rid of those Christians, I can’t stand them and all their morals. The anti-christ can not be revealed until the restrainer, the Holy Spirit in us is removed. Some think that it is the Holy Spirit being removed form the earth, but God is omni-present (He is everywhere – and must remain here to lead those who were left behind into salvation) therefore He can not be removed, therefore it must mean the Holy Spirit in us, His Church:

(2 Thessalonians 2:1 NKJV) Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

(2 Thessalonians 2:2 NKJV) not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

(2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

(2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

(2 Thessalonians 2:5 NKJV) Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

(2 Thessalonians 2:6 NKJV) And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

*(2 Thessalonians 2:7 NKJV) 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.***

(2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV) 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.

(2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

(Psalms 139:7 NKJV) Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

(Psalms 139:8 NKJV) If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

(Psalms 139:9 NKJV) If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

(Psalms 139:10 NKJV) Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Wicked World – yet Restrained World / YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As wicked as this world is right now, it is being restrained by the witness of the church, for you are the salt and light of the earth. Have you ever walked into a room or over to a group of people and the conversation stops, people feel uncomfortable. Ever hear a curse word and they apologize to you.

Imagine a day when there is nothing to restrain them, they can air it out, and have no guilt or shame about it. That day will become the day after you are raptured. If you think you are making no difference in your world – maybe you are having a George Bailey day, see what the world will be like with you, the church not in it. Man will be left to govern himself, unrestrained, and it will be the ultimate mess.

Christians getting saved during the tribulation will all be babes in Christ, their witness will not have the power as it has today. You do make a difference, whether you realize it or not, and the Christian life is a wonderful life, the world has no idea truly what we mean to them:

(Matthew 5:13 NKJV) "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

(Matthew 5:14 NKJV) "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Anti-christ Revealed / World Flocks to him / Rejected Jesus

The Anti-christ is revealed, and the world will flock to him. Jesus said I come in my Father's name, and you receive me not. But another will come in his own name, and him you shall receive. And as we will see, he is not coming alone, verse 3!

(John 5:43 NKJV) "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

Red Horse

(Revelation 6:3 NKJV) When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

(Revelation 6:4 NKJV) 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.

Dispel Misunderstanding

Let me dispel a misunderstanding before we get too far. There is a misconception that the Anti-christ will bring peace on the whole earth for the first 3 ½ years of the 7 year Tribulation, that is not true. As we see in this seal, the Tribulation starts immediately throughout the whole world, the only place there will be peace, if you can imagine this, is in Israel. So for the first time in some 2,000 years, the only place there will be peace is in Israel, and it is the rest of the world where misery of all sorts is abounding.

Peace - Peace

Be careful we are warned when you hear peace and safety, all is well:

(1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV) For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

(1 Thessalonians 5:4 NKJV) But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

Red Horse is War / Politics will not bring Peace / Lust & Power equal War

The red horse following the white horse of Antichrist is war. Anyone who thinks there can be true political solutions to the world's problems is sadly mistaken. Politics is solely about gaining and maintaining

power. "From whence come wars and fightings?" James asks. "Come they not even from your own lusts?"—from wanting power, wanting property:

(James 4:1 NKJV) Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

(James 4:2 NKJV) You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

Man or Church Looking to Government will be Disappointed

Truly, any man who thinks he can bring about peace politically, or any church that looks to the government for a solution to our country's problems will be disappointed. Power always brings war. And war is always disguised to look acceptable.

3 Trillion / Destroyed 8x Over / Feed whole World / Pakistan – 2.4 mill – 800K Winter

On any given year, there is over 3 trillion dollars spent on war armament. That is like 8 billion a day. Just between the USA and Russia there is enough weaponry to destroy the world 8 times over (each having 4). One year of military spending could feed the whole world for 100 years, yet today hundreds of thousands will perish throughout the world because of lack of food. 80,000 have died in Pakistan because of the earthquake (October 2005), it is estimated that there are 800,000 that are homeless. They are asking for winter tents, not your ordinary summer tent, or else tens of thousand more will perish. The request has been made for 100's of million of dollars to feed the 2.4 million that have been effected by the earthquake and will not recover in time to face the winter coming. Yet, the world says they can give no more.

People Killing Each Other / People kill Self

Verse 4 - and that people should kill one another – People will kill one another, since 1973 in the USA there have been over 40 million abortions (average woman in Russia has 9 abortions in a lifetime – abortions paid by government, birth control not). In America over 15,000 people were murdered last year. Yet what happens when this Second Seal is broken is going to be way worse. Why, because man can not govern himself. Every year 30,000 people commit suicide just in the USA, there will be a time during the Tribulation that no one will be able to take their own life (Rev 9:6), but I wonder before that time how many will take their own life when they lose loved ones, wealth and possessions, war and famine. We are seeing the first signs of Euthanasia here in America with Terri Shavio and they say things happened in hospitals and nursing homes when hurricane Katrina hit that were just not right – imagine during this time man may be saying we can only provide for the strong at this time. Things to consider.

(Revelation 9:6 NKJV) In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Birth pains

Jesus said in Matthew 24 that war, famine, pestilence are all birth pangs, when the seals are broken the birth pangs will come into full fruition. Hard to Imagine because I get depressed watching the news today, I could not imagine reading the newspaper daily to read this stuff.

(Matthew 24:7 NIV) Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

(Matthew 24:8 NIV) All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Black Horse

(Revelation 6:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:6 NKJV) 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."

Quart – Loaf / Days Wages / 100 for a Loaf

With a quart of wheat you can make a loaf of bread. On the average, a person could purchase 8 quarts of wheat for a denarius, and 24 quarts of barley for a denarius. A denarius was considered a days' wages, so if the average person makes 24,000 a year, that is 100 a day, then at this time a loaf of bread would cost 100 dollars. What we are seeing here is extreme famine.

50% Malnourished / 1.2 Metric Tons

Today, close to 50% of the world is malnourished. Yet they say the average American home throws out enough food every day to feed a family of 6 in a 3rd world country. The world produces 1.2 metric tons of grain each year. That grain feeds half the world (remember ½ are malnourished). That is enough grain to build a highway that is 18 yards wide, 6 feet deep, and wrap around the whole earth at the equator. 50% of the world is malnourished, imagine when this seal is opened.

Famine follows War / World Disrupted

Famine will follow war, for the distribution chain is disrupted, the roads are non-travelable, there will be fuel shortages, farmlands are scorched, farmers are killed or in combat – famine will follow war.

Oil - Wine

Biblically, oil and wine symbolize luxury. You see, the wealthy of the world somehow continue to get wealthier even in times of war and famine. The social gap will widen, it will be rich or poor.

Nobel Prize

Interesting, Alfred Nobel, of the Peace Prize fame, made his fortune manufacturing explosives. When his father, also named Alfred, died, an obituary mistaking father for son stated that “he was a rich industrialist who made his fortune in war.” “This is my legacy?” asked a horrified Nobel. And from that day on, he set apart a substantial sum of money to fund prizes for peace and science, medicine and literature. Nobel is the rare exception, for the famine that follows war never seems to affect the oil and wine of the wealthy.

Pale Horse

(Revelation 6:7 NKJV) When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."

(Revelation 6:8 NKJV) 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.

Death & Hell / Body - Soul

The rider on the horse name is given to us, and his name is death; and accompanying him will be “hell”. So death comes for the body, and hell for the soul.

Chloros - Bleached

Chloros, the Greek word translated “pale,” is the same word from which we get the word “chlorine”—or bleached—and “chlorophyll”—or green. It gives us a good visual picture of death – washed out.

Verse 8 - to kill with sword – To kill with the sword is the Red Horse.

Verse 8 - with hunger – to kill with hunger is the Black Horse.

Beasts – Therion – Frightful any Size

Verse 8 - and by the beasts of the earth - The phrase translated “beasts of the earth” is therion in Greek. Therion does not mean gigantic or monstrous. It means something frightful of any size—even, I suggest, microscopic, as are the HIV and e-coli viruses. Conditions will be so bad from the war, from all the dead bodies as the result of war, famine, maybe even the rapture, that diseases will spread rapidly.

Quarter of Population / 6.5 Billion / 1 Bill raptured / 5 Bill Left – 1.25b – All America – GB - Japan

Verse 8 - And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth – A quarter of the population is dead. So today we are at about 6.5 billion people, so lets say 1 billion get raptured (hopefully more), then that leaves 5 billion. A quarter of that then would mean 1.25 billion, I said BILLION, will die. That would be equivalent to all the people living in Central America, Mexico, USA, Canada, all of Japan, and all of Great Britain (the United Kingdom).

Wrath of the lamb

This is the wrath of the Lamb, the wrath against a Christ rejecting world, and we have yet to see any “acts of God”, it is going to get a lot worse, that is why we spent so much time in chapters 1-5, so that we might be ready, so that we won't be here.

Chp 5 / Chp 6

I have good news, and that is that chapter 5 comes before chapter 6, always will. But I have bad news also, chapter 6 will come after chapter 5, it is a guarantee. Do you know Jesus, will you be in chapter 5 or will you be in chapter in 6, the choice is all yours. Jesus today still identifies Himself to you as the Lamb, the one who was slain, the One who took your guilt and shame, will you receive Him today?

Birth Pains

As for you who have settled that matter, may I remind you of something, you can't quit the labor in the middle of the labor. God has chosen that we would be the ones that would live on the earth during this time, we are living in history. I will be honest with you, sometimes I want to step out, just rest, take a break from the warfare. Let someone else do it, just coach football, go to work, read about this stuff and be glad I am going to be out of here. But if I did, that would be 1 less, and the dynamic is, God is always looking for 1 more, 1 more that will know Him as Lord and Savior, and I may get to be the “1” that will get to bring the “1”. I come back to that place, that if I can take 1 more with me, then it will all be worth it. And prayerfully, that 1 may be my family and loved ones, or it may be your family and your loved one. Maybe you will be the “1” that will bring my family and my loved one. Can't stop once the birth pains begin.

You've been Left Behind: 6:9-17

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

4 Horseman Recap / Man Gets what Wanted – Obnoxious Christians / Result 1.25 Billion

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows in war. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. Man finally gets what they wanted, to be totally self governed, no God in their lives and government, and none of those obnoxious Christians with all their moral values. The resultant we saw last week, in just these 4 seals a quarter of the population is dead (Post rapture that may be somewhere around 1.25 billion people). As we had stated last study, all that we saw was just man, man left to his own, none of the things we studied were “acts of God”, it was just man left to himself. As we saw, part of the Wrath of the Lamb is the Rapture of the Church, for the Restraint is taking out (the Holy Spirit in you, the church) and the world is left with no moral conscience. The result 1.25 billion dead, the world is suffering and facing wars, famine, pestilence. That was only 4 seals, now lets look at seals 5&6.

(Revelation 6:9 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:10 NKJV) 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?"

(Revelation 6:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:14 NKJV) Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

5th Seal – The Martyrs of God

(Revelation 6:9 NKJV) 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.

Blood Under Altar

Under the altar is where the blood of the sacrifices were applied there in the temple. Here we see saints recognized as sacrifices:

(Exodus 29:12 NIV) Take some of the bull's blood and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour out the rest of it at the base of the altar.

Not Soul Sleep / 2 Cor 5:8

Now these saints are not in some limbo stage or soul sleep, they are before the throne with the rest of us who have been raptured. For to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord:

(2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV) We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Things Going Badly – Blood Flowing – Blame the Christians / ACLU in Tact

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. So who does the world blame? The believers who come to Christ during the Tribulation. Man will not take the responsibility for his sin, and he will seek to blame-shift (its as old as the garden). Instigated by the Anti-christ, energized by Satan (prince and power of the air), and attack will start against the Christians. Just a note, you can be sure the ACLU and every liberal organization like them will be fully in tack after the rapture, where as every Christian group will be depleted because the leaders and workers have been raptured.

Black Plague

This is not new by the way, history is just repeating itself. In the days of the Black Plague in Europe (aprox 1347-1351), one third of the people died from it (Encarta Encyclopedia). The one group of people spared was the Jews (today, we know it is because they were simply following the biblical principles of hygiene). But their contemporaries, convinced the Jews were the reason for the plague, persecuted them and killed them (Encarta Encyclopedia). The same will be true in the Tribulation. Amid sickness and blood, economic disharmony and war—believers will be martyred as the world will look to blame someone, and Christians will be it (energized by Satan and the Anti-christ). Christians will stand alone during this time. But yes there will be millions of Christians.

Millions of Baby Christian / People who Heard Family – Friends

There will be millions of new-babes in Christ because the day of the rapture, and the weeks and months to follow people will be getting saved. Those that sat in churches looking at their watches saying hurry up preacher man I'm just here to appease my spouse and family. People who listened to family and friends, read books, saw the movie Left Behind, will immediately (or soon after) know they blew it. They will know they played the fool, that their life was the ultimate pride comes before a fall:

(Proverbs 16:18 NKJV) Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

They will Realize / Tell as many as Can / They will search for Others – Only find People like Self

They will realize that they have been left behind. Christian tell as many as you can, let them laugh, let them mock, let them snicker, but the day of the rapture even the most cynical will have to say it is exactly what they said would happen. They will search out verification, if this is true than lets see if the rest are gone, and they will find missing too all people you said would be gone. They run here and all they find are people just like themselves.

Tell them the Story – Send the Movie – Won't throw Away / Break the Glass

Tell them the story of the rapture. We are taking great diligence to see that our studies are posted on the Web. When we are done with this study we will put the whole study on 1 MP3 CD, we will put 100's of CD's in a case with a glass lid, and written on it will be "In case of Rapture – Break Glass". Tell them the story, give them the Left Behind Movie for Christmas along with the Jesus Video, and you know what, I bet less than 1% will throw them away, they may not watch it, but they won't throw them away. They will be afraid that you will ask have you watched it, so they will keep it so they can say "not yet".

Millions Saved – Millions Killed / Martyred – Testimony / Pillar of Truth

Millions will get saved at this time, and they will need Jesus for all that is going on in this world and millions will be killed for their "testimony of the word of God", the word testimony is the word "martus", where we get the world martyred. They were killed because they kept the word of God. They will become the pillar and ground of truth, and the world will not hear of it:

(1 Timothy 3:15 NKJV) but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

(Revelation 6:10 NKJV) And they cried with a loud voice, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

How Long – Something Different Going On / Forgive Them

They ask how long! Notice that we are in a different period, for they are asking when. How different this is from Jesus and Stephen saying forgive them they know not what they do.

Once Seals start Breaking – Creation Looking for Holiness / Holy & True / No More Blasphemy

Once seals start to break, all of Creation that is in line with God will be looking forward to God's Holiness being established. Notice what they say, "holy and true". These saints have seen and lived in a world unrestrained, and they have seen the blasphemy of man against the Holy God, and they are crying out for His Righteousness to be established on earth – enough they are saying, no more blasphemy to the Holy God. They have seen the death, have seen the rape and murder, the starving of the children, they have seen how man has messed it all up, they have seen a Christ-less world and now cry out for all things to be set in their proper place. The Superdome in New Orleans is an example of a lawless society, that even in the midst of all the tragedy, man would still rape and murder, having no regards for God or fellow man, but only feeding their carnal desires. These saints say enough – set it right Lord.

How Make Sense – Balance Holiness - Grace

How do we make sense of this, God's children being killed by the masses during this time, how can He allow this. It is the balance between holiness and grace, and I doubt we can touch it in understanding with our finite minds. God in His righteousness, holiness, must judge sin and unrighteousness, and that is what is happening here, yet the Lord still offers grace during this period.

Forewarns Us – In Advance / Could have 7yr Grace – 2000yr Trib / Still would be Just - Grace

But God in His grace forewarns before it happens. God cared enough to tell man in advance what would happen, and he gives man 2,000 years to respond, now that is patience, that is grace. Do you realize, the period of grace (that we live in) could have been 7 and the Tribulation 2000, and he would still be just, He would still be fair, it would still be grace because we could still get saved.

Now is Acceptable Time / Play it Out

He tells man, now is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation. Do it now, the easy way, spare yourself doing it the hard way. If not, then you will have to "play it out". That is just it, if you chose to wait, then you will have to play it out, and you will have no one to blame but yourself. It is the law of sowing and reaping, and man will reap what he has sown (Galatians 6:7-8). (If you are reading this after the Rapture – holdfast, the Lord poured His blood out first; remember His love and peace offering to you no matter how bad it gets, for you shall see Him face to face and He will wipe the tears from your eyes): *(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

Horrible Times – Violently Seized / Not appointed to Wrath

These will be horrible times for saved and unsaved, and remember the rapture, means a violent seizing up or away. It is like the child that wanders out on the road right in front of a car, and the parent grabs hold of them and snatches them away right before the car would crush them. That is what the Lord will do for His church before these seals start to be broken, for He has not appointed His children to wrath: *(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

(Revelation 6:11 NKJV) 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.

More Death of Saints to Come

There will be more death to come to the saints. In Revelation 13 that the Anti-christ is given power to make war with the saints:

(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Consider this / 160K / 70 Million / 160K Restrained

Consider this, "David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, in the 2003 Annual Statistical Table on Global Mission International Bulletin of Mission research estimate approximately 166,000 persons are being martyred every year Compare this with 160,000 in 2000 and 34,400 at the beginning of the 20th Century. If this current trend were to continue, Barrett and Johnson estimate by 2025, an average 210,000 Christians would be martyred annually. "According to David Barrett and Todd Johnson's estimation, at a

steady rate over the last 20 centuries, and in all 238 countries, 70 million Christians have been martyred – killed, executed, murdered – for Christ. 160,000 a year is the martyred rate in a world that is currently being retrained, imagine what it is will be like when man can have his own way, millions and millions. Worst than Hitler against the Jews in that short time of his terror.

Don't Let Friend get Saved in Trib / My Friend never told Me

Beloved, don't let a friend or family get saved in the Tribulation, going through all of this, and you never told them. They might just crack ya when they see ya in heaven. Seriously, I think we can convince ourselves that no one wants to hear the gospel, that he/she would never give their life to the Lord. They are too hard. I can remember everyday waking and thinking how empty life. But I started to read the Bible, saw the Savior, the void absorbed by His love. I went to church and saw a guy from work, say him every day and talked with him every day. He was helping park cars, he saw me and was like no way. I saw him and the first thing I thought was, I can't believe he never told me. He wanted to disciple me, I was like no way, you knew me for over a year and never told me.

6th Seal – Earth in Upheaval

(Revelation 6:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 6:14 NKJV) Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Book of Joel

As prophesied in the book of Joel:

(Joel 2:30 NKJV) "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

(Joel 2:31 NKJV) The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

(Joel 2:32 NKJV) And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Nuclear Winter / 25-40 Nukes / Personally Nukes going On

There's a cataclysmic, catastrophic shaking going on. Why? Some suggest this describes a nuclear winter—the result of a nuclear exchange in which the sun would be darkened, the stars would fall (incoming missiles), and the tectonic plates would shift causing the earth to quake. It has been determined by the military minds that it would only take 25-40 nukes going off at the same time to move the earth. The sun would be black from the ashes and smoke of a nuclear explosion. The moon could look like blood through the plume of the nuclear explosion. I personally have no doubt that the war described here in the 4 seals, and the major death toll, that nukes will be involved, how much is a matter of speculation.

God Getting into Act / Both God and Man

But, it very well could be that God is now getting into the act, and we are reading of "acts of God". He is pouring out His wrath as we are told in verses 16-17. It very well could be both God and man exchanging nukes

5 Earthquakes in Tribulation

There will be 5 earthquakes that we will see in the Tribulation. And it appears 3 will be one at the beginning, one at the mid-point, and then one at the end:

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 11:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 11:19 NKJV) Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

(Revelation 16:18 NKJV) 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.

Earth Stagger / Tsunami moved Earth

In Isaiah it says the earth will stagger like a drunkard, meaning sway back and forth, sounds pretty crazy doesn't it. The Tsunami in December 2004 caused the whole planet to wobble according to Geologist, Kerry Sieh, of the California Institute of Technology (as reported by AP News on 28 Dec 04). Scientists describe the devastating earthquake off the island of Sumatra as a "megathrust" -- a grade reserved for the most powerful shifts in the Earth's crust. How powerful? By some estimates, it was equal to detonating a million atomic bombs. The Tsunami claimed close to 250,000 lives. You know if you read that the earth would wobble 100 years ago people would say you Bible readers are nuts, but here science once again comes in line with the Bible.

(Isaiah 24:20 NKJV) The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.

Meteors – Barringer Crater 1 mile / Movie Armageddon

Stars falling, could be asteroids and meteorites, they could effect the earths movement and tilt. There is a crater in Arizona (called Barringer Meteorite Crater) that is from a meteorite strike that hit who knows when (personally I think it was during the Noahic flood). It is 1 mile wide, 600 feet deep, and the earth was pushed up 130 feet around the edges. By the way, those crazy sci-fi movies where a meteor is heading towards earth and the plan is to launch nukes at it to break it up and minimize the impact is actually in the books as a plan of defense for our military. The only problem is that there is so much stuff moving through space it is not always possible to track it and see it coming, so man may not even see it coming – it is a big galaxy out there.

Major Earthquake – sets off Volcanoes / Mt St. Hellens – 50megatons

When there are major earthquakes, it cause the tectonic plates of the earth to shift, which then sets off the volcanoes. When Mt. St. Hellens it was estimated to have the power on the earth of a 50 megaton weapon. Now 1 megaton is 50 times the power of what was dropped on Hiroshima. When it erupted the sky was dark for days with all the smoke and ash.

Krakatau

According to the US Geological Society, in 1883 a volcano in the South Pacific erupted (**Krakatau**) killing 34,000, and they say it was heard 3,000 miles away. That would be like something happening in Los Angeles and we in Baltimore go was the heater turning on. They say tidal waves traveled 4500 miles in each direction (that 9,000 miles of effect) and that it effected the weather on the earth for 2 years.

12 months – 300,000 / Just Birthpains

So far in the last 12 months between the Tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan we have seen over 300,000 people killed. They will be nothing compared to the quakes in the Tribulation because they are just signs of birth pains, they are not the full birth.

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) 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,

Global Effect / Cave Most expensive Real Estate

These things in the 6th seal will have global effect, and your money and position will help them escape. The rich and the poor, the lowly and the mighty. The most expensive and sought after pieces of real estate will not be at the beach or in the mountains, but in caves and holes and people seek for relief, but it will not come.

The Wrath of the Lamb

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Cry to Rocks – Not Rock of Ages / Refusing to Repent

People should be crying out to the Rock of Ages, instead will be crying for the rocks to fall on them and kill them. They will not seek repentance even when they know that this is God, and His wrath against man's sin. I am amazed that anyone could be faced with these things, yet not turn to the Lord.

Amazed they Won't Repent / NO - NO

As I read this I am amazed that people won't repent, but then I think back and realize the hardness of man's heart, and how many refuse to acknowledge Him as Lord. I am reminded of going to the hospital, an emergency call, death was moments away they said. When I go there the person was hanging on to life by a thread but still conscious. She couldn't speak, even to her family. I shared the gospel with her, told her the love of God who is waiting with open arms to receive her. I said I know you can't speak, but just squeeze my hand if you want to receive Him. She mustered all the strength in her body, and very faintly she said, No; then she said it again, and again, each time with more strength and power. Over and over again she said NO! I am ever so amazed, but yes, people's hearts can be that hard, and they will reject the free gift rather than receive the promise of eternity with Him. It is the ultimate pride.

Still the Lamb

Notice though, Jesus still identifies Himself as the Lamb! Do you see Him as the Lamb today, I pray that you see him as the Lamb today, and not then. See Him as the Lamb, and He will break through even the hardest of hearts.

Chapter 7

144,000 of Israel Sealed / The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation: 7:1-17

Shall I tell Them / Not Question – but Initiation / Engaged Abraham into His Plan

Back in Genesis the Lord appears to Abraham with 2 angels. They supper to together, God gives Abraham a promise of the child he shall have in his old age, they have a wonderful time of communion. As the Lord is leaving, He says to the angels with Him, shall I tell Abraham what I am about to do. It wasn't a question, it was the initiation of a spiritual conversation between the Lord and Abraham. The Lord wanted Abraham to know what was going to happen, what He was going to do, He wanted to engage Abraham in His plans. Abraham, the cries have come up to Me of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah, and now it is time for my wrath and judgment to come down. So too is this book of Revelation, that God would let us in on what He is about to do, to engage us, and make us a part of His plan. The study of this book is a most honored position for us to be in, God has counted us special enough and pleasing enough to Him, to share with us, what He is about to do. What a blessing for us, and God promises us a blessing for engaging in, looking into what He is going to do.

(Genesis 18:16 NKJV) Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

(Genesis 18:17 NKJV) And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

(Genesis 18:18 NKJV) "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?"

(Genesis 18:19 NKJV) "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

(Genesis 18:20 NKJV) And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

(Genesis 18:21 NKJV) "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

4 Horseman Recap / Man Gets what Wanted – Obnoxious Christians / Result 1.25 Billion

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows in war. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. Man finally gets what they wanted, to be totally self governed, no God in their lives and government, and none of those obnoxious Christians with all their moral values. The resultant we saw that in just these 4 seals a quarter of the population is dead (post rapture that may be somewhere around 1.25 billion people). We saw, part of the Wrath of the Lamb is the Rapture of the Church, for the Restraint is taking out (the Holy Spirit in you, the church) and the world is left with no moral conscience. Then we saw a multitude of saints killed for their faith, and the sixth seal brought on great earthquakes and cataclysmic events on the earth, as the whole earth is in upheaval. So before the 7th seal is broken, we have an interlude of more of what is going on down on earth while we are in heaven with the Lord.

This Chapter: 144K / Martyred Saints / Who can Stand? / God's Love – Able to Preserve – Do You

In this study we will see the sealing of the 144,000 children of Israel, and more martyred saints before the throne of God. Back in chapter 6 the question was asked who is able to stand in this great day of His wrath; chapter 7 tells us who, for we see that God will seal and preserve 144,000 children of Israel, and even though saints are being martyred on earth, they will stand before Him in heaven. God will show us in this chapter that His love and grace will still flow freely in the Tribulation Period, and that He is always fast at work amongst His children, and He is able to preserve them in any circumstance. Christian do you realize that today, that in the midst of a turbulent world, in our daily tribulations, in extreme circumstances, that the Lord is ever present with you, a comfort in time of need, and able to preserve you in all matters:

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

144,000 of Israel Sealed

(Revelation 7:1 NKJV) 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.

Round Earth - Compass

Hey the earth is round, the Bible is in error. Should you hear that, refer them to a compass; north, south, east, and west. I might add, our military strategists have divided our world into 4 quadrants for military planning strategies.

(Revelation 7:2 NKJV) 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,

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

Sealed for Protection / Ephesians we are Sealed

For the 144,000 He seals them for protection, a guarantee that nothing can harm them. For us today He does the same as He seals us with His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), a guarantee that He is coming for us, and that He will claim what is His. In the day of this writing a servant buying goods for his owner would put them in a container, and place wax on the container, then with his signet ring, a 1 of a kind insignia that represented the owner, he would impress his mark in the wax, and when the goods got to the final destination, the owner would gather them up by saying that is my seal, that one too, put them all in my cart, bring them to my house for they are mine. That is the Lord's promise to us, upon final destination, he will point us out and say they are mine – I Paid for them in full, my seal proves it:

(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

(Ephesians 1:14 NKJV) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) 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:

God starts Work among Israel

What we clearly see here is God starting His work among the children of Israel. Reminder, part of the reason of the Tribulation is:

- To Wake-up a People (Israel)
- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To make-up the Kingdom (Millennial & Eternal)

God Wakes / Protects – Exodus / Elijah – Ezekiel 9 – Rev 12

So God is going to start waking up the nation Israel that has been asleep now for 2,000 years after they had missed the Messiah. This correlates so closely with their bondage in Egypt; as the Lord put plagues upon the land of Egypt, we see that as the people of Egypt were afflicted, the children of Israel were not. In the beginning they were (water to blood and the frogs from the Nile) but then after nothing touched them. I might add though they had to apply the blood over the door for death to Passover or else they would suffer the same. In Revelation we see 144,000 being sealed and protected, and then at the Mid-Point God will whisk all of Israel away and protect all of them for the last 3 ½ years. We have seen this also when God preserved Noah through the flood, when Jezebel was after Elijah we saw that 7,000 prophets were preserved who would not worship Baal. And in Ezekiel 9, an angel marked the foreheads of those who were faithful to God, right before the Lord brought judgment upon Jerusalem:

(Exodus 8:22 NKJV) "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.

(Exodus 8:23 NKJV) "I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.

(1 Kings 19:18 NKJV) "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

(Ezekiel 9:4 NKJV) and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

(Ezekiel 9:5 NKJV) To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity."

(Ezekiel 9:6 NKJV) "Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple.

(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) 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.

Super Evangelist / Meta Tauta – Chp 6 Salvation / Simple Chronological Order

You will most often hear these 144,000 being referred to as super-evangelist, 144,000 Billy Graham's in the Tribulation period. That may be, but the Scriptures does not state that (word for them is servant – doulos, while the word for the witnesses is – martus). We start verse 1 of chapter 7 with "meta tauta", after these things, which means after what happened in chapter 6, and what was happening there were people getting saved and killed after the rapture. (I think it is simple enough to just stay in chronological order unless it is obvious that God is giving us "filler" information of things that have transpired – so after these things means, after the things that happened in Chapter 6). So there were no super-evangelist in chapter 6, and people were getting saved, and as I have said, I believe millions are getting saved because of the witness you, the church, left concerning the end times.

Once Eyes Open / 2 Witnesses – Angels

Now I do think these 144,000 will be witnessing, because how couldn't they. Once their eyes were opened to the Messiah they had missed, there would be no keeping them quiet. But world evangelism will be going on we will see coming up by the 2 witnesses in Jerusalem, and the angels proclaiming the everlasting gospel. So God will have evangelism covered well.

(Revelation 11:3 NKJV) "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

(Revelation 14:6 NKJV) 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;

Dispel the Professional Myth / Pastor - Church will do It / Ephesians 4 – Equipping Saints

Why do I make this point, because I want to dispel the myth of "the professional minister". I see today that people like the idea of "professional" ministers. I see that many Christians want to leave the work of the ministry up to the "professionals". Well I am no Billy Graham, so I can't witness. Well I am no Chuck Smith so I can't teach. Really what it is the situation, is that people would rather have someone else do it, and spare them the burdens and troubles that come with ministry. Well I'm sure the pastor is praying for them. The church will take care of the poor and widowed. Those people that are hurting, hopefully they will go to church and someone there will talk with them. No, no, no, that is not how God intends it to be. The Lord makes it clear of how it is to work in Ephesians, for it says God has given gifts to the church, to equip the saints for the working of the ministry,. So the Lord gives to the church evangelists, pastors, and teachers not so they will build the church, but so that they will build up the believers, train-up the believers, so they then will go and build up the church.

(Ephesians 4:8 NKJV) Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

(Ephesians 4:9 NKJV) (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

(Ephesians 4:10 NKJV) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

(Ephesians 4:11 NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

(Ephesians 4:12 NKJV) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

(Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

2 Tim 2

Paul told Timothy, find faithful men that you might invest in, so that they will go out and invest into others:

(2 Timothy 2:1 NKJV) You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

(2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

God Saved us for Fellowship

But, God did not save us because He needed workers; rather He gives us the joy of being a part of His plan, to co-labor with Him on the things of eternity. God has called us for fellowship, that is why He saved us (please see Revelation 4:8 study).

Servant – Purity / Casual Approach to Purity / Not Mouths – Lives / Living Epistles

God calls these 144,000 servants, and Revelation 14 will give us more definition of what a servant is, why these 144,000 are so special, because they were pure. Too many Christians are taking a casual approach to holiness and purity. Here is the testimony of these 144,000. It is not what they did with their mouths, but what they did with their lives. Angels can preach the gospel, but only man can be living epistles:

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) 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 redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

(2 Corinthians 3:1 NKJV) Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?

(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

(Revelation 7:5 NKJV) of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;

(Revelation 7:6 NKJV) of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand were sealed;

(Revelation 7:7 NKJV) 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;

(Revelation 7:8 NKJV) 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.

Get my 12 Year Old / Some say they 144K / JW's

Now, what I would like to do right now is go next door, grab my 12 year old and ask him, who is God talking about here; and he would say – Israel. I would say, why, and he would say ahh because it says Israel. Exactly, it is that simple yet somehow this has been horrendously twisted. All kinds of groups say they are the lost tribes of Israel, they are the 144,000. Most notably are the Jehovah Witnesses, they said they were the 144,000, and then after they surpassed the 144,000 they had to change it (I guess they didn't realize the power of Satan's deceptions and how many people he could deceive with this errant doctrine). So you have cults like them saying they are the 144,000. God takes the time to name them by tribe, so he couldn't make it any clearer that He is talking about Israel.

Replacement Theology / Church in Tribulation / Came from Anti-Semitism – Christ Killer

But equally frightening is what is called "Replacement Theology". What that is (and you can be saved and messed up on this theology) they say, that it is not really Israel spoken of here, but the Church. You see if you mess up your outline (Rev 1:19) then you can really get messed up. But the church is in heaven, chapters 4&5, because 2&3 are the things which are – the church period. Replacement theology has many people accepting it, so they are putting the church in the Tribulation. Replacement theology came about in the early century because of anti-Semitism, the early church has hatred for the Jews because they say they crucified Christ (but it was your sin that crucified Christ – not man). So they couldn't accept that God would still work in the Jewish people, and love them.

Secondly – Israel Scattered / Ezk 36-37 / May 14th 1948/ God Kept track – Hairs on Head

Secondly, once Israel was scattered in 70AD after Titus destroyed Jerusalem, other people had a hard time of how this could possibly speak of this being Israel since they were scattered and without a homeland. So they began to spiritualize the Scriptures; their error was not believing that God was more

than capable of re-gathering Israel back into the land (Ezk 36-37) and making them a nation again, never believing that May 14, 1948 could ever happen. They also said nobody knows whose lineage they are from after the records were destroyed in the temple – hey how big is your God, He is capable of keeping track of them. If He knows the number of hairs on your head, He knows who your dad is.

2000 years / Romans 11

So when Israel was scattered, and over the years scattered even more, many Bible teachers said God is done with Israel, God has forsaken them, totally ignoring the words of Paul in Romans 11:

(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Satan Fuels Replacement Theology / Promotes Anti-Semitism – Prophetic Time Piece

They say this can't mean Israel; it has to mean the church, and so starts all the problems. Satan fuels this replacement theology because people get all whacked out on their theology, and it promotes anti-Semitism, people think God hates the Jewish people, and that promotes persecution against the Jews. Satan knows Israel is the prophetic time piece and center, and if he can destroy them, then the prophetic clock stops and God can not finish off all His prophecies, including redeeming all of Israel, and coming back and casting Satan in the Lake of Fire, for God can not violate His own prophecies for that would make Him a liar.

God's Covenant Perpetual / Faithful to Them – Faithful to us / Full Assurance

God's covenant with Israel is perpetual, meaning it lasts forever, so since He has promised to Redeem them, He will. God's promise to them, and His faithfulness to them, is a demonstration that He will be faithful to us, and fulfill all He has promised us. If God bailed on Israel, then what security could we have that He wouldn't bail on us. But we have seen His faithfulness to them in our very lifetime, and we can have full assurance of His faithfulness to us.

God Knows Lineage – Took Time to Account / Maybe you feel Disconnected

God knows their lineage, and who they are, and may you take that example and demonstration of God. You may feel lost, you may feel disconnected because of your family, where you were raised, how you were raised, but God knows exactly where you are, and where you came from, and He numbers you as His own special people, He calls you son, daughter.

The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation

(Revelation 7:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 7:10 NKJV) and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Holding Palm Branches

After these things (meta tauta). They are holding palm branches and that immediately takes me back to that day when Jesus triumphal entered into Jerusalem. They people cried out Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna means to 'save now'. But in this chorus before the throne they are singing praises in the past tense, for salvation has come:

(John 12:12 NKJV) The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

(John 12:13 NKJV) took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"

(Revelation 7:11 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 7:12 NKJV) saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Angels fired Up

Angels are all fired-up over these people making it to heaven, what an awesome scene.

(Revelation 7:13 NKJV) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

(Revelation 7:14 NKJV) 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.

Want to be an Elder / Initiate Spiritual Conversation – Lead to Spiritual Truths

Do you want to be an elder, in your home, in your church, in your workplace, then take note here of this elder in Revelation and what he is doing. He initiates spiritual conversation, to teach a spiritual truth. John didn't ask him, he asks John. You will be amazed at how many people will respond to your initiations. I like to talk about stuff I just read or heard in a Bible study so it just flows because it is so fresh in my mind.

Christians Killed for Testimony / Baton Rouge

Christians will be killed for their testimony, for standing with Jesus, the world will be looking to blame someone for all the woes and they will blame the Christians as the anti-christ will energize their hatred. I am reminded of the time when I lived in Louisiana, same call as before, death bed urgency, I drove 3 hours, got into the room and it was a strange situation, filled with hospital staff, and an armed police officer. I shared the gospel, told her God's forgiveness was available for her and He is waiting with Open arms. But as I shared, she turned her head from me, and would have nothing to do with Him. But I tell you, the looks of all in that room, as they stared at me their eyes were like flames just burning through me. It was as if they were saying if this woman is suffering enough, and you have to dump more upon her. I think of what it will be like for the saints who share in this time of Tribulation.

John Didn't Recognize

Just a note, notice John didn't know who these saints were, so that means they are not the church because John knew who the church is, he pastored them. So he doesn't recognize them, these saints who were martyred, which gives more evidence that the Church is raptured before the Tribulation.

(Revelation 7:15 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 7:16 NKJV) "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

This what they Will Suffer / Hunger – Thirst - Heat

Verse 16 are the things they will suffer in the Tribulation period. For any person that says they will wait until the Tribulation period to get saved I say if you can't stand for Him now, how are you going to be able to stand for Him in all these happens of the Tribulation, and then be martyred to boot.

(Revelation 7:17 NKJV) "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Good Shepherd

He is the Great Shepherd, and I am reminded of Psalm 23 when I read this passage:

All His Rules – This What He wants to Take Away

Many people say I don't want to come to Jesus, all His rules, all the things that He wants to take away from me. Do you know what He wants to take away from you, your tears, the dryness and the void, that is what He wants to take away. I can tell you the only thing Jesus has ever taken away from me, I can look back and say thank you for taking it – those things had hurt me so much, and were robbing me.

Starts – Ends with 144K

Can I point something out, we will see through the study of this book that God will start with 144,000 and he will end with 144,000. Not 143,999, He will not lose a one; same to, with us. Some just call chapter 7 a filler, a little more commentary of what is happening on earth and heaven, but to me the chapter is purposefully written to show the faithful of God's promises. Just as He will be faithful to Israel, so too will He be faithful to those of us that call Him Father:

(John 1:12 NKJV) But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Chapter 8

Silence in Heaven / The 7 Trumpets: 8:1-13

The Convention

Fred, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper. After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Fred said to Jim and Scott, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, Jim can sing songs for the next 25 flights, and Scott can tell stories for the rest of the way." At the 26th floor, Fred stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor, Jim stopped singing and now it was time for Scott to tell stories. "I will tell a saddest story first," he said. "I just realized I left the room key in the car!"

Tough Road / Community Paper / Laughter – Singing – Sadness / But Blessing Promised

The next 2 chapters will be tough road to travel, some of the toughest in all the Bible as we read of more calamity and destruction (chapter 16 will be equally as tough), with no relief in sight. I like reading the "Community" section in the local paper. Groups and organizations can send in clips on what is going on. I like reading them especially this time of the year, with the holidays and all. They read, come celebrate the Christmas Advent, and The Living Christmas Tree – a time of Christmas Joy, and The Live Nativity – children's petting zoo included, and Christmas Choir – Angels we have Heard on High. I could imagine us entering a clip, Come join us for the 7 Trumpets of God's Wrath, or the 7 Bowls of Judgment, 7 down but 14 to Go, The Wrath of the Lamb, or You ain't seen Nothing Yet! The study of this book can be heavy, it can be hard, but God does promise a blessing to all who read it. As we study verse-by-verse, there is a time of laughter and joy, singing and praise, but to be a balanced Christian, a time for sadness and sorrow for these things will come to pass on this earth. In each area, God promises a blessing:

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).

- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

Chp 6 - 4 Horseman – Martyrs – Earthquakes / Chp 7 – 144K Sealed – More Martyrs

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows in war. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. Man finally gets what they wanted, to be totally self governed, no God in their lives and government, and none of those obnoxious Christians with all their moral values. The resultant we saw that in just these 4 seals a quarter of the population is dead (post rapture that may be somewhere around 1.25 billion people). We saw, part of the Wrath of the Lamb is the Rapture of the Church, for the Restrainer is taking out (the Holy Spirit in you, the church) and the world is left with no moral conscience. Then we saw a multitude of saints (saved after the rapture) killed for their faith, and the sixth seal brought on great earthquakes and cataclysmic events on the earth, as the whole earth is in upheaval. In chapter 7 we saw the sealing of the 144,000 children of Israel who can't be touched by the calamities that are upon the earth, and we saw even more martyred saints before the throne of God. So here in chapter we will see the 7th Seal, which will contain 7 Trumpets, and that 7th Trump will contain 7 Bowls of Wrath. So Chapter 8, some tough road to travel:

Silence In Heaven

(Revelation 8:1 NKJV) When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

(Revelation 8:2 NKJV) And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

(Revelation 8:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:4 NKJV) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

Commentaries – Reasons / Don't Know / Pastor Chuck / Notice the Context of Silence – Prayer

Silence can be deafening. You can read many commentaries and hear many thoughts of what this silence means, and to be honest I do not know myself. Is it the calm before the storm, is it the heavy heart of God as His heart breaks for what is next to come, I do not really know. As Pastor Chuck noted, men even have a hard time being silent about silence, they feel they need to explain it. I won't try to guess why there is 30 minutes of silence in heaven before the next seal is broken, I believe we will be there soon enough to see, and hear (the silence) for ourselves. But there is something that I do notice here, and that is that prayer is in the context of this silence, that even in the midst of all the noises in heaven, God still hears our prayers.

****The Key to prayer is not looking for God's answers, but believing that He has heard. The answers will come with His hearing.****

Heaven Loud – Busy / Angels – Creatures – Elders – Saints / How can God Hear Us

As we have been seeing and reading, heaven is loud, heaven is busy, there is a lot going on around the throne of God. There are angels, and creatures, elders and saints; worship and words, thundering and lightening. Just in everyday life there seems to be so much noise and actions going on, and we can question, is God hearing me, how can He hear me with all that is going on. Yet we see that He does.

Song in Heart / Written To Sufferers – Fed to Lion / Keep Backdrop in Mind / Yes God Hears

Just these few verses would pour forth a song into the hearts of a group of people (and should to us also), those people that would receive this letter from John himself. Mind you, this letter (Book of Revelation) is going to be circulated to the churches, and what are they themselves going through at the time of this writing? The apostle John is writing to a group of people who are picked on, put down, beat up, and persecuted as they are fed to lions, crucified upside down, and ignited as candles by the hand of the Roman Empire. As you read the Book of Revelation, keep this backdrop in mind. The temptation is to view this book only in the context of current events and eschatology. Although current application is important, we must listen to John's heartfelt words to his readers in A.D. 90—people who had no prestige, power, or prominence—people who perhaps wondered if God was hearing their prayers. These verses here, God through John, is telling them yes, yes your prayers are being heard. God speaks to us and says yes your prayers are being heard, and will be answered.

(Revelation 8:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:4 NKJV) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

As If God says Hush / Want to Hear Every Word / Manage Universe – Hear Individually

It is as if God is saying in the midst of all that is happening, Hush, silence, my people are praying, I want to hear every word that they have to say. Somehow He can do that, He can manage the universe, hear the prayers of millions simultaneously, yet your prayer is of undivided attention, uninterrupted, and undistracted. Christian do you believe that today, that every prayer is heard, and has His undivided attention.

Church Historians – Church Believed Heard / How Much Pray Indicates How much Heard

According to church historians, the distinctive feature of early Christian prayer is the certainty of being heard. In other words, when the early church prayed, they believed God was actually listening. How much we pray is the truest indication in our lives.

****The Key to prayer is not looking for God's answers, but believing that He has heard. The answers will come with His hearing.****

Prayers Ascend – Hush Living Creatures – Elders – Angels / Not Miss a Word

The prayers of the saints ascend before Him, and it's as though God says, "Hush." To the living creatures who cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy," He says, "Hush"; to the twenty-four elders who praise Him continually, He says, "Hush"; to the thousands of angels who serve Him perpetually, He says, "Hush"—rendering heaven completely, totally silent. It's as though God says, "At this moment in time, nothing else has My attention like this prayer being offered to Me. I don't want to miss a single word."

Day Filled with Noises / Friends in Bible College – Every Word

Because our days are filled with a multitude of noises, we don't hear each other very well. We talk, but we don't listen. We converse, but we don't understand. There is, however, one exception: Two people who are totally in love can sit in a crowded, noisy restaurant and converse as though there's no one else around. I remember in Bible College my 2 friends who eventually got married. I remember them sitting next to me at dinner, and he was telling her about working on some water pipe, and how water was pouring out all over the place as he worked on it. I looked at her and she was hanging on to every word he was saying. She was, really, then what happened, really then what did you do. She hung on every word that he said. I was like please it's a water pipe – give me a break. But they were so in love, that when they talked, each listened intently. It wasn't about the water pipe to her, it was about her man.

Idea Here / My Child – Passionately in Love With / Hear Every Word

And that's the idea here. "I am passionately in love with the child speaking to Me," says God, "and I don't want to miss a word he's saying." So, like a laser, fixing His full attention on the person offering even the simplest of prayers, God listens.

****The Key to prayer is not looking for God's answers, but believing that He has heard. The answers will come with His hearing.****

Immediately Run to Someone Else / Jer 33 – Run To – Not past / Seek Counsel After

When something happens in our life we are immediately picking up the phone to call someone, or pulling up the email. Don't run off or out to talk to someone else, talk to the Father. He gives His undivided, complete, total attention to the prayers of anyone going through tribulation, trouble, or just wants to talk to him about the water pipe busting. The key is simply to pray. We look for help and solutions from others as we run right past Him. Talk to them after, seek your counsel after you have sought Him:

(Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV) 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Our Intercessor – Heb 7:25 / Power Booster – Prayers Can't Get Out

Listen to this, remember this next time you pray; in Hebrews 7:25 we are told that Jesus lives to make intercession for us. This is two-fold (to say the least), in that Jesus prays for us even when we are not, He is our High Priest (that's the picture of the coal added to the incense – that's what the Priest would do in the temple). But also, this means my prayers go through Him on the way up before the throne. As my prayers go through Jesus they are adjusted, a prayer in weakness, or a weak prayer, go through our intercessor and they are boosted up to the Father in Power. Prayers that I can't even get out, I'm just groaning, help me Lord, are turned into powerful prayers as Jesus converts them into the words we can't muster because of what we are going through.

(Hebrews 7:25 NKJV) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

You need not worry did I say in the name of Jesus or those things. As with salvation, so too will it be for our whole walk, it is all about asking, and receiving.

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

Prayers Hurlled Down – They are Answered / Shake their World / Right Time - Impacting

The angel takes the censer of prayer, perfumed with intercession, and casts, or literally "hurls" it back to earth. As the answer reenters earth's atmosphere, the whole world is shaken with incalculable effect. These guys being beat up and persecuted are told through this prophecy that their prayers are heard, and

that, in due season, the answer will shake their world. And, when God determines that the time is right, the prayers we pray will impact the earth.

(Revelation 8:6 NKJV) So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Answer to Where are You / Music to Ears of Suffering

Here was the answer to their prayers, how much longer Lord, Lord are you there? It was music to the ears of the persecuted.

1st Century Believers – Read OT / 800 OT Ref / Understand these Trumpets

Realize this, when these first-century believers studied the Bible, they studied mostly the Old Testament, the New Testament was still being written, was still being distributed. There are over 800 references to the OT in the Book of Revelation, these believers would have seen them so clearly. These trumpets would jump out to them, and they would have started to tie things together. When they read the Old Testament, they would have read of trumpets, and what would they have read:

Walls of Jericho / Impregnable Walls Coming down

The blast of seven trumpets preceded the collapse of the seemingly impregnable walls of Jericho. No doubt that is how they felt, there was no chance of victory against what was upon them – maybe you can relate to that:

(Joshua 6:13 NKJV) Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

(Joshua 6:14 NKJV) And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

(Joshua 6:15 NKJV) But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.

(Joshua 6:16 NKJV) And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!....."

(Joshua 6:20 NKJV) So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Numbers 10 – God bring the Victory

The alarm of two trumpets reminded the children of Israel that the Lord their God would bring them victory *(Numbers 10:9 NKJV) "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.*

Levt 25 – Year of Jubilee / Debts Cancelled – Slaves Freed

The sound of the trumpet signaled the year of Jubilee—in which all debts were canceled, all slaves set free:

(Leviticus 25:9 NKJV) 'Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

Music to Ears – Promised Victory – Liberation - Collapse of Foe

Thus, the answer to their prayers was truly music to the ears of John's congregation, for the sound of the trumpet promised victory, liberation, and the collapse of a city stronger even than Rome. And so too it is for us!

Nice Study you May Say / Not My Life – No Prayers Answered for Me – Marriage – Cancer - Job

"Interesting study," you may say, "but I've been saved for a while, and I know differently. Oh, I'm not saying God doesn't listen to prayer generally—just that He doesn't hear My prayer specifically. My marriage was on the rocks," or, "My daughter had cancer," or, "My business was going bankrupt, so I prayed and prayed and prayed—and nothing happened. You talk about blaring trumpets, about a fireball of an answer hurled from heaven. That's fine theoretically, but it doesn't play that way for me personally."

You are Not Alone

If you feel this way, you're not alone....

Luke 1 / Zacharias

Let me remind you of a story, a righteous man named Zacharias.

(Luke 1:5 NKJV) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

(Luke 1:6 NKJV) And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

(Luke 1:7 NKJV) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

Considered a Defect / Brokenhearted – Wants Wrong with Me / Prayer Answered Years Later

Because barrenness was considered a curse, Zacharias and Elisabeth were considered sinful in the eyes of their community. Although God deemed them righteous, others believed there was a defect in their piety. This being the case, perhaps Zacharias and Elisabeth lived their lives brokenhearted, wondering what was wrong. But the Lord answered them, years later:

(Luke 1:11 NKJV) Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

(Luke 1:12 NKJV) And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

(Luke 1:13 NKJV) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

(Luke 1:14 NKJV) "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.

What Prayer – Stopped Praying Long Time Ago / God Remembered / Son - Prophet

"What prayer?" Zacharias must have asked. "Prayer for a son? I stopped praying for a son thirty years ago!" Do you understand the implication? This verse tells us that God remembers even the prayers we forget. "Give us a son," prayed Elisabeth and Zacharias. But they heard nothing day after week after month after year because God wanted to give them more than just a son. His plan was to give them the herald for His own Son (Matthew 11:11). They wanted a son, but God wanted to give them a prophet.

(Matthew 11:10 NKJV) "For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

(Matthew 11:11 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Lord's In Box / Simmer at the Altar as Incense / Answered Unimaginable

Slowly, I begin to understand that my prayers remain in the Lord's "To Do" box, even though I may have given up hope long ago. Mixed with the sweet incense of Christ's intercession, they simmer on the altar until God answers them in a way I would never have dared dream:

(Ephesians 3:20 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

(Ephesians 3:21 NKJV) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

****The Key to prayer is not looking for God's answers, but believing that He has heard. The answers will come with His hearing.****

Delay – Not Deny / Keep Praying

Thus, the delay in answered prayer is not due to God's procrastination, but to His desire to exceed even our wildest imagination. Keep praying, keep asking, believing that He hears:

(James 4:2 NKJV) You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

(James 4:3 NKJV) You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

How Explain Cancer – Hardship

How do you explain things such as divorce, cancer, bankruptcy, children rebellion? I can't fully, but what I can explain is that there are things that God is doing that is in a bigger picture than I can ever see. As these saints were being persecuted, and they received this letter, they would see God was working a big picture, and their suffering played a part of what God was doing. So too with us, what we can't see and understand, may just very well be part of the big picture. Maybe you want a son, and God wants to give you a prophet:

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

Hush – My Child is Praying / At right Time – It will Quake the World

“Shhh,” says God. “My child is praying.” And at the right time—maybe that day, maybe next week, maybe ten years down the road, maybe half a century later—the answer will quake your world.

Every time You Pray – Full Attention / Trumpets will Sound – Walls - Debts – Victory

Every time you pray, dear saint, you have your Father’s full attention. And one day, trumpets will sound; walls will fall; debts will be canceled; victory will abound. Ohh that we may be people who pray.

The Key to prayer is not looking for God’s answers, but believing that He has heard. The answers will come with His hearing.

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:6 NKJV) So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Storm Approaching

When you see and hear thunder and lightening off in a distant, then you know a storm is coming.

Revelation 8:7-13

Trumpets 1-4

Spurgeon's Greatest Compliment

Charles H. Spurgeon reckoned as the highest compliment ever paid him the words of an open enemy who said, "Here is a man who has not moved an inch forward in all his ministry, and at the close of the nineteenth century is teaching the theology of the first century, and is proclaiming the doctrine of Jesus Christ as current today as it was eighteen hundred years ago."

Every Word will Pass / Tough Road / Can be Heavy - But Blessing Promised

Every word of this Bible will come to pass, including these next 2 chapters. The next 2 chapters will be tough road to travel, some of the toughest in all the Bible as we read of more calamity and destruction (chapter 16 will be equally as tough), with no relief in sight. The study of this book can be heavy, it can be hard, but God does promise a blessing to all who read it. As we study verse-by-verse, there is a time of laughter and joy, singing and praise, but to be a balanced Christian, a time for sadness and sorrow for these things will come to pass on this earth. In each area, God promises a blessing:

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.

- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Revelation – Exhortation – Expectation - Explanation

So in chapter 1 we saw the Revelation of the Lord. Chapter 2-3, the Exhortation from the Lord, to be ready. Chapter 4, we have the Expectation of the Saints, as the Lord says Come up here, get out of there. And, chapter 5, we have the Explanation, of why the world is in the condition that it is in, as we saw Jesus reclaiming the Title Deed (the Scroll) to this earth, as Adam forfeited to Satan, who is the god of this world.

Chp 6 - 4 Horseman – Martyrs – Earthquakes / Chp 7 – 144K Sealed – More Martyrs / 7-7-7

Things are going badly. The bow of the horseman on the white horse is broken. Blood flows in war. Famine follows. Disease and sickness run rampant. Man finally gets what they wanted, to be totally self governed, no God in their lives and government, and none of those obnoxious Christians with all their moral values. The resultant we saw that in just these 4 seals a quarter of the population is dead (post rapture that may be somewhere around 1.25 billion people). We saw, part of the Wrath of the Lamb is the Rapture of the Church, for the Restrainer is taking out (the Holy Spirit in you, the church) and the world is left with no moral conscience. Then we saw a multitude of saints (saved after the rapture) killed for their faith, and the sixth seal brought on great earthquakes and cataclysmic events on the earth, as the whole earth is in upheaval. In chapter 7 we saw the sealing of the 144,000 children of Israel who can't be touched by the calamities that are upon the earth, and we saw even more martyred saints before the throne of God. So here in chapter we will see the 7th Seal, which will contain 7 Trumpets, and that 7th Trump will contain 7 Bowls of Wrath. So Chapter 8, some tough road to travel:

(Revelation 8:1 NKJV) When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

(Revelation 8:2 NKJV) And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

(Revelation 8:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:4 NKJV) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Why Silence / Context is Prayer / Not Answers – But heard / Hush My child is Praying

Why this silence in heaven we really do not know. Possibly the first time there has ever been silence in heaven, I don't know. Could this be the calm before the storm, could this be the heavy heart of the Father as His heart breaks for what is to come next, I do not know, but what comes next is heavy. As we saw in the last study, the blessing of what is in the context of this silence, and that is that even in the midst of all that is going on in heaven around the Lord, He is able to filter through it all, and capture every prayer we have ever prayed, and at the appointed time He will answer, and it will impact our world. All the upheavals and calamity going on in our world, God says I hear you through it all. Christian, again, the key to prayer is not looking for the answers, but believing that God has heard, and believing God has

heard – we will trust and believe that He will answer. Here in the midst of the noise of heaven, God says, “hush, my children are praying, and I do not want to miss a word they are saying”. Christian if you will believe this, your prayer life will change dramatically, and so too will your life and the life of those you intercede and pray for.

(Revelation 8:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:6 NKJV) So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Storm Approaching

When you see and hear thunder and lightening off in a distant, then you know a storm is coming.

1st Trumpet

(Revelation 8:7 NKJV) 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.

Grass & Tree Destroyed / Oxygen Problem / Food Shortage – Cattle Grazing / Fruit Trees

Hail from above will destroy the trees and grass. A third of the trees would cause there to be an oxygen problem on the earth as trees are needed to produce breathable oxygen. A third of the grass would contribute to the food shortage that has been caused by war for the animals like the cow, goat, sheep need grass to eat. I assume that if the grass is destroyed than so would wheat, barely, corn, green beans, brussel sprouts, lettuce, carrots, watermelon, and the likes, all contributing to more famine in the world. Also, the trees destroyed would include fruit trees like apples, oranges, pear, and bananas. There will be a great vitamin deficiency for all humans at this time.

Gov't Seed Banks

Our government has seed banks of every imaginable seed in underground cryogenic tanks just incase of a nuclear holocaust or some plague that would wipe out the earth's crop so they may replant.

2nd Trumpet

(Revelation 8:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:9 NKJV) And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

1st Plague in Egypt

The water to blood takes us back to the 1st plague God levied against Pharaoh in Egypt.

Sea Contaminated / Tidal Wave – Ships / Plankton – Oxygen / Fresh Air for Granted

A third of the sea is contaminated in some way (reminder that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth is water to understand the magnitude of this), whether it be nuclear exchange or something prepared and sent by God as it strikes the sea. Whatever hits the sea (nuke, meteor) could cause a tidal wave like we saw with the Tsunami. That tidal wave could be what causes the ships to be destroyed, or it could be multiple nuclear hits. Now 20% of our oxygen we breathe is produced by the plankton in the sea, so there will be even more of an oxygen problem on the earth at this time. Imagine the lack/diminished oxygen, coupled with the smoke from the volcanoes, earthquakes, and wars we have read about up to this point, fresh air will be hard to get. People with breathing problems will suffer greatly with many dying. We take our fresh air for granted today.

Sea Creatures – Food Shortages / Economy Suffer – Fishing Trades – Restaurants

Now, lose a third of the sea creatures (fish, shrimp, oysters), and you multiple the food shortage on the earth, and increase the famine, Many counties live predominately off their fishing trade. The economies

of the world will suffer greatly with the lost of 1/3 of the fishing industries. Consider how many restaurants will be forced out of business.

Economy Suffer / Gas Shortages – Trucks – Food Shortage

Not to mention, take out 1/3 of the ships, and now you increase the food problem because you don't have as many ships transporting food, not to mention oil moving though the world is done mainly by shipping. Take out 1/3 of the ships and that is less oil making it around the world, which will mean less gas being refined and fewer trucks on the road to move the food to the population. And, oil is literally the heart of all advanced counties economy (look what 1 hurricane did to our gas prices), so there will be great economic hardship through out the world.

Ships – Death Toll / 25K at Sea

With a third of the ships being destroyed would most likely mean so would every man, woman, and child that were on them. It is estimated that at any given time there are 25,000 ships at sea (military, fishing, Cruise Lines, Pleasure Boats), so we are talking 8,000 of them being destroyed. The death toll would be massive, just consider all the military people that are on ships today.

3rd Trumpet

(Revelation 8:10 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 8:11 NKJV) 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.

Undrinkable Water / Nuclear Contamination / Fresh Air – Water / Wormwood - Sorrow

Whatever this is coming form the sky causes a third of the drinking water to become undrinkable. A nuclear explosion (or meteor) will contaminate the waters for hundreds of miles around it as the water flow and carries the toxins with it. This week in China an explosion at a Chemical plant dumped 100 tons of benzene into the river and has left 4 million people without drinking water (26 Nov 05); we have seen this week a glimpse of Revelation 8:11 – all still just birth pains. So, man will be gasping for fresh air, struggling to get fresh water, and hungry. What a terrible time on the earth. Throughout the Old Testament when we see this word Wormwood, it is always associated and represents calamity and sorrow.

Craters on Moon / God Protects Us / Here see Separation of Church & State

Something to consider, if you ever see a picture of the moon, notice all the craters it has. Many, if not all have been created by impacts of meteors. Yet on the earth, we only have a few craters from meteor impact. The reason is because God protects us from them, He shields us by our earth's atmosphere, and also I believe He steers the falling meteors away from us. God is ever so gracious to man, and those who want separation of church and state are fools who have no idea what they asking for. Here in the tribulation, we see a world that has separation of church and state.

4th Trumpet

(Revelation 8:12 NKJV) 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.

Not Allegories – Book of Exodus

“Come on,” some say. “These judgments are allegories. You can't take them literally.” In response, I challenge them to compare the trumpet judgments with the plagues that befell Egypt (Exodus 7–12). Were those plagues allegorical or literal? Ask Pharaoh. The first trumpet was water to blood, which was the first plague in Egypt, and here the 4th trumpet of the sky darkening lines itself up with the 9th plague in Egypt. There is no need to spiritualize, just take the Scripture for what it says unless it is clear that God is giving an allegory – like “the woman riding the beast, or the beast coming out of the sea”. This book isn't meant to be confusing or hard to understand.

Mt St Helens

When Mount St. Helens erupted, the dust that shot into the air made the sky hazy for weeks.

33% Reduction Sunlight / Cold on Earth / Nuclear Winter / Crop Failure

Can you imagine what would happen if nuclear warheads were being detonated all over the world? A 33% reduction in the light of sun, moon, and stars could be speaking of what scientists ominously term “nuclear winter. If a nuclear exchange took place in the summertime, scientists tell us the high temperature on the west coast of the United States would be fifteen degrees. Obviously, crops would not grow, and starvation would result.

Heat or Eat / Gas Expensive – Trees Destroyed / Days Wages for Loaf of Bread

Here is the problem, it will be extremely cold in some places, and man will have a hard time gathering fire wood because a third of the trees have been destroyed, oil is going to be harder to get because a third of the ships are destroyed. Heating will be unimaginably expensive, but for many it won't matter the price, for as we have read, during this time it will be a day's wages just for a loaf of bread. Do I heat or eat, not to mention how expensive water will become. So man will be cold, hungry, and thirsty.

(Revelation 8:13 NKJV) 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!"

Worst yet to Come

In other words, the angel is saying, “The worst is yet to come because the last three trumpets are worse than the first four.”

1st Four Deal Natural – Next the Supernatural – Demonic Activity

As we will see in chapter 9, the next three trumpets to blast judgment upon the earth are much more devastating than the first four. The first four trumpets dealt with the arena of the natural. The last three deal with the supernatural—specifically demonic activity.

Tough Road

This has been tough road, chapter 9 will be too. Thank God He says “Hush – My Child wants to speak to Me”.

No Second Chance / 2 Thess 2 / Expositional Constancy – Blasphemy Spirit – Rapture not Trigger

I think it important I at least comment on this, even though I do not see it in the Scriptures, there are many respectable and competent Bible teachers who believe and teach that once the rapture happens, those who rejected the gospel on this side of the rapture will not have the opportunity to receive the gospel after the rapture. Only those who have never heard nor had not rejected can get saved in the Tribulation. They base their position on 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. Now I do not see that in expositional constantly, for the only unpardonable sin is the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (rejecting the witness of the Spirit that Jesus is the Savior of your sin and you need a Savior), and I do not see the rapture as a trigger point to that unpardonable sin.

(2 Thessalonians 2:7 NKJV) 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.

(2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV) 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.

(2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

(2 Thessalonians 2:10 NKJV) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

(2 Thessalonians 2:11 NKJV) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

(2 Thessalonians 2:12 NKJV) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God Wishes None Should Perish / Still Identifies Himself as the Lamb / Same Today as Forever

God is not slack concerning His promises, He wish that none should perish but all seek repentance. God still identifies Himself at this great time of wrath as the Lamb. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God does not change;

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Those Listening After Rapture

Note: Let me also say this to those of you who are reading this or listening to this study after the Rapture has happened, the very fact that you are seeking after the things of God, the very fact that you question or clearly know that this World Leader that is on the scene today is a liar and deceiver, proves that God has not sent you a strong delusion. Had God sent you a strong delusion you would have no desire to seek out the truth, to seek out a Savior. Your Savior is Jesus Christ, and he is willing and ready to receive you, and forgive you of your sins.

What if I am Wrong / Some say when I see the Rapture

But, I need to say this to those of you who are here on this side of the rapture, what if I am wrong? Many people say hey when I see the rapture then I will know all you said was true, and then I get saved. But what if I am wrong, what if you will be sent a strong delusion, then what. Let me tell you the sure way, and that is today, today is the day of salvation and we won't need to worry if I am wrong. The word for acceptable in 2 Corinthians 6 means "favorable":

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

God Forewarns for 2000 years / Begg Decision Today / Does not Pleasure in Death

God forewarns all man, for 2,000 years he has told us that this day will come, and He begs man to do something about today. God says He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked

(Ezekiel 18:27 NKJV) "Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive.

(Ezekiel 18:28 NKJV) "Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

(Ezekiel 18:29 NKJV) "Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

(Ezekiel 18:30 NKJV) "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.

(Ezekiel 18:31 NKJV) "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

(Ezekiel 18:32 NKJV) "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

Third is Demonstration of Grace / Not Dragging out Judgment / Gives Opportunity to Repent

Do you realize that with only 1/3 of the trees, sea creatures, ships, water, being destroyed, God is not dragging out his judgment, but extending His grace. He is still preserving and extending life, giving man an opportunity to repent.

Not Scaring you into Heaven / His Kindness Leads to Repentance

I am not trying to scare you into heaven, for that is not love. Could you imagine, I am so afraid of that woman I going to marry her so I can spend the rest of my life with her. Rather I hope you would see, that it is His kindness that leads men to repentance. His love for me draws me to Him:

(Romans 2:4 NKJV) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

His Wrath Displays His Holiness / Can't Look Upon Sin

You see, God's wrath displays His holiness, for He is too holy to look upon sin, He can not look upon wickedness and wink at it:

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

Wrath – Holiness – Love / What Love to Take My Sin / Revelation shows what God Thinks of Sin

His wrath displays His Holiness, and that Holiness displays His Love, for ohh what Love a Holy God has for you, has for me, that He would leave His throne, and take on my sin, to take on what offends Him. What we see here in Revelation is what God thinks of sin, and yet He would love me enough to take my place, to receive my wrath. Rather than judge me, He traded with me. He is not a God of rules and regulations, but of love and forgiveness:

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(1 John 4:10 NKJV) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

That Love – I would Follow Anywhere / Even to Death

It is that love that melts my heart, and I would follow Him anywhere so not to be separated from that love. I would follow Him all the way, up that hill, to the cross. I would go to the cross rather than be separated from Him ever again. And that is what He says to us, pick up our cross and follow Him:

(Matthew 16:24 NKJV) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

(Matthew 16:25 NKJV) "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Joseph Damien De Veuster

In 1873, a Belgian missionary named Joseph Damien De Veuster was sent to minister to lepers on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai. When he arrived he immediately began to meet each one of the lepers in the colony in hopes of building a friendship. But where ever he turned, people shunned him. It seemed as though every door was closed. He poured his life into his work, erecting a chapel, beginning worship services, and pouring out his heart to the lepers. But it was to no avail! No one responded to his ministry. After twelve years Joseph Damien made the decision to leave.

Dejectedly, he made his way to the docks to board a ship to take him back to Belgium. As he stood on the dock he wrung his hands nervously as he recounted his futile ministry among the lepers. As he did he looked down at his hands and noticed some mysterious white spots and felt some numbness. Almost immediately he knew what was happening to his body. He had contracted leprosy!

It was then that he knew what he had to do. He returned to the leper colony and to his work. Quickly the word about his disease spread through the colony. Within a matter of hours everyone knew. Hundreds of them gathered outside his hut, they understood his pain, fear, and uncertainty about the future.

But the biggest surprise was the following Sunday. As Damien arrived at the chapel, he found hundreds of worshipers there. By the time the service began, the chapel was crowded, and many were gathered outside. His ministry became enormously successful. The reason? He was one of them. He understood and empathized with them.

How Amazing

Our Loving Savior, His Holiness requires that He judge and punishes sin, yet first He chose the nails, to take on our guilt and shame, take our cross, the wrath of God against sin. He became one of us, so that we may relate to His loving kindness towards us, and see the demonstration of His love towards us, and that He is not some distant far off God, but a God who is here now. When I see His Holiness, perfection, the cross becomes ever so clear to me, that I clearly see how much He loves me. The cross becomes a statement of the God who loves me, and is so intimately interested in every detail of my life:

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Chapter 9

The 5th & 6th Trumpet / Demonic Activity

Every Word will Pass / Tough Road / Can be Heavy - But Blessing Promised

Every Word of this Bible will come to pass, including Chapters 8-9, which are some tough road to travel, hard ground to plow, some of the toughest in all the Bible as we read of more calamity and destruction (chapter 16 will be equally as tough), with no relief in sight. The study of this book can be heavy, it can be hard, but God does promise a blessing to all who read it. As we study verse-by-verse, there is a time of laughter and joy, singing and praise, but to be a balanced Christian, a time for sadness and sorrow for these things will come to pass on this earth. In each area, God promises a blessing:

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.

- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

- Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)
- Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)
- Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)
- Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)
- Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)
- Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)
- Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God
 - Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)
 - Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)
 - Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)
 - Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

3 Woes / Supernatural – Demonic / Have not seen anything Yet

Trumpet 5, 6, & 7 are also called the 3 woes, and that I believe is because up to this point as bad as things were, they were natural activity of man and earth, but this 5th Trumpet now starts supernatural activity which is the demonic. The 3 woes are as if the angels are saying as bad as it has been up to this point, you have not seen anything yet. So, some tough road to travel, we pick up here for the 5th and 6th trumpet of God:

5th Trumpet

(Revelation 9:1 NKJV) 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.

None other than Satan / Luke 10 – Isaiah 14

I believe this is none other than Satan because the verb tense here is past tense, it has already happened. Jesus told us in Luke 10 that He saw Satan fall from heaven, and Isaiah tells us the same:
*(Luke 10:17 NKJV) Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
 (Luke 10:18 NKJV) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
 (Luke 10:19 NKJV) "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.
 (Luke 10:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."*

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "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!

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Key Given / Powers Limited / God Filter

Notice the key had to be given to him; he could not loose them on his own. Satan's powers are limited to God's allowance; all things he does must go through the God filter first.

(Revelation 9:2 NKJV) 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.

Located in Pasadena?

So there is a shaft somewhere on this earth, and it leads to the bottomless pit. I do not know where it is located, but there are days I think it is located right here in Pasadena, and there is a crack in the lid.

(Revelation 9:3 NKJV) Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

First thought this Helicopter / Tanks not in Pit – Have no King / Face Value

For many years I thought this was John trying to explain 20th century technology with 1st century vocabulary. I thought this was a description of a helicopter, a tank, some high-tech military weapon, but just taking it for face value, none of those things (tanks, choppers, etc) are stored in the bottomless pit, none of them have a king over them, and war machines cannot discriminate against destroying grass or not. These are not real locust because all the symbolism does not describe a real locust, and real locust would destroy the grass, and God slipped into the Scriptures a couple thousand years ago that locust do not have a king over them – just to clarify to us that these are not locust, but something supernatural: *(Revelation 9:11 NKJV) 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.*

(Proverbs 30:27 NKJV) The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;

Scriptures Speaks of Them – Days Noah / Preached at Death / Delivered Chains / Proper Estate

This Scriptures is speaking of demonic beings. Jesus told us about them, as does other places in the Scriptures:

(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

(1 Peter 3:19 NKJV) by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

(1 Peter 3:20 NKJV) who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) 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;

(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

(Jude 1:6 NKJV) And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

May be Demonic Beings of Noah's Day / It will be Hell on Earth

These demonic beings may very well be the same demonic beings that plagued the earth in the Days of Noah, and the Lord bound them for a time, and now is allowing them to be released in that Day (the Day of the Tribulation). Whether it is or not remains to be seen, but literally, when these demons are loosed, it will literally be that all hell is let loose on the earth.

(Revelation 9:4 NKJV) They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

(Revelation 9:5 NKJV) 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.

Revelation 9:6 NKJV) In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Eerie Scene / Out of the Darkness – Can't Prepare / Find Shelter – they Find You

What an eerie scene we see here, picture what it will be like to be living at this time. Man would look at the smoke rising and stand in wonderment of what is happening, then out of the smoke would emerge these torturous creatures. Man would be panic stricken trying to find shelter, but they will still find you, no relief would come. I imagine how gut wrenching it would be to hear the swarm approaching, being able to hear them, but not see them because of the smoke or night skies, and then to be stung by them without being able to mentally prepare for the sting. That is torment.....

Death takes a Holiday / Gun not Fire / Gun Does Fire / Imagine Paralyzes – Biting Continues

So terrible and fearful will be this day, that men would seek death, yet it will not come. Some how God will prevent them from taking their life. I do not know if that means that the gun won't fire, that pills won't work, that the rope will break, that the fall will have no effect, I do not know. Or could it be that the gun does fire and the person survives and has to live with the consequences. That the fall paralyzes but doesn't kill, that the pills rot the body but doesn't take the life. Imagine open wounds, paralyzes, and these demonic being still keep tormenting. That is torment.....

Where is the Grace / 5 Month Fact-finding Tour / Still not Repent

How could a God of love allow this, where is His grace? His grace and love can be found right here. God will allow man to have a 5 month fact-finding tour of what hell is going to be like. How miserable these 5 months will be, yet for all that refuse to repent will spend eternity in a torment that is worse than what we read here:

(Isaiah 66:24 NKJV) "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

(Matthew 22:13 NKJV) "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(Revelation 9:6 NKJV) In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

That is torment.....yet God revealed Himself to us that we should escape this torment – Praise Him.

Notice –Were Like

As we read the next, doesn't say was, but says like, John is trying to best describe what he is seeing using symbolism.

(Revelation 9:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:8 NKJV) They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

(Revelation 9:9 NKJV) 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.

Frightful Description / Not Present Day Demons / Imagine Prisoners let Free Today

What a frightful description of these demonic beings. These are the worst demons, these are not the demons that are presently at work today amongst us, be thankful for that. Could you imagine letting all the prisoners out of the prisons today, imagine how frightful life would be with murders and rapist running loose in every neighborhood. How would you sleep at night, how could you leave your kids to go to work, every step looking over your shoulder. As terrifying as that sounds, nothing compared to what these demons would be like.

Can't Say it is Natural – Must be Supernatural / Beyond Human Reasoning

Up to this point in the Tribulation people could have said all this is just freak nature, but now no man can say anything other than admitting that there is something supernatural going on here, something beyond human reasoning. Man will be face to face with God, and have to make a decision for Him or against Him.

(Revelation 9:10 NKJV) They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

Scorpion Stings – fire to Nervous System / Enjoy Football Today – What a Different Day

I read an article that when a person is stung by a scorpion, rarely is it fatal, but it makes the person violently ill, and they say a person's whole nervous system feels like it is on fire. This is what it will be like at this time, and death will bring no escape, it will be a fearful and horrible time on the very same earth that we enjoy today. We enjoy watching football, going to the restaurant, Sunday drives, boating, but the world will be a whole different place at this time.

(Revelation 9:11 NKJV) 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.

Apollyon – Destroyer / Wants to Destroy Them then – and You Now

One of the many names of the Devil, Abaddon is the Hebrew name, and Apollyon is the Greek, and both names means “destroyer” and just as we see his desire here is to destroy mankind, for he would if God had not said you can not kill them, so is his desire today. His desire is to destroy your life, your marriage, your kids, for that is his very being, a destroyer.

(Revelation 9:12 NKJV) One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

How much worse can it get, yet it will, still 2 more woes to go!

6th Trumpet

(Revelation 9:13 NKJV) Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

(Revelation 9:14 NKJV) saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Demonic Angels – for they Bound

These are not Holy angels, but demonic angels because holy angels need not be bound for they are obedient to God. So here we see more demonic activity. Scary days upon the earth.

(Revelation 9:15 NKJV) 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.

Prepared for this Very Moment / God in Control / And in Control of Your Life

These angels were prepared for this very moment, they had been waiting for this very moment, yet they could not act until God said they could. God is in total control, and is sovereign. You can apply that to your life and your world, God is on control, and is sovereign in all that will ever happen in your life.

(Revelation 9:16 NKJV) Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

(Revelation 9:17 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:18 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:19 NKJV) For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

Demonic or Human

I really do not know if this 200 million man army is demonic or human, whatever the case may be it appears that they will be lead by and energized by these demonic angels. Interesting today, China has stated publicity that they have a 200 million man army. Whatever they may be, they are frightful. Imagine the USA is 300 million people total. Imagine the fear that would grip your heart seeing 200 million soldiers marching on your country. It is estimated that the forces would be 1 mile wide and 80 miles long, imagine them marching into your city.

Resultant the Same / Half World Dead

I think it not that important for us to determine precisely if these are hordes of demons, or masses of men, for the resultant will be the same, massive loss of life. In chapter 6 a ¼ of the world had died, and now another 1/3 (33%), in totality that is half of the world. There are 6 billion in the world today, say 1 billion

are raptured, then that leaves 5 billion, and now at this point 2.5 billion are dead, and the world has seen the loss of 3.5 billion.....yet man still refuses to repent.

Joel – Day of the Lord

What we have read is prophesied in Joel chapter 2. Revelation 9 is the rewording of Joel 2, as they both speak of the same event. It is as frightful as Joel describes. Notice, it starts with the blowing of the trumpet. There is the call for repentance there too:

(Joel 2:1 NKJV) Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:

(Joel 2:2 NKJV) A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

(Joel 2:3 NKJV) A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

(Joel 2:4 NKJV) Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.

(Joel 2:5 NKJV) With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.

(Joel 2:6 NKJV) Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.

(Joel 2:7 NKJV) They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks.

(Joel 2:8 NKJV) They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.

(Joel 2:9 NKJV) They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief.

(Joel 2:10 NKJV) The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.

(Joel 2:11 NKJV) The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

Man Will Not Repent

(Revelation 9:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:21 NKJV) And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Show me a Sign / Refuse to Repent / Alive and Well Today

People say show me a sign and I'll believe, yet here people are given clear signs, yet still refuse to bow their knee to Jesus Christ. Notice what man refuses to repent of, and we will see they are strong and well in our day.

John 3:19 / Men love their Sin

Let me tell you why man won't repent, forget the blame shifting, give me a sign, or how I was raised, or my church, it all comes down to men love darkness rather than light, and they refuse to come to the light lest their deeds be exposed. Men love their sin, and they do not want to turn from it. I enjoy street ministry in the drug areas and prostitution, because those people are so honest. They will say to me, I know the Bible, I was raised in a Christian family, I know I need to repent, and should, but to be honest, I love my sin and I am not ready to leave it. Where as, I go everywhere else and I get all these excuses of how they were raised, the hypocrites they have meet, etc, etc, and they just won't admit, I love my sin, I love being on the throne of my life, and not answering to anyone. From the crack-house to the club-house, it is all the same, men love their sin and are not willing to give them up.

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Worship of Demons / Anti-christ – Not have to Repent

worship of demons – As we will see in chapters to come that people actually will worship Satan and demons, very specifically people will worship the Anti-christ. People will love the anti-christ because he

won't tell them to repent. Also, this sounds crazy, but today we see an increase of people being involved in occultic activities.

Worship of Idols / Whatever takes Priority

idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk – An idol is whatever takes priority over a person's relationship with the Lord. We tend to think of some unintelligent person lighting candles and bowing before an image, no, no idol worship is anything that takes priority over a person's relationship with the one True God. Today, even Christians all selling out for gold plagues over the door of their office saying Mr. Somebody, and the car as shiny as silver, the brass handrail at the nightclub where I am the greatest dancer and get so much attention (wow aren't you something), the house built on its solid concrete/stone foundation, and people are selling out to get more wood into their pockets, as money is printed on paper and paper comes from wood. People seeking first their stuff, at the cost of their relationship with the One who created them.

Become Who you Worship / Psalm 135

Man will become just like whatever they worship. Here is the good news, you worship Jesus, seek Him with all your heart mind and soul, you will become just like Him:

(Psalms 135:15 NKJV) The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

(Psalms 135:16 NKJV) They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

(Psalms 135:17 NKJV) They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths.

(Psalms 135:18 NKJV) Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

Murders / Loaf of bread – Days Wage

murders – murders will be rampant at this time (except during 5 month period) because of the severe famine and economic hardship upon the land, for it will take a days wage just to buy a loaf of bread. I'm looking out for Number 1.

Sorceries / Drugs / Famine – Drugs still Flow / Opens influence of Satan

sorceries – from the word pharmakeia, where we get our word pharmacy, drugs. Amazing, the world will suffer famine, thirst for water, gasp for fresh air, but drugs will still flow. Hey take another toke man, it will make you feel good. People seek drugs to check out and relieve the situation, but what they don't know is that it opens them up to the influences of Satan, and he uses them to draw people further and further away from the Lord. Hey, know this, drugs is more than mind altering, it opens you up to spiritual influences, demonic influences at that.

Sexual Immorality / Don't be Deceived / Not present in Heaven – nor Hell

sexual immorality – Whether sex before marriage, adulterous relationship, or homosexual, Christians don't be deceived if you are living this lifestyle. God says you will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6), and God warned and commanded repentance when He spoke to the Churches there in Pergamos and Thyatira (Rev 2). You see none of these things will be in heaven, and the first thing you would be looking for in heaven would be these things (obviously not God), therefore He would not force you to a place that was void of those things (Rev 21). Bad news for you, they won't be there in hell either, just these demonic locust. God warned strongly in the letters to the 7 churches:

(1 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

(1 Corinthians 6:10 NKJV) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Church of Pergamos - (Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "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.

Church of Thyatira (Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "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. (Revelation 2:21 NKJV) "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

(Revelation 21:7 NKJV) "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

(Revelation 21:8 NKJV) "But the cowardly, unbelieving, 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."

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Man no Different Today / Will Justify – think Right before the Lord

Man won't be any different in this period today, as they are today, and I am sure that there will be many who are engaged in these things and think and justify that they are right before the Lord. I tell you, as wrong as they will be (and God clearly says they will not be in heaven), is as wrong as you are today. Don't be deceived, don't think you can say a few words with your mouth and continue to live this lifestyle, God will not be mocked. But Ray, don't you always say 1 drop of the precious blood of Jesus is enough to cleanse your sin, past – present – and future? All I will say is, Don't be Deceived.....

Thefts / Days Wages

Thefts – again a days wage for a loaf of bread. Stealing is a demonstration of seeking first your kingdom, for it is all about you. For us today people justify cheating on taxes, under the table employment, office supplies, hooking unto some cable, whatever it may be, you are allowing demonic influences into your life, for Satan himself is known as the thief (John 10:10).

God Still offers Repentance

The amazing thing is that God still offers them an opportunity for repentance. How gracious is God that He says these things you have done and are doing, if you turn from them, and unto Me, I will forgive you, wipe them from My memory, and receive you unto Me, and you and I will fellowship together, and you shall be with Me in heaven.....yet man will not repent.

Jesus Endured the Torment

Jesus endured the torment of the cross to release us from this torment that will come upon the earth, and is a foreshadow of what hell will be like. Chapter 9 is horrible, yet if you will look and see, you will see that chapter 9 magnifies the cross, displays what a God of love and mercy He is, that He still offers repentance, and provided the way through His own body and blood.

Promise in Joel – Years Restored

Here is something just as wonderful to leave you with. Back to Joel, look at verse 25, look at the promise given – I will restore the years lost. Do what the Scriptures tell you to do, and He promises to not only forgive you, but promises to restore what has been destroyed by the locusts of disobedience. Call out and see what the Lord will do. He can make you white as snow again, if you seek Him with all your heart, He can make you a virgin again, He can restore family relationships that have been destroyed, He can multiply the years loss by drugs and alcohol and make your remaining years more fruitful than all the years you have lived to this point. People often say what is the use now, I've already messed up, but God says I can still give you a wonderful and abundant life, come now He says:

(Joel 2:25 NKJV) "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

(Joel 2:26 NKJV) You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

Chapter 10

The Mighty Angel and the Little Book:

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as: the rebuilt temple, the 2 Witnesses preach, Satan thrown out of heaven for good, the details on the Beast (the anti-christ – Satan incarnate), Satan's/Beast attempt to destroy Israel, God supernaturally tucks Israel away in safety, the false prophet arises, the mark of the beast demanded, and the angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man.

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

(Revelation 10:2 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 10:3 NKJV) and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

(Revelation 10:4 NKJV) Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

(Revelation 10:5 NKJV) The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

(Revelation 10:6 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 10:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 10:8 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 10:9 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 10:10 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

So the Mighty Angel, and the Little Book.

No More Prophecy Talk / Hal Lindsey / Publishing Houses – Topic out of Date

It is interesting that we are at this verse (you must prophesy again – v11), for just in the past week we are seeing an escalating “War Against Bible Prophecy”. This week TBN has canceled Hal Lindsey’s television show which was about Prophecy, they stated that they felt it was too anti-Islamic, and they worried it would be offensive to the Muslims, and that Muslims would not watch other TBN shows and never get saved. Hal Lindsey linked the end times prophecy together as the Muslims will continue their attacks and hatred on the Jewish people and Israel, and we all know that Israel is the prophetic timepiece of God. Thus it is impossible to talk about prophecy, and not talk about Israel, which are constantly at risk of extinction because they have 300 million Arabs (most Muslims) bent on their destruction. Also, word has come out this week that many publishing houses are saying “no” to Bible prophecy. They claim the topic is out of date, out of favor (an understatement), divisive, and no one cares. Seems strange that 40 million copies of “Left Behind” have sold if no one cares.

People call it Doomsday Talk / Seminaries not Teaching It

"It is surprising to me that there are so many people I have tried to talk to about prophecy who have brushed me off by saying that they consider it 'doomsday talk.' It is difficult to get anyone to even talk about it. How and when did we get to this deplorable point? Why is the issue of "the King is coming" a downer? It started twenty years ago in our seminaries when students determined, thanks to their professors, that we can't know for sure which interpretation is right so it would be better to just stay away from it. The Bible is clear which interpretation is right. There are nuances that admittedly only let us "see through a glass darkly." But the seminaries are cranking out pastors who aren't sure what theology to teach and preach so they don't even go near it.

Twisted Theology / Church usher in Kingdom – Replacement Theology / Sermonettes

Now we have theologies who are "new kids on the block." They aren't really "new" but they are enjoying new popularity as those that promote them are popular (though wrong). Almost all mainline Protestant denominations and Catholicism teach Replacement Theology which says the church is Israel, when, in fact, Israel is the key to eschatology. Amillennialism (we're in the Millennium now) is standard in most denominations, and Preterism (all prophecy but the Second Coming is history and happened in 70 AD) is growing in belief. It looks like they're partially right: All prophecy IS history, at least in the churches and now Christian publishing houses. The theologies that have exploded in the last twenty years are Kingdom Now/Dominion/Reconstructionist/Latter Rain. They all teach that the church will subdue the world and make it perfect, then the Lord can return, but not until the world is perfect. Find that in the Bible, would you?! Their Twisted theology comes because they don't understand the divine outline of the Book of Revelation, and because they do not take the whole counsel of God, because they are teaching sermonettes for Christianettes.

Scoffers / All from Satan / There is a War on Prophecy

So here we are, likely in the last of the last days, facing such a scenario. The signs are shouting at us. But in the last days the Bible also says in II Peter that people (believers and unbelievers) would mockingly ask, "Where is the promise of His coming?" And there is an assault on truth. Eschatology spells out in deadly detail (pun intended) the devil's demise. Thus, he's putting up a fight against it as well. So hang on to your prophecy books because if the Lord does tarry, you may have to resort to re-reading them with the publishing ban on them now in play. By the way I love scoffers of prophecy, because I tell them they are only fulfilling prophecy:

(2 Peter 3:2 NKJV) that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

(2 Peter 3:3 NKJV) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

(2 Peter 3:4 NKJV) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

Chapters 8-9 tough Road / ½ World Dead / Heavy Stuff / Stop Here – too Heavy

Chapter 10 is here by Divine order, for chapters 8-9 have been some tough road to travel, and taking chapters 6-9 and all the destruction coming upon the earth (1/2 population dies) it is some heavy stuff. The Lord inserted chapter 10 here for us so that we don't quit, so that we don't put the book down, so we don't say I think I'll read Ephesians now, I like reading the Swiss Alps of the New Testament and all the

glorious promises. Or worse, I'll just read the newspaper, nope that is too heavy, I'll read Sports Illustrated or a Harlequin Romance novel.

John is told to keep prophesy, and we are told to keep reading.

Sweetness 1, 4-5 / Bitter 6-9 / Half Way – Don't Stop – Chapters 21-22

Speaking of sweetness and bitterness, how sweet was chapter 1 (the glorified Christ), chapters 4-5 (the scene around the throne). How bitter and sour has chapters 6-9 been, these 7 seals and 7 trumpets, and 3 woes. Chapter 10 was for John, and it is for us, to keep going, for we are about half way through, and we will have some more bitterness to go, but we must make it through chapters 11-20, for the sweetness of 21-22 is the New heaven, the New Earth, all things made new and we enjoy eternity where He will wipe away every tear from our eye, and there shall be no more death – where it is done!

Time of Refreshing / Call to Keep Going

So the Lord gives us chapter 10 to refresh us, to give us the call to keep going, just as He did for John.

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

(Revelation 10:2 NKJV) 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,

Who is this Angel / Messenger / Could be Jesus

There is much debate over who this angel is. The Greek word here for angel is the word "messenger"; now based on the description many believe it is Jesus Christ, while others say it is a mighty angel. Some think it is Jesus because of the references of cloud (Jesus is coming on the clouds – Rev 1:7), the rainbow (the rainbow before the throne – Rev 4:3), his face was like the sun (Rev 1:16), his feet were pillars (feet of brass – Rev 1:15), and his voice thundered (Voice of many waters – Rev 1:15). So this very well could be Jesus.

Could be an Angel / Mighty because Characteristics of God

Or it could be a mighty angel, just as the Scripture says that it is. I like to just keep things simple, and verse 1 John says I saw another angel, and so that means to me another angel like the one he had seen prior (sounding the 7 trumpets). This angel is mighty, because this angel has the characteristics of the Lord Himself.

Doesn't Matter / All Prophecy will come to Pass

Who ever this mighty angel is, does not change the outcome, all the prophecies written in this book will come to pass.

God in Control of All Things – Land and Sea

As we have studied the Tribulation that is upon the earth covers both the waters and the land; and this angel with a foot on both the sea and land shows that God is in control over all that is happening.

(Revelation 10:3 NKJV) and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

(Revelation 10:4 NKJV) Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

Don't Seal Up / You can Tell Me

We do not know what these 7 thunders are for he is told to seal them up, not to write them down. I wonder when John was released from Patmos, went back to Pastoring his churches, how many people would have come up to him and said, come on you can tell me, I won't tell anyone.

Certain things we won't Know / 7 thunders – High Level

Christian, there are certain things that we just won't know while we are here on earth. We are not going to see and understand everything clearly. We know there are 7 thunders, and God feels that is all we need to know at this time, so He has still unveiled, but only to the high level, not the lower level details. Wait a minute you might say, this is not suppose to be a sealed book you might say, it isn't, God said there will be 7 thunders, He just didn't say what they were. God tells us the anti-christ will come, He just doesn't tell us who it is, nor who the False Prophet will be, nor who the 2 Witnesses. He is unveiling, but certain things He chooses not to give us all the detail too.

John 13:7 – Feet Washing / Don't Understand Everything Now – But you Will

Jesus said in John 13:7 when He came to wash Peters feet, you don't understand everything right now, but a day will come when you will

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Never be Content – Peace – Struggle / Must Learn Simple Lesson / Eternal Perspective - Perfect

A person will never be content, have peace, and will continue to struggle until they learn this simple lesson, that we will not know and understand all things here on this side of eternity. But when we do get on the other side of eternity we will see things from the eternal perspective, and say – Perfect, Lord you knew and how marvelous are your ways. Every Christian needs to rest in John 13:7, and when you do, you will find yourself living a much more relaxed Christian life. You will not be struggling over the continual why's, but just trust that God is sovereign, and in control of every detail of our life, and the happenings of this world.

(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) 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!"

Our Questions of Why / Death – Illness – Single – UBL / Must Accept He is in Control

We all have different questions, mysteries for God. God why did you allow my Father to die at an early age, why am I still single, why is Bin Laden still on the loose, why do I have this illness, all things for now we have to accept on faith, and know God is in control and will make all things clear to us one day.

Street Ministry / God of Love – Jungle – Belly / Salvation Comes – Questions Leave

One of the things I so often enjoyed about street ministry was all the questions I would get from people. Well if God is a God of love then why would He allow _____, or what about the people in the jungle who never heard this, or did Adam have a bellybutton, all kinds of stuff like that. I would say, can I share the gospel with you, this good news, and then we'll come back to your questions; so after sharing about the God of love leaving the throne, taking on their guilt and shame, trading places with them, and the wrath of God for their sin being poured out upon Jesus instead of them, dying and then rising again on the third day, and then asking them if they would like to receive Him as their Lord and Savior, and they say yes, there was something we noticed, they never cared about those questions they were asking. There are questions that salvation washes away, doesn't really matter anymore now I see in light of my salvation, I am free and forgiven; other questions we will just never know here on earth, but God will reveal clearly when we see Him face to face.

Go Back to Simple Salvation / Churning & Burning – why not Answered / John 13:7

Can I encourage you in this, you Christians who have been saved for awhile, there is a danger to forget and/or leave the simplicity of when we first got saved. We leave that simple, free place of when we knew we were saved, we were walking on air with a spring in our step, we were saved and we were happy with that and nothing else could diminish that joy – but now we have been saved for some time, and we complicate things, we want answers from God, we want to know why He hasn't intervened and delivered to us. We want heaven on earth now! Some of you here today do not have joy in your walk, in your relationship, because you want all the answers, and all the fixes, and it is crushing your spirit, it is causing your stomach to churn and burn. Go back and put everything into the perspective of your salvation, enjoy the freedom of forgiveness, and trust in John 13:7, He will answer all things to you when it is the right time. Learn the lesson of John 13:7:

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

(Revelation 10:5 NKJV) The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

(Revelation 10:6 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 10:7 NKJV) 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.

Delay is Over / Thy Kingdom Come / All things put in Order

The delay is over, the fulfillment of all the prayers of thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. There will be no delay; all things will be put in order:

(1 Corinthians 15:22 NKJV) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

(1 Corinthians 15:23 NKJV) But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

(1 Corinthians 15:24 NKJV) Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

(1 Corinthians 15:25 NKJV) For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

(1 Corinthians 15:26 NKJV) The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

His Delay is He wishes None Perish

The Lord has delayed because of His mercy, grace and love, because He wishes that none should perish but all seek repentance:

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

(2 Peter 3:8 NKJV) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Mystery of God – Not Fully Understanding / Evil & Hurt / John 13:7

Verse 7 - the mystery of God would be finished – A mystery isn't something God is hiding from us, but something we fully do not understand. All our questions will be answered, all things will be made clear to us. Why evil seems to triumphs, where was God at that moment. Remember John 13:7:

(John 13:6 NKJV) Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

(John 13:7 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

(Revelation 10:8 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 10:9 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 10:10 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

John applying Revelation 1:3 - Literally

John here is applying the promised blessing that comes from this book:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

The Word of God / Sometimes Sweet – Sometimes Bitter / Saved – Damnation / Rapture - Trib

This book given to John is the Word of God, of what is to happen next; and some things will be sweet, others very bitter. Like the book the angel gave John, the Word is sweeter than honey (Psalm 19:10; 119:103). But if the sweet Word we take in through devotions or Bible study doesn't create a sour taste,

something's wrong. You see, the fact that we're saved is sweet indeed—but the fact that people we love are going to hell is bitter. The fact that we will be raptured is sweet, but the fact that our loved ones will be left behind is bitter and sour in our stomachs.

If Always Sweet – Something Wrong

Christian if the reading of the word is always sweet to you, that it is never bitter, never upsetting, never sour, then there is something wrong with the way you are taking in the word.

2 Things When Taking in the Word / Compassion - Conviction

The word is sweet, and the word is bitter, God says that it is. How do you know if you are taking in all of the word, 2 things will happen. You will have compassion for sinners, and a conviction of your own sin.

1.) Compassion for Sinners

Believer Heartbreak / being Devoured / Marriages – Kids / Stomach Bitter – Because know Word

How my heart breaks when I watch brothers and sisters getting devoured by the enemy, because they refuse to fully apply the word to their lives. My heart breaks as I watch marriages struggle, kids going wayward, brothers and sisters going into sin that will devour them, as I watch Christians just kinda drifting along, not experiences all that God has for them. My heart breaks, my stomach gets bitter, because I know the word, I read the word, and I see a brother not applying it and I know pain and let down is certain at some point in their life.

Tried to Not Care / Word brings me Back to Them / Compassion / Jesus - Sheep

I have tried, I have said, I am just not going to care any more, I am not going to make myself vulnerable, I am not going to get involved for it seems all that happens is that they get upset with me and all I am trying to do is help them; but I can't walk away, I can't because as I read the word, my heart continually goes back to them, and the bitterness moves in me to reach out to them, to have compassion for them.

Compassion is when something moves you so greatly, that you can't just sit idly by and watch, you must take action. Jesus that day saw the people, sheep without a shepherd and it says that he was moved with compassion, and we see what compassion did to Him, it moved Him to teach them, to give them the word that will give them life:

(Matthew 9:35 NKJV) Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

(Matthew 9:36 NKJV) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

(Matthew 9:37 NKJV) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

(Matthew 9:38 NKJV) "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Unbeliever Compassion / Death – Separation / Tribulation – Separation / Think of Loved One Now

As you take in this word, and it is sweet, and then becomes bitter, it will move you to compassion for the unbeliever. You will say I know what is coming their way, either death and eternal separation from God where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, or they will enter into the Tribulation, and still may end up in eternal separation from God. Compassion will move you to action, and the belief in the word will give you boldness to for that move into action. I challenge you right now to think of someone you love, maybe a spouse, a parent, a sibling, a co-worker, and think of them in the tribulation, and tell me your heart isn't breaking right now. Think of them eternally separated from God where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, where the worm dies not, where the fire is not quenched, and tell me how your heart feels. The word is sweet, and the word is bitter.

Ezekiel Given Boldness

In your leisure, read about the prophet Ezekiel and how the word of God was both bitter and sweet to him. It was only after Ezekiel ate the book that was sweet to his mouth but bitter to his belly that he was able to share boldly with those of whom he had previously been afraid (Ezekiel 3:3, 14). The bitterness in his belly motivated Ezekiel to share truth.

2.) Conviction of your own Sin

Convict your Sin / Sweet – Celebrate Promises / Bitter as Pricks your Soul / Teaching - Entertain

Secondly, this sweet and bitter word will bring conviction of your own sin. As you come here on Wednesday and Sunday, as you listen to your Pastor Chuck tapes, and you have your own personal devotion, some places the word will be sweet as you celebrate your salvation, your promise of eternal life, and that you are His. But the word will also make you bitter as it reveals to you a sin in your life, the need for change, or the lack of compassion in your life. It will be sweet, and it will be bitter. If your devotion and church time is always sweet, than I say there is something amiss in your hearing for the word will be sweet at times, and bitter at times as it pricks you and convicts you. I am glad we go verse by verse because I know I would be a feel-good preacher, wishing to offend no one, and have all love me and say what a great pastor I am, but that is impossible if you are truly teaching the whole counsel of God. Church is not an entertainment center, it is a teaching center.

Switching the Channel / Children's Relief / Devotions - Pulpit

Sadly what happens in many Christians lives is that they switch the channel. You know what I mean, enjoy a good show and then a TV ad comes on for the Children's Relief Fund (help the starving kids), click, too heavy, change the station. Watching the news and they say lets remember our fallen hero's, click, that's too heavy, too bitter, lets see if everybody loves Raymond is on. So happens for many Christians, my devotions have really been convicting me, click, I'll skip them, listen to worship songs on the drive to work. That Pastor, that Church, sin-sniffers, I know they are judging me, they are so legalistic, can't they tell some jokes, and then click, I'll sleep in, time to find a new church.

Life begins to Unravel / Word brings Prosperity

But you know what happens to those people? Their lives begin to unravel because staying in the Word is the only way to experience prosperity and success (Joshua 1:8), but we must continue through it (just like John here in Chp 10). Yes, it will trouble you. No doubt it may upset you. But as time goes on, you will begin to see that your life is centered and grounded, fruitful and prosperous because the Word always does its work, the word will not return void:

(Joshua 1:8 NKJV) "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

(Isaiah 55:11 NKJV) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Keep Going / Devour Bitter and Sweet /Impact World – Prosper Ourselves

My prayer is that we will be those who, like John, that we would keep going, that we would devour and digest Scripture—the bitter portions as well as the sweet—in order that we, like John, would impact our world for the kingdom, and be prosperous and successful ourselves.

Chapter 11

The Rebuilt Temple (11:1-2)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

The Blessings for Us – to See Rebuilt Temple

We finished chapter 10 with the mighty angel saying to John you must prophesy again. Now what we have seen in the 7 seals and 7 trumpets, we can see the signs of birth pains and go wow. But the things we are getting into now, should leave us speechless, the things we see now are things that can only happen in our day – like this rebuilt temple. I pray after this study your heart will be quickened to see how close we are, how sure this word is, and how sure and how close these things are ready to break wide open before our very eyes. The resultant, I pray will be a strengthening of your faith, a realization of how little time we have left, and that those realizations will change the way you live, that these next handful of studies will put your whole life into perspective - that you will seek first the kingdom of God, and that he who believes these things will keep himself pure before the Lord, and if you have questioned if God is real, that you will see Him as the Savior:

(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The Rebuilt Temple

(Revelation 11:1 NKJV) Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

(Revelation 11:2 NKJV) "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.

Temple Rebuilt – Sacrifices Happening / Dome of Rock in Way / Muhammad ascended

A reed is an instrument of measure – approximately 10 feet long. John is told to measure the Temple area, but leave out the area we know as the Court of the gentiles, So, we see here the temple will be built, finished, and sacrifices taking place before the mid-Tribulation point. The Jews today dream of rebuilding their temple, but its site is now occupied (and in the minds of many Jews desecrated) by the Islamic shrine known as the Dome of the Rock. Because Muslims believe it to be the place from which Muhammad ascended to heaven, it is among the most sacred shrines in the Islamic world. For the Jews to wrest that site away from the Muslims and build their temple there would be unthinkable in today's political climate.

Note on Replacement Theology

May I just note here before we go on, for those groups that follow Replacement theology, which is every mention of Israel in Revelation is only spiritual, and that it is not actually Israel, but the Church, then the question is who is the one who rebuilds the temple in Jerusalem, and if it is the Church, then why? For the Church need not go back to animal sacrifices for Jesus was and is the final sacrifice.

Temple will be Rebuilt / Levitical System in Place / Without Shedding of Blood

Anyways, the temple will be rebuilt by the Jews right there in Jerusalem, and notice there is an altar, there is worship, the Levitical sacrificial system will be reestablished, for the Orthodox Jews today know that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin and they are eagerly awaiting the time to start the sacrifices and worship in the temple again. I might add, the temple is part of End Time prophecies, but it is by no means endorsed by the Lord; for it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats can wash man's sin away, for now the perfect sacrifice has come – once and for all.

(Leviticus 17:11 NKJV) 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

(Hebrews 10:4 NKJV) For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

(Hebrews 7:26 NKJV) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

(Hebrews 7:27 NKJV) who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

There are Groups Today / Utensils – Priests – Garments - Cornerstone

Today there are groups in Israel who are making and preparing all the utensils and garments for the temple as prescribed in the Old Testament. Visit their web-site or their museum if you ever get to Jerusalem (www.templeinstitute.org / www.templemount.org / www.templemountfaithful.org). They are even training young men on how to perform animal sacrifices. One group even has the Chief Cornerstone hewed out, and on certain occasions and celebrations they parade the cornerstone through the streets of Jerusalem, all the way up to the Temple Mount area, but are always stopped short there by the Israeli police for that would cause rioting to breakout between the Muslims and the Jews.

Amazing – Only last 40 years / 2000 yrs without Homeland / We are Living Exciting Times

Here is something to be excited about, for these groups have only come into existence and recognition in the last 20-25 years, our lifetime. The Temple Institute making all the utensils was only established in 1987. Israel did not own the Temple Mount in 1948 when they were made a nation on May 14, 1948; they gained ownership of it in the 1967 – 6 Day War. So it has only been 40 years that this was even a possibility (now for some unknown reason, maybe as a gesture of peace and for world acceptance, after the 6 Day War, Israel still allowed the Muslim Palestinians to control the Temple Mount – no Jews are allowed up on the actual Mount - that is beyond human reasoning why they did this, so it must be part of God's End Time plan). So, after 2,000 years without a homeland, not only are they re gathered to Israel, Jerusalem, they are now in ownership of the Temple Mount (even though currently they allow the Palestinians to Control the Temple Mount area). I don't know if you can grasp the magnitude of this, but we are clearly seeing prophecy fulfilling before our very eyes, in our lifetime. The tachometer is pegging out, the rapture of the church is imminent. God has determined us to live in these last days, how exciting. The question is what are you doing about it.

Recap the 3 Temples

The temple will be rebuilt; let's first recap the past 2 Temples before we go on.

Tabernacle / Exodus 25 / Glory of God / Day of Atonement

First before the Temple was the Tabernacle that God told Moses to build and erect (Exodus 25-40). The Tabernacle would be where God would meet with man, and lead the children of Israel for their 40 years in the wilderness, and then also when they came into the Promised Land, the place where the glory (the "kabowd" of God would rest. The place where they could make sacrifices for their sins and have their sins covered, the place where once a year the High Priest would enter into the Holy of Holies and make a sacrifice on the Day of Atonement and their sins would be covered, and man would be at peace with God. The Tabernacle would last until the time of King David.

(Exodus 40:34 NKJV) Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

First Temple – Known as Solomon's Temple / God Tempers our Disappointments

The First Temple would be called Solomon's Temple, even though it was David who was lead to build it. David said why should God live in a tent, and he desired in his heart to build a house for God. God said David you can't, you have too much blood on your hands, therefore your son will build it in times of peace. David's desire was to do something wonderful for the Lord, but God says no. As the Lord always if we will look for it, wait for it, and recognize it when it comes is to temper our disappoints with blessings. David you can't build me a house, but I will build you a house. Not a house that you imagine it to be, but though your lineage, your seed David, will come the Messiah and the lineage of David will reign forever. David the great poet, is at a loss for words, he is blown away by the goodness of the Lord. Beloved anytime God close the door, says no, I guarantee that in due season He will replace it with something much better and much more fulfilling.

(2 Samuel 7:12 NKJV) "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

(2 Samuel 7:16 NKJV) "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." "

(2 Samuel 7:20 NKJV) "Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.

(1 Chronicles 22:8 NKJV) "but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.

(1 Chronicles 22:9 NKJV) 'Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.

(1 Chronicles 22:10 NKJV) 'He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

(1 Chronicles 22:11 NKJV) "Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you.

Solomon Builds – 1050BC

So approximately 1050BC, in Jerusalem, there on Mount Moriah, Solomon finishes building the Temple. This is known as the First Temple.

Babylonian Destruction – 586BC / Second Temple after 70yrs Captivity – 516BC

In 605BC the Babylonians come and in 3 waves over 20 years they take the city of Jerusalem and in the last wave destroy Solomon's Temple (in 586BC). As prophesied the people of Israel are taken into captivity for 70 years. As prophesied again, they are released and allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their city, and temple. The rebuilding is lead by Joshua and Zerrubbel. The rebuilding begins in approximately 516BC.

Herod's Temple – 3rd Temple / Expanded 2nd

This Temple will remain standing when the Messiah Jesus Christ comes. There can be some confusion and you will hear reference to the 3rd Temple; what that is, is when King Herod ruler over Israel during Roman occupation, wanted to appease and have the Jewish people like him. What he did was invest much money into the 2nd Temple, and he also expanded it. So he only added on to the 2nd Temple, he did not build one from scratch. So whether it is called the 2nd or 3rd is only a semantic.

Temple Jesus Came / Prophesied it Destroyed / Covered in gold - Toppled

So this is the Temple that was standing when Jesus came, and it is the Temple that Jesus prophesied would be destroyed with not one stone left unturned. And so it was, 40 years after Jesus' prophecy, Titus with his Roman army came into Jerusalem and totally destroyed the city, killing the people with the blood flowing thorough the city as like a river. Now the Temple was destroyed because it was covered with gold, and when it was lit on fire, the gold melted into the creases of the rock and the cracks between the rocks, so the only way to get the gold off was to topple the rocks and the gold would jar loose, thus fulfilling Jesus' prophecy.

Prophesied to be Rebuilt / Rev 11 / Matt 24 / 2 Thess 4 / Some of Most Powerful Prophecy

The Bible gives prophecy that another Temple will be rebuilt, as we see here in Revelation 11. Here in Revelation this temple spoken of is yet future because John is writing this in 90AD, and the 2nd Temple was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans. So as John writes this, there is no Temple standing. Jesus said so also in Matthew 24 speaking of the "abomination of desecration/desolation" which is when the anti-christ comes into the Temple and proclaims himself God (Daniel speaks of the same prophecy, and so does Paul). In all cases this is spoken of a yet future event. This is some of the most powerful prophecy in all the Bible:

(Matthew 24:15 NKJV) "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

(Matthew 24:16 NKJV) "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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."

(2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

(2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV) who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Note: it is often said that when Antiochus Epiphany went into the Second Temple and desecrated it, that that was the fulfillment – however that was in 167BC; when Jesus, Paul, and John spoke about this, they spoke in 30-90AD - 200 years after Antiochus Epiphany.

There is a Golden Problem – Dome of Rock

The Temple will be rebuilt, however, there is a problem, a very large golden problem, and it is called the Dome of the Rock.

Maybe Anti-christ Broker the Peace / Ask Jewish Person Today

This may very be how the anti-christ comes into power, for he will be the one that brokers the peace agreement between the Muslims and the Jews as spoken of in Daniel chapter 7 and 9. On my trip to Israel I would purposely ask Jewish people how they would recognize their Messiah, and they said one or both of these things, that He will help us rebuild our temple, and/or He will bring peace to Israel. They are perfectly set-up to be deceived by the anti-christ, just as Daniel 7 and 9 speaks of.

Doubt it will be Blown Up – Tried It – Holy War / 300 to 6 / Will Exist Side by Side / 35 Acres

Now, here is something for consideration. Some think possibly the Jewish people will blow-up the Dome of the Rock, and then rebuild the Temple. I doubt that is what is going to happen, for destruction of the Dome of Rock would be a deathblow to any peace agreement, it would spark a holy war for the Muslims and it would be about 300 million Muslims to 6 million Jews, and I might add, that you can't use nukes within your own borders or you'll kill or poison your own self. Here is what I believe is a more likely scenario, they will both exist, nearly side-by-side. There is enough room for this, for the Temple Mount is some square 35 acres in size. By the way radical Jews in the past have tried to blow up the Dome of the Rock but have always been caught before they can get close enough; the Temple Mount is heavily guarded, by both Muslims and Israeli policeman.

Don't Measure Court of Gentiles / No Gentiles allowed in Holy Place / Paul sparked Riot

John's instructions on measuring the temple included a significant omission. He was commanded, Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it (the Greek here for "Temple" is just the Temple – it is not the word for the whole 35 acre Temple precinct). The reference is to the court of the Gentiles, located outside the courtyard containing the brazen altar. It marked the boundary beyond which Gentiles were forbidden to go. In New Testament times, the Romans had given the Jews the right to execute any Gentile who went beyond the court of the Gentiles. For a Gentile to do so was to defile the temple. In fact, it was the false charge that Paul had brought Gentiles into the temple that sparked the riot that led to his arrest and imprisonment (Acts 21:28–29).

Pastor Chuck on Mount Olives / Artistic Rendering / Doors in Line / Problem Eastern Gate - Turks

I was blessed to stand on top of the Mount of Olives with Pastor Chuck, and I told him my theory, and that is that actual location of the Temple will be to the right (North) of the Dome of the Rock (currently where the Dome of the spirits is (which is Muslim owned). The reason being, is that in all artistic renderings that have been passed down over the years has the entrance to the Inner Court (the Holy Place), and the entrance into the Holy of Holies, all are in direct line with each other, and the Eastern Gate of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. It seems to me that it only makes sense that the same would be true today. And I have no problem with the thought that God ordained it that the Dome of the Rock was not actually built on the exact site of the actual Temple. My only problem with my theory was that the current Eastern gate is not the original one of Jesus day, but was where the Ottoman Empire built it centuries ago. But Pastor Chuck said that an archeologist (secretly digging around) in front of the Eastern gate (in 1970) fell through a hole, and found himself in front of the original Eastern Gate of Jesus' day, and it was exactly under the existing Eastern Gate.

Mishna / Will Co-exist / Dome located Court of Gentiles

Also, according to the Mishna—the highly esteemed book of Jewish oral traditions—when the priest stood in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he could look through the veil, through the door, and see the Eastern Gate directly before him. So this all lines up rather nicely, the Temple and the Dome will co-exist, the Dome of the Rock will be outside the Temple in what is known as the Court of the gentiles, just as it says here.

Dr. Kaufman / Funded by Chucks / BAR – 100 meters North

The name of this man Pastor Chuck referred to is Dr Ashter Kaufman, and he is a well renowned and respected archeologist in Jerusalem. He is not Christian I might add, nor is he an orthodox Jew either. Part of his research activities were largely funded by Pastor Chuck and Chuck Missler. Dr Kaufman at the end of his researched was published in Biblical Archeological Review (BAR) and in the March 1983 issue his final assessment was that the original Temple is 100 meters north of the Dome of the Rock.

12 Acres Free / Dome of Spirits – Tablets / Flat Bedrock – Holy of Holies / Lines Up with Gate

Actually the Moslem Dome of the Rock is about the middle of the temple mount, and the al Aqsa is on the southern end of the temple mount area. It leaves a large area, probably 12 acres or so north of the Dome of the Rock mount, plenty of room to rebuild the temple on which many scholars believe is the original temple site. There is right now on that northern portion a little cupola, which is called the Dome of the Spirits, also known as the Dome of the Tablets. It's built over a flat bedrock area, and there are many who believe that that is where the holy of holies existed in the temple of Solomon and also the temple that was rebuilt by the Jews and completed by Herod, the great temple that Herod built. It is directly in from the east gate of the old wall. It lines up with where the temple once stood. That is in the area that is north. It's about 322 feet north of the Dome of the Rock mosque.

Maybe Anti-christ Broker the Peace / How Recognize the Messiah

Again, this may very be how the anti-christ comes into power, for he will be the one that brokers the peace agreement between the Muslims and the Jews as spoken of in Daniel chapter 7 and 9. It is the perfect set-up as far as I am concerned. The Jewish people say they would recognize their Messiah, and they said one or both of these things, that He will help us rebuild our temple, and/or He will bring peace to Israel. They are perfectly set-up to be deceived by the anti-christ, just as Daniel 7 and 9 speaks of.

Ezekiel 42 – The Wall

With all this research about where the original Temple actually was, and a smooth talking politician, the anti-christ, it may be as simple as Ezekiel 42 says, just build a wall.

(Ezekiel 42:15 NKJV) Now when he had finished measuring the inner temple, he brought me out through the gateway that faces toward the east, and measured it all around.

(Ezekiel 42:16 NKJV) He measured the east side with the measuring rod, five hundred rods by the measuring rod all around.

(Ezekiel 42:17 NKJV) He measured the north side, five hundred rods by the measuring rod all around.

(Ezekiel 42:18 NKJV) He measured the south side, five hundred rods by the measuring rod.

(Ezekiel 42:19 NKJV) He came around to the west side and measured five hundred rods by the measuring rod.

*(Ezekiel 42:20 NKJV) He measured it on the four sides; **it had a wall all around, five hundred cubits long and five hundred wide, to separate the holy areas from the common.***

Exciting Times

Wow, what exciting times we live in. I hope this study of the Temple has got you excited about the soon return of your Savior. The past history, and the future history of the temple is amazing. All Israel would stand in awe to see the glory of God fill the temple, every year, once a year they would wait with hopeful anticipation on the Day of Atonement to hear the High Priest declare that there in the Holy of Holies man's sins have been covered for one more year.

Today – You are the Temple

But all they saw was a shadow of things to come. As blown away as David was, imagine if he was to hear these words:

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

They Looked Ahead – Emmanuel / We Have God in Us – Greatest Position on Earth

They looked on with awe to see the “Glory of God” the “kabowd” fill the temple with His presence and rejoice that God was with them. But today, we live on the other side of the cross. As they looked forward to the Messiah coming in the flesh (Emmanuel – God with us), we now have been given the most awesome position in all the world, greater than any statesman, movie star, corporate executive, we have God in us:

(Colossians 1:27 NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

The Very Same God

The very same God who calmed the storm with His hand, the very same God who walked on water, the very same God who made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dead to live again, the very same God who would take our guilt, our shame, endure 6 brutal hours on a cross on a hill in Palestine, die, and rise again in the 3rd day, is the very same God that dwells in you, that fills you with His glory, His kabowd. We are the Temple of the Living God:

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

If You feel Empty – A Void

If you are here today, and you fill a void in your life, that something is missing, than know that is because the Holy God has not taken up residence inside you, you must invite Him in. The only thing that can possibly satisfy the need is what created the need.

The Two Witnesses (11:3-14)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

The Blessings for Us – to See Rebuilt Temple

We finished chapter 10 with the mighty angel saying to John you must prophesy again. Now what we have seen in the 7 seals and 7 trumpets, we can see the signs of birth pains and go wow. But the things we are getting into now, should leave us speechless, the things we see now are things that can only happen in our day – like this rebuilt temple. I pray after this study your heart will be quickened to see how close we are, how sure this word is, and how sure and how close these things are ready to break wide open before our very eyes. The resultant, I pray will be a strengthening of your faith, a realization of how little time we have left, and that those realizations will change the way you live, that these next handful of studies will put your whole life into perspective - that you will seek first the kingdom of God, and that he who believes these things will keep himself pure before the Lord, and if you have questioned if God is real, that you will see Him as the Savior:

(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(Revelation 11:1 NKJV) Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

(Revelation 11:2 NKJV) "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.

The Temple will be rebuilt by this time. I refer you to our last study on the Coming Temple, a wonderful prophetic picture showing just how close we are to the rapture.

(Revelation 11:3 NKJV) "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

(Revelation 11:4 NKJV) These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

First Half of Trib / Mid-Trib Point

1260 days, are the first half of the 7 year Tribulation, and the death of the 2 witnesses will bring us right to the middle of the Tribulation. Please note that when the Bible talks of years, it is based on 360 days. That is important when study our prophecy in both the OT and the NT.

Why 2 Witnesses / 2 Angels at Garden Tomb

Why are there two witnesses? Because "in the mouth of two witnesses every word shall be established" (2 Corinthians 13:1). Remember there were 2 witnesses at the garden tomb, Moses and Aaron witnessing God's judgment before Pharaoh. So too we see 2 witnesses here:

(2 Corinthians 13:1 NKJV) This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

Actual Men / Killed

Now these are actual, real men, they are not symbolic; people will try to make them symbolic, spiritualize who they are to make this scene fit their theology. We will read that they will be killed, and then come back to life 3 ½ days later, You have to be alive to die – it is ashamed that I even have to say that, but you would be surprised at some of the twisted teaching that is out there.

Zech 4 / Olive Branch – Flood - Peace / Lampstand – Witness – Hope / Grace in Trib

What does the Olive branch and lampstand represent? In Zechariah 4 we see it is olive oil that was poured into the lampstand branches that illuminated the temple – olive oil representing the Holy Spirit, and the branches were connected to the center of the stand (who is Jesus Christ), so these 2 witnesses are spirit-filled men tapped right into the source, Jesus Christ. After the flood waters subsided, when Noah sent the dove out, the dove returned with an Olive branch, which has since become a symbol of peace. These witnesses will be proclaiming the Word of God, and that peace can still be found with Him. The lampstands represents witness, a beacon of hope in these troubled times. God never stops offering peace with Him and man throughout the whole Tribulation. What a gracious and loving God. He must judge a Christ rejecting world, yet even to the end still identifies Himself as the Lamb, who will take away their sins and off them peace with the Holy God.

(Zechariah 4:6 NKJV) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

(Revelation 11:5 NKJV) 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.

Talk about Being on Fire

Talk about being on fire for the Lord.

People will want to Harm Them - Rapture / Skipped Generation / Great Witness to Jewish

It is hard for us to believe that there will be many people who will hate them and want to harm them; but obviously the Anti-christ will hate them and want them silenced, for they will proclaim the glory of Jesus, not him. But consider this, the rapture has happened, the mature Christians are gone, so all the believers are new believers, who realized what we have been saying all these years is true – Jesus is the Christ and the rapture was coming. The people controlling the media, will be mostly unbelievers and they will be putting their slant on the situation. Just look today at how the bias media leaves out key pieces of truth, slants the truth, even lie, in order to promote their agenda. It is getting easier and easier in our day because we are seeing a skipped generation of church goers. From 1991 to 2005, the USA has gone from 39 million un-churched to 72 million, a 92% increase. Most of Europe is the same. What I see is many kids and teens in our country, their parents quit going, so you have a generation of kids being

raised who know nothing about God, and can easily be misled by those who are against Him. I believe that these 2 witnesses greatest influence will be to the Jewish population there in Israel; they will lay the ground work for "all of Israel" to be saved as prophesied in Romans:

*(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.***

*(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

A Note / Exciting

A note about our skipped generation: this doesn't discourage me, for we seen this in missions in Europe, and it was like we got to start from scratch, we didn't have to battle religious dogma taught by errant teachers, we got to tell them something new, and they were drawn to hear something new, and then it is the greatest story ever told. Keep praying for our Youth Group, I believe we have the greatest opportunity for revival among the youth that is unparallel to anything in the last 40 years.

They Can't be Touched / Elijah

These witnesses can't be touched. I can picture the first tough guy heading down there to deal with them. Illusions of grandeur, all of the world watching, CNN on site, I'll be the anti-christ's main man, and then poof – ashes. I wonder how many times that happens before men start saying, I'm not going, you go, I'm not going. Reminds me of when they came to seize Elijah. The first captain of the army comes with 50 men (funny to seize 1 guy – should have been an indicator from the start), the captain says lets go, Elijah says I don't think so, and poof they are consumed. Then another captain comes with 50, lets go, poof, and then the 3rd captain comes and says sir, I have a wife and kids, I would really love to see them tonight, the king made me come, would you please come – God says go Elijah, this man gets it.

(Revelation 11:6 NKJV) 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.

Compounding the Problems with Drought

Now, consider all the things we have see up to this point, with the 7 seals and so far 6 trumpets; wars, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, undrinkable water, and the problems are all compounded because during the first 3 ½ years there is a world-wide drought. Three and a half years of drought (the day the peace covenant is signed the drought begins), the earth would be a tinderbox, dried out grass, not to mention the problems of planting and harvesting crops – so increase the severity of the food famine, which effects both man and cattle. Reservoirs would be drying up, river banks, lakes and ponds.... A 3 ½ year drought would be Tribulation enough just today, let alone add all that we have read up to this point. Horrible times on the earth.....

Plagues of Egypt

Notice how closely these things resemble what happened in the plagues of Egypt. Water turned to blood, and various other plagues.

Who Are They

Who are these men clothed in sackcloth in Revelation 11, with power to bring about drought and scorch anyone who hassles them?

Joshua – Zerrubabel

Zech 4 / Used to Lead Israel Back to God / Problem

Some say the two are Joshua and Zerrubbel, and they base it on Zechariah 4, for the description of the Olive branch and the Lamb stand fit them. These 2 men were used by God to lead the nation Israel back to God. The problem with that is that in Zechariah 4 it speaks of 2 Olive branches and just 1 lampstand, so it really isn't a perfect fit, and I think the evidence of 1 of these 2 witnesses is Elijah is pretty conclusive.

Elijah – Enoch

Appoint to Die Once / Enoch picture of Church

Some think the 2 will be Elijah and Enoch. That was always my strongest opinion on this until just in the last few years. Many believe it is these 2 because of Hebrews 9 says it is appointed unto man to die once and then the judgment. Elijah nor Enoch have yet to die, both were taken up. Elijah never died, but instead rode to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11), and Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him (Gen 5:24). However, I believe that Enoch is a picture of the church, and we see that he was taken off the earth before the flood came (which was God's wrath against the earth – same here in the Tribulation), and we know that God has not appointed us to wrath (1 Thess 5:9). Now, when we are raptured, we will not face physical death, just as Enoch did not.

(Hebrews 9:27 NKJV) And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Malachi / Mount of Transfiguration – Elijah yet to come

Most conclusively, the Old Testament ends promising Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5). In fact the Jewish Passover still sets a place for Elijah – in expectation of the fulfillment of Malachi 4. Now John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, but wasn't actually Elijah, and on the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus confirms that Elijah is still yet to come.

(Malachi 4:5 NKJV) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

(Malachi 4:6 NKJV) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

(Luke 1:17 NKJV) "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(Matthew 17:10 NKJV) And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

(Matthew 17:11 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.

(Matthew 17:12 NKJV) "But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands."

Ministry of Elijah

I should also note on the ministry of Elijah:

- Elijah called down fire from heaven that destroyed one hundred soldiers (2 Kings 1).
- Elijah prayed, and the heavens yielded no rain for three and a half years (James 5:17).

Elijah 1 / Anointed with Oil – Will Shine

Thus, I believe Elijah is one of the two witnesses, who, anointed with the oil of the Holy Ghost, will shine as brightly as candlesticks in the midst of the Tribulation.

Elijah - Moses

Plagues – Representing Law / Present on Mount of Transfiguration / Satan fights for Body

Others think it will be Elijah (for above reasons) and Moses. We see some obvious parallels of the 2 witnesses and Moses. At Moses' command, Egypt was plagued with darkness, frogs, and death; at his command, the water of the Nile turned to blood (Exodus 7–12). Moses would be well experienced in calling out plagues upon the land, no additional training needed. Moses, representing the law, appeared with Elijah, representing the prophets, on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17). Some even believe that is why Satan fought with Michael the angel over Moses body, because he knew Moses would be 1 of the witnesses – interesting thought.

(Matthew 17:1 NKJV) Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

(Matthew 17:2 NKJV) and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

(Matthew 17:3 NKJV) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Result the Same

I really am not sure, other than Elijah, but the result will still be the same.

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

(Revelation 11:8 NKJV) And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

The Beast Ascends – When God is Done

Notice here that the Beast (Anti-christ, Satan incarnate) can not come upon them until they have finished their testimony. When he kills them he is a hero to the people.

Until we run the Course / Will die on Time / Number Your Days

Until we run the course God has set for us, we are untouchable. Everyone here will die on time, not a minute earlier, not a minute later. The Scripture does tell us to number our days, to number the days we have left to live for God. Count your days and you will see how it will effect how you relate to your spouse, your kids, what is important, and what is not.

(Psalms 90:12 NKJV) So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Sodom – Egypt

The holy city (where Jesus crucified) is likened to Sodom and Egypt. Sodom representing carnality, and Egypt representing the worldly things. It has only been in the past 20 years that we have seen the things happening in Jerusalem that we have – such Gay Pride Parades through the streets right to the Wailing Wall. When I was there in 1995, the Jewish men would come up to the American woman that were part of our tour and ask them if they wanted to have sex (they watch American TV shows and think that's all American woman are). The Holy City has become a place of carnality, but the witnesses will come.....

(Revelation 11:9 NKJV) 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.

Old Commentaries / Only Our Day / Iraq War Real-Time

It is great reading old commentaries, as they would say, we have no idea how this could happen, how the whole world would see. Some commentaries just skipped over it, had no idea about the things we take for granted everyday. Only in the day that we live could this be possible, with all the satellites, internet, and news coverage that is before us. We watched the war in Iraq, live, we didn't wait days for reports of battles, we saw 5 different battle fronts all at the same time, live. Only in our day, that is scary and exciting all at the same time.

Leave Crew in Place

A piece of advice for the news crews there in Jerusalem – leave your camera in place, your crews on-site, for the story is far from being, "in the can".

(Revelation 11:10 NKJV) 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.

Only Time Rejoice Used on Earth during Trib

The only time people rejoice (on the earth) in the Tribulation is over the death of the two witnesses. "Hey, the guys who made us feel uncomfortable, who talked to us about stuff we didn't want to hear are dead! Leave them in the gutter, and let's celebrate!" What a sick world, this will be the Christmas of the Tribulation. You can be sure the debate that has started over Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas will be clearly settled once the Tribulation begins. Happy Dead Prophets Day they will be singing. How men love their sin. Men truly love darkness:

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Ever Beaten Down – Rejoice / Our Examples – We will Rise Again / Nothing like Witnessing

If you've been beaten down or left out, rejoice. You're in good company. These witnesses are examples of what you can be in the last days in which we live. You're to share the gospel with people. Yes, you'll be beat up emotionally and verbally, ostracized, left out, not invited to the party. But you know what will

happen? Three and a half days later, you'll rise. There will be a spring in your step and joy in your heart as you find yourself soaring emotionally. Truly, gang, there is nothing, nothing, nothing like sharing your faith. Even if you're put down, beat up, left out, you'll find yourself revived.

If Relationship Stagnant – Tedious / You'll be Caught-up

If you feel your relationship with the Lord is stagnant or tedious—witness. I guarantee, like the two witnesses in Revelation 11, you'll be caught up into heavenly places. Witnessing is the single most important way I have found to see my own faith revived and renewed.

Preach not Miserable / Pressed down – Running Over

Jesus didn't tell us to preach the gospel because He wants us to be miserable. On the contrary, He said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"

(Luke 6:38 NKJV) "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

(Revelation 11:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 11:12 NKJV) And they 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.

What an Awesome Sight – Look on Faces / Middle of Party / Screeching Halt

To see this! I think this will be 1 of the most awesome sights to watch. To see the looks on their faces, right in the middle of their parties, right in the middle of opening presents, right in the middle of their speeches, right in the middle of their "high-fives", the party will come to a screeching halt.

Come up Here / Most Quiet Moment on Earth

Imagine hearing those words, come up, booming over CNN.....I believe this will be one of the most quieting moments over the whole planet, at this one moment. Men will stand with jaw dropped, utter amazement at what they will be seeing.

Why not Keep Preaching / Signs don't make Gospel Believable / Luke 16

Some may wonder why the two witnesses were not permitted to preach after their resurrection. But signs and wonders do not make the gospel believable, because "if [unbelievers] do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead" (Luke 16:31). After hearing the teaching and observing the miraculous ministry of the Son of God, unbelievers rejected and killed Him.

(Luke 16:27 NKJV) "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,

(Luke 16:28 NKJV) 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

(Luke 16:29 NKJV) 'Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

(Luke 16:30 NKJV) "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

(Luke 16:31 NKJV) "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

(Revelation 11:13 NKJV) 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.

Not Just Emotionally Shaken - Physically

Not only is the world shaken up emotionally by the resurrection of the two witnesses but it is shaken physically in a great earthquake. Same thing happened after Jesus died, the earth quaked, then 3 days later He rose again.

Many Will Glory / See 1st hand the Resurrection – Ascension / No Worry of Anti-christ

Many will give glory. The entire world will be witness of the truth of the resurrection and ascension. They will see first hand, with their very eyes the resurrection and ascension, and they will come to a saving

faith, they will become bold in their faith, they will sure of their faith. They will give glory to God and say it matters not what the Anti-christ will do to me, even if he slays me, I am assured of the resurrection and ascension after death.

Resurrection and Ascension – Proof God Accepted Sacrifice / Make part of Witness

The resurrection and ascension is the power of the gospel. The resurrection and ascension is proof that God accepted the substitution sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Had Jesus not rose from the dead after taking on our sin, our guilt, our shame, then it would have meant that the sacrifice had not been accepted by the Father. But Jesus did rise again on the 3rd day, and He did ascend to the Father, all proof and example for us that so too will we, for all who put their trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. That is the power of the gospel, Buddha died, Mohammed died, Krishna died, but none rose again, only Jesus Christ did. Don't leave that part out of your witnessing, for that is the power of the gospel.

OT Ends with Curse – the Law / NT is Grace

Interesting, the last word of the OT is "curse", the end of the law. The last words of the NT, is
(Malachi 4:6 NKJV) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

We have that Confidence – Come up Here

We today should give glory to God for the resurrection and ascension, that we have this promise. That when death comes to us, or the rapture, we will hear those words – Come up Here! The only words that God speaks during the Tribulation.

(Revelation 11:14 NKJV) The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

One Kingdom Under God (11:15-19)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

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- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

7 Bowls not until Chp 15 / Last Trump – 7 Bowls – no Justice / We will say Woe

The 7th trumpets sounds here in chapter 11, which is going to have the 7 Bowls of God's wrath, but we won't actually start reading about them until chapter 15. We will continue in some commentary filling in some of the details of all that is going on up to this point. This last trumpet is also the last of the 3 woes; and as we read about it, I doubt we will really do it any justice, not until we are in the mezzanine of heaven watching it transpire will we really grasp it, and I believe as we watch with jaws dropped we will continually say, "woe"!

Not the Last Trump – Rapture

This last trumpet of the 7th angel is not to be confused with the trumpet we read about concerning the rapture (1 Cor 15 / 1 Thess 4). People, who take the Mid-Tribulation Rapture of the Church position, use these verses to support their claim. They say here is the rapture of the church, and then the great celebration in heaven. The only problem is that this is the trumpet of an angel, and the trumpet for the rapture is the "trumpet of God". Not to mention, we are not appointed to wrath, and chapters 6-9 were pretty rough. Always good to go back and review our study on "10 Reasons for Pre-Tribulation Rapture."

(1 Corinthians 15:51 NKJV) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed;

(1 Corinthians 15:52 NKJV) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(Revelation 11:15 NKJV) Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

(Revelation 11:16 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

(Revelation 11:17 NKJV) saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

(Revelation 11:18 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 11:19 NKJV) Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Heaven Responds

Heaven breaks force into praise, giving glory to God. Heaven hasn't responded to anything like this since chapter 4 when the Lamb took the scroll.

(Revelation 11:15 NKJV) Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Culmination of Eph 1:10 / 6.000 yrs in the Making

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord – Ephesians 1:10, six thousand years in the making, will come to its full fruition.

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Kingdom Singular – All Kingdoms Roll-up to Satan

Your translation, as it is here in the NKJV, may say the kingdoms of this world; it conveys the truth but grammatically in the original Greek it is in the singular form – the kingdom. The use of the singular term kingdom of the world instead of the plural "kingdoms" introduces an important truth; all of the world's diverse national, political, social, cultural, linguistic, and religious groups are in reality one kingdom under one king. That king is the Devil, the god of this world. So when Jesus conquers Satan, so does He all the other kingdoms, for they all roll-up, if you would, to Satan, for he influences them all.

(2 Corinthians 4:3 NKJV) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

(2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Are Become - Aorist Active Indicative Tense / Proleptic Statement

The verb translated "are become" is in the aorist active indicative tense, which means the kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord. These 24 elders are praising God right in the middle of the Tribulation saying that all the kingdoms are yours, even though we still have 3 ½ years left in the Tribulation. It is what is referred to as a proleptic statement. That is, it is an event so certain that it is spoken of as if it has already taken place, while it is still taking place.

OT and NT Statement

We see an example of that in the OT, as it speaks of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross as if already happened, even though they were still looking forward to it. In the NT we see repeated references to us already being glorified, yet we are still in these fallen bodies. But from God perspective it is a done deal, certainty to happen, even though we are still in the process:

(Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

(Romans 8:17 NKJV) and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

What does that Mean to Me / Heavenly Language – Middle Trib / How do You Speak?

So what is my point with all this, my question for you, my question for myself, how do you speak. Do you speak with this certainty here on earth, do you have this heavenly language. Do you speak and think proleptically? With such certainty that even when things are in the middle of tribulation in your life, you still speak believing that God will achieve His purposes and see you through to certain victory? You may say all seems to be against me, but I know the Lord has promised to see me through, and no man, government, or program can stop that work. Or, do you speak in earthly language, oh dear, it seems so hopeless, what is the use to pray any more, why bother reading the word, it's promises are for others, not for me, I might as well give up on that promise, nothing is ever going to change. If you take that approach you are right, nothing ever will change. The kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord – even in the middle of the Tribulation. Such is the language of heaven. If you want heaven in your heart or home, speak proleptically as you praise God prolifically. You will find yourself walking in a new power, a new confidence, and a new freedom. – look at verses 16 and 17.

(Revelation 11:16 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

(Revelation 11:17 NKJV) saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

Live Proleptically – You be Person of Praise / Power shall Reign in Your Life

When you live proleptically, believing that it is already done, a certainty, even before it comes to pass, you will find yourself being a worshipper of God, you will be one that has praise on your lips, and see His power, and that power will translate into your personal everyday life.

(Revelation 11:18 NKJV) 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."

People Angry – Refuse Repent / Behind Anger is Fear / Losing grip on their Kingdom

The people are angry at Him, because His Light reveals their sin, and they love their sin and refuse to repent of them (John 3:19), and they hate Him because they want to live as they please to their own rule. And, behind all anger, you will find fear. When someone is angry, ask yourself what do they fear, for that is what is causing them to be angry. These people are angry, because they fear losing control, the end of their kingdom, they can feel it slipping away, and they are fearful of it.

Wrath has Come – Idol Worshipers / Ish 61 – Didn't Finish the Verse / 1st Lamb – 2nd Lion

Verse 18 - and Your wrath has come – This is the wrath of the Lamb, and it has come upon a Christ rejecting world; a world that lives to worship their own idols, and not the One True God. Judgment has come, plagues and calamities upon the world. In His first coming, Jesus picked up the scroll in the temple that day and read from Isaiah 61:1-2, but He didn't finish the whole verse, for the last part of that verse was still yet to come, after His death, resurrection, and ascension, and that was "vengeance of God". The Tribulation, is now the beginning of the fulfillment of that verse in Isaiah. His first coming He came as the Lamb, His Second Coming He will come as the Lion.

(Luke 4:18 NKJV) "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

(Luke 4:19 NKJV) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

(Luke 4:20 NKJV) Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

(Luke 4:21 NKJV) And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

(Isaiah 61:1 NKJV) "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

*(Isaiah 61:2 NKJV) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, **And the day of vengeance of our God**; To comfort all who mourn,*

Passover / 4 Cups

It is remarkable of how much symbolism the Seder/Passover Supper point to Christ. It is interesting to note, that when Jesus celebrated the Passover, He skipped a part of it, or it was intentionally left out of the Scriptures. If you recall there are 4 cups of wine that are drank at the Passover (5 if you add the cup of Elijah). The Jews associated four cups with Exodus 6.6-7:

They are the:

- Cup 1 "I will bring you out" [deliverance] / The Cup of Sanctification
- Cup 2 "I will rid you of their bondage" [freedom] / The Cup of Plagues/Judgment/ God's Wrath
- Cup 3 "I will redeem you" [redemption] / The Cup of Redemption/Blessing
- Cup 4 "I will take you for my people and I will be your God" [consummation] / The Cup of Praise/Acceptance/Joy

From Luke

From Luke, it seems that Jesus took the cup both before and after the bread. According to the customs of a Passover dinner, this was nothing unusual - there would be four different cups of wine ceremonially sipped during the meal

Cup 1

The Cup of Sanctification: The question asked at the Seder every Passover is why is this day so special, why is it set apart? Jesus would say to His disciples, "how I have longed for this day, with fervent desire". This Passover would be different for it would be the final Passover. The Historian Josephus estimated that between 2.7 million and 3.0 million lambs were slain on this last Passover – Jesus would be the last one needed. I wonder, Jesus would breathe His last at 3pm, with only about 3 hours left before Passover was over, and according to the Levitical Law, every piece of the Passover Lamb had to be cleared from the house. That would only leave 3 hours to serve the meal, eat the meal, and clean-up the meal. Most Seders of Orthodox Jews are long over 3 hours in itself, not counting clean-up. So I wonder, was Jesus literally the last Lamb sacrificed that Passover.....I wonder. So they took the first cup:

(Luke 22:15 NKJV) Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

(Luke 22:16 NKJV) "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

(Luke 22:17 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

(Luke 22:18 NKJV) "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Cup 3

The Cup of Redemption: If you recall in our Seder celebration we had 3 wafers, we took the middle wafer (matzah), broke it in two, took half wrapped in linen (this called the Afikomen is hidden and brought back out after supper), then we dipped it in our 3rd cup, and ate it. Our communion, the broken body and poured out blood, for the forgiveness of sin, the only way for us to be redeemed from our sins, the ransom price of sin - the 3rd cup, the Cup of Redemption.

(Luke 22:19 NKJV) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Note: The word "afikomen" (aphikneomai) is the only non-Hebrew word used in the Seder Supper. It is the second aorist form of the Greek word *ikneomai*. The translation is electrifying, it means – *I came*. The breakdown of the root words for aphikneomai is equally amazing. The first part of the word "apo" means: the going forth or proceeding of one object from another. Apo indicates the separation of a person or object from another person or object with which it was formerly united but is now separated (Jesus for the first time will be separated from the Father as He takes on the sins of the world there upon the cross). The second part of the word diikneomai, is to stand apart, go or pass through, pierce through (Jesus would come, to be pierced through for your sin, and my sin). The rabbi's did not add this part to the Seder Supper until after the times of Jesus – they say because the Temple was destroyed, but the picture of Jesus is undeniable for us. Why was only half taken and the other half kept, because Jesus was the God-Man, and He never at anytime laid down His deity, at all times He was both God and man.

Cup 4

The Cup of Acceptance/Joy/Praise: Then the 4th cup, God saying I will take you as My people, the Cup of Acceptance, Joy, Praise. Jesus says this is the new covenant, an eternal covenant that will never end, as you will be My people:

(Luke 22:20 NKJV) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

(Matthew 26:30 NKJV) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

(Jeremiah 31:31 NKJV) "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

(Jeremiah 31:32 NKJV) "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

(Jeremiah 31:33 NKJV) "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Mishna / After Jesus Time – Wine mixed with Blood

It is interesting to note that in the Mishna (part of the Talmud which is a Jewish Commentary and Teaching on OT) that that cup of red wine was to be mixed with water. The wine and water were later taken as symbolic of the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' side. Mishnah, Berakoth, 7.5 cites the adding of water to wine in the time of Jesus. It is so beautiful to see how all these things weave so wonderfully and perfectly together. He was wounded for our transgressions; He was pierced for our iniquity:

(John 19:34 NKJV) But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Waiting to Drink 4th Cup

Jesus is waiting to drink the cup with us again, in heaven, at the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb", and there will be great praise there, as He gathers His people to Himself. In the mean-time He says continue to do this in remembrance of Me:

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

(Matthew 26:30 NKJV) And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

(1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

(1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Cup 2 / The Cup of Plagues/Judgment

The Cup of Plagues/Judgment/ God's Wrath: Cup 2 is not mentioned for us in the Scriptures. Jesus fulfilled it from the standpoint that He would free His people from bondage and slavery (of sin), but there was still to be left the judging, the wrath of God upon the Egypt of this world. I believe it is not mentioned for it was the remembrance of God's wrath against a God rejecting Egypt, a people who had their own gods, some 3,000 of them, but the 10 plagues were God's judgment against all their gods. If you recall, when we celebrated the Seder supper here, we were told that we were to take our glass, and drip the juice, drop by drop in to our plates, retelling each of the 10 plagues that came upon Egypt, as a remembrance of God bringing His wrath against the Egyptians, to deliver the Hebrew people from their bondage. Here in Revelation I believe we see that Cup being fulfilled by Christ, the judgment has finally come, the plagues we have studied, and the 7 cups/bowls of wrath yet to come, as the kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of God's. The vengeance of the Lord has come against a Christ rejecting world.

(Numbers 33:4 NKJV) For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had killed among them. Also on their gods the LORD had executed judgments.

28 Times – Lamb of God / Last Cup – Cup Acceptance / Still Offers Acceptance at Mid-Trib

Yet still, 28 times in this book Jesus identifies Himself as the Lamb of God. That last cup taken at Passover, Jesus says I will not drink again until I drink with you in heaven. The cry of the Savior to all man, come unto Me, I love you and want fellowship with you, I am still the Lamb, even now, in the middle of this Tribulation, I can still be your Lamb. That last cup, the cup of acceptance, praise, God accepting us to be His own, that that cup would then be taken and shared together with everyone in the room from

the same cup. It, like the sharing from one loaf, was symbolic of 'togetherness', freedom and fellowship in a covenant. God still offers that last cup in the Tribulation to all who would come – for He still identifies Himself as the Lamb, 28 times, 4 times 7.

(Revelation 11:18 NKJV) 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."

Set themselves Against Lord / Final Battle

Verse 18 - The nations were angry, - They will set themselves against the Lord. So great will be their hatred towards the Lord, that enemies will actually unite together and turn to fight against Him we will see in the final battle there at the Valley of Megiddo (Rev 19):

(Psalms 2:1 NKJV) Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

(Psalms 2:2 NKJV) The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,

(Psalms 2:3 NKJV) "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

Book of Daniel - Beasts

Verse 18 - And should destroy those who destroy the earth." - In the Book of Daniel he likens the kingdoms of the world to wild beast (lion - Babylon, bear – Medo-Persian, leopard – Grecian, 4th beast doesn't exist – Roman Empire). You can't tame a wild beast, at some point it will turn on you.

Last Trumpet – Right King / Last Battle / Wrong Kingdoms of History – Now Right King

This trumpet sounding here in Revelation 11, is the sounding that the right Kingdom has come, meaning the right King has come (proleptically speaking). In revelation 19 when the last battle is fought, and Jesus defeats His foe, destroys Satan's kingdom, then there will be no kingdom left to battle God. We have seen the wrong kingdoms through the history of man; Cain at Babel, the Egyptian Empire, the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman, and yes even the great United States. There has always been the wrong king, therefore it has always been the wrong kingdom. Heaven erupts here because finally there will be only 1 King, and 1 Kingdom, the right King, therefore the right Kingdom.

Clues Right King & Kingdom

When the right King comes, you'll know it, and here are a few clues.

- There will be no more presidents, or dictators, emperors, or kings.
- There will be no more generals, admirals, or privates, no WMD, missiles, bombs, tanks, fighter jets, nor rifles, for there will be no more war.
- There will be no terrorists, terrorist cells, homicide bombers, or jihads.
- No discrimination, bigotry, nor racism.
- There will be no more police stations, police officers, nor prisons.
- No more murders, kidnappings, rapes, molestations, nor burglaries.
- No more courts, no more lawyers, no more custody battles, no more divorces.
- No more pornography, bars, casinos, crack houses, nor gay cowboy movies
- No more elderly assisted livings, hospitals, mental institutes, nor handicapped homes.
- No more abortions, no surgeries, no cancer, no AIDS, no blindness or deafness, no paralysis, no childhood diseases, no leukemia, no Altimears, no Bird flu.
- No earthquakes, tornadoes, mudslides, nor tsunami.
- No unemployment, welfare, no secular schools, no zoos, no debates on how to pray, or what the Holiday is called.
- No elections, for there will be only 1 King, in the right Kingdom.

Just a few Clues

Just a few clues to let you know when the right Kingdom has arrived, and you can't have the right Kingdom without the right King.

God's Definition of Perfect World

The signature of His Kingdom, not economic prosperity, and luxurious living, but that the elderly and children can walk and play in the streets without fear of harm. That is God's description of the perfect world:

(Zechariah 8:3 NKJV) "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.'

(Zechariah 8:4 NKJV) "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age.

(Zechariah 8:5 NKJV) The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets.'

(Zechariah 8:6 NKJV) "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'If it is marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, Will it also be marvelous in My eyes?' Says the LORD of hosts.

(Revelation 11:19 NKJV) Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

The Ark – No Veil

So we see the ark in the Temple that is in heaven (remember the Temples on earth were just a model of the Temple in heaven, Exodus 25 and Hebrews 9). We see the ark clearly, for there is no veil. The veil before us has been ripped from top to bottom by God Himself so that we might boldly come, knowing the 4th Cup has been fulfilled, the Cup of Acceptance, and we can come into His presence, into His Kingdom, be received, and loved by the King of that perfect Kingdom.

Do You Know this King

Do you know this King today, for this is the Kingdom that He invites you into.

Chapter 12

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon: 12:1-3

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

This Study / Look at Adversary – Football Films / Exposes a Weakness / Anti-Semitism

In this study we will take a close look at our adversary, the devil. Today's football games will be played, and the outcome will be determined largely on how well the coaches and players studied their opponents, and looked for their weaknesses, looked for areas that would give them an advantage in their match-ups. This study today will expose one of Satan's greatest weaknesses, thus giving us a strategy on how to defeat him, and limit his ability to cause problems in our lives and church. This chapter will also give us insight into the history of Anti-Semitism, and why a plot of ground with only 6 million Jews and not one drop of oil is the center of the world's contentions.

(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

(Revelation 12:3 NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

(Revelation 12:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

Who? / Mary – Christian Science – Church

Who is this woman? Throughout history, there have been a number of suggestions....

Many believe this is the Virgin Mary. But I disagree because if this was Mary, she wouldn't experience birth pains in heaven—a skewed image on many counts. Others believe this is Mary Baker Eddy, and Christian Science is the birthed child (they have a million who believe it today). Others believe it's the church. But again, this interpretation paints a twisted picture of the church giving birth to the One who will rule and reign. The church doesn't give birth to Jesus. Jesus gives birth to the church. Also, the church is to be the virgin bride, pure and spotless, so the church can't be pregnant.

Context – Israel / Bride & Wife

I believe the only contextual and theological solution to the question of the identity of this woman in Revelation 12 is Israel. Contextually, while the church is the bride of Christ, Isaiah and Hosea identify Israel as the wife of Jehovah.

First mention / Recap Gen 37 / Sun-Moon-Stars Bow Down / Jacob Interprets / Jacob - Israel

Also, theologically, the answer to questions regarding any particular issue can most often be found by looking to its first mention in Scripture. Employing this principle of first mention, we first see sun, moon, and stars in a dream that pertains directly to Israel (Genesis 37). In the Book of Genesis, we are told of Joseph's dream that he had. The first dream was he and his brothers were binding their sheaves, the sheaves of grain, and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his. They already were jealous of him because of his father's attention and that didn't help the situation. And then Joseph had another dream and this dream even upset his father. He said, I dreamed that the sun and the moon and the twelve stars bowed down to me. And Jacob interpreted that as his mother, his father, and his brothers. And he rebuked Joseph for this second dream. But in the dream of Joseph and the interpretation by Jacob, we get the understanding of the woman because she's identified as the sun and the moon and on her head, the crown of twelve stars. Jacob's name would later be changed to Israel.

(Genesis 37:9 NKJV) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

(Genesis 37:10 NKJV) So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

God Chose Abraham – Seed / Later David

So we see that it is the nation of Israel who will bring forth Jesus Christ into the world. God had chosen Abraham and had promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation and that from his seed, all of the world would be blessed. The promise of the Messiah that would come through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel). Later God repeated the promise to David as He is identifying the tribe and the family through which the Messiah would come. So this woman here is the nation Israel.

(Galatians 3:16 KJV) Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

(Revelation 12:3 NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

Dragon – Verse 9

We need not go far to interpret who the dragon is, verse 9 tells us. Throughout the remainder of Revelation, the dragon refers to Satan, as it does elsewhere in Scripture (Isaiah 27:1; 51:9). Obviously, Satan, a major figure in this book of Revelation, the Tribulation, and the world.

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) 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.

Red - Murderous

fiery red – representing murderous. The red horse represented war and death back in chapter 6.

7 Heads - Rome

having seven heads - The seven heads refer to the city from which Antichrist will reign—the city referred to throughout history as the City of Seven Hills: Rome (please reference encyclopedia Encarta).

10 Horns Political Base / Daniel 2 Revived Roman Empire

and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads - While the seven heads refer to a geographical place, the ten horns refer to Satan's political base. The horns, like the ten toes of Daniel 2 & 7, typify the ten-nation confederation that will emerge from the old Roman Empire.

Satan Ezk Perfect until Iniquity / Fell – Now Adversary – Name Means

Satan is described in Ezekiel as “perfect in beauty and perfect in wisdom, until the day that iniquity was found in him” (Ezekiel 28). He is no doubt a gorgeous creature, one of the most beautiful of God's creation. And because of these things, he was lifted up in pride and exercised his will against the will of God, as Isaiah tells us in the fourteenth chapter. And thus fell from the position that he had in the kingdom of God and he became actually an adversary to God and ultimately to the people of God. The name Satan literally means adversary. An adversary of God.

Not Opposite or Equal – Created

Now at this point it should be noted that Satan is not an opposite of God. So many people think of Satan as an opposite of God. There is an opposition to God and his kingdom would be opposite the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is that of light and life. The kingdom of Satan is death and darkness. There are opposites there. But in no wise can Satan be thought of as an opposite of God. For God is eternal, self-existent, all-powerful. Satan is a created being and he has limited powers. He doesn't even come in the same category as God and should never be thought as an opposite of God!

Ish 14 & Ezk 28 / 5 “I Will” / Don't get Lulled Here to Sleep – Keep Guard Up

Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 give us the details on our adversary, our enemy, the devil, dragon, Satan. Notice the 5 “I wills” that Satan speaks in Isaiah. And notice God responds in Ezekiel with His own 5 “I will”. Important, maybe you have read this a hundred times, nothing new, nap time, daydream about the game today, then just know you have fallen into the trap of Satan, for he wants you to think of him as common, for when you do then you will diminish his power, put your guard down, and he can nail you with a blindsided punch.

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "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!

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

(Isaiah 14:16 NKJV) "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

(Isaiah 14:17 NKJV) Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

Ezekiel / Worship Leader / He was a Musical Instrument / Why Praise going to Another / Be careful

According to the Book of Ezekiel, which describes Lucifer as the power behind the king of Tyre, Lucifer was not only a worship leader in heaven, but he was unparalleled in beauty and uniquely anointed. Lucifer wasn't merely a good musician; he was a musical instrument—with tambourines for hands and a pipe organ for a voice. And there he was, year after decade after millennia leading all of heaven in worship—until the day he began to wonder why all of the praise was going to someone else.

Those who serve the Lord must keep this in mind, for that same tendency can creep in anytime we think, Here I am doing this, but no one seems to appreciate what I'm doing; no one acknowledges what I've done. Be careful. That's the iniquity of Lucifer.

(Ezekiel 28:11 NKJV) Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

(Ezekiel 28:12 NKJV) "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

(Ezekiel 28:13 NKJV) You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

(Ezekiel 28:14 NKJV) "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

(Ezekiel 28:15 NKJV) You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

(Ezekiel 28:16 NKJV) "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

(Ezekiel 28:17 NKJV) "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

(Ezekiel 28:18 NKJV) "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you.

(Ezekiel 28:19 NKJV) All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." "

Prince and Power of Air

Satan the great worship leader; in Ephesians 2 he is called the prince and power of the air:

(Ephesians 2:2 NKJV) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Stay Tuned / Still Uses Music / BUT his gift Used Against Him / Send Him into Meltdown

Satan still uses his musically powers to influence the world, and I am not just talking music for the youth, I can remember the influence the words and music of Jimmy Buffet had upon me. Music has power, much power. But it's power are not just an arsenal for Satan, but for we the believers. We can take music, worship music, and send Satan into a meltdown, and have victory over him. Now Christian you don't want to miss this, stay tuned in. The very gift of Satan, is the very thing that can defeat him. He does that to us doesn't he? You good in sports, good I'll get you so into it you be consumed by it. Good in music, I get you so into it you'll start a band and spend all your times in bars. Good at this job, this talent, I use your gift against you, well so too can we do the same to him.

Satan Cast Down – We can Remind him what Once Was / Fingers on Blackboard

Lucifer was cast out of heaven and became Satan, or "Adversary"; the Devil, or "Accuser." And to this day, like fingernails on a blackboard, praise and worship drive him crazy because they remind him of what he once was, but will never be again. Look at a real story, with a powerful spiritual application for us. Remember Romans 15 says the things written of old were for our learning:

(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2 Chron 20 / Israel Surrounded by enemies – You Depressed, Discouraged, Defeated

In 2 Chronicles 20, King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by the Edomites, Ammonites, and Moabites—just as you may have been surrounded by depression, discouragement, and defeat. Lets look at this marvelous story:

(2 Chronicles 20:1 NKJV) It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

(2 Chronicles 20:2 NKJV) Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

(2 Chronicles 20:3 NKJV) And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

(2 Chronicles 20:4 NKJV) So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

Remind God of His Power

Look at this great prayer of Jehoshaphat as he reminds God of His greatest; now does God need to be reminded of His greatness, certainty not, so really who is being reminded, Jehoshaphat. Christian when you are going through hard times, in your prayers remind God of who He is, how great and mighty He is, and you will find yourself being empowered as you reflect on who your God is, and who then is possibly able to stand against Him:

(2 Chronicles 20:5 NKJV) Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

(2 Chronicles 20:6 NKJV) and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

(2 Chronicles 20:7 NKJV) "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"

*(2 Chronicles 20:8 NKJV) "And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,
(2 Chronicles 20:9 NKJV) 'If disaster comes upon us; sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine; we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'*

We our Helpless

Then he speaks of His weakness, saying I have no where to turn Lord, we need a miracle:

(2 Chronicles 20:10 NKJV) "And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir; whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them;

(2 Chronicles 20:11 NKJV) "here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

(2 Chronicles 20:12 NKJV) "O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

(2 Chronicles 20:13 NKJV) Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

God hears, and God gives direction, and says watch Me work.

(2 Chronicles 20:14 NKJV) Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

(2 Chronicles 20:15 NKJV) And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

(2 Chronicles 20:16 NKJV) 'Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

(2 Chronicles 20:17 NKJV) 'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

(2 Chronicles 20:18 NKJV) And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

(2 Chronicles 20:19 NKJV) Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

(2 Chronicles 20:20 NKJV) So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

Now watch this:

(2 Chronicles 20:21 NKJV) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

(2 Chronicles 20:22 NKJV) Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

(2 Chronicles 20:23 NKJV) For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

(2 Chronicles 20:24 NKJV) So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

God gives victory and rest:

(2 Chronicles 20:25 NKJV) When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

(2 Chronicles 20:26 NKJV) And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

(2 Chronicles 20:27 NKJV) Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

(2 Chronicles 20:28 NKJV) So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

(2 Chronicles 20:29 NKJV) And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

(2 Chronicles 20:30 NKJV) Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

Battle the Lords / Instead Soldiers – send the Choir / Enemy became Confused – Destroyed Self

After the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, a man named Jahaziel stood up and said, "Don't fear, Jehoshaphat. The battle is not yours but the Lord's. There is no need to fight. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." So, instead of soldiers, Jehoshaphat sent the choir into battle, and as they began to sing, the Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites, became so confused that they began to fight among themselves—leaving the Israelites the victors.

Prince of Air Signals Garbled / Can't Communicate to Demons / What once Was – Never will Be

As worship went out, the prince and power of the air got all twisted and frazzled. His signals became garbled, and he could not energize and command his forces. The sent signals were so messed up they started to turn and slaughter each other. Christian this story truly has real-life application for us. When we praise, we send static over his airways, he can't communicate clearly to his fallen demons, and they become unorganized and ineffective against us. Satan is covering his ears just trying to get through the finger nails dragging along the chalkboard. The worship of Jesus reminds him of what he once was, and never will be, and it send him into a frenzy.

Pray your Worship – Make it an Offensive Weapon / Go on Counter Attack

Make your worship, a prayer, pray your worship. Prayer is part of the offensive weapon that is given to us as we look at the Armor of God used for spiritual warfare. When you worship, don't just sing the song, but make it a prayer from your heart. Too many times we just cover up, hoping he will back off, while we should be going on the attack, delivering counter-punches.

(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

As He Confused – We become Focused – Settled – Eyes Lifted Up.

Now as the enemy becomes confused and disoriented, we become focused and settled. Our eyes and hearts are lifted up to the throne, where the power is, where victory resides. Our minds settle down, our hearts become settled, and it is now the enemy who has the anxiety, confused, and at unrest. It is the ultimate switcheroo. Make worship a part of your morning devotion, and you'll find yourself singing that song in your heart all day, and therefore all day you are dragging fingernails across the chalkboard, sending your enemy into anxiety, instead of him sending you.

Satan Frazzled – Jesus took Place

I'll tell another reason why Satan gets all frazzled and confused, and that is because who took his place as worship leader here on earth, Jesus Christ, and Satan can't stand it, it drives him crazy:

(Hebrews 2:12 NKJV) saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

Come out Wed – Sun / Communion too / Part of Daily Devotion

Can I encourage you in this, come out on Wednesday and worship with us, roll out of bed on Sunday, come and worship and you will find yourself settled, at peace, and lifted up. Might I add come here for the mid-week and once a month we have a communion service for there is power in communion and the Lord personally invites us to the commune table. Daily in your home, make worship a part of your daily devotion, partake in communion on a regular basis.

Beloved, there is great power in praise, make it a daily part of your life. Make the Devil the one that has the bad day!

The War in Heaven, the War on the Earth

Revelation 12:1-17

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

Recap Last Study / Devil & Worship

Last study we took a close look at our adversary, the devil, and we saw how we can reverse the tables on him, and use his gift against him; how the once worship leader in heaven, now is now sent into confusion and unrest when he hears worship coming from amongst God's people. It seems that we are the ones who have confusion and anxiety because the cares of the world, well we should reverse the tables and let Satan be the one who is confused and in distress. Worship reminds him of what he once was, and never will be again. Keep that in mind when life seems to overwhelm you.....

(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

This is Israel

Last study we saw that this is a reference to the nation Israel, and it is through Israel the Messiah came.

(Revelation 12:3 NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

This is Satan

And we know this is Satan, our enemy, verse 9 makes it clear if there was any doubts.

(Revelation 12:4 NKJV) His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

So Influential third Angels Rebelled / Still 2 to 1

His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth – So influential is he, that he was able to have a-third of the angels come with him. We now call them fallen angels, demons. May I point out, it is still 2 to 1, so God always has the ultimate power and edge.

Verse 4b: And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

(Revelation 12:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:6 NKJV) 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.

Jesus the Male Child

Jesus is the Male Child, for we clearly see through Scriptures that He is the One that will rule with a rod of iron:

(Psalms 2:7 NKJV) "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

(Psalms 2:8 NKJV) Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

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

(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

(Revelation 2:27 NKJV) '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;

(Revelation 2:28 NKJV) "and I will give him the morning star.

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

*(Revelation 19:15 NKJV) 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.*

(Revelation 19:16 NKJV) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Seeks to Israel / Gen 3 – Seed / Woman don't contribute Seed – Virgin Birth

Satan seeks to, and has always sought to destroy the nation of Israel (the 12 stars), because he knew that it is through the seed of Abraham that the Messiah would come. We can track his attempts through the Bible and through the history books, and still today through the front pages of the newspaper. Back in Genesis 3, the promise is given that the seed (notice singular) will come through the woman. Woman don't contribute the seed in conception, the male does, so from the beginning we see the picture of the virgin birth, that God Himself would be the Father through immaculate conception. And from that first promise, came the "enmity" between the woman and the devil, going on 6000 years now. For Satan, if he can stop the Messiah from coming, then nothing can stop him from ruling and reigning over the earth forever.

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Cain – Gen 6 – Egypt – Pharaoh – Medes – Babylonians – King Herod/ Cross / Psalm 22

Immediately we see Satan energizing Cain to kill his brother, (half way there). Genesis 6 we see Satan's attempt to pollute the blood line of the Messiah by having the "Sons of god" go into the woman of man, this is some type of demonic activity which we really don't know all the details. We see Pharaoh killing all the male children born in Egypt (Moses sent into the river – imagine no deliverer), and then we see another Pharaoh trying to kill the whole nation of Israel on the Exodus. Through the OT we read attempt after attempt. So close was he when we read in Ester the decree giving to kill all the Jews. Again so close again as the Mede-Persians conquered them, and then the Babylonians. Satan attempted again to kill the Male Child after by King Herod's decree to kill all the male children 2 years and under. Then finally there on the cross, Satan thinks he has finally accomplished his goal. He and his demons were licking their lips (Psalm 22), thinking they were savoring victory. Reflect on all that Jesus would endure, for you, for me, imagine the dogs (satan and demons) circling the cross, licking their chops, laughing and saying they aren't worth it, they'll say I'd rather sleep in, ain't got time, my sin isn't so bad, yet Jesus would endure it all.....how great is His love:

(Psalms 22:14 NKJV) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psalms 22:15 NKJV) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

(Psalms 22:16 NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Friday – But Sunday was Coming / Now Plan B / Stop Prophecy / Hitler - Iran

But, that was Friday, and Sunday was a coming. Now, the devil has a new plan, for Plan A didn't work, and Plan B is to destroy the Nation of Israel so that there is no Israel to play a role in the final prophecies of the Scripture. If there is no Israel, then Jesus can't return, for if one prophecy fails, then Jesus fails. But, Jesus never fails. We see his attempts through Hitler, through the Palestine Terrorist in the land today, through Saddam Hussein, the threats of the Iranian president and nation, but they will all fail. So all the anti-Semitism that you read about and see today, is fueled by Satan, because he believes if there is no Israel to return for, then Jesus won't return. Keep that in your mind as you watch the evening news. Funny think, you and I know why things are the way they are, but many of the greatest minds in the world are trying to broker peace there. Just common sense would say why would anybody want to fight and die for a piece of land that has no oil on it:

(1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1260 / Last half of Tribulation

Verse 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. - There is that 1260 days again, which is 3 ½ years based on the Biblical 360 day calendar, that is the second half of the 7 year Tribulation period. We will look more at this 3 ½ year period in verses 13-17.

(Revelation 12:7 NKJV) And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

Michael the Archangel / Fights for Israel / Delayed in Daniel 10 – Luke 18

The angel Michael is an interesting study in the Bible. We see he is a mighty angel; he and Satan would be equals, but not Satan and God. Michael is a powerful angel and it appears that he has a special assignment in matters pertaining to the nation of Israel. We saw him wrestling with Satan over Moses body (Jude 1;9). In Daniel 12:1, we read that he will fight for Israel in the future against Satan and his forces during the time of the Tribulation (what we will read here Rev 12:7-17). I think it important to note this, in Daniel 10, Daniel was praying and after 21 days, Michael shows up and says I am responding to your prayers. I would have come sooner but I was fighting with Satan and he hindered me from coming. Christian you must see this with spiritual eyes, that there is a spiritually war going on around you, and thus you must continue to pray, even when it seems that God doesn't hear. Luke 18:1 says that men must always pray, and not lose heart:

(Daniel 10:12 NKJV) Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

(Daniel 10:13 NKJV) "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

(Daniel 10:14 NKJV) "Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."

(Luke 18:1 NKJV) Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Call 12 Legions of Angels

I can imagine, Michael this powerful angel, a warrior, ready to fight for the Lord, and for His people (good example for us – something we should long for), Michael ready to wage battle, I can imagine that day when Jesus said Peter put your sword away, My Father could send me 12 legions of angels if I called for them.....I picture Michael, ohh yea, send me.....

(Matthew 26:52 NKJV) But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

(Matthew 26:53 NKJV) "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"

(Revelation 12:8 NKJV) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) 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.

Not the Fall / Heavens door Locks – Future Event / Still Accuses You Today

This isn't the fall of Satan we studied last week in Ezekiel 28, rather this is the locking of the door of heaven, and the accuser can no longer come before the Throne of God and make accusations about us. This event is still future, it happens during the Tribulation, so just know he still comes before God and makes accusations about us, just as he did with our brother Job (Job 1:6, 2:1). Reminder, the name/word "devil" means to slander or falsely accuse, and the name/word "Satan", means adversary or enemy.

(Revelation 12:10 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "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.

Notice 3 Things to Overcome

Satan is overcome in heaven. He can be overcome on earth the same way. Notice the 3 things to overcome the devil:

- The Blood of the Lamb
- The Word of their Testimony
- They did not love their Lives to the Death.

The Blood of the Lamb

When Satan Accuses

They/we overcome him by the blood of the Lamb. Satan when he accuses God has to make things up, twist the truth, as he did in the garden. When he accuses us, he need only tell the truth.

Accuse – Categorize / Washed or Not Washed

This word for accuse is where we get our word "categorize". How fitting, for we are so quick to categorize our failures and success. To categorize or sins, big ones, little ones. I did real good here, ohh I'm not doing good here. We can even start categorizing other's failures and successes (compared to ours), and the resultant in all cases will lead to legalism, self-righteousness, and/or self-condemnation. Satan will say ohh you did that, why how can you call yourself a Christian. Or, wow, look at you, aren't you something, aren't you glad you aren't like ole Fred over there. Be careful about categorizing your failures and successes, and those of others, there really is 2 categories; washed in the blood, not washed in the blood.

Accuse - kategoreo, kat-ay-gor-eh'-o; from G2725; to be a plaintiff, i.e. to charge with some offence:--accuse, object.

Conviction versus Condemnation

Every day on earth as Satan whispers in your ear, "You're not worthy to be blessed. You're not good enough to be used." Please understand the difference between condemnation—which is from Satan, and conviction—which is from the Holy Spirit. The condemning work of Satan always pushes you away from God. The conviction of the Holy Spirit, on the other hand, always draws you closer to God. The condemnation of Satan is always about self, about never measuring up, about hopelessness. The conviction of the Spirit is always about forgiveness, about going on, about God's glory and grace.

Martin Luther / The Ink

If you ever get to Germany and go see Martin Luther's study, the guides will point out the ink spots that are upon the wall. As Luther tells the story, one night he was in his study and the devil appeared before him, and started to accuse him. As the devil started to accuse, Luther got his inkwell out, started dipping his pen into it and writing down everything that the Devil accused him of. He would say is there anything else, and the devil would say yes, you lust, have anger, malice, and Luther would say anything else, and Satan would go on, and finally Luther said anything else, and the Devil said no, that is it. Then Luther, at the very bottom of the list, took his pen and wrote, "Washed with the blood of the Lamb", and then he

threw the ink bottle at the Devil, and the Devil disappeared. Beloved when the accuser comes, throw the ink bottle at him and say washed in the Blood of the Lamb.

The Word of their Testimony

Our Testimony – Covered with the Blood of the Lamb

Our testimony, we were sinners separated from God, by His grace He saved us. Our testimony is nothing about what we have done, for what we did was condemning, so not what we have done, but what He has done. Every believer's testimony has the same title page, "Covered with the Blood of the Lamb."

They did not love their Lives to the Death.

Seems like Contradiction / Lose - Find

What seems like a contradiction, God says, He who loses his life will find it:

(Matthew 10:39 NKJV) "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Overcome by Seeking First / Defeat comes when Don't / Comfort Zone

We overcome by seeking first the kingdom of God (Matt 6:33), defeats are common for the believer on this side of heaven, when they are in love with their lives, seeking to satisfy the flesh, and then Satan has an open door to have his way to influence and draw you to those desires, self-pleasures, laziness, and the likes. If you think there is anything this world can offer you over the Kingdom, then you will be distracted from seeking first. We can get into a comfort zone, and never want it to be disturbed; and when it does we question the Lord, how could you?

Mount Up Wings of Eagles

We are told to mount up on the wings of eagles, a picture that the Lord wants us to soar into the heavens. *(Isaiah 40:31 NKJV) But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

Duet 32 / The Working to make us Fly

In Deuteronomy, there is a wonderful passage of what the Lord does in our lives to make us fly:

(Deuteronomy 32:9 NKJV) For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

(Deuteronomy 32:10 NKJV) "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

(Deuteronomy 32:11 NKJV) As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,

(Deuteronomy 32:12 NKJV) So the LORD alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.

(Deuteronomy 32:13 NKJV) "He made him ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock;

Eagles Nest / High in Air / Soft & Comfortable / Sharp sticks in Nest on Perimeter

The eagle, after choosing a site on a rocky cliff sometimes thousands of feet above the ground, a mother eagle constructs her nest. For protection, she arranges sharp sticks along the perimeter. But inside, the nest is soft and comfortable for the eggs. So, when baby eaglet pops out of his shell, he finds his accommodations quite to his liking. "Wow! What a view!"

Mamma Brings 3 Meals / Eagle Grows – Starts to get Poked / Same for Us – not so Cozy

And with Mama Eagle dropping breakfast, lunch, dinner, and an after-dinner mint into his beak every day, he's a happy eaglet indeed—until his girth increases and he begins to bump into the sharp sticks Mama purposefully placed around the nest. Suddenly, the once-cozy abode becomes a little uncomfortable. The same goes for us. When what was once so cozy—that group you were in, those people you were linked to, the job you had—gets a little irritating, you may have a tendency to grumble. But you must realize God does this intentionally because He will not allow you to perpetually nest in a place of fatness and flightlessness.

Can't Stand 1 more Poke / Mamma Bumps the Nest – Flapping Wings / Caught at last Moment

Then, just when Baby eaglet thinks he can't stand one more poke, Mama Eagle comes and, with her powerful wings, bumps the nest—sending baby eaglet tumbling out. Flapping his little wings frantically yet futilely, he falls hundreds of feet and is about to crash when Mama Eagle scoops him up on her wings and takes him back to the nest. "Whew! What was that about?" baby eaglet wonders.

Couple days happy again / Mamma Bumps Again – 5 – 6 Times / 1 Day Soars / Teaching to Fly

And for a couple of days, he's happy again, being served breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner. But then the pesky sticks begin to bother him again, and after a couple of days—bump goes the nest and out he falls. Once more, right when he thinks his life is over, there's Mom bearing him on her wings, returning him to the nest. Now baby eaglet is really wondering. "Every time I get comfortable, every time I settle back in, Mama comes and turns my nest over. What kind of parent is she, anyway?" Yet the process is repeated five or six times, until one day—baby eaglet soars. And as he does, he understands that the pokes, the overturned nest, the perilous plummeting were all about spurring him to do what he never would have done on his own. They were all about teaching him to fly.

Have you been Flapping or Squawking / I found You in Wasteland – Apple of Eye – not Crash / Fly

Precious saint, if you've been flapping or squawking or crying, this word is for you: God says, "I found you in a wasteland. You are the apple of My eye. I've got nothing but the best in My heart for you. You're not going to crash. I'll always be there to catch you. But I'm going to continue working with you that you might fly."

I'm Learning to stop Squawking / Pokes and Bumps - Essentials to Fly

As a result, I am slowly learning not to be quite so squawky, quite so angry, quite so fearful—but to remember the plan of the Father to bear me on eagles wings. The pokey sticks are preparatory for the overturning of the nest. And the overturned nest is absolutely essential to teach me to fly.

The 3 ways we Overcome

So 3 ways we overcome the enemy; claiming that we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and not loving our lives to death, being willing to allow God to bump us out of our comfort zone.

(Revelation 12:12 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

Time is Short / Trib – Great Trib / 50/50 Survive 1st half

Satan knows time is short now, so he starts an all out assault on Israel. If you thought what we have studied up to this point has been horrible, it will pale in comparison to this time upon the earth. That is why the 7 year period is called the Tribulation Period, and the last half of it is called the Great Tribulation. You do not want to see the Tribulation, and if you do, it is a 50/50 chance you will not see the Great Tribulation (for 50% of the population dies in the first 3 ½, imagine the second).

The Timeline / Dan 9 Recap / Peace Pact – then Turn and Demand Worship / Thrown out - Humiliate

So the timeline of when this happens is clearly given to us in Daniel 9. Now we know from Daniel 9, that the first three-and-a-half years, the Jews will be deceived by this man of sin, this European leader, who will make a peace pact with the nation. And they will be deceived because he gives to them the right of the rebuilding of their temple and they will believe that this man is their Messiah, and will hail him as such. But after three-and-a-half years, when the temple has been built (remember rebuilt in Rev 11:1-2) and they've re-established the worship and the sacrifices and the prayers, he will come to the temple himself and he will stop the daily sacrifices and prayers. And he will declare to them that he is God and he'll demand that they worship him as God and he will stand in the holy of holies of the rebuilt temple proclaiming himself to be God:

(Daniel 9:24 NKJV) "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

(Daniel 9:25 NKJV) "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

(Daniel 9:26 NKJV) "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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."

Jesus – When see Abomination Flee

Jesus said when you see the abomination of desolation, get out of there and flee to the mountains. So for a thousand two hundred and sixty days, the three-and-a-half years, the Jews, Jesus said, flee to the wilderness. If you're on the rooftop, don't even stop to get a coat. If you're out in the field, don't even run home. Hope it is not on the Sabbath because Israel literally shuts down on Sabbath days (by the way that is how we know this part of Matt 24 is about the Jews not the Church). So get to the wilderness and we are told that God has prepared a place for them where He will provide for them for the three-and-a-half years, the last three-and-a-half years of the great tribulation period. So this happens right at the Mid-Tribulation point. I think he may demand worship because he is so humiliated after being thrown out of heaven, especially after the 2 witnesses ruined his party

(Matthew 24:15 NKJV) "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

(Matthew 24:16 NKJV) "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

(Matthew 24:17 NKJV) "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

(Matthew 24:18 NKJV) "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

(Matthew 24:19 NKJV) "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

(Matthew 24:20 NKJV) "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

(Matthew 24:21 NKJV) "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Ezekiel 38-39 – Magog Invasion / 3 Views

Now in our prophecy update we always talk about the still yet future event of Ezekiel 38-39, where Israel is attacked from the north by Russia and her allies, this is known as the Magog Invasion. Ezekiel 38-39 Magog (Russia), Iran, Libya, Ethiopia, and Turkey will invade Israel during a time they have peace (Ezek 38:11) (that word for peace could also be translated "in confidence). Note: Former Russian Republic that are all Muslim nations living north of Israel: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan". This event in Ezek 38-39, could very well be what is happening here, but we really can't be sure. Some believe it could happen today, others here in the 1st half of Tribulation period, while others believe it is the battle of Armageddon (if you pick any of those 3 you will have plenty of company).

God Preserves Them / All Saved – Fall for Antichrist – Mark of Beast / (See Timeline)

In both Ezekiel and here in Revelation, God will preserve them – without any help from other nations. There appears to be nuclear exchange for they mark the dead bodies for 7 months have 7yrs of fuel (Ezek 39). Note: still need fuel in 1000yr period. Romans 11:26-27 says all of Israel will be saved when the fullness of the gentiles has come (see also Ezekiel 20:33-38). This battle could happen anytime up to the Mid-Trib (for Israel goes to desert in second half of Trib). Most likely: Peace will only come to Israel after Anti-Christ brokers it for them. Russia comes down sometime during first 3 ½ years. God saves Israel miraculously. I think the Magog invasion and what we are reading here are one in the same events because Ezek 39:22 says all Israel will know I am the Lord – revival begins among Jews. This won't happen before the Anti-christ, because it says Israel will know I am Lord, therefore they wouldn't fall for the Anti-christ. Also Israel can't take the mark of Beast because then they couldn't get saved (Ezek 39:7 - Israel won't profane my name anymore). But, to be honest, it is my speculation, and for purposes of our study here, the main point is that Satan will come after Israel, and God will supernaturally protect them and tuck them away safely for the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.

(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) 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.

Maybe USA / 3rd World Overnight

As some read this, they think this could mean the USA. Maybe, I don't think so. My thought is that after the rapture, there were enough Christians raptured that we became a third world nation over night, or better said, in a blink of an eye.

Petra / When See Abomination Flee / Ish 16 / Sela – Petra / 12 wide Entrance

So as Jesus said, "When you see this abomination of desolation, flee to the wilderness" (Matthew 24:15). It tells us here, God's going to give her two wings of an eagle, to bear her to the wilderness. Now there is an interesting prophecy in Isaiah chapter sixteen. The prophecy is for Edom to open up her gates and to receive the castaways. And verse four of chapter sixteen, "Let my outcast dwell with thee, Moab, be thou a covering for them in the face of the spoiler [or the enemy--the antiChrist]: for the extortioner is at an end, and the spoiler ceaseth, and the spoilers are consumed out of the land" (Isaiah 16:4). As your margin might say there in Isaiah 16:1, "Sela" means "Rock" or "Petra." Petra is truly an amazing city. Located in Moab, or present-day Jordan, this city carved of stone has stood for centuries, preserved largely because the sole entrance is a passageway only twelve feet wide, and the cliffs of the rocks range from 500 – 1000 feet high:

(Isaiah 16:1 NKJV) Send the lamb to the ruler of the land, From Sela to the wilderness, To the mount of the daughter of Zion.

(Isaiah 16:2 NKJV) For it shall be as a wandering bird thrown out of the nest; So shall be the daughters of Moab at the fords of the Arnon.

(Isaiah 16:3 NKJV) "Take counsel, execute judgment; Make your shadow like the night in the middle of the day; Hide the outcasts, Do not betray him who escapes.

(Isaiah 16:4 NKJV) Let My outcasts dwell with you, O Moab; Be a shelter to them from the face of the spoiler. For the extortioner is at an end, Devastation ceases, The oppressors are consumed out of the land.

Uninhabited / Group Stocking Bibles / (See Pictures)

It is interesting, but this area is uninhabited (for centuries now), as beautiful as it is, no one lives there. The only people that go there now are tourist. The area is beautiful, check out the pictures of it sometime on-line; it is beautiful and perfectly preserved. There is a Christian group today who is stocking up Bibles there in Petra, and marking these verses, and leaving tracts on how to receive Jesus as your Savior.

So Somewhere in Wilderness of Moab

So somewhere in the wilderness of Moab (Jordan) and some believe that it is actually around the area of the rock city of Petra that the Jews will flee at this time in escaping from the wrath of the antiChrist and of Satan who has empowered the antiChrist. It isn't conclusive that it will be Petra, but it will be in Moab (Jordan). We'll get this more as we get into chapter thirteen.

City of Refuge

It is interesting that in the Old Testament Cities of Refuge were establish for people who involuntarily killed someone, they could flee there and the offended party could not come into the city and seek vengeance. They had to stay there until the death of the High Priest, and then they could return home and all debts were cancelled. Jesus when He hung there on the cross said forgive them for they know not what they do; and later it would be said what they (the Jews) did they did in ignorance. And here we see the Lord giving them a place of refuge, and they will not wait until the High Priest dies, but he returns: *(Luke 23:34 NKJV) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

Paul speaking to Jews - (Acts 3:17 NKJV) "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

(Revelation 12:15 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 12:16 NKJV) 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.

Like a Flood

Here it says, "like a flood", and doesn't say was/is a flood. Now the resultant will be the same, they will be aided in making it to the wilderness refuge. It could be a flood of an army, a flood of biological weapons, or maybe a flood of water, we are not sure. It isn't absurd to think it is literally the earth opening, God has done this in the past, if you recall the rebellion of Korah, the earth opened and down they went:

(Numbers 16:31 NKJV) Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

(Numbers 16:32 NKJV) and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

Half World / 2 out of 3 Jews will Die

During the great tribulation, the population of the world will be almost decimated. As you read in the book of Revelation, concerning the great tribulation, during the opening of the seals and the judgment that comes as a result of the opening of the seven seals of the scroll, we are told that one-fourth of the earth's population will be destroyed by the plagues that come forth from the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. Later on as further judgment comes, we are told that one-third of the remaining population of the world will be destroyed during that period which comes out to about one-half being destroyed and only a small remnant of the inhabitants of the earth actually surviving the great tribulation. As far as the nation of Israel is concerned. Only one out of three will survive through the great tribulation but that is pretty much a general average concerning the whole earth as far as the book of Revelation as it speaks of the judgments of God so that the population of the earth will be greatly reduced. Only one or less than one in three surviving. So things are not good for the Jews either, and they have a peace pact going for them in the first 3 ½ years.

(Zechariah 12:10 NKJV) "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.

(Zechariah 12:11 NKJV) "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

(Zechariah 13:8 NKJV) And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it:

(Zechariah 13:9 NKJV) I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

(Revelation 12:17 NKJV) 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.

Satan Turns Wrath on Church

So now that Satan can not get to the Jewish people, he will pour all that he has out on the believers who were saved after the Rapture. If you are not saved today, then this is what you have to look forward to.

Chapter 13

The Beast Coming Out of the Sea – The Antichrist (13:1-10)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

Recap Last Study / Anti-Semitism / God Protects Israel – Petra / Overcoming Satan

In our last, chapter 12, we saw the center of anti-Semitism, and that it is Satan's desire to stop the prophetic clock, and he believes if he can destroy Israel, then he will destroy all remaining prophecy, and Jesus can not return to establish His Kingdom, thus Satan's kingdom will never end. However, we saw that this just isn't going to happen, for at the mid-tribulation point Satan will come after Israel to utterly destroy them, but God will supernaturally whisk them away to safety some where in the wilderness, and keep them tucked away for the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation. Some believe it is in the Rock City Petra their in modern day Jordan. Satan then turns his full wrath on the saints, those that got saved after the rapture. But, most importantly, we studied how Satan is overcome in heaven, and that he can be overcome on earth the same way. He is overcome by 3 ways (if you missed it, please get the notes):

- The Blood of the Lamb
- The Word of their Testimony
- They did not love their Lives to the Death.

Demonic Trinity

Now, here in this chapter we will see Satan's demonic trinity (his major players during the Tribulation), they are Satan (of course), the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. Satan trying to mirror God's working, the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Revelation 16 clearly describes the trinity of evil-the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.

(Revelation 16:13 NKJV) 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.

Learn where he Arises From / Repeat / Key to Learning

In this passage we will see where the Antichrist will arise from, and how he will gain his power. We will repeat again some of the things we studied last week (Abomination of Desolation), but the key to learning is repetition, and the Lord continually brings us to these things.

Outline for Chapter 13

- The Beast Coming Out of the Earth – The Antichrist (13:1-10)
- The Beast Coming Out of the Sea – The False Prophet (13:11-18)

Today, let's look at the Antichrist, verse 1-10.

The Beast Coming Out of the Sea – The Antichrist

(Revelation 13:1 NKJV) Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

(Revelation 13:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:4 NKJV) 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?"

(Revelation 13:5 NKJV) And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

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

(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

(Revelation 13:10 NKJV) 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.

False Perception – Blatant Attack on Jesus / Instead Of / Comes in Peace – Very Appealing

There is a false perception of this word "antichrist", we get the idea of anti (against), a blatant attack upon the true Christ Jesus. That isn't what is going to happen, at first. The word "anti" in the Greek means "instead of, in place of", so this man who will come on the scene will present himself as the long awaited deliverer of the world. He will not come as a man of war, but will first come as a man of peace (remember Rev 6:1, he has a bow but no arrows). He will try to mirror Jesus in all ways. As we have just read, he will be very appealing to the people, they will be drawn to him, he will be very charismatic in such a way that people will want to follow him. He won't come out and say "I'm sent from the Devil to deceive you unto death", rather he will come and say to the people, "I have come to lead you unto life, and that more abundant".

(Revelation 6:2 NKJV) 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.

Those Dating / Time Reveals All / Worship me or Die

But as I always say to those dating, time will always reveal the true heart of that person, so give your dating relationship plenty of time before you look to get married. We can masquerade for only so long, but the real person has to come out at some time. He will make 3 ½ years, but then the real evil will be revealed as he will proclaim I am God, worship me, or else die. First 3 ½ worship of him will be optional, last 3 ½ non-negotiable, but million of millions will freely worship him, and desire him.

The World Looking for Leader – Crisis Mgmt / Levies – Floods / Iran – Nukes / Trib Ultimate Crisis

So this world leader, the antichrist, we can see how the world is increasingly more and more in crisis. Today, we have crisis management after the crisis is full-blown. Someone comes on the scene and helps

resolved the crisis. Don't strengthen the levies, respond to the flood. Look at Iran today, several years we have known and seen their nuclear ambitions, but really haven't done anything about it. Now it is a crisis, because everyone knows they are now only 1 step away from nuclear weaponry. Seven years ago they were like 5 steps away. So now someone has to figure out how to resolve this. When the tribulation comes upon the world, the world will be in its ultimate crisis, and will be primed for the master of crisis management to come upon the scene, and that will be this antichrist. He will have the answer to crisis in the Mid-East, to famine, to drug trafficking, wars and rumors of wars, and the likes.

(Revelation 13:1 NKJV) Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

(Revelation 13:2 NKJV) 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.

Symbolic Language – this king & his kingdom / If Left Behind – Here are Clues to who he Is

This is symbolic language, John trying to give us symbolisms that will last for 2000 some years. Chapter 13 gives us a picture of this king and his kingdom. If you have been left behind, here is how you will know who the antichrist is. By the way some 2 dozen times between chapters 13-17 he is called the beast, so that should be a tip off of his nature. But for us who are seeking 1st the Kingdom, we need not be looking for the Antichrist, just keep your eyes upward, looking for the True Christ, King Jesus Christ.

Sea – Symbolic Nations / Bible best Commentary

Verse 1 - And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea – In the Scriptures, the sea is used symbolically of the nations. And so John sees this beast rise out of the nations. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible. There are passages of Scripture in Daniel 2 and 7 and others in Revelation 12, 16, and 17 that help us to understand this first verse:

(Daniel 7:3 NKJV) "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

(Daniel 7:4 NKJV) "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

(Daniel 7:5 NKJV) "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

(Daniel 7:6 NKJV) "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

(Daniel 7:7 NKJV) "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.

(Daniel 7:8 NKJV) "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.

(Daniel 7:15 NKJV) "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

(Daniel 7:16 NKJV) "I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things:

(Daniel 7:17 NKJV) 'Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.

(Daniel 7:18 NKJV) 'But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'

(Daniel 7:19 NKJV) "Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet;

(Daniel 7:20 NKJV) "and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.

(Daniel 7:21 NKJV) "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

(Daniel 7:23 NKJV) "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces.

(Daniel 7:24 NKJV) The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings.

(Daniel 7:25 NKJV) He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.

(Revelation 12:3 NKJV) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:9 NKJV) "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

(Revelation 17:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:11 NKJV) "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

(Revelation 17:12 NKJV) "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

(Revelation 17:13 NKJV) "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Daniels Vision / Kingdoms – Babylonian – Medes – Grecian / 4th Roman empire

Daniel tells us that the vision that he saw or the Lord told Daniel that these beasts that he saw rising out of the sea are kingdoms that shall arise to rule over the earth. The first was the Babylonian kingdom, the first world empire. But it was to be replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire. In the visions of Daniel, the first was like a lion. The second was like a bear, the Medo-Persian Empire, that would destroy the Babylonian or conquer the Babylonian Empire. The third would be the Grecian Empire, the leopard that would conquer the Medo-Persian Empire. The fourth, of course, was the Roman Empire that would conquer over the Grecian Empire.

Rome Never Conquered – Disintegrated / Would Revive – European Union / Anti have Power

Now the Roman Empire never was really conquered. It just sort of disintegrated (from the inside because of its immorality and self-indulgence). But the Bible tells us that there will be a revival of the Roman Empire. In other words, there will be a combining again of the nations that once comprised the Roman Empire. The European nations would federate together in the last days. And we see that happening today in the European Community. We see the nations of Europe federating together, forming the European Community. Out of it will come this little horn of Daniel which will destroy three of the kings but then he will receive the power over the kingdom and will have really power over the earth. So this is the little horn of Daniel that John sees here in verse one of Revelation chapter thirteen.

Rome City on 7 Hills / Gov't Initially based in Rome

Notice the seven heads or the mountains or the hills which, of course, Rome has been known as the City of Seven Hills throughout the centuries and the ten horns are ten kings which will receive their power to reign with the antichrist. Thus, Antichrist's government will initially be based in the city of Rome.

More than 10 – but will be 10 / 10 Nations Gentiles / But could be European Jew

Right now there are more than 10 nations making up this European Union, but somehow some way, as they merge together or drop out, there will only be 10. So the beast will come from the ten Gentile nations that stem from the old Roman Empire and that make up the last world empire. Now coming out of Rome doesn't necessarily mean Antichrist will be a Gentile, for he could be a European Jew. I personally would question that the Jews would follow or call a Gentile their Messiah.

FYI / The Pope

This word for "anti" in the Latin is "viscar", and it means "substitute for". So, I know this may offend some people, but just hang around long enough and you'll see we say something to offend everyone, but the Pope today is known as the "Viscar", and he wears it on his vestments, the Viscar. So the Popes believe they are the substitute, for Christ on the earth, that they represent Jesus on the earth, that they take the place of Jesus as the visible head of the Church. I am not saying the Pope is the antichrist, but I am saying very clearly, he is not Jesus Christ, and the head of the Church is Jesus and Jesus only:

(Ephesians 1:22 NKJV) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

(Ephesians 1:23 NKJV) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Blasphemy Head – Rebellion on his Mind / The Image Monstrous – Such is his Nature / Incarnate

Verse 1 - *and on his heads a blasphemous name* - The beast has blasphemy upon his heads because he has rebellion on his mind. The image of a seven-headed, ten-horned beast is meant to be monstrous and hideous, for such is the nature of the one who is rebellious, who is blasphemous, who is—as we shall see—the devil incarnate.

(Revelation 13:2 NKJV) 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.

Satan gives Power / Luke 4

Verse 2 - *The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority* - Satan said to Jesus as he took Him up to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the earth. Satan will do this to this man who will be the Antichrist, and he will jump on it, he will sell his soul to the devil:

(Luke 4:5 NKJV) Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

(Luke 4:6 NKJV) And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

(Luke 4:7 NKJV) "Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

4 Empires Israel Day /

Verse 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 four successive empires that would rule during the time Israel was a nation are described as a glorious statue in Daniel 2:

(Daniel 2:31 NKJV) "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

(Daniel 2:32 NKJV) "This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,

(Daniel 2:33 NKJV) "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

(Daniel 2:34 NKJV) "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

(Daniel 2:35 NKJV) "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

(Daniel 2:36 NKJV) "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

(Daniel 2:37 NKJV) "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

(Daniel 2:38 NKJV) "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all; you are this head of gold.

(Daniel 2:39 NKJV) "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

(Daniel 2:40 NKJV) "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

(Daniel 2:41 NKJV) "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

(Daniel 2:42 NKJV) "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

(Daniel 2:43 NKJV) "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

(Daniel 2:44 NKJV) "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

(Daniel 2:45 NKJV) "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

Glorious Statue – Hideous Monster / Man's Perspective /Reverse order

Such is man's perspective. God's perspective, however, is seen in Daniel 7 through a series of monstrous beasts—the same beasts described here, although in inverse order: the leopard symbolizing Alexander the Great's ability to pounce; the bear symbolizing the Medes and the Persians, the lion symbolizing Babylon. Why is the order inversed in Daniel? Because Daniel is looking ahead, while John is looking back:

(Revelation 13:3 NKJV) 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.

Original Thought / Die Loneliness / Death & Resurrection

If Satan ever had an original thought, it would die of loneliness, for here again the antichrist is trying to mirror Jesus Christ. He has his unholy trinity, and here is his impersonation of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Wounded / Zech 11 / Dead or Only Appear Dead

At this point in the Tribulation, Antichrist is mortally wounded. According to Zechariah 11:17, there will be an assassination attempt on Antichrist that will evidently cause his eye to be poked out and his right arm to be paralyzed (a clue if you miss the rapture). Because the Greek text can either be rendered "wounded to death" or "wounded to the appearance of death," there are those who believe Antichrist will only appear to be dead as a result of this wound. Some even think based on (Revelation 17:8), that he truly will die and descend to hell:

(Revelation 17:8 NKJV) "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."

(Zechariah 11:17 NKJV) "Woe to the worthless shepherd, Who leaves the flock! A sword shall be against his arm And against his right eye; His arm shall completely wither, And his right eye shall be totally blinded."

Resultant the Same – they will Awe / Satan gets what Wanted – to be Worshipped

The resultant is the same, and that is that all the world will marvel and go wow, how awesome he is, he has to be divine, and thus verse 4, they will worship him. As we studied in chapter 12, Satan gets what he always desired, to be worshipped (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28). So now he is on a roll, verse 4:

(Revelation 13:4 NKJV) 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?"

Oprah

Antichrist is on a roll. He's on Larry King, Oprah, World News Tonight declaring that he truly is deity.

Satanic Worship

They will worship Satan. When this man comes with his miracle working powers, when he survives the assassination attempt, people will begin to worship Satan and they will worship Satan's man upon the earth, the beast, the Antichrist who is here on the earth at that time. That isn't too hard to imagine today as we look and see so many people already entering into the practices of occult things, So what was once unthinkable is now a common practice today. But it's going to get much worse. Once the church is taken out, there will be many more entering into the worship of Satan.

(Revelation 13:5 NKJV) And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

Blaspheme / Abomination Desolation

His greatest blaspheme will be when he is declares that he is deity, that he is God, that he is the Christ. This will reach its zenith when he goes into the rebuilt temple and declares that he is God. As I said last week this will culminate within the Antichrist when God throws him out of heaven for good, and he knows time is short.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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 NKJV) "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

(Matthew 24:16 NKJV) "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

(Matthew 24:17 NKJV) "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

(Matthew 24:18 NKJV) "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

(Matthew 24:19 NKJV) "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

(Matthew 24:20 NKJV) "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

(Matthew 24:21 NKJV) "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

(Revelation 12:8 NKJV) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

(Revelation 12:9 NKJV) 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.

1260 Days / Under God's Timetable – God is Sovereign

How long is forty-two months? Three and a half years, 1,260 days, or “a time, times and a half time.” All of these phrases pop up throughout Revelation and describe the last half of the Tribulation—the Great Tribulation. And now begins the hellish last half of Antichrist's seven-year reign. Satan is under God's sovereignty, he is on God's time table. He will not get 1 more day than God allows him. God is in control.

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

(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Those that Missed Rapture

These are the people that missed the rapture, I think we have covered very well the fact that the church will be raptured before the Tribulation begins, but then others will realize they had missed the rapture as we told them there would be, and they get saved.

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

The Pen is in Your hand / You Determine what to Do with it / Consider This

Verse 8 - whose names have not been written in the Book of Life – Names are written into the Book of Life, and the names written are those that have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and have turned from their sins, and follow Him. Really, when you get down to it, the pen is in your hand, you determine if your name is written, it is your choice today. As you think and determine what you will do with that pen that is in your hand, consider this.....

Slain Before Foundation of World / Cross Plan before Creation / Let there be Light

Verse 8 - of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world – Mark that and make specific point of this, that Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world. The foundation of the world, Jesus' death on the cross was an offensive move against sin and death, He wasn't responding, but had always planned this. The cross was God's plan for redemption before the world had been created, before He ever said let there be light. Colossians says Jesus is the Creator, and He would know, once I say these words, “let there be light”, the creation process would begin, and thus would His destiny of the cross. The moment I say “let there be light”, that world will enter a time domain, and one day enter into sin death, and one that will require Me to leave My throne, and enter into it, and not only be subject to its limitations, not only surrounded by its sin and death, but to actually take on sin, take on death, and worse, to be separated from My Father in heaven. He would know the day would come when the whip embedded with glass would shred His back 39 times, when the bag would be placed over His face and they would punch Him blindsided, spit on Him, rip His beard out, mock Him, then strip Him naked and then drive nails threw His feet and hands, and for 6 hours that Friday He would hang there, alone, as the His Father in heaven would turn His face away from the One who became sin. And Satan, and his dogs would circle Him, waiting for the kill.

(Colossians 1:15 NKJV) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

(Colossians 1:17 NKJV) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

(Psalms 22:14 NKJV) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psalms 22:15 NKJV) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

(Psalms 22:16 NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

It would All begin – Let there be Light / Couldn't wait to Say Them / It is Good

And it all would begin when He would speak those words, let there be light. Those words came with a price to Him, for eventually He would pay for saying them. Yet, I can tell you today, He couldn't wait to say those words. Hebrews 12, for the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame. When He would say those words, let there be light, He would then say, "it is good". I can't wait to say those words, "let there be light", for someday Ray will be all mine, Bill, Betty,they will be mine, all mine. I have created them, and then I will redeem them, "I made you, and bought you, you are twice mine". Consider that as the pen is in your hand.

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Genesis 1:3 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

*(Genesis 1:4 NKJV) And God saw the light, **that it was good**; and God divided the light from the darkness.*

Another Word – It is Done / The Towel – A Signature

Another word He couldn't wait to say was, "It is Done". Through the pain, through the separation, would come the completion, and He would say it is done, mine – forever! I was reading on the ways of the culture in the days that Jesus walked the earth. I found an interesting story about how one of the ways a carpenter would let a contractor know a job was finished, a signature so to speak, a folded towel, left on the piece of furniture, shelving, or whatever it may be at the location. A folded towel.

Imagine the Day

Imagine a hot afternoon in Galilee; Jesus had completed the final pieces of a job He has worked on for several days. The hairs on his strong forearms were matted with sawdust and sweat. His face shiny with heat. He takes a final and welcomed drink of cool water from His leather pouch. He pours some water over His face and chest to clean Himself before his journey home. With a nearby towel he pats His face and arms dry. Finally, Jesus folds the towel neatly, then sets it on the finished work and walks away. Later, whoever arrives to inspect the work will see the towel and understand its simple message from the carpenter, the work is finished.

That Sunday

On a Sunday that started with sorrow, the disciple Peter would hear those words, the tomb is empty. He will run and when he gets to the tomb he will crouch and go into the empty tomb, and there before him he will see the linen that had been wrapped around Jesus head, folded and left on the stone grave slab. A heart that had been filled with sorrow, has now been filled with hope, for he will see the wrap that covered Jesus' face, and Peter would understand the message that the carpenter from Galilee had left behind, "It is Done".

(John 20:3 NKJV) Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

(John 20:4 NKJV) So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

(John 20:5 NKJV) And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

(John 20:6 NKJV) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,

*(John 20:7 NKJV) and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, **but folded together in a place by itself.***

(John 20:8 NKJV) Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

(John 20:9 NKJV) For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

The Pen

Now what are you going to do with the pen that is in your hand?

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

The Church is Missing

An ohh so familiar phrase, we have heard it several times before, he who has an ear, let him hear. But so important to notice what is missing, "what the spirit says to the churches". The church is missing, because the church has been taken out, raptured, and now the Spirit is not speaking to the church, but those that have been left behind.

(Revelation 13:10 NKJV) 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.

World in Trouble / 2 christ's / Destruction – for His Church

This world is in deep trouble, and there are two christ's at work upon it now, and very soon will be coming. One will be coming to deceive many into destruction; the other is coming for His Church.

What John Saying – to those in Tribulation / The one Leading You – is Going Down

What is John saying to his readers at this time, to those being fed to the lions and killed by the sword? I can hear his heart, can't you? He's saying to those in his day, just as he would say to me and you today who are in tribulation or difficulties, "The one putting you in prison, unsheathing the sword, marching you into the coliseum is himself going down."

We Know End of Story / Difficult Times / One Day all will be Solved / What Plagues You - Gone

Do you realize how blessed we are because we know the end of the story? You may be in a difficult marriage, persecuted on the job, fighting illness, undergoing severe pressures financially, or weary of your flesh that rears its ugly head constantly. But we know one day it will all be solved. That's what John told his people. And that's what the Spirit would say to us. We who have been saved awhile take this for granted. But what if this was the first time you understood that everything that plagues you presently will be gone in a heartbeat; that you're going to heaven, where everything will be wonderful forever and ever?

He who has an Ear / Forces against You – Will be Done away With

"If any man has an ear, let him hear. Listen up," says Pastor John. "I don't care if you miss everything else, get this: The forces against you are soon going to be done away with: The beast, persecution, problems, will undo themselves."

Read the Book of Rev – Over and Over / Come back to fact Life short – Heaven is Near

That's why I need to read the Book of Revelation over and over again. For those living on this side of the rapture, it's not about deciphering the mark of the Beast. It's not written to help us figure out who the false prophet or Antichrist is. It's written to give us hope and to bring us back constantly to the fact that life is short and we'll be in heaven soon.

Don't Understand – Own tribulation / Person who grabs – Live in Anticipated Celebration

The person who doesn't understand the Book of Revelation will go through life in his own personal tribulation. The person who grabs hold of Revelation, on the other hand, will live in a state of anticipation and celebration. Every single one of us will either go through this week in tribulation or celebration. Life is short. The Lord is in control. We're going to heaven. That's what this book is about.

The Beast out of the Earth – The False Prophet

Revelation 13:11-18

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Break – Commentary before 7th Trumpet (see Timeline)

There are 7 seals, and the 7th seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7th Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1st Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1st Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

Recap Last Study / Anti-Semitism / God Protects Israel – Petra / Overcoming Satan

In our last, chapter 12, we saw the center of anti-Semitism, and that it is Satan's desire to stop the prophetic clock, and he believes if he can destroy Israel, then he will destroy all remaining prophecy, and Jesus can not return to establish His Kingdom, thus Satan's kingdom will never end. However, we saw that this just isn't going to happen, for at the mid-tribulation point Satan will come after Israel to utterly destroy them, but God will supernaturally whisk them away to safety some where in the wilderness, and keep them tucked away for the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation. Some believe it is in the Rock City Petra their in modern day Jordan. Satan then turns his full wrath on the saints, those that got saved after the rapture. But, most importantly, we studied how Satan is overcome in heaven, and that he can be overcome on earth the same way. He is overcome by 3 ways (if you missed it, please get the notes):

- The Blood of the Lamb
- The Word of their Testimony
- They did not love their Lives to the Death.

Demonic Trinity

Now, here in this chapter we will see Satan's demonic trinity (his major players during the Tribulation), they are Satan (of course), the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. Satan trying to mirror God's working, the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Revelation 16 clearly describes the trinity of evil-the dragon, the beast and the false prophet.

(Revelation 16:13 NKJV) 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.

Outline for Chapter 13

- The Beast Coming Out of the Earth – The Antichrist (13:1-10)

- The Beast Coming Out of the Sea – The False Prophet (13:11-18)

Antichrist / Right Hand Man – False Prophet

In this passage we will see where the Antichrist will arise from, and how he will gain his power. This study we will see the working of his right hand man, the False Prophet, verses 11-18.

(Revelation 13:11 NKJV) Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

(Revelation 13:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:13 NKJV) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

(Revelation 13:14 NKJV) And he deceives those 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.

(Revelation 13:15 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:16 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 13:17 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 13:18 NKJV) 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.

Who Knows What Catapults

We really do not know what will catapult the Antichrist into the world leadership. We do know that he will broker peace in the Middle East (Dan 9), but we really don't know if that will be the event. But as I think about this, putting myself in the picture, as if I was not saved, and consider all the war, famine, pestilence, and death going on in the world, I would scream for some relief. Then I imagine if that was coupled with war in my backyard, nuclear exchanges, and then looking at my wife, my son, my new baby, and I would feel totally helpless, and I could see myself quickly embracing a world leader who would bring hope, even if it meant I would have to compromise in some areas.

More and More / 1 World Leader / 1 Spiritual Leader

More and more in recent events, especially this week with rioting, burnings, and killings (29 at time of this writing) because someone made cartoon character of Mohammed, we see that there will not be a One-World government, without resolution to the world's religious problems. Throughout the world there are continual wars and uprisings over religious differences. These differences must be resolved, and just as there will be a Great world political leader (the Antichrist) to resolve the world's problems, so will there be a Great world spiritual leader, who will unite the world spiritually, and that will be this False Prophet that we read about in these verses. This False Prophet will be a religious leader that will have all the worlds' faiths, worship together. And then he will use his powerful influence to persuade people to throw all their allegiance to the Antichrist. This week, after watching all these riots over the cartoons, I have come to a new understanding of just how great this False Prophet will be; for someone to bring the world religions together is mind boggling in our day.

People Spiritual Beings

I think very often we don't give enough credit to how spiritual people truly are. Now God has designed man that way, to put that in their hearts to want to seek after things greater than this world. Sadly, because of free-will, men refuse to come to the One True and Living God, and follow after a religion that fits their earthly desire (pride, lust, self-indulgences, etc), simply put – we will not have this man rule over us, He cramps my style. But man is spiritual, and when you witness to unsaved people, make an appeal to their spiritual side (Muslim, Buddhist, Cultist, etc) and present Christ to them. Now this False Prophet,

he will appeal to their spiritual side, but he will do it through their carnal/fleshly side, hence the people will feel they are getting the best of both worlds, eternal things without giving up carnal things. Religion without Jesus is the tool of Satan.

Not New Religion / Merging of All / Seeing Signs Today

Now personally I do not think this False Prophet is going to start a new religion, rather he is just going to merge all the worlds' religions. He will be so influential and charismatic, that he will convince the people, hey – all roads lead to God, and your God is the same as his God, whether you call Him, Allah, Jesus, Buddha, He is the same God. Just last year we saw tremendous signs of that. In Baltimore Jews and Christians had services together, then we saw Jews and Muslims have services together, and literally almost the whole world tuned in to watch the news of the death of the Pope, and then wait by for the puff of smoke for the new Pope. People who don't even believe or go to church, were enthralled by the whole thing, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists leaders all made endearing remarks of the late Pope. Nowhere did I read about leaders of other faiths make any derogatory remarks about the late Pope. The late Pope John Paul was a peace maker among world religions, but I am sorry to say, I did not see those deceived turning to Jesus for salvation. The new Pope Gregory is carrying on his predecessor example of trying to have peace with all religions. We are seeing what I believe are clear signs of major world religions saying lets have peace amongst us.

That 1 Group – Causing Division / False Prophet takes Credit for Rapture

However, there is a group that causes division, who say no all roads do not lead to heaven, Allah isn't God, Buddha and Jesus are not the same, it is those narrow minded legalistic unloving Christians. Love tells the truth for the sake of the other. The most loving thing I can do is in love, tell the lost about Jesus' love for them, for there is only 1 way, and Jesus is that way. Well, we will be gone when the rapture happens, removing us will remove the voice saying, no, all roads do not lead to God, they will be glad when we are gone. God will always have His remnant, and the gospel will go on, as we will see their will be an angel preaching the everlasting gospel, but we see that the majority of people will embrace this idea of a One World Religion. I wonder if because the False Prophet can do signs and miracles if that he will take credit for the Christians disappearing, and say he had to remove them for the sake of unity – could be, and easy explanation for the millions missing/dead (the bodies do not necessarily have to go in the rapture, there could just be millions of dead bodies laying in the streets).

Dr Joyce

They will be glad when the fanatics are gone. I thought you might enjoy this, a letter written to Dr. Joyce Brothers. Dear Dr. Brothers, my father has become a religious fanatic. He thinks that the Antichrist is coming, and will be a well known world leader. Dr Joyce responds, it sounds like your father is possibly suffering from a mental illness. Get him to a doctor for a checkup, he may have a chemical imbalance, and drugs may help him. In the mean-time, treat him as if he is mentally ill, there is no need to try reasoning with a religious fanatic, for their position and belief are deeply rooted and very emotional, and anyone trying to discuss intellectual issues with them are wasting their time. Signed, Dr. Joyce Brothers.

The Beast Coming Out of the Earth – The False Prophet

(Revelation 13:11 NKJV) Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

(Revelation 13:12 NKJV) 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.

Comes like a Lamb / Angel of Light / Political Leader – Religious Leader / Public Relations Man

Minus the horns or crowns of Antichrist, the false prophet comes across like a lamb. Jesus said to beware of false prophets coming in sheep's clothing, but inward are ravenous wolves. This should not surprise us for we are told that Satan is able to transform himself into an angel of light. He seems to be so humble and gentle. Whereas Antichrist is the political leader, the false prophet is the religious leader who will unify the world religion as the public relations man for Antichrist.

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

(2 Corinthians 11:13 NKJV) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 11:14 NKJV) And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

(2 Corinthians 11:15 NKJV) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Will Lead World to Worship AC / False Prophet – Holy Spirit

The first beast is the Antichrist (received mortal wound but was healed), and the second beast, the False Prophet leads the whole world into worshipping him. When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity (John 14:16). The False Prophet is to the Antichrist what the Holy Spirit is to Jesus. The ministry of the Spirit is to put the focus on Jesus. The ministry of the false prophet is to put the focus on Antichrist. The parallel is exact.

(John 14:16 NKJV) "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;

(John 14:17 NKJV) "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

(Revelation 13:13 NKJV) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

(Revelation 13:14 NKJV) And he deceives those 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.

(Revelation 13:15 NKJV) 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.

Great Miracles – Show me a Sign / Fire to Image / TV Hucksters

The False Prophet will deceive people by his miracles, for people will say hey, it must be from God for only God can perform miracles. How often people tell me, if only God would show me a sign, then I would believe and follow Him whole heartedly. God has given man a sign, and it is the cross, there is nothing more clearer than that sign of His love for man. He will have the power to call down fire from heaven. I wonder if he will call fire from heaven, upon this image made, and that will bring the image to life. People love spectacular shows, and that it would be, and many will believe. We can see him trying to imitate the 2 witnesses. I am amazed at how many people buy into some of these television evangelist and their phony healing services. Now I am not saying all of them are phony, but some clearly are. In fact, I talked to one personally, and I am not going to say who he is for I can not judge another mans heart, or servant. But I will never forget what he said to me, he said Ray the ends justify the means. Tens of thousands follow them; imagine when a real deal miracle worker comes upon the scene.

Deception Great – Powerful / Deceive Elect – How are you Going to See Through / 100 Fold

His deception will be so great, that the Scriptures say even the very elect could be deceived. I have to say to anyone who has yet to make a decision for Jesus Christ, I tremble for you, for it will be so hard to see through his deception, it will just seem so right. All the reasons you have today for not following Christ will be multiplied 100 fold:

(2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

(2 Thessalonians 2:10 NKJV) and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

(2 Thessalonians 2:11 NKJV) And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

(2 Thessalonians 2:12 NKJV) that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

(Matthew 24:23 NKJV) "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.

(Matthew 24:24 NKJV) "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

(Matthew 24:25 NKJV) "See, I have told you beforehand.

The Prophetic Word / Don't be Lead by Feelings

In the Scriptures we see that Jesus' miracles followed His teaching. The word is a more sure thing, as has, always will be. People need not a sign, they need to read this word. Don't be led by your feelings, but by the Word of God:

(Mark 16:20 NKJV) And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Warned / Read the Bible / 300 Prophecies

Jesus said, "I'm telling you beforehand", don't fall for them. The prophetic word was given about the Coming Messiah, and Jesus filled some 300 prophecies, so there was no doubt He was the Messiah, all that a person had to do was read the word, and they would clearly see Jesus was and is the Promised Messiah. The same is true here, all that a person has to do is read this book, and they would clearly see who the Antichrist is, and who the False Prophet is. It pays to read your Bible:

(Matthew 24:23 NKJV) "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.

(Matthew 24:24 NKJV) "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

(Matthew 24:25 NKJV) "See, I have told you beforehand.

This Image / Las Vegas / Robots with Skin

But what is this image, I really do not know, it does intrigue me of what it will be. We see all the computer technology in place to make something like this. The Japanese are in the groundbreaking phase of putting human skin on robots. I am told by people who have gone to Vegas, Caesar Palace, that there are these statues that come to life, and perform shows daily. They say they are so life-like, that it is amazing. We can see it in our day:

Robots get Skin – USA Today – 8/15/05 Thin skin will help robots 'feel' - Japanese researchers have developed a flexible artificial skin that could give robots a humanlike sense of touch. The team manufactured a type of "skin" capable of sensing pressure and another capable of sensing temperature. These are supple enough to wrap around robot fingers and relatively cheap to make, the researchers have claimed. The University of Tokyo team describe their work in the latest issue of the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Daniel 3 / Nothing New – but 1 step Further

A passage of Scripture that will comfort believers at this time will be the book of Daniel, as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were commanded to bow down to the Statue, but they wouldn't, but God saw them through the fiery trial. The worshipping of a statue isn't anything new, but the False Prophet will take it one step further and give life to this statue.

(Daniel 3:12 NKJV) "There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

(Daniel 3:25 NKJV) "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

(Revelation 13:16 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 13:17 NKJV) 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.

Evil Trinity / Global – Gov't – Religious - Economic

So here will see Satan, through his evil trinity, will have far reaching global powers. A world government, a world religion, and here a world economy. No one buys or sell without the mark.

Satan's Counterfeit Mark – 144K / God Seals with Holy Spirit

Here again is Satan's counterfeit. God marks the 144,000 thousand, Satan marks his followers. But more so, God marks, seals His followers with the Holy Spirit. They would mark shipments with a seal in the days of this writing, and it was to be a sign of where the shipment was to be delivered. The Holy Spirit is a guarantee of our final delivery to our final destination, heaven. But here is the Devil's counterfeit, and once his seal, his mark, is applied, the final destination is guaranteed, eternal separation from God the Father, and the eternal abode in the Lake of Fire. If you are reading this or listening to the taped message (after the Christians have disappeared), whatever you do, do not take this mark, for once you do, your eternity is set, and you will perish into the Lake of Fire where the worm dies not. You will be

cursed to hell forever, do not fall for the lie. Better to live the rest of your life on earth out maimed. But you must also receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You must be sealed by His Mark, the Holy Spirit: *(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:14 NKJV) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*

(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years.

(Isaiah 66:24 NKJV) "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

(Mark 9:43 NKJV) "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

(Mark 9:44 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

(Mark 9:45 NKJV) "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

(Mark 9:46 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

(Mark 9:47 NKJV) "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire;

(Mark 9:48 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

Desensitized / 6 Flags – Disney / Working at Space Center

It is amazing how desensitized we are becoming to this mark. Go to 6 Flags, Disney World, and what do they do, they mark you with invisible ink. Now that isn't the mark of the beast, so keep enjoying your family vacations, but little by little we are becoming desensitized to this aren't we. I remember when I was working at the Space Center they wanted us to get an invisible permanent ink stamped on our hands so only we had access to the rocket. Everyone said no, so they implemented an Iris scan with a PIN code. If you were held at gunpoint or whatever, you entered the wrong code and that would alarm the Security forces.

Old Commentaries / Computer Language

Read old commentaries and the teachers are like, we have no idea how this is going to happen, but it will. Well it doesn't take much to wonder today. 2000 years ago the highest technology was a mule, today, the computer chip is here. The world may have multiple spoken languages, but all computers speak the same language, it is "0 and 1".

Chip is Here / Verichip / Cincinnati – Europe – Passports – Credit Cards

Now the chip is here literally, you can go to their website and read for yourself, the company is called Verichip. The chip is already in use. A company in Cincinnati is making its employee with access to classified information get the chip in their arm. Some bars in Europe are using it, a customer doesn't even get carded, just walks in, the bartender knows his favorite drink, and a tab is running against him, all through the chip in his arm. All the new American Passports will have a computer chip in them. My Credit Card has a chip in it.

Battery / Biophans Tech

These chips can not transmit and exchange data unless they are right up next to the Chip Reader (convenient location to read is obviously the hand or head). In order to generate a signal, these chips will need to have a power source, and that technology is here also. Biophan's Technologies Corporation has developed a battery that will power these chips, no doubt be incorporated into the chip, and the battery is powered by using heat differential between two surfaces. So the greatest heat differential is there on the forehead, and there on the hand:

Biophan's Biothermal Power Source for Implantable Medical Devices Awarded "Best of the Best" by Nanotech Briefs Magazine - 2005

ROCHESTER, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--July 11, 2005--Biophan Technologies, Inc., a developer of next-generation medical technology, announced today that its biothermal power source for implantable devices has been recognized as a "Best of the Best" invention by Nanotech Briefs magazine as part of its first annual Nano 50 Awards contest to recognize superior scientific achievement and innovation. Developed by Biophan subsidiary TE-Bio, the biothermal power source converts body heat into electricity to power implantable medical devices.

"This latest validation of our biothermal power source further distinguishes Biophan's groundbreaking work in the field of nanotechnology and thermoelectric materials by a panel of expert judges," said Biophan CEO Michael Weiner. "It's always gratifying when our advanced solutions receive outside recognition for their innovation, functionality, and potential for impact on biomedical and other market sectors. We are proud of this recognition and we look forward to formally accepting the Nano 50 "Best of the Best" honor at the Nanotech Briefs awards ceremony."

The nominations for the Nano 50 were judged by a panel of nanotechnology and MEMS experts. The technologies, products, and innovators receiving the 50 highest scores were named winners of the Nano 50 "Best of the Best" awards. Presented by Nanotech Briefs magazine, a digital publication from the publishers of NASA Tech Briefs, the Nano 50 recognizes the top 50 technologies, products, and innovators that have significantly impacted, or are expected to impact, the state of the art in nanotechnology.

Based on innovations in thermoelectric materials, Biophan's biothermal power source converts thermal energy produced naturally by the human body into usable electrical energy. These thermoelectric materials are special types of semiconductors that produce electricity when there is a temperature difference between one side of the material and the other. These materials have been used to generate electricity on spacecraft, such as the Voyager space probe. The power they generate can be used to directly power implanted devices such as pacemakers, neurostimulators, biosensors, drug pumps, lab-on-a-chip devices, pain devices, and other implantable devices, or to trickle-charge batteries for devices with high discharge requirements, such as implantable cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) and drug pumps.

Biophan's nanotechnology applications span a range of existing and emerging multi-billion-dollar markets in biosciences and healthcare. The biothermal power source was developed by Biophan research and development subsidiary TE-Bio. Biophan's TE-Bio subsidiary has an agreement with NASA for characterization and joint development of high-density, nanoengineered thermoelectric materials for use with implantable medical devices. Research is being jointly conducted by Biophan and NASA personnel at the NASA Ames Research Center for Nanotechnology in Moffett Field, CA.

Who wants It

Who wants it and why?

Banking Industry / 35-60-1

The banking industry has been pushing hard for a cashless society for many decades. Why? Every check costs a bank between thirty-five and sixty cents to process. Electronic transactions, on the other hand, cost one cent. Banks have a very real interest in seeing us move toward an electronic funds transfer system. So do small business owners, due to the multimillion-dollar price they pay for employees who steal from the till.

IRS / 1 Trillion

Not only are banks and businesses eager to see a cashless society, but the IRS is as well. The government loses what is estimated to be one trillion dollars a year in the "underground" economy—the system whereby employees are paid in cash in order to avoid the paper trail that would require them to pay taxes.

Old Folks Reluctant / Youth - Technology

Technology for a cashless society has been around for decades. The only reason we have not seen it implemented until recently is not due to a lack of technology, but rather to a phobia with technology. Because people my age and older are somewhat techno-phobic, we have been reluctant to embrace technology. But that's changing. Why? It is partially due to the fact that the older generation is dying. You see, the kids who have grown up with Nintendo are not intimidated by technology in the least. Even more than this, our culture has changed in such a way that even we who are older are feeling a need to move into a cashless society. Consider the reasons why....

Crime

Crime. So many people are being ripped off after withdrawing money from Automated Teller Machines, that cities like Berkeley, California, are passing ordinances making it illegal to stand within one hundred fifty feet of an ATM unless making a transaction.

Drugs Culture

Drugs. Drug lords don't write checks. The entire drug culture is based on the exchange of cash, rendering a record of such transactions nonexistent. Consequently, the most effective way to curb drug traffic would be to get rid of all cash.

Terrorism / Passports / Toxins

If all the economy flows on a cashless society, it will be harder and harder for terrorist cells to carry out their plots against man. Large purchases of toxins, plane tickets, passport applications will all be traced to the individual, and if they are on the watch list, their name pops up, and their location.

Medical Reasons / Wanders

Not only will the chip be able to perform financial transactions, but it will also hold other information such as medical history, what types of drugs you can or can't take, it will be used to locate Alzheimer's patients who wander away.

Predators / My Kid / Baltimore Sex Offenders

Sexual predators are becoming more brazen, carrying out their lusts on our children today. Parents will say the Amber Alert isn't enough, let there be a chip with GPS so I can locate my child ASAP. You can already get the chip for your pet, it will have all the pet's information on it, and it will contain a GPS incase your pet gets lost. How comforting will that be to parents for their kids? Baltimore city is looking to make sex offenders wear an bracelet with GPS in it, so if they go near a school they alarm will notify the police.

Armed Forces / GPS / Weapon Access / Classified Information

There is a MARC card. MARC stands for Multi-technology Automated Reader Card. It's given to Armed Forces personnel. In addition to accessing economic transactions a la a VISA card, the MARC card contains a computer chip with the medical and personal history of the holder, giving him clearance for all sorts of weapons and other technology. But more than that (advanced cards), his location can be pinpointed anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds. The practicality of this in times of war is understandable—but so are the problems.

The Problem / Theft / ID Theft / Disable

The problem is obvious with all of today's credit cards, passports, etc, they can become lost or stolen, and then you are dealing with identity theft. No stolen identity with the chip in your hand, and you can be sure the final chip will have some type of security measure in it that if the person's heart stops beating, the chip gets locked-out, or the body temperature drops the battery stops and the chip goes into a read-only mode, and can't be used to make transactions.

The Solution

So the only solid solution to all these things (not to mention the chaos going on in the world at this time) seems to be what John prophesied two thousand years ago when he wrote that Antichrist will require everyone to receive a mark in his right hand or forehead.

Hard to Say No / My Home / My Family / My Job Position

It will be hard for many people to say no to this mark. Just picture if right now you had to decide, what would you say. Hey I worked hard for this home, I worked hard to work my way into this job, all the school, all the long hours. My family has to eat, I enjoy the comforts that come from my financial status. People will say it is nothing to do with religion; it is everything to do with eating and surviving. If your eye causes you to sin, then pluck it out, better to go to heaven maimed and hungry:

(Mark 9:43 NKJV) "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

(Mark 9:44 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

(Mark 9:45 NKJV) "And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched;

(Mark 9:46 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

(Mark 9:47 NKJV) "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire;

(Mark 9:48 NKJV) "where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched.'

(Revelation 13:18 NKJV) 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.

Who is It?

A lot of people have come up with all kinds of suggestions of who this person is, I don't know.

Numeric Alphabet

So what does this 666 mean? Not much for us in the English language, but for the Greek or Hebrew language, each letter has a numeric value to it, so when this man comes on the scene, that may reveal who he is.

Image Daniel 666 / 6 Represents Man / 7 Completion

But it is interesting that the image in Daniel of that statue was 666 cubits in height. We see through the Scriptures that the number 6 is representative of man. 7 is the number of completion.

(Daniel 3:1 NKJV) Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Knowledge & Wisdom

Knowledge is one thing, but wisdom is another. Knowledge is information. Wisdom is application.

Theories abound as to what the number 666 refers. Some believe it refers to a type of UPC code. Others suggest that because in both Greek and Hebrew, letters are used as numbers, the letters in Antichrist's name add up to 666. But notice John says, here is wisdom. To all, don't just seek knowledge, but wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge applied:

(Revelation 13:18 NKJV) 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.

Understand This – John Says / 6 – Flesh / Works of Flesh – Cain / Lamb - Fruit

What does all this mean to us, we don't have to worry about getting deceived and receiving the mark, but remember this book was written to us, for our application today, for our walk with the Lord today.

"Understand," said John, "the number of the beast is the number of man: 666." Throughout Scripture, six is the number of the flesh. Let me take you back to the example of the works of the flesh, the way of Cain, the one who would say, I'll do it my way. On a day they would bring an offering unto the Lord, Able would bring the Lamb, all the way back then it was the Lamb, but Cain brings the fruit of his labor. Cain would not bring the innocent lamb, he wouldn't bring what cost him nothing, instead he brings what he produced from the sweat of his brow, what he feels cost him something, and the Lord would not accept it.

(Genesis 4:2 NKJV) Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

(Genesis 4:3 NKJV) And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

(Genesis 4:4 NKJV) Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

(Genesis 4:5 NKJV) but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

(Genesis 4:6 NKJV) So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

(Genesis 4:7 NKJV) "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

(Genesis 4:8 NKJV) Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Fleshly Mentality / My Sweat – My Efforts

The fleshly Cain mentality can rise up in you and me. How? By saying, "The sweat I pour out, the good I do, the things I accomplish are going to be more impressive to God than just killing a bloody lamb.

Through my energy, my initiative, my efforts I will impress God."

I'm Good Person / Putting together basket of Fruit / Don't Need Lamb

Some today say, "I'm a Good Person, I send money to orphans, I'm a great parent, I coach Little League. I'm putting together a pretty good basket of fruit. I don't need this bloody stuff, I'm not a bad person, God will accept me because I am a good person.

All have Sinned / Marked with Own Efforts – You are Damned / Need a Savior – Substitute

But the Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). And because you're marked with your own efforts, you're marked for damnation. You've fallen short. You need a Savior, a Sacrifice to die in your place."

Even Believers spirit of 666 / Prayer – Figure it out Myself / I know what is Best for Kids - Family

Even believers can be caught up in the spirit of 666 when they say, “I don’t need to pray, no need to go overboard on this church stuff. I can figure out my career on my own. I’m reading books. I’m attending seminars. I know what’s best for my kids, my family, my future.”

Either spirit of Cain – or Abel

We’re either of the spirit of Cain, saying, “I’m a hard worker. I’m a creative thinker. I’m a good guy”—or of Abel who’s humble, broken, and dependent upon God.

Good News / Struggling / Talk to Me – Seek Me / Fight the Cain Tendency

Here’s the good news. God has one simple thing to say to you who are struggling in marriage, in parenting, in relationships, in school: “Talk to Me. Spend time with Me. Humble yourself before Me. Seek My face. Wait and see what I’ll do in your life. Fight the tendency to be Cain (I’ll figure it out, I’ll get it done my way), and watch how God will bless you.”

May God Keep you # of Man – Flesh / Be Committed to being Dependant

May God keep you from the number of man, the mark of Cain, the mark of the beast. May this be a time in your life when you are recommitted to dependency and brokenness before the Lord. Being dependant, what a far cry from the worlds philosophy, saying don’t depend on anyone, be your own person. Herein is wisdom, gang: Seek first the kingdom, and everything else will fall into place (Matthew 6:33).

Comes up 1 Short

The number of man is 6, the number of completion is 7, Satan’s man comes up 1 short, as man always does. That is the message for we as believers to take away from this Mark of the Beast, that man’s ways and efforts will always fall short, and thus we must let go of our efforts and ways, and say “Come Lord Jesus, I need You”.

Read the Book of Rev – Over and Over / Come back to fact Life short – Heaven is Near

That’s why I need to read the Book of Revelation over and over again. For those living on this side of the rapture, it’s not about deciphering the mark of the Beast. It’s not written to help us figure out who the false prophet or Antichrist is. It’s written to give us hope and to bring us back constantly to the fact that life is short and we’ll be in heaven soon.

Don’t Understand – Own tribulation / Person who grabs – Live in Anticipated Celebration

The person who doesn’t understand the Book of Revelation will go through life in his own personal tribulation. The person who grabs hold of Revelation, on the other hand, will live in a state of anticipation and celebration. Every single one of us will either go through this week in tribulation or celebration. Life is short. The Lord is in control. We’re going to heaven. That’s what this book is about.

Chapter 14

Purity Pays: 14:1-5

First Met Chapter 7 / All 144K Made It / Made it without Giving Up

We first met these 144,000 in chapter 7—twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Here in chapter 14, we find all 144,000 standing with the Lord on Mount Zion. In other words, they made it through the Tribulation without collapsing, without caving in, without giving up. May I note that they are no more super-Christians than we are, they are those who chose to stand, and God gave them the power to do so, just as He does us.

Crucial for Us How they Did It

How? I believe the answer is crucial for us because Jesus said in the world we all will have tribulation (John 16:33):

- When the job we count on doesn't open up,
- When the career path seems to be mud road,
- when the marriage we long for doesn't pan out,
- when the kids we wait for don't turn around,
- when the money we hope for doesn't come in
- when you are tired of waiting for that special someone in your life,
- when you feel you aren't growing spiritually

We will be tempted to think that, because the Lord didn't seem to do what He said He would do, we're justified in downing a couple cold ones at the tavern, logging on to a pornographic website, or dating an unbeliever.

(John 16:33 NKJV) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Its in Time of Tribulation / Get Mind off Problem / Ok – I'm Forgiven

It's in the time of tribulation that the pressure is greatest to bow before the idol and say, "It's okay if I get my mind off my problems for a while because I'm in Christ. I'm forgiven."

All 144K Made It / None Compromised

May I point out before we begin this study, the Lord started with 144,000 and He finished with 144,000, not 139,999, not a one dropped, not a one faded away, not one not got sucked into compromise, but all 144,000 made it, and so too can we.

Youth Wondering Why Stay Pure

For you youth, maybe you are wondering why you should stay pure, go the hard way (so it seems), why you should be the only one, because everyone else isn't.

Adults Too – Dark days / Temptations Intense / Easy to Give In

So can we. We're living in dark days. The temptations are intense. It would be so easy to let down and give in. Anyways, I'm forgiven.

6 Reasons Why Purity Pays

In our text, John gives us six reasons why we shouldn't give in, 6 reasons why purity pays. Let's read for context.

(Revelation 14:1 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

(Revelation 14:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) 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 redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Not Sex Bad – Designed by God / Main Point – No Mate – No Defile / Picture when not get Want

Verse 4 - These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins – It is not that the Lord is saying sex is bad, for He designed and created it for man's pleasure. The main point was that God did not bring them a mate, and they refused to defile themselves morally. Thus the picture for us when God doesn't bring the things along in our lives that we want or expect, that we won't hit the tavern, light-up the joint, engage in sexual immorality, or look at the pornography, and any of those types of things, but that we won't defile ourselves morally.

6 Reasons Purity Pays

6 reasons why purity pays, 6 reasons why refusal to compromise morally pays.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #1 - The Lord will be on Your Mind

(Revelation 14:1 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Chose to Walk Pure / Lord continually on Mind / Contrast to Mark of Beast – Man – 666 / 1 Short

Verse 1 - The Fathers name written on their foreheads - Choose to walk in purity, chose not to cave in, chose not to do what everyone else is doing, and the Lord will be on your mind constantly. What a contrast to where we finished last week, the number of man is 666. The ways of man were in their foreheads, on their mind, and as we have said, the ways of man will always come up one short (for 7 is the number of completion).

(Revelation 13:18 NKJV) 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.

Not Number but Relation / Father written on Forehead – His Children

It is not a number, it is a relationship, for they had the Father's name written on their foreheads, they were His children.

Living Purity – Father on Mind / Mind of Peace / Ish 26

Living in purity, having the Father's name on your forehead, continually having the Father on your mind - the result will be that you will have peace of mind continually. Why? Because God will keep the one whose mind is stayed on Him in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3).

(Isaiah 26:3 NKJV) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Paul said Be Ignorant / Be the One Doesn't Get Joke – Know Story Plots

That is why Paul says, "I would have you be wise concerning that which is good but simple concerning that which is evil" (Romans 16:19). The word he uses for "simple" is literally "stupid." In other words, "When everyone else is laughing at the off-color joke, you be the one who doesn't get it." Good for you who don't know the stories or characters of the OC, or Will and Grace, good for you, be ignorant in those things. However, I am ever so amazed that Christians can watch those shows, and think that they don't affect them. Some families wonder why there is such a lack of peace in their homes:

(Romans 16:19 NKJV) For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

(Romans 16:20 NKJV) And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Yes God Forgives – But you won't Forget / Nails Leave Mark / Glue Sticks

Yes you can watch those shows. Yes, you can log on to the Internet. You can tune into HBO. You can go to the tavern and then say, "Father, forgive me. I did that in a moment of depression or boredom." And you'll be forgiven right then. Your sin will be forgotten by the Father—but not by you because, although the nails will be gone, the holes will remain. You can pull the nails out of a piece of wood, but the holes

will remain forever. I remember the house I grew up in there in Pennsylvania, and I remember my brother at Halloween glued this crafts that he made to the house. Man mom and dad were not happy, so they went to pull them off the house, and the pictures came off, but the glue wouldn't. I remember my granddaddy out there with his pocket knife trying to scrap it off the glue, but this glue just wouldn't come off. 25 years later when I go to that house, I still can see the glue. Some things can be removed, but some things will stick with us forever. God will forgive, but some things will stick with us forever.

Images Stick / Comparison begins – Unsatisfied Begins

Here is what happens, those images stick to us, we see them on television, a movie, a website, a magazine subscription, whatever it may be, and then over time a person finds themselves starting to compare their spouse to those images, which all have their imperfection but have been hidden by the smoke and mirrors of camera, or genetically altered, and the person then becomes unsatisfied because their spouse doesn't live up to the images they see in those places.

Back in Garden

Back in the garden, Adam and Eve together, no comparisons, no pasts, no guilt and shame. They were free to just enjoy one another, fully, completely. A picture of how God intended it to be for us.

(Genesis 2:25 NKJV) And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

David Knew / Set no Wicked Thing before my Eyes / Tape Verse on Television

That is why David, a man who knew something about looking where he shouldn't have, and doing something he shouldn't have, says in Psalm 101:3, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Tape this verse to your TV and computer:

(Psalms 101:3 NKJV) I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.

(Psalms 101:4 NKJV) A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind. These virgins, those who refuse to defile themselves, have peace of mind, rather than problems in their mind. Purity Pays.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #2 – Authority will be in Your Voice

(Revelation 14:2 NKJV) 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.

Voice Like thunder / Voice of Pure has Authority / Authority & Integrity Linked Together

The voices of the 144,000 were like thunder—earth-shaking and impacting. Truly, the voice of a grandparent, a parent, or a high-schooler living in purity is like thunder because authority and integrity are linked together inextricably. You cannot separate the two.

If Thinks Kids Don't Know – Underestimate Discernment of Human spirit

If you think, My kids will never know; my grandchildren will never hear; the guys at work don't have a clue what I do late at night, you underestimate the discerning ability of the human spirit. Even if people don't know your story, they can sense in your voice, see in your face, and discern in their hearts whether or not you are a person of integrity.

I Worked with Kids / They Know / Parent – No Respect from Kid? Maybe no Authority in Voice

I worked in the Youth Ministry for many years before this, and I call you this parent, your kids know, they know what you are doing, they tell me. Parents, if your children are not listening to you, respecting you, maybe it is because there is no authority in your voice.

Another with Voice of Thunder / Become Like Him / No Guilt or Shame / Compromise Silences

We have read before a voice as thunder, it was the voice of our Lord. When we are living a life of purity, we will take on the characteristics of our Lord, we will become just like Him, in the way we think, in the way we walk, and in the way we talk. You will speak in and with His authority because there will be no guilt or shame because of our compromise. These 144,000 were people of integrity, that is why the

voices of the 144,000 are likened to thunder. Compromise silences our witness, but a person living in purity, their voice is like thunder, it is heard, it has power.

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

Purity Pays / Mind - Authority

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority. Purity Pays.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #3 – A Song will be on Your Lips

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) 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.

Song of Happiness / God is Happy / People Left to Follow – Because something Joyful

A new song in Scripture always implies a song of rejoicing or happiness. It may come as a shock to you if you're new in the things of the Lord that God is a happy God. It's true. The reason people left everything to follow Jesus, the reason they traveled great distances to see Him and even went days without food to listen to Him was because there was something about Him so joyful, so happy, so abundant.

Concerning Jesus – Heb 1:9 / Happiest Man is One who Hates Sin / Happiness proportion to Holy

Concerning Jesus, Hebrews 1:9 declares, "Because thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity thou art anointed with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." In other words, "The happiest Man in history was the One who hated sin." In that, I understand happiness in life is directly proportional to holiness in life.

(Hebrews 1:8 NKJV) But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

(Hebrews 1:9 NKJV) You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

Rev 4 / Ultimate Worship Session

In Revelation 4, the throne room of heaven erupts with the ultimate worship session, and the heart of that worship session, is Holy, Holy, Holy:

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) 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:

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

Happy Are Those / Happiness & Holiness Travel Together

Happy is the people whose God is the Lord (Psalm 144:15). The holier we choose to be, the happier we will be because happiness and holiness travel together.

(Psalms 144:15 NKJV) Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

Limitless Happiness / Youth it Seems Painful / Wish Messed Around More / Thoughts & Images

Limitless holiness, limited happiness. You youth, I know it seems painful right now to maintain your purity, especially how you are continually being bombarded with the things of the world. Youth let me tell you this, I have yet to meet any Christian who is married say, I wish I would have messed around more before I got married, never have I heard this. Rather what I hear is people saying, sometimes, out of nowhere comes thoughts, or images, or faces of the past, things I engaged in (or even currently compromise in), come now and take away from all that my physical relationship with my spouse could be.

The New Song

These virgins, those who refused to defile themselves, to compromise; they sing a new song, a song that no one else knows, but the other virgins. For those who won't go the hard way, the long way, for those that said it really isn't going to matter, they don't know the words to this song, they can only listen to its

beauty, but never know the lyrics. As for those that didn't, they can only know that they missed something, but they will never know how much. You can be forgiven, you can still be blessed in your marriage, but something will be missing, it could have been more than what it is. For those of you who say well we are getting married anyways, or we are married in God eyes, this principle still holds true, for you didn't go the "God Way", you went Your Way", and something will be missing.

God Designed Sex / Like a Fireplace / Warm and Romantic – Burn the House

God designed sex, it is His idea, He designed it to be romantic, interesting, exciting, and warm. It is like a fire in a fireplace. When you have that fireplace burning in your front room, and it warms you and brings you joy. But take that same beautiful fire out of the fireplace, place it in the middle of your living room (I want to move it closer to me), and that same fire now becomes a dread, it burns your whole house. That is the whole deal with sex; in the fireplace it is warm, romantic, and interesting, grand and glorious, but take it outside where it was designed to be and you will be burned, it will affect your home.

Nobody Escapes / Pleasure for a Season / Nails Leave Marks

Nobody escapes it's wrap. The Bible says there is pleasure in sin for a season, but after that comes destruction. I bought the lie, hook, line, and sinker, and what I thought was so great, now robs me. I'm forgiven, but the nails have left a hole. My past has left its mark. Some people tell me they have been saved all their life and that they don't feel as on-fire for Jesus who had these radical conversions after drinking in all the world had to offer, trust me, no you don't – no you don't. The nails leave marks
(Hebrews 11:24 NKJV) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
(Hebrews 11:25 NKJV) choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
(Hebrews 11:26 NKJV) esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

(Proverbs 6:32 NKJV) Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

How Vital not to Set Anything Wicked / Youth give the Gift / Don't Buy the Lie

How vital it is for me to not set any wicked thing before me today. I owe that to my spouse. You youth, give the gift to your spouse, be a gift of a lifetime for them. Don't buy the lie.

Outside Marriage / Speaking in Authority

You who say well we are getting married anyways, I take you back to that speaking in authority. It will sting when you child said well you and dad didn't wait. Be able to say we waited, and you will be able to sing it with joy as you share it with your child.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, and you will have a song on your lips. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #4 - The Lamb will be in Your Sight

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) 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 redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Wherever Lamb Goes

Wherever the Lamb goes, the 144,000 follow. The Lamb is always in their sight.

The Sun & the Thumb

Don't let anything block out your vision of the Lord. The sun is so big its interior could hold 1,300,000 earths. Yet I can block the entire sun out of my sight with only my thumb.

God Never leaves us – Thumb of Sin can Block Him Out

The same is true concerning God. He'll never leave or forsake us, but the "thumb" of our sin blocks Him from our sight. The 144,000 follow the Lamb easily because their purity allows them to see Him clearly.

Where Should I Go

We have been talking a lot lately about the leading of the Lord; well keeping oneself pure will greatly add you in where you are to go. For where He goes is where you want to go. Life just flows when you are walking in purity.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, and you will have clear direction in your life. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #5 – You will be Fruit unto Your God

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) 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 redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Best of the Best

First fruits means the best of the best.

Maybe You don't Care about Self – But Care about what the Lord Thinks / 144K Delightful

You might not care about being happy, about being blessed, about having direction for your life personally, or speaking with authority presently. But perhaps you really do care about what God thinks of you eternally. And of the 144,000 who walk in purity, He says, "They've made a tough choice, they chose to remain pure in a culture of filth, and I regard them as the finest fruit." God says delightful.

Me – I love Fresh Fruit / God enjoys partaking in Good Fruit – He Savors It

Ohh, in the mornings how I love that glass of fresh chilled orange juice, it is delightful for me. How I love those fresh strawberries, so sweet, as they melt in my mouth. I love a fresh crisp apple. It blesses me, I enjoy partaking in them, and that is how the Lord sees a man or woman who will not defile themselves morally, who will not compromise, who offer themselves up to Him as a first fruit, nothing but the best for you. He enjoys us, He savors us. Compare that to our last study, God doesn't want us to bring a fruit basket and say look what I have done, God wants us to be a fruit basket, and say here is what I am.

Foundational Verse Rev 4:11 / For His Good Pleasure

We saw the foundational verse for all of man back in revelation 4:11, for we were created for His good pleasure, and Our Lord takes pleasure when we present ourselves to Him as a first fruit, the best of the best.

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

Give First Fruit – Watch the Crops He Sends Your Way / Never Regret Purity

Give Him your first fruits, and watch the crops that God sends down your way. You will never regret purity.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, and you will be a sweet offering to your God. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #6 – A Sweetness will be in Your Mouth

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

No Deceit / No Poison

No deceit means no poison, no bad breath, they just had a sweetness in their mouth, of all the things that came out of it.

Eph 5 / Engine of train – the Cars that Follow

In Ephesians 5:3, 4, Paul makes an interesting point when he says, “Let not fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness be named among you; neither filthiness, foolish talking, nor coarse jesting.” The first list is like the engine of a train—the second like the cars that follow.

(Ephesians 5:3 NKJV) But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

(Ephesians 5:4 NKJV) neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Bible Links Speech with the Heart / If it comes out Mouth – Then means You taking it In Somehow

The Bible always links purity with speech because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). Thus, when a person is always telling coarse jokes, or involved with foolish jesting, it means that he or she is partaking of immorality in some way. The words are merely the cars that follow the engine. That is why the mouths of the 144,000 were filled with sweetness.

(Matthew 12:34 NKJV) "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, you will be a sweet offering to your God, and there will be a sweetness in your speech. Purity Pays precious people.

Conclusion

Youth Hold On / Uncomfortable – Wishful Message

You youth hold on, you singles hold on, and it will be worth the wait. You won't have to sit like some today who remember back, and wish, and know what has been lost.

Walk in Purity – People Mock – then Envy

Walk in the purity, and at the end the people who mock you, will envy you. Be radical, don't give in, go against the flow, you will be blessed, I guarantee.

If you Have Fallen / Faultless – Before the throne

And even if you have failed—as we all have—if you are one of His, God still finds you faultless.

Where? Before the throne (verse 5). Why?

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Because Blood of Jesus – 1 John 1:7 / I can Attest to This Passage

Because the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our failings (1 John 1:7). So it is that God says, “Not only are you faultless before the throne, but I will keep you from falling on earth” (see Jude 24). You're faultless positionally, but I can keep you from falling practically if you'll allow Me.” I can attest that God is able; I love my wife, so much so that I wanted to marry her, and I can say God kept us from falling, to not even as so much touch. He can give you the power to do so.

(1 John 1:7 NKJV) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Yes Covered – But Give no More Away

If you have blown it, the blood covers you, but lets not continue to fall anymore, don't give any more away. I pray that you will desire the things we just studied and that will be what you seek.

Church Chose to Be Holy / Purpose Holiness & Purity Before Leave Here

Church, that you would chose to be Holy today. Say no, that you would leave here today, and purpose in your heart that you will leave here today and live in holiness. That you would say, today is a fresh start, a new day, and I chose to walk away from those things, and I desire to walk and live in Holiness – Lord help me to do it.

Worship the Lord in Beauty of Holiness

Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness. Your worship will be so sweet when you are walking in holiness, and purity, that in itself is enough to turn it off, to turn away.

(1 Chronicles 16:29 NKJV) Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

Chose Holiness – You'll never Regret it

Choose holiness, gang. You'll never regret it. Choose holiness, for if you do, you will be happy presently and blessed eternally.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, you will be a sweet offering to your God, and there will be a sweetness in your speech. Purity Pays precious people.

The Everlasting Gospel

(Revelation 14:6-7)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

7 Year Tribulation Foreshadow of Hell / Hell will look back to Tribulation / Both Rejecting - Wrath

The 7 year Tribulation period is just a foreshadow of what hell will be like. People sentenced to hell, will look back at the Tribulation Period as the good ole days. The Tribulation and Hell, are both the wrath of God, on a Christ rejecting world, more specifically, it is God's wrath upon sinful man who refused to repent of his sins:

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Who can Stand / Those that Overcome

Who will be able to stand? Those that overcome. How does a man overcome, through the Blood of the Lamb.

(1 John 5:4 NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.

(1 John 5:5 NKJV) Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Only 2 Choices / Wrath of Lamb – Blood of Lamb / God Wishes None Should Perish

Man has only two choices for his life, either the Wrath of the Lamb, or the Blood of the Lamb. God, wishing that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance (2 Peter 3:9), will continually offer His way of salvation, the forgiveness of sin, that a man may be acceptable before Him, and come into His presence (which is through the Blood of the Lamb). He will continually offer this to all men everywhere during the Tribulation Period, and He will do it through an angel flying through in the midst of heaven, proclaiming the everlasting gospel.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

(Revelation 14:6 NKJV) 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;

(Revelation 14:7 NKJV) 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."

Some think Satellite – Others Angel / Who Said? – but Know What Said

Now some think this angel is a satellite, others think it is an actual angel. I myself go with the later, just to because that is what it says, so that is probably what it means, no need to spiritualize it. Although I may not know who are what is saying it, but I do know what will be said, because God has given to us in this

Word, and demonstrated it before us on the cross, the “Everlasting Gospel”. They will preach the everlasting gospel, and today you will hear the everlasting gospel, and you will be given the opportunity to respond to it.

Holy Ground

Today we stand on Holy Ground, please no talking, or moving about. Don’t distract your neighbor, but focus and listen to the Everlasting Gospel.

Listen Very Closely / 39 Million Minutes

Listen very closely, for what I will tell you in the next 20 minutes will not only effect how you will live the rest of your life here on earth, but also where you will spend eternity. The average person lives 75 years, that about 39 million minutes (according to my calculations). What you will hear in the next 20 minutes, will be the most important 20 minutes of those 39 million. What you decide at the end of these 20 minutes will not only effect what is remaining of your 39 million minutes, but how and where you will spend eternity, which is time without end, that makes 39 million minutes a blink of an eye in comparison to eternity.

The Everlasting Gospel

Not Distant / Bible – God’s Love Letter / Thoughts greater than Grains Sand

Let me share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with you. Gospel means “good news”, and it truly is for we have seen that God is not a distant far away impersonal God, but a God who cares deeply for us. Do you know in the Bible, which is His love letter to us that God thinks of us so much that if we were to count the number of His thoughts towards us, they would outnumber the grains of sand upon all the beaches in the world combined? Yes that is Psalm 139, verses 17-18.

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Intimately Involved / Number of Hairs

He is so intimately involved in every detail of our life that He says that He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7),

(Luke 12:7 NKJV) "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Stores our Tears / Never Shed Alone

The Bible says that He stores our tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8). You are so precious to Him that not one of your tears has ever fallen without Him catching that tear. You have never cried alone, never, for His thoughts for you would outnumber the grains of sand on all the beaches:

(Psalms 56:8 NKJV) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Jeremiah 29 / A Wonderful Plan

He also says to us in His love letter, the Bible, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (that’s Jeremiah 29:11)*. God has a wonderful plan for your life.

The Problem:

But there is a Problem / God Holy & Pure – Our Sin makes us Impure / Separated from Him

Even with all these wonderful things we have just said, there is problem. The problem is that God is so Holy and Pure, that nothing impure can come into His presence, and our sin makes us impure, therefore we are separated from Him.

The Bible says in Isaiah 59:1-2:

(Isaiah 59:1 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

(Isaiah 59:2 NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23:
(Romans 3:23 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Bible says in Hanakkuk 1:13:
(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.

Separated until Problem Corrected / Separation Causes a Void / Mistakenly try to Fill Void

We are separated from having a personal relationship with Him, until the problem (our sin) is taken care of. Maybe you feel something is missing in your life, maybe there is void in your life. Separation from God causes the void man feels in his heart, that there is something missing, that there is more to life than what they have. Man was created to fellowship with God; God designed us to want fellowship with our Creator (Revelation 4:11). To not fellowship with God will always cause us to fill something is missing. Mistakenly, many people today try to fill this void with the things of the world (money, sex, power, drugs, alcohol, and material possessions) all the while drifting them further away from their Creator.

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

What is Sin / 10 Commandments / Standard of Conduct / Law Country – So too Law Universe

What is Sin you may ask. Do you remember the 10 commandments, also called and known as the Law? You can find them in Exodus chapter 20. To sin is to break God's Law which is the standard of conduct that He has given for our common good. Just as there is a law for this country, so does God have a Law for His Universe, and we are all subject to that Law.

Why God Hates Sin / Not Kill-Joy / Protect and Provide

By the way, do you know why God calls sin, sin. Not because He is some cosmic kill-joy, trying to take the fun out of life as He is so often accused of. On the contrary, God hates sin not only because He is Holy, but because He hates how it hurts us, robs us, and destroys us. God hates to see His creation hurt themselves. God calls sin, sin, and tells us to stay away from it for 2 reasons:

- To **Protect** us.
- To **Provide** for us.

Pick any Sin

Pick any sin in the Bible and you can see how He wants to protect us, and how He wants to provide for us. Take drunkardness for example (which God calls sin – 1 Corinthians 6:10); what does He want to protect us from and provide for us? He wants to protect me from crashing my car into a pole, and to provide for me so that when I wake up in the morning I have a clear conscience that I didn't do anything I might regret. Take fornication which is to have sex outside of marriage (which God calls sin – 1 Corinthians 6:9); what does God want to protect us from, He wants to protect us from the pain that comes with diseases, unplanned pregnancies, and the broken heart of failed relationships. On the contrary God wants me to wait until He brings that special person He has picked out for me and we can enjoy one another fully without worry of disease, comparison, consequences, or fear of rejection. But to just love and enjoy each other, best friends forever.

Just Focus 10 Commandments

But let's just focus on the 10 Commandments (which are the basis for all of God's Laws):

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3). That means that nothing comes first before the Lord, whether it is that relationship, a career, children, a recreation, nothing. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6). That means that no house, car, collection shall come first before the Lord. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7). Even if it just slipped out after the plate dropped in your foot, or the hammer hit your thumb. He is God, a Holy God who deserves and demands reverence. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11). But it is my only day to sleep in. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.

- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12). Oh Boy! But I was just a child. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13). Jesus said if you have anger in your heart you have committed murder (Matthew 5:21-22). To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14). Jesus said if you look at a woman in lust you have committed adultery; needless to say if you carried it out (Matthew 5:27-28). To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15). Even the pen or paperclip from work, or that little piece of gum as a child, or the little fudge on our taxes. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16). That means to lie, even the little white lie. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17). This last commandment shows that God doesn't just examine our outward actions, but our inward thoughts. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.

You have Offended the Holy God / He is Consuming Fire

Well how did you do as we went through them? If you are honest, you will say I have failed in some of them, but if you look deep enough you will see that you have failed somehow in all of them. Guess what, you have broken God's Holy Laws, you have offended the Holy God, you are guilty before Him, and there – "is the problem". The Law shows us our sin (Romans 3:19). Remember now, God's standard is perfection; nothing impure can come into His presence; that sin no matter how small or great has made you imperfect, therefore you can not come into His presence. You see because He is so Holy, so Pure, so Perfect, any impurity that would come into His presence would have to be consumed, for the Bible says that His Holiness is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). Men have forgotten, or refuse to see that He is a Holy God. He isn't the Big Man Upstairs, He is the Awesome and Holy God.

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV) For our God is a consuming fire.

No One in Clear / Sin not Categorized / Just as Guilt as the Murder

Not one of us are in the clear, God says, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). Nor does God categorize sin, as we may do; big sins and little sins. Well I may have told a little lie, but I'm not as bad as that murder over there. The Bible says that if we break just one law once, we are guilty of them all (James 2:10). In God's eyes we are just as guilty before Him as a murder or adulterer. *(James 2:10 NKJV) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*

We Judge on Man's Standard

We like to judge ourselves according to man's standards, which doesn't make us look that bad, as long as we are not some murderer or rapist. We look around at our sin, and says well everybody is doing it. But when we look at ourselves according to God's standards (perfection), we see how far off we are. We have offended the Holy God.

The Penalty

All Guilty / Penalty – Death / Break Man's Law / Not Mere Advice

So we are all guilty, we have all offended God. There is the penalty for our sin, the penalty is death. The Bible says, "*The wages of sin (our problem) is death*" (Romans 6:23). When we break man's laws, we must pay a penalty for our actions. In the same way, God in His justice must pass judgment upon every Law breaker, for if He didn't then He would not be a Righteous and Holy God. Law without consequences would truly not be law, but mere advice. If you stole a car and got caught by the police, what would happen? You would have to pay a penalty, you would have to go to jail. So too there is a penalty for breaking God's Law.

Death is Spiritual Death – Separation from God / Alive yet Dead / Dead Twice

The wages of sin, is death (Romans 6:23). What I never knew, until I read the Bible, is the death God is talking about, is spiritual death and eternal separation from Him, for God is too Holy to look upon sin. You can be alive physically, while at the same time dead spiritually. After this body returns to the ground, then

a man can be twice dead, physically dead, and spiritually dead. He who is dead twice will then be separated from God for eternity, cast into outer darkness, the Lake of Fire (Hell) where the soul never dies, and the mind is fully conscious. If there is a heaven, then there is a hell. That is why Jesus said unless a man be born again, He can not enter into the Kingdom of God. You must be spiritually made alive. That is John 3:3, *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

The Provision

Good News – Not left Alone in this Predicament / Always the Lamb / The lamb - the Temple

Good news, God has not left us alone in this predicament. So much so that He offers to trade places with us. When Jesus began His public ministry He was heralded as the *Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). It has always been the lamb for the forgiveness of sin. Back in the Old Testament times, when a person committed a sin against the Lord (broken one of the 10 Commandments), they were instructed to bring a lamb to the Temple for a sacrifice. You can read about this in the Book of Leviticus chapter 3. The Temple in the Old Testament was the place where God would meet with man. There at the Temple the guilty person would then place his or her hand upon the head of the lamb and make a public profession of his guilt. The act was symbolic of transferring that person's guilt and shame on to the innocent lamb, and the innocent lamb would take his or her place. After the confession, after the transfer of guilt, the High Priest at the Temple would then take a knife across the throat of the innocent lamb, killing it, and then taking the blood of the lamb, and sprinkling it upon the altar there in the temple. However, this sacrifice was only a covering until the next sin, and then the person would have to go through the whole process again. The whole purpose was to show man the severity of sin, for *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23), and God is a Holy God.

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(Leviticus 3:6 NKJV) "If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

(Leviticus 3:7 NKJV) "If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD.

(Leviticus 3:8 NKJV) 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

The Perfect Sacrifice – Last Sacrifice

But the perfect sacrifice, would be the last sacrifice. The last sacrifice would be the perfect sacrifice, because the last sacrifice was God Himself – *The Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world* – Jesus Christ.

Today – Man must lay Hand Upon Jesus – Transfer Guilt

Today, Man must lay his hands upon the head of Jesus, confess his guilt and shame, transfer it on to Jesus, the innocent Lamb, the perfect Lamb. Jesus was sinless, therefore He was perfect. He met God's standard of perfection.

Bridge between Man and God

God has reached out to us. He came to this earth 2,000 years ago as a man named Jesus. And Jesus the man who was God, voluntarily died on a brutal Roman cross to bridge the gap between mankind and God to eliminate the separation from Him. When Jesus hung on the cross, He essentially took hold of a Holy God with one hand, and with the other He took hold of us, sinful man. The Bible says:

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(John 3:17 NKJV) "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

What Held Him – not Nails – Love / God devised Way / Merciful – Maintaining Justice

What held Jesus to the cross? After all, He possesses the powers of the universe. It wasn't the nails. It was His love for me and you. The Bible tells us, "*God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). As we saw earlier, the penalty for our sin, is death.

Yet God devised a way that would allow Him to be merciful to us while at the same time, maintaining His justice by upholding the righteous standard of His Law.

(Romans 5:8 NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus took our Death Penalty / 2 Cor 5:21 / Someone had to Die / God took Action

Jesus took our death penalty for sin upon Himself and gave His life as our substitute (for that should have been us on the cross). Listen to what (2 Corinthians 5:21) says, *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Righteousness simply means – Right Standing. The wages of sin, is death, someone had to die. But God, demonstrating His love for us, not wanting us to be separated from Him, not wanting us to have to pay the wages of sin, left His throne, became man, and said let me take your sin, the wages of your sin - death, so that you may have Right Standing before God. It is the ultimate “Trading Places”.

The Only Way / People say Sin not Bad / I'm a Good Person

This is the only way; many people today don't feel that their sin is that bad, but as we saw, if you are guilty of one sin, then you are guilty of them all. Do not underestimate the offense of sin before the Holy God. Many people say, but I am a good person. The Bible says

(Romans 3:10 NKJV) As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

(Romans 3:11 NKJV) There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

(Romans 3:12 NKJV) They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Don't Judge on Man's Standard

Don't measure yourself, or judge yourself on man's standards. Judge and examine yourself according to God's standard of perfection.

John 14:6 / The Only Way / Sacrifice Perfect – God's Standard is Perfection

Jesus said, in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* What Jesus did on the cross is the only way for us to have peace with God. The sacrifice has to be perfect, for God's standard is perfection, therefore only God (who is perfect) could be the sacrifice. Any and all others sacrifices would fall short, because they are not perfect.

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Substitute Excepted / Rose Again – The Power of the Gospel / So too Shall we Rise

We know that God accepted this substitute because Jesus broke the power of death and rose again on the third day. **This is the power of the gospel**, for anybody can die, but only Jesus could rise from the dead. Had the substitute not been acceptable then Jesus would have remained in the grave, but He didn't, He rose again and ascended into heaven. We know that we too shall not go to hell, but go to heaven where Jesus is.

Sin Totally Wiped Away / God Sees us as Perfect

God totally wipes away our sins and forgives us. God now looks at us as perfect, no sin, no impurity. For when we laid our hand upon His head, transferred our guilt and shame upon Him, we traded places with Him. He became sin, and we became perfect (as He is). Forgiveness means "to carry away", and only Jesus can carry our sins away. The Bible says so clean and forgiven are we that God says we are new creations, and the old things have passed away. Listen to these promises of God for all who trade places with Jesus:

(Hebrews 10:17 NKJV) then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

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

God sees Jesus when He Looks at Us Now

When God looks at us now, He sees Jesus, for we traded places with Him. All the Father sees is perfection.

Sin Wiped Away – We now Perfect – Come into Presence of Perfect God

With sin wiped away, we are Holy and Pure, and can come before a Holy and Pure God. We can enjoy what we were created for, to fellowship with our Creator.

The Profession

God Loves You – Want Relationship / Will not Force Himself – Free Will

God loves you, He desires to have a personal relationship with you, but only if you want one with Him. God will not force Himself on you, He will respect your free choice.

Want Peace with God / Your Responsibility / Recognize – Repent - Receive

If you want to have peace with God, there is a responsibility on your side. You must do three things, Recognize, Repent, and Receive.

Recognize / No Blame Shift / Have Offended / Lay hands – Confess Guilt / Only Way

First you have to recognize that you are a sinner and you have offended the Holy God. You can't make excuses blaming everyone and everything else for your actions. You must recognize and admit that your sin has offended the Holy God. You must lay your hand upon the head of Jesus, confess your guilt and shame, transfer it on to Jesus, the innocent Lamb, the perfect Lamb. You must recognize that Jesus Christ died on that cross for you personally. That He paid the price for your sin and nothing else could.

Christ has done all the Work / Eph 2:8

You must recognize that Christ (the innocent Lamb) has done all the work on the cross, and there is nothing that you can do in and of yourself to cleanse your sin. Your works won't get you to heaven, for what could you possibly do for God in comparison to what He has done for you on the cross. To think that you could is the ultimate insult to God, it is saying I have something better than your only Begotten Son. In Ephesians 2:8-9 the Bible says, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Nothing we can do Except Receive

There is nothing we can do, except receive this gift. We can't earn it, we can only receive it freely. That is why it is called grace, which simply means, "getting what we don't deserve". We got heaven, when we deserved hell. Grace, G-R-A-C-E; Gods Riches, at Christ's Expense.

Repent / 1st Words / Change Direction / 110 times / No Repentance – No Salvation

Secondly you must repent of your sin. In Matthew 4:17 the first word out of Jesus' mouth when he started his public ministry: *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* The word "repent" means to change your direction. You have to be sorry for your sins, for they put Christ on the cross. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.* The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"* (Acts 3:19). God commands people everywhere to repent. The word repent is mentioned some 110 times in the Scriptures. You must be willing to turn away from those things that displease God, and to stop doing them. Repentance, to change direction, it is as if you are walking down the street one way and Jesus is going the other, and He calls you to follow Him, once you hear His call, you must choose whether to follow Him or not. A person can not pray to receive Jesus, and then continue on in habitual sin. Any man who refuses to repent is deceiving themselves. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of sin (that is Luke chapter 24, verses 46-47). Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life!

(2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

(Acts 3:19 NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

(Luke 24:46 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

(Luke 24:47 NKJV) "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Not Left Alone to Repent / New Heart

But just as God has not left us alone in the predicament of our sin, neither does He leave us on our own for the power to repent. Listen to this promise in Ezekiel chapter 11:

*(Ezekiel 11:19 NKJV) "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,
(Ezekiel 11:20 NKJV) "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God."*

Jesus has Victory over Sin To / Gives Power to us for Same Victory

God gives us a new heart. Jesus didn't just have victory over death when He rose again, but He had total victory over the bondages of sin. The powers of sin and death have been crushed by the risen Savior and He promises to give us the power to overcome any and all sins in our life by calling out to Him.

So Much So – Will Come Live in Your Heart / Free-Will / Back to Why Created

God so much is not going to leave you on your own in this matter, that He will come into your heart, and take up residence in you to help lead and guide you (but still allowing you to exercise your free-will). That brings us back to why we were created, so that we may walk and fellowship with our Creator. The Creator of the Universe will dwell in your heart, and He promises us in His Word, that He will never leave us nor forsake us, and the good news of that is, that cannot lie, for God cannot lie (Hebrews 13:5). Listen to 2 Corinthians 6:16:

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Receive / John 1:12 / Rom 10:9

So you must Recognize, Repent, and Thirdly you must Receive Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). And the Bible says in Romans 10:8-11:

(Romans 10:8 NKJV) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

(Romans 10:9 NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10:10 NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Romans 10:11 NKJV) For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Not Intellectual Belief / Heart Belief / Profoundly Simple – Simple Profound

The "belief" spoken of here is not an intellectual belief, but a belief from the heart. If we do all these things then we will have peace with God. The Gospel is profoundly simple, we lay our hand upon the head of Jesus, He takes our guilt and shame, and we get new life, peace with God. Profoundly simple, yet simply profound, that the Holy God would love us so much, that He would be willing to leave His throne, take our sin, die the brutal death of the cross for us, and say "they are worth it".

Everlasting Gospel

This is the Everlasting Gospel

Prayer of Salvation

First Time Realization of Your Sin – Offense / Trading only Way / Laying Hand / Repent old Life of Sin – Start New / Profess Him – Ask Him into Heart

Maybe today for the first time you have come to the realization that your sin is offensive to the Holy God, and that you are separated from Him because of your sin. You recognize that trading places with Jesus is the only way for forgiveness of your sin, the laying of your hand upon Him to transfer all your guilt and shame to Him. You know and believe these things in your heart, you are willing to turn and repent from

the old life of sin, and start a new life walking with Jesus; you are ready to profess Him as your Lord and Savior, and ask Him to come into your heart and take up residence within you.

We will Pray with You / Not For You

We will pray with you, we will pray that prayer of faith as spoken of in Romans 10:9 with you. We cannot pray for you, for this is between you and the Lord. But we will pray with you.

I Imagine Your Mind – How Approach / Not what Say – But Heart Believe

I imagine your mind is thinking how do I approach Him, what do I say, He is God. It is not so much what you say, but what you believe:

(Romans 10:8 NKJV) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

(Romans 10:9 NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10:10 NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Romans 10:11 NKJV) For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Believe in Heart – Profession is Simple Prayer / Repeat Words to God / Bow Heads

It is what you believe in your heart. The profession part, it is a simple prayer. We will help you, we will pray with you, it is a simple prayer. I'll lead you, and you repeat the words to the Lord from your heart. Let's bow our heads and hearts right now before the Lord and pray.

The Prayer of Salvation

You pray, Father I thank you for revealing yourself to me today. I know that I am a sinner, and that my sin separates me from you. I thank you for sending your only Son Jesus to trade places with me, to die in my place, and rise again on the 3rd day. I repent of my sins, and I receive Him now as my Lord and Savior. Come now into my life, take up residence within me, make me a new creation, cleanse me from my sins and present me faultless before your throne. I pray these things in your Name, Amen.

Welcome to Family / Welcome into the Kingdom

If you have just prayed that prayer from your heart, welcome to the family, welcome into His Kingdom.

If you will Stand

Those of you who have just prayed this prayer, if you will stand to your feet we will pray for you. Jesus said:

(Matthew 10:32 NKJV) "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

(Matthew 10:33 NKJV) "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

We Acknowledge Your Profession

You stand and we will acknowledge your profession, and we will stand with you and beside you. We promise to walk with you, in the good times, and the not so good times. You stand.

Prayer for the Saved

Father we thank you for these loved ones, for the commitment they have made to You today. For revealing yourself to them as you have to us – another one for the Kingdom. Now I pray Lord, go before them, teach them daily about you and your wonderful ways, show them the things you have shown us, everyday let them see how Great and Awesome a Father you are to your children, and give them the strength to walk in your ways. Lord, may you put them on our hearts and minds to pray for them, to encourage them, and to help them grow in you. Lord that we would be there for them, and above all else Lord, the greatest gift of all, that we will enjoy your love together. We pray these things in your name – Amen.

A New Beginning

Now Made Commitment / Welcome / Start and Stay Strong / Greater is He

If you have prayed that prayer, have made that commitment to Christ and asked Him to come into your heart, welcome to the family of God, and let's make sure that you start your walk strong, and continue on

strong. You can be sure that the enemy (Satan) is not happy with this decision you made and will want to try to trip you up and make you question yourself. Rest assured, the Bible says in 1 John 4:4, *Greater is He who is in you, than He who is in the world.* I cannot tell you that life is going to be easy, and you will not have trials and temptations (for you will until God takes you home), but what I can guarantee you is that God will walk every step beside you in this life, and give you all you need to live a victorious Christian life.

Acts 2:42

Let me give you 5 steps to being strong in the Lord, and staying strong in the Lord. In Acts 2:42, as the young church grew (much like you are today), we see the pillars for spiritual growth:
(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Study of the Word (Apostles Doctrine):

The first thing they continued in was the apostles doctrine, that is the study of God's Word, the Bible. The Bible is one of the ways how God speaks to His children. The Bible is like spiritual food. Just as you clothe and feed your physical body, you must clothe and feed your spiritual body. Get yourself a Bible that is easy to read, and establish a regiment in life of reading it. Everyday that you read the Bible, the stronger and stronger you will become in the things of the Lord. The Bible is the compass that will guide you in all areas of your life.

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) 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.

(Psalms 119:11 NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

2. Fellowship:

Secondly we see in Acts 2:42 that they continued in fellowshiping. The Bible tells us we need to have fellowship one with another. The word fellowship simply means "sharing life", our new life in Christ. You might compare fellowship to a heap of burning coals. If you separate one piece of coal from the others, it will get cold and die. Find yourself a church that teaches the Bible. Visit churches until you feel a peace in your heart that this is where the Lord wants you to be. Find a church where you can serve the Lord, and where you can be encouraged to not give up when things get hard.

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Breaking of Bread (Communion):

Thirdly, the believers in the church broke bread together, this is what we call communion today. Communion is simply remembering what Jesus Christ did on the cross for you. When faced with things you do not understand (trials/tribulation), go back to what you do understand; God loves you so much that He endured the cross to purchase your life. Seeing Gods love in its true Light, will keep everything else in perspective. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

4. Prayer:

The last thing we saw them do in Acts 2;42, was pray. Prayer is talking and listening to God. The Lord loves to hear from us! You can pray anytime you want to – driving your car, on your knees, wherever and whenever. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) (1 John 1:9) (Luke 11:1-14). God wants to talk with you, He wants to hear from you, it is the very reason that He created you.

5. Witnessing:

Now I might add to this, as we saw what the early church did, they witnessed, they told others about Jesus. As a result of praying, reading your Bible, and having fellowship, which are all taking things in,

you'll want to start giving out. As you do, your relationship with the Lord will become more real, more sure, because you will continually be remembering His goodness and kindness towards you, how He pulled you from death to life, and how much He loves you. How do I witness you may ask, just tell them what He has done for you. God will take care of the rest.

Close

Lord Bless You in Your New Life / If no Decision – Quiet Place / Decision this side Eternity

Amen? Amen! May the Lord richly bless you as you walk with Him in this new life. If there is anything further you would like to discuss about the Lord, please don't hesitate to call or write to the church. If you have not made a decision today to follow Jesus, I pray that you will dwell on these things that have been spoken today, that you would get alone in a quiet place apart from all the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and ask God to speak to your heart about these things. A no decision, is the same as an answer no. The decision can only be made on this side of eternity, no second chances once you die. I pray that you will see the cross, the Holy God there upon it, and how much He loves you, that He would take your place, and that you will chose life today.

Pray:

Father, I thank you for this love letter that you have sent us, and the invitation to have fellowship with you. I thank you for sending Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ to take our place. Father I do pray for those that have made decisions to follow you today, that you will wrap them up in your arms of love, that they can hear the heartbeat of the God who loves them and cherishes them. Father I thank you for this new life you have given us. Please go before us today, bless and protect your people. In your name we pray – Amen. God Bless you.

The Harvest of the Earth

(Revelation 14:8-20)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now ½). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Sin must be Judged – His Holiness / Sin Destroys / God Continually Offers

What we have in this Tribulation Period (7 year period) is God's Wrath against a Christ rejecting sinful world. Sin must be judged. God would not be a Holy God (as we saw in the Everlasting Gospel – Revelation 14:6-7) if He would wink at sin, and ignore it. Nor would God be a loving God if He allowed sin to go unchecked, for sin destroys. The Tribulation is the time where God is judging sin, yet at the same time showing great grace, as He will continually offer man to have peace with Him

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

3 Specific Purposes – Shake – Wake - Make

As we study the Tribulation in chapters 6-19, we will see God doing 3 very specific things:

- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To Wake-up a Nation (Israel)
- To Make-up the Kingdom

Shake – Cruising / Keep Preaching

The purpose of the tribulation will be to shake-up the heathen. People are just cruising through life, thinking all is well, life is good, got my 2 cars, house, nice job, because I'm a nice person. They have no idea they are destined to hell because they have not sought a Savior for their sins. Christian keep preaching, keep sharing, keep telling them about the Rapture, because when you are gone, they will remember your words. When they enter into the Tribulation period after missing the Rapture, their life will be shaken, and they will see the need to be rescued. Part of the reason of the Tribulation is to shake-up the heathen:

Wake – God not Done with Israel / All Saved – God Protects in Tribulation

Secondly, part of the reason of the Tribulation is to Wake-up a nation, the children of Israel. God is by no means done with the nation of Israel, and we will read in the coming chapters how all of Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25-27). It will be during the Tribulation period that they will see that they missed their Messiah, and they will come to Him, and He will protect them (Rev 12:6).

Make-up Kingdom / Sort-Out

Thirdly, the purpose of the Tribulation is to make-up a Kingdom. God through the Tribulation will sort out those who love Him, and those who will not bow a knee, and then establish His Millennial Kingdom, then after that His heavenly Kingdom. Let me just add here, any Christian who says I really don't care about ruling and reigning with Him in the Millennial Kingdom, I just want to make it into heaven, you will care when that day comes, and you'll be sorry that you didn't invest now, for what we do in our lifetime on earth will determine what we do in the Millennial Kingdom.

Not Appointed to Wrath

Now, before God's wrath comes down upon a Christ rejecting world, He is going to take His own out of here. For God has not appointed His children to wrath, and mind you the Tribulation is God's wrath against a Christ world:

(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev 22 – Don't Add or Take Away / Point is to be Ready

Now the following passage may make some people uncomfortable, asking where are the funny feel good stories, I really didn't want to come hear something heavy on my Sunday morning. Revelation 22:19 says not to hold back or take away any portion of this word, judgment will come upon that person. Many churches are afraid to teach this Book because it will upset the people, exactly, that is the whole point to be READY.

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Jesus Spoke on Hell / Hell is Real

Jesus spoke more on hell than He did heaven, there is a reason for that, for hell is a real place, and men and woman will dwell there. This passage isn't fire and brimstone to you that can still hear, it is a call of love, God crying out to you, hear ye this, and escape what is to come.

(Revelation 14:1 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

(Revelation 14:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) 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 redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

144K Sealed – So are We / Downpayment

Just as these 144,000 were sealed by God, so too are we, Ephesians 1:13-14. Sealed, we are marked and singled out for Him, as His. The Greek word means a guarantee, a down payment that the Purchaser is coming to get His purchased possession. That is you and me.

(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

(Ephesians 1:14 NKJV) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Also Used – Engagement Ring / We are Bride

I also like the other way the word is used in the Greek, it means engagement, as a man is engaged to his love interest. The Lord has given us His engagement Ring, for we are the Bride of Christ. What a precious promise to us.

As Read Today's Verses / Not Subject to these Things – For in His House

Now as we read the following verses today we can take comfort that we will not be subject to the things that will come upon them who reject His offer of marriage, who reject His offer to move into His house and have a family together.

Tomorrow I Travel / Great Comfort – Have Our Home – Not on Street / Lock Door

Tomorrow I get on an airplane, leave my wife and son for one week. I take great comfort in knowing that my wife and child have my house to live in, that they will not be out on the street fending for themselves,

but will have a safe secure home to stay in; that they will be able to lock the door and turn on the security system.

Family is little Lamb – but Secure / So Too are We – Have the Ring

My wife is a little lamb, my son too, I would tremble at the thought of them out there alone in this cruel world, and I take comfort that they are secure in my home. So too are we who have received His wedding ring, for it is a cruel world out there as we will read in our passage today.

(Revelation 14:6 NKJV) 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;

(Revelation 14:7 NKJV) 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."

Made Everything – Evolution Debate Over

Verse 7 - "Worship the One who made everything you see," the angel will declare—putting a conclusive end to the evolution/creation debate. The theory of Evolution is one of Satan's greatest deceptions.

Angel Preaches Everlasting Gospel / Give You Opportunity / God present you Engagement Ring

The angel preaches the Everlasting Gospel. At the end of this study you will hear this Everlasting Gospel, and God will give you an opportunity to respond to it today, God is going to present an engagement ring to you, and ask you to marry Him. What will you say? The minute you say "I Do", the engagement ring immediately becomes a wedding ring.

(Revelation 14:8 NKJV) And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

2 Babylons / Angel declares both Powerless / World Sys of Self-Service / Playboys - Divas

Babylon has fallen - Two Babylons are spoken of in Revelation: religious Babylon and commercial Babylon—the false religious system and the oppressive economic system. The second angel declares both are powerless. We will take a more in-depth on this in chapters 17 and 18. But for study purposes today Babylon spoken of here represents the world system, a system of self-satisfaction, self gratification. In the context of this study it is as a playboy, or diva lifestyle, Not wanting to answer to anybody, but to only serve self, It is a person who rejects His engagement offer. How many playboys and divas die alone, all alone.

(Revelation 14:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 14:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 14:11 NKJV) "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."

3 Angels – 3 Warnings

We have 3 angels with 3 warnings:

- First angel (proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel) says to, "turn to God and receive life".
- Second angel (Proclaiming Babylon has Fallen) says, "there is nothing worth holding on to here on this Earth,
- Third angel, brings this warning to all, if you take this mark you will be lost forever.

What being Said – Cup of World – Cup of His Wrath / Bride will not Drink of It – Jesus took It

What is being said here is that if drink of the cup of this world, there is another cup waiting, the cup of His wrath. For those who received Jesus, accepted his marriage proposal, became His Bride, will not drink of

this cup for Jesus took the cup Himself so His Bride would not. For those who refused the engagement ring, rejected the proposal, who say I am not ready to settle down, and be tied down, will have to drink this cup, alone. How many playboys die alone.

Some Suggest Hell not Real / Angel Cry Passionately / Be an Angel

Those who suggest either that hell is not a literal place or that it won't last for eternity haven't read the Bible. In fact, Jesus taught more on the subject of hell than on the subject of heaven. That is why this angel cries with a loud voice, warning people to reject the mark of the Beast. There's lots of talk about angels these days as cute, cuddly creatures. But when you read this passage, you realize they are creatures who plead passionately, proclaim loudly, and preach vehemently because hell is real. It's not a game. I pray that you will be an angel. We do something nice, or just being a nice person, people say what an angel. I pray that you will be as these angels, with the same passion, proclaiming as loudly, hell is real.

Ish 20 / Assyrians Coming – not taken Serious / Isaiah was Educator – Eloquent / Walk Naked

I think of the twentieth chapter of Isaiah, where a most amazing thing happens. Although the Assyrians were headed in their direction, the people of Israel didn't take the threat seriously. Oh, come on, they thought. Certainly we won't be wiped out by the Assyrians. So God said to Isaiah—the eloquent orator, the educated, articulate prophet—“The stakes are high. But the people aren't listening. So I want you to take off your sandals, take off your clothes, and walk naked throughout this region for three years.”

People grown Calloused / Naked is what Assyrians

Now, whether this was three years continually or three years sporadically, Bible scholars disagree. But the fact remains that stately Isaiah did, in fact, obey. Why was he told to do this? Because the people had grown so calloused to the prophets' words, they weren't heeding the message. So God used this bold move to get their attention and to illustrate the fact that, as captives of the Assyrians, the Israelites would be led naked across the desert into captivity for that is how the Assyrians treated their captives.

(Isaiah 20:2 NKJV) at the same time the LORD spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go, and remove the sackcloth from your body, and take your sandals off your feet." And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

(Isaiah 20:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said, "Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia,

(Isaiah 20:4 NKJV) "so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Like Isaiah – we Live in Crucial Times / Our Friends going to Hell / Share Naked Truth

Like Isaiah, we, too, live in crucial times, gang. You have relatives. I have friends. We have co-workers who are going to hell because, like the Israelites, they have become calloused to the threat of hell. But the stakes are too high for us just to say, “Well, whatever.” No, we must share the naked truth with them—not baring our bodies, but baring our souls.

They will Laugh / How about Isaiah

“But they'll laugh at me,” you say. What do you think they did to Isaiah? Isaiah was eloquent, educated, respected; yet he would rather suffer humiliation to save his countrymen. That person in your life, is going to hell, for it is a literal place. If you don't care, then you need to check your heart. If you have no love for the lost, you need to take a deep look at your life. Christian when was the last time you tried to do something about it, when was the last time you shared the gospel. Get your eyes off yourself, and your problems, and look at the seriousness of hell.

Charlie Peace

Leonard Ravenhill tells of Charlie Peace, a convicted criminal sentenced to die by hanging. On his death-walk to the gallows, the prison chaplain glibly read him some Bible verses from a book called, “The Consolation of Religion.” Charlie was shocked that a minister who professed to believe in the Bible could so coldly and professionally read about hell without so much as a tear in his eye or a quiver in his voice. How can he believe that there is an eternal fire that never consumes its victims and yet be so unmoved? Charlie mused to himself. Finally, unable to hold his peace any longer, the convict snapped at the chaplain, “If I believed what you and the church of God say you believe, even if England were covered

with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees, and think it worthwhile living, just to save one soul from an eternal hell

There is a Time

There is a time when you have to speak. Don't buy the lie, I'll just be nice to them and my niceness will make them ask me about Jesus. You know what; there are a lot of nice people, just as nice as you, who do not know this truth of hell. Christian grab that person and say, "Friend, we have been friends for some time, you are precious and special to me, I have something important to share with you, can I share the good news of Jesus Christ with you. Write them a letter, give them one of our tapes, but don't wait any longer. You do it in love, and you can reach you did what the Lord called you to do.

Angels Preach Loudly / Share with Them / You'll Serve

Here in Revelation, the angels preach with a loud voice, "Don't take the mark. You'll be tormented forever." People are in tribulation even today. Share the everlasting gospel with them, and, like the angels, you'll soar in the heavenlies. I guarantee it! You will either evangelize or fossilize.

(Revelation 14:12 NKJV) Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

(Revelation 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

These are Saved after Rapture / Given to Comfort & Encourage them

These are those who get saved after the Rapture, and are enduring the Tribulation. This is a word of comfort and encouragement to them, yes you missed the Rapture, but continue to abide in Christ, hang on to Him, for your rest will come.

Verse 11 no Rest / Rest comes in Jesus / Suicide not Option

Notice verse 11 they have no rest speaking of those who took the mark, those who rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But notice the saints who receive His marriage proposal will find rest. Let me put this out there while I am here, suicide will not bring rest, only peace and rest will come through giving your life to Jesus Christ, If your are listening to this on the other side of the rapture, suicide is not the escape, only receiving His marriage proposal.

(Revelation 14:14 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:15 NKJV) 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 You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

(Revelation 14:16 NKJV) So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Like Son of Man

One like the Son of Man: speaking of Jesus. Jesus identifies Himself throughout the scriptures as the Son of Man. This is the last time it is used in the Bible:

Not Harvest of Saints – Harvest of those Rejected Him / Harvest of the World

This is not the harvest of saints into the Kingdom, but all those who have rejected His offer of salvation. The harvest spoken of here is the harvest of the whole world.

Matthew 13 for More Detail

Read Matthew 13 for more detail of this time. God will separate the wheat from the tares.

Long over Due / 2 Peter 3:9

The cry is a plea, this is long overdue, it is time. 2 Peter 3:9, the Lord wishes that none should perish but all seek repentance.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

Men Confuse God's Patience / Time will Come / Never know when He will Say - Enough

Men today confuse God's patience and grace as His acceptance and understanding. There will come a day when God says, enough, no more. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says today is the day. Regardless on what side of the Tribulation a person is on. You will never know individually when God says-Enough. He, who has an ear, let Him hear what the spirit says:

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 14:17 NKJV) Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

(Revelation 14:18 NKJV) 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 sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

(Revelation 14:19 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 14:20 NKJV) 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.

Harvest is Battle of Armageddon / 180 Miles of Blood

The harvest spoken of here is the description of the Battle of Armageddon, which we will study more about in Revelation 19. The battle initiates of evil against evil, a final battle for total world domination. But at this time Jesus will return and these two armies hatred for each other will be put aside for there common hatred for Jesus. But Jesus will crush them. The product of this wine press is blood, and the blood will flow 180 miles, 3 to 4 feet high. That is unimaginable.

Vine of Earth – True Vine / One Sucks Life – One gives Life

Verse 19 - The vine of the earth - The vine of the earth and all the by-products of that vine will be run through the winepress. On the other side there is a True Vine, and that is the vine we (who are believers – His Bride) are attached to. All we need to do is abide, just stay connected drawing our nutrition from the TRUE Vine. There is a vine of the earth and it is a pitiful vine, for everyone tapped into it are being suck dry by the vine, which rather than producing nutrients for its by-products, the vine sucks the life out of them in order to feed itself. These 2 vines, one that produces life, one that Jesus is the vine and He has a personal relationship with all that are attached to Him. The other vine, the vine of this world, produces no fruit, and must be destroyed.

(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(John 15:6 NKJV) "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

(John 15:7 NKJV) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

(John 15:8 NKJV) "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Continue to Abide

If you have made a commitment to Christ, abide, continue abiding in Him. I pray that you will seek to draw as close to the Vine as possible. Continue to abide Christian, don't let the vine of the earth cross over your branch and suck any life away. Before this trip I took the time to make sure my house is in order. Parents, are you making sure that your house is in order, the life you are drawing from Him are you imparting unto your children. Are you imparting life unto your spouse?

Culmination of Wrath of Lamb

This is the culmination of the wrath of the Lamb against a Christ rejecting world. But why you may

ask, why must He bring His wrath? Sin must be judged. God would not be a Holy God if He would wink at sin, and ignore it. Nor would God be a loving God if He allowed sin to go unchecked, for sin destroys.

Opportunity to Respond / News-Message / Before Trip Check News that affect Destination

After a passage of Scripture such as this, I would be amiss to not give you an opportunity to respond to His offer of Salvation. The Gospel means “Good News”, “Good Message”. Before my trip I check the news to see what is going on in the world. Before my trip I check to see if there were any messages, information out there that could affect me making it to my final destination. Can I ask you this, if you were to die today, would you be sure that you would go to heaven?

[Click Here for Link back to the: Everlasting Gospel](#) (to read the Gospel in its entirety)

Chapter 15

The Holiness of God

Chp 15 unfolds in Tribulation / Follow Rapture of Church / Divine Outline

Chapter 15 unfolds in the period of time known as the Tribulation—the seven-year period following the Rapture of the church. We know this because of the Divine outline that is given to us in chapter 1

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Chp 15 – Beginning of Final Pouring Out of Christ Rejecting /

In chapter 15, we see the culmination of God's wrath on the world that rejected His payment for their sin. We have already seen the 7 Seals and the 6 Trumpets, and things have not been good on the earth, for at the end of the 6th Trumpet, at that point half of the worlds population has perished.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Chp 15 - Vital for Understanding – God Unfair

In chapter 15, we see beginning of God pouring out His final wrath on the world that rejected His payment for their sin—and this chapter gives us an understanding vital to the events that follow, for it is only a clear understanding of Revelation 15 that keeps us from thinking God unfair in chapters 16 through 19.

Shortest – Brevity Specific / See a Broken Hearted God / No Pleasure in Death of Wicked

Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the Book of Revelation, but its brevity is specific. It is the build up to the culmination of God's wrath against a Christ-rejecting world, and we will see a broken-hearted God, for God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked:

(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

We Struggle with God's Wrath / Struggle Reconcile Love of Cross – to Book of Revelation

I think even as believers we struggle with this, God's wrath. Sometimes we struggle to reconcile with a God of love, the story of the cross, compared to things we read about here in Revelation. I doubt we will ever truly have this reconciled on this side of glory.

Also Struggle with Wicked Prosper / Allow Evil to Continue / Why Love Us – Look in Mirror

Of course, today we struggle with how could He allow the wicked to prosper, allow evil to hurt, but if we truly look deep in inside ourselves, why He would ever set His love upon us. We can fix the body up on the outside, but when we stand in front of the mirror we know what we wrestle with in our own hearts and minds, yet He would suffer the cross for us.

Depth of Holiness – Depth of Love / Offense - Forgiveness

Listen Christian, without touching the depths of His holiness, you will never touch on the depth of His love for you. Until you can see how holy (perfect and pure) He is, you will never see how offensive your sin was to Him. But when you see the offense of your sin, you'll see the depth of His love as you will be blown away that the Holy God, would leave His throne, to take on your sin those 6 hours that Friday on a hill in Palestine, for the forgiveness and washing away of our sin.

Not just End Times – Balance for Believer of His Righteousness / Grace can lead to Abuse

The book of Revelation isn't just about the End Times. It is a book for the believer to bring them to the balance that He is a God of love, and He also is a righteous and Holy God. As believers (and unbelievers) we dwell on His grace, celebrate His grace, and for many people it leads them to abuse His grace. We forget that He is a Holy God. The Book of Revelation brings that balance to us, possibly more so than any other book in the Bible.

Blessing / John on Patmos

So let's get into chapter 15 and receive our blessing, for this is the only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

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

(Revelation 15:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 15:2 NKJV) 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 mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 15:4 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 15:5 NKJV) After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

(Revelation 15:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 15:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 15:8 NKJV) The temple was filled with smoke from the 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.

Lets go to verse 1 and break this down, verse-by-verse:

(Revelation 15:1 NKJV) 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.

Completion of Wrath / Some use for Mid-Trib Theology / Read Chronologically / Not Appointed

These 7 bowls are the completion of God's wrath against a Christ rejecting, sinful world. Some use this verse for their mid-tribulation theology (which is God rapturing His Church in the middle of the 7 year Tribulation), but the wrath of God has been going on since the beginning of the tribulation as we have seen the 7 Seals and the 7 Trumpets in chapters 6-9, it is as simple as just reading this book in chronological order that these things are the wrath of God against a Christ rejecting world; and we know that God has not appointed His children to wrath:

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

(Revelation 15:2 NKJV) 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 mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

They Overcame / Blood – Testimony – Lives – the Mark – or Bow Down

Are there more than these people here (say like us)? Don't know and can't tell in the original language. This crowd is at least those who overcame the beast (Satan) during the Tribulation. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, their testimony, and did not love their lives to death. These are they who did not worship the Beast or take the mark of the Beast:

(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 14:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 14:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 14:11 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 14:12 NKJV) Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

(Revelation 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

The Victory over Beast – is Victory at Martyrdom / Same Victory Today – John 12:25

The victory over the Anti-Christ in this area is a victory at martyrdom, those who will not bow their knee to the Anti-Christ and his system. Jesus speaks the same word to us today:

(John 12:25 NKJV) "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

The Victors walk on Water / Seen as Losers on Earth – Walk on Water in Heaven

It is intriguing to me that those who lose their lives in the Tribulation because they choose to listen to the message of the Everlasting Gospel and believe God rather than take the mark of the Beast or bow before the image are seen not around, but on the sea of glass. In our text, these guys are walking on water. On earth they didn't. Having been persecuted and destroyed by Antichrist, on earth they would have been seen as losers. Not so in heaven. In heaven, they're water-walkers.

Must Factor in Heaven / Every Single Equation / If Not – Wrong Path

How so in our world today Christians are looked upon as losers, weak, a brunt of many jokes; but someday we will all walk on water. If you don't factor in heaven, none of biblical Christianity works. Without heaven, folks, you're going to go down the wrong path in your experience of spiritual life. You've got to factor heaven into every single equation.

Prayer in Book of Rev – Jesus in Control – It is all About Heaven

If you get nothing else out of the Book of Revelation, my prayer would be that you would first of all see Jesus Christ on the throne in control, and, secondly, that you'd understand it's all about heaven.

When Life is a Drag – Relations a Burden – Factor Heaven / Live life Backwards / World loses Grip

So when life seems to be a drag, relationships and work maybe a burden, wishing that you had more joy in your life; you have to factor heaven into all your equations of life. A key to life, is to live life backwards. When you put your life in perspective of heaven, the things of this world will pale in comparison, and they will lose their grip upon you, and you will see the power of the promise, WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN, we have that hope to look forward to. People living for the world, this is all they have, no wonder so many people are depressed. We as believers look forward to the day we will walk on water.

(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) 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!

(Revelation 15:4 NKJV) 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."

First Song Ex 15 – Last Song Rev 15 / Both Victory Songs

This is the last song in the Bible, first song is in Exodus 15 after they had crossed the Red Sea, and God swallowed up the Egyptian Army. Both are songs of victories, as here in Revelation 15 they are celebrating God deliverance through the world, into the Kingdom.

No Questioning of Why Allowed This / Book Unveiled Satan – Darkness of Human Heart

Notice there is no cry in this song of why are you doing this, why have you allowed this in my life, the things of the world (hurricane, disease, wars, holocaust); there is not one complaint or question. This book has unveiled how Satan is a destroyer, how he attacks Israel, goes after the church. This book brings to light the darkness of the human heart, who would love sin rather than repent.

Evidence Presented – No Questions Left – Time to Judge / People Standing are Witnesses - Jury

All the evidence has been presented. There are no questions left. It is time for God to send judgment. The people who are standing here singing this song are both eyewitnesses to the wickedness of the world, and they are the jury who say yes-just and true are Your ways O Lord.

Same at White Throne / We will Stand with Him – Just and True / God gave every Chance

As it is at this judgment, it will be the same at the white throne (final judgment-Ch 20). We will stand with Him and say, "Just and true. Yes, Lord, Your judgment is correct." Even if the person being judged is our spouse, our parent, our child, our friend, our favorite actor or sports star. When final judgment is passed we will say-Just and true, God you gave them every chance to repent, recognize and receive, but they refused. We as a church have started an outreach to send every home in Anne Arundel County a CD with the Gospel presented to them, also included is a tract, it may take 20 years but what it ever it takes. We pray many will receive Him as Lord and Savior, but for those that reject Him, throw the CD in the trash, we will stand with the Lord that day and say "just and true are your ways O Lord", you tried to reach out to them. Every man and woman in this world will only have themselves to blame, for God has done all that He can to give them the opportunity to receive Him, to take this "wedding ring" and become His bride and to come dwell and live with Him in heaven.

Compare to Revelation 4 / Both Proclaim His Holiness

Compare this song to the song in Chapter 4 of Revelation. Both are songs that dwell and proclaim His holiness. There is that which is God and that which is not God, that is why it says here that “you alone are Holy”. This whole book is about a Holy and Pure God:

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) 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!"

All Nations shall Come / Fulfill Zech 14

Verse 4 - For all nations shall come and worship before You - “All nations shall come and worship before thee,” sing the overcomers in Revelation 15, fulfilling Zechariah’s prophecy concerning the Millennial Kingdom:

(Zechariah 14:16 NKJV) And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Feast Celebrates God brought through Wilderness / Brought through the World

When the Lord comes back, the Feast of Tabernacles—the week-long celebration, wherein throughout history the Jews commemorated how God brought them through the 40 years of wilderness wandering—will be reinstated. Instead of commemorating how the Lord brought His people through the wilderness, however, it will celebrate how He brought His people through the world.

Everyone Invited – Not Everyone will Come

Everyone will be invited, but not everyone will come . . .

(Zechariah 14:17 NKJV) And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

Don’t Come – No rain / Experience Drought – Limited Fruit – Restricted harvest / Same Today

Those who don’t come will experience drought, limited fruit, restricted harvest. The Lord says the same thing to you and me today, “Come and dine. Worship Me.” And we say, “Well, I’m kind of busy.”

Don’t have to Come / But it gets Real Dry / God Into Corporate Worship / Heard it All

We don’t have to come, gang. But I’ll tell you this: When I don’t come, I get real dry because God is into corporate worship. Those of you who say, “But I’ve heard Revelation already,” or, “Why should I hear the Book of Acts being taught again? I studied it a year ago,” consider this....

Many Marriages have Love – Many Lack Passion / Passion comes with Continual dwelling Upon

There are many marriages that have love, and though they have love, many of them lack passion. Awake in the morning to there you are just as I expected you to be, come home from work and there you are just as I expected you to be. Love is there. But then there are those marriages that have passion. Passion means, compelling emotion, strong amorous feeling, strong sexual desire. Passion comes into a marriage when a person is thinking on the object of their love, a continual dwelling on them which then in turns leads their emotions to be aroused. Marriage with passion are the marriages that keep dating long after they are married. We can look to the Lord and say there you are, just as I expected you to be, I love you for that, but when we bring ourselves to a place of dwelling on Him, a continual thinking about the object of our love, our emotions are aroused, and a passion for Him begins to burn.

Saying Heard It Foolish / Never Know what Around Bend

Also, saying, “We don’t need to go to Bible study because we’ve heard that before and have been there already,” is really foolish because we don’t know what lies right around the bend....

King Asa / 2 Chron 14 / 10 Years Peace / Walls – 300k men of Judah – 200K Benjamin / Ethiopians

King Asa was wise. During the ten years of peace and prosperity under his reign, he built up the walls of his kingdom. He put bars on the gates. He raised up 300,000 men from Judah and gave them shields and spears. He raised up another 280,000 men of Benjamin and armed them as well. Why? Because knowing there would be a battle ahead, he used the time of peace and prosperity not to kick back, but to build up *(2 Chronicles 14:1 NKJV) So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.*

(2 Chronicles 14:2 NKJV) Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,

(2 Chronicles 14:3 NKJV) for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.

(2 Chronicles 14:4 NKJV) He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.
(2 Chronicles 14:5 NKJV) He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.
(2 Chronicles 14:6 NKJV) And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest.
(2 Chronicles 14:7 NKJV) Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.
(2 Chronicles 14:8 NKJV) And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.
(2 Chronicles 14:9 NKJV) Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.
(2 Chronicles 14:10 NKJV) So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.
(2 Chronicles 14:11 NKJV) And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"
(2 Chronicles 14:12 NKJV) So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.
(2 Chronicles 14:13 NKJV) And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.
(2 Chronicles 14:14 NKJV) Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.
(2 Chronicles 14:15 NKJV) They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

World Battlefield / Wise One Prepares / Prepared to be Preserved

This world isn't a playground, dear saints. It's a battlefield. And wise is the one who, over the weeks and months and decades, says, "I'm going to build the walls of my faith. I'm going to fortify the city. I'm going to get the shields and weapons ready because I know sooner or later there will come trials and difficulties through which the Enemy desires to make my faith collapse. I need to be forewarned that I might be forearmed, prepared that I may be preserved."

Army Training Manual / Train in Peace Time

I like what it says in the training manual at the Army Academy there at West Point, "the way you train in peace time, is the way you will fight in war time. Beloved take full of advantage of peace time. For whatever you have when war comes is what you will have to fight with, if your sword is dull you will fight with a dull sword. If your armor has rust on it, it will be open for the piercing of the enemy. If you are overweight and out of shape, that is what you will take into the battle with you. The way you train in peace time is the way you will fight in war time.

(Revelation 15:5 NKJV) After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

(Revelation 15:6 NKJV) 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.

Moses made a Copy of Temple

Moses only made a copy of this temple. That is why God said make it according to my direction.
(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;
(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

6 Plagues Mixed in 7 Bowls

The 6 plagues (as we will see in chapter 16) are mixed into each of the 7 bowls, so all we read previously will continue on with what is to come

God sends Surgical Team

God dispatches His surgical team to deal with the disease of sin. God hates sin for what it does to His creation. Sin must be dealt with. These vials-medicine to deal with this sin. This is strong medicine for a strong disease. Sin stinks, sin stings, God hates it, and doesn't take it lightly. He will send a surgical

team to deal with it in the tribulation, and I pray that He need not send a surgical team to deal with our sin personally, but rather we be a people that flee from it.

(Revelation 15:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 15:8 NKJV) The temple was filled with smoke from the 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.

God enters Temple Alone / Revelation 16:17 – It is Done

God entered the temple, and no one can enter it until the judgment is complete, which we will see in chapter 16. When it is over, the voice of God comes out of the temple. “It is done!”

(Revelation 16:17 NKJV) 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!"

When Bowls Poured – God Secludes Himself / No Pleasure in Death / Grieves it Came to This

When the bowls are being poured out, God secluded Himself in the temple. God takes no pleasure in destroying the wicked. I imagine He is there with a grieving heart that it has come to this. Man rejected His offer of love, peace, forgiveness. Man would rather war with Him, than make peace with Him. I doubt we will ever know what all happened in the temple at this time. So great was this pain to watch people refuse as the wrath that was poured out upon His Son as He would cry out, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?” Jesus wept over Jerusalem as He knew Titus would come and destroy it and that the blood would flow 3 feet high. So too does the Father weep here, as he wishes that none should perish but that all should seek repentance. This is the heart of God, a broken heart of God, this is the context we must remember when we read chapter 16 next study.

(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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 Balance

This is the balance of God’s love, and God’s Holiness. That is why chapter 15 is so vital to our understanding of the things we have read up to this point, and the things we will read in our next study.

Do You Know Him

If you don’t know Him personally, and I’m not talking religion, but a relationship, not because you go to church, but you know deep in your heart that if you died today you would be received by Him, because of what His Son did for you on the cross; if you do not know Him, today is the day!

Chapter 16

The 7 Bowls of the Wrath of God

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Sin must be Judged – His Holiness / Sin Destroys / Sin must be Judged – One way or Other

What we have in this Tribulation Period (7 year period) is God's Wrath against a Christ rejecting sinful world. Sin must be judged. God would not be a Holy God (as we saw in the Everlasting Gospel – Revelation 14:6-7) if He would wink at sin, and ignore it. Nor would God be a loving God if He allowed sin to go unchecked, for sin destroys. Sin must be dealt with, one way or the other; either judged there upon the cross, or for those who reject His offer, here in the Tribulation.

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) 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!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

God has Withdrawn / No Pleasure in Death of Wicked / That it has Come to This

As we saw in the last study, God has withdrawn Himself into the temple to brood with a broken heart that it has come to this. No one can enter the temple until it the seven bowls have been poured out, for as we had studied last week, God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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 7th Trumpet / 7 Bowls of Wrath

- Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores
- Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood
- Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood
- Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth
- Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth
- Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up
- Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores

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

(Revelation 16:2 NKJV) 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.

Loathsome Sores – Running / Plague 6 in Exodus

Loathsome sore, means it is a running sore. We saw this same plague as we studied in Exodus 9:8-12,

as this was the 6th plague the Lord leveled upon Egypt. We will see many parallels of the Bowls in revelation and the Plagues in Exodus.

Angles Proclaimed / 144K / Most will not Heed

“Don’t take the mark of the Beast!” the angels will cry as they fly across the sky. “Don’t take his number,” the 144,000 sealed Jewish believers will be telling others no doubt. But most will not heed the message. And their refusal to do so will bring about its own pain.

Strong Medicine – Those who took Mark / Mark seemed so Logical / Same today – World’s Logic

The first bowl of strong medicine poured out upon the earth results in “grievous sores” upon those who take the mark of the Beast. Initially, taking the mark of the Beast would seem to be so logical, so technologically sophisticated, so wise. I mean, why deal with credit cars that can be stolen, checks that can be forged, or cash that can be lost when you can enter into a brand-new economic order where you can buy and sell with simply a number? Same today, there are things of this world that seem so logical, yet they fly in the face of the Word of God, and at some point, those things will bring sores into our life.

The Way with Sin / God not Pushing – it is Our Sin - Backsliding

That’s always the way it is with sin. “The reason you have so many problems and pains and difficulties is because of your own sin. It’s not Me punishing you,” says God. “It’s the result of your own backsliding” (*Jeremiah 2:19 NKJV*) *Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you,” Says the Lord GOD of hosts.*

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood

(Revelation 16:3 NKJV) 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.

Clear Greek Structure / Blood is Blood / 1st Plague in Exodus

The Greek structure is clear, the water becomes blood, not becomes like blood. We have seen this when Moses turned the Nile to blood as parts of God’s plague upon Egypt. That was plague #1, (see Exodus 7:14:25).

Some think it is Red Tide / But seen it in Exodus

Some think this an abnormal multiplication of plankton causes not only a depletion of the oxygen supply in the surrounding water, but ushers in a phenomenon known as “red tide”—wherein the phosphorous in the plankton causes the water to turn red as blood. I believe it is actual blood, because the structure of the sentence and because we have seen this before, back in Egypt some 3500 years ago.

Blood kill Plankton / 20% / Billions Dead Sea Creatures

The blood will kill the plankton in the sea which lowers the oxygen content in the air and men will be gasping for air (and they already are struggling for air because of all 1/3 of the trees being destroyed – Trumpet 1). Now 20% of our oxygen we breathe is produced by the plankton in the sea. The blood will also kill all the sea creatures, resulting in more famine upon the Earth. Imagine billion of dead sea creatures washing ashore, imagine that stench upon the earth.

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood

(Revelation 16:4 NKJV) Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Fresh water / 2 Witnesses – 3rd Trumpet / Only water left is Polar ice – Bottled Water

Fresh water was already in short supply because of the prolonged drought of the 2 Witnesses (Rev 11:6), and the 3rd Trumpet (Rev 8:10), now all the fresh water is turned to blood, so take all the above and make it global. The only drinking water left on the planet will be what has been bottled or stored in the water towers. Man will be heading to the Polar regions to get snow and ice to melt for drinking water, but that won’t last either as we will see shortly.

Water to Wash Sores

Consider also, there will be no fresh water to clean and seek relief from the sores upon the body.

(Revelation 16:5 NKJV) And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

(Revelation 16:6 NKJV) For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."

Interlude – God is Just / Dispensation of Grace is Over / Eye-for Eye / Blood-for-Blood

Verses sand 6 are an interlude to remind all, God is just and fair and passing out this judgment and wrath. The dispensation of grace is over in Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said it is not an eye for an eye, but Jesus said to turn the other cheek. But here in Revelation 16:6, it is blood for blood. Those that have shed the blood of the Saints, will now have blood to drink. The dispensation of grace is over.

(Matthew 5:38 NKJV) "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

(Matthew 5:39 NKJV) "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

(Matthew 5:40 NKJV) "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

(Matthew 5:41 NKJV) "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

(Revelation 16:7 NKJV) And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

God is Just and Fair / Take Comfort in the Death of Child

Last week we talked about this. God is just and fair. Can I just make a side note here, knowing that He is just and fair, righteous in all His ways, I take great comfort in things that I see around me daily here on earth. I know that when babies are aborted (40 million to date just in the USA) God is just and true, when a child of 3 dies of cancer that God is Just and True, and that He will not judge them on what they didn't know, that He will not judge them that they never made a public profession of Him, but that He will receive them because He is Just and True.

God is Just – Spoken from Heaven / More time in Heaven – Less Time Questioning

These statements we read about Him be Just and True, we have read repeatedly that they come from the heavenlies, from there around the throne. Listen Christian, the more time you spend in the heavenlies, the less you will question why God is doing what He is doing in this world, and in your life. The more

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth

(Revelation 16:8 NKJV) Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

(Revelation 16:9 NKJV) 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.

Polar Ice Melts – Drinking Water / Raise Sea Level 200 Feet – Major Floods – Cities Destroyed

The scorching sun will melt the polar icecaps into the blood ocean, so there goes the rest of the drinking water source – now man totally left to what they were able to bottle. Scientist have estimated that if the polar ice all melted that would raise the sea level 200 feet, which in turn would wipe out many coastline cites such as New Orleans, Florida, California, even here in Maryland on the Chesapeake. Imagine 200 feet rise in New York City.

Light and Warmth – Deadly Killer / Turned back on SON – Burned by SUN

The Sun that normally provides light, warmth, and energy will become a deadly killer. Because men turned their backs on the Son (S-O-N), they will experience the burning of the sun (S-U-N).

Message of Gospel is Love / Depth of Holiness – depth of Love / God not using Fear

The message of the gospel is a message of love, not fear. Jesus never tried or tries to bring someone into a personnel relationship with Him based on fear, but He draws people with love. The depth of that love cannot be see apart from His Holiness, that He is a perfect and pure God.

Can't Imagine more Fearful Time – Yet Refuse to Repent / Give me a Sign

I can't imagine a more fearful time on earth, yet men still refuses to repent. People say give me a sign and I'll believe, no they wont, we see it here. What more of a sign do you need. Jesus said the only sign I'll give you is 3 days and 3 nights the son of Man will spend in the tomb after being crucified, but will rise again. There is nothing more to say, for the cross says it at The message of love to the world has been spoken loud and clear, not just with words but with actions, and that action was filled with passion.

(Matthew 12:38 NKJV) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

(Matthew 12:39 NKJV) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah."

(Matthew 12:40 NKJV) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

(Matthew 12:41 NKJV) "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here."

Every time I share / Not scaring into Heaven – Crying to Escape hell

Every time I share the gospel I am dumbfounded that a person doesn't jump at His offer of love and marriage. God isn't trying to scare people into heaven, but in love crying out for them to escape hell.

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth

(Revelation 16:10 NKJV) Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

(Revelation 16:11 NKJV) They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Seat of Anti-Christ Gov't is Babylon / Tower of Babel / Tongues Affected Again / Curse God

The seat of Antichrist's government is Babylon—the city constructed on the same site as the tower of Babel. "We don't need God. We'll build a tower, study the stars, and let our horoscopes run our lives," declared Nimrod and his fellow inhabitants of Babel. At the tower of Babel, men's tongues were affected in that they no longer spoke the same language. In the city of Babylon, men's tongues will again be affected when they are gnawed as a result of pain. Even though they can barely speak due to the pain that overwhelms them, men still find it in their hearts to blaspheme God.

Exodus 10 – Plague 9 / Josephus – Hard to Breath

We saw this plague in Exodus 10:21-29, plague number 9. The Jewish Historian Josephus said of that darkness that it was so dark, it was hard to breath. Don't know how long this darkness will last, but we do see that it will be painful. Interesting that darkness could be painful, but it will, and men will only pause from gnawing on their tongue long enough to curse God.

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up

(Revelation 16:12 NKJV) 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.

Talk more of this in Rev 19

We will talk more about this in Revelation 19. We will cover the whole Battle of Armageddon in one study; of what is happenings, what brought the events together, and what is Satan's purpose, and what is God's purpose.

Today's Study / Melt Snow on Mount Ararat – Expose Noah's Ark

For our purposes of today's study, to dry up the Euphrates River would mean you would have to stop up the source. The source is the snow glaciers of Mount Ararat so the Sun will scorch and melt the glacier until there is no more snow to melt. What makes that so interesting to me is that when the snow is melted upon 'Ararat, then Noah's Ark will be exposed, a testimony of the last time God judged the earth, and yet men still wont repent and give God glory. Give me a sign God and I'll believe, no you wont, 3 days and 3 nights, that is the only sign you need.

(Revelation 16:13 NKJV) 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.

Satan's Counterfeit Trinity

This is Satan's counterfeit of the Trinity. His is an unholy trinity; Satan, the Anti-Christi and the False prophet.

(Revelation 16:14 NKJV) For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Kings are Pawns

These kings will be pawns of Satan, and be energized to come to this place for the final battle. The Kings of the East will come with 200,000 million men just in their army alone.

(Revelation 16:15 NKJV) "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."

Written to Us – John's Congregation / We are to be Watchful – Lest you Walk Naked

This verse was written for the reader of that day, John on the Island of Patmos, the saints who were going through tribulation of their own at the time of this writing (the Apostle John's congregation), it is written to us today. It is not written to the people we are reading about for these people for they have already rejected the Lord. It is written to us to persevere, to be watchful. Be watchful and keep your garments, lest you walk naked. In the time of this writing military soldiers were to watch and be alert while on duty. If they were watching a prisoner and the prisoner escaped the whole unit would be killed. So what they would do if a fellow soldier fell asleep, they would light his robe on fire, that will get your attention. The soldiers would walk in shame, partially naked, and all would know you failed on your calling, your duty. The Lord speaks to all of us today, do not let your garments be burned, don not be put to shame, be watchful and faithful to your calling.

(Revelation 16:16 NKJV) And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

60 Miles North / Napoleon

This is the place of the final battle, which really is a war. This valley of Megiddo where this final battle will be fought is 60 north of Jerusalem. When Napoleon stood overlooking this valley he said it was the greatest battlefield he had ever saw, and wished he could wage war there. Hundreds of million of men will come to war here, and the blood will flow 180 miles, 3 to 4 feet high. That is unimaginable *(Revelation 14:20 NKJV) 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.*

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake

(Revelation 16:17 NKJV) 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!"

This is Voice of God

The voice is the voice of God, for He is the only one in the Temple.

(Revelation 16:18 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 16:19 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 16:20 NKJV) Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Whole Earth Shake

Isaiah says the whole earth shall wobble, not just a localized earthquake:

*(Isaiah 24:19 NKJV) The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly.
(Isaiah 24:20 NKJV) The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.
(Isaiah 24:21 NKJV) It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth.
(Isaiah 24:22 NKJV) They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished.
(Isaiah 24:23 NKJV) Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.*

All the Great Cities Fall

All the cities fell, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Tokyo, London, Moscow, all the great cities shall fall.

(Revelation 16:21 NKJV) 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.

Storehouse of Hail

In Job-God says have you seen the storehouses of snow and hail that I have reserved for the last days.
*(Job 38:22 NKJV) "Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,
(Job 38:23 NKJV) Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?"*

Penalty for Blaspheming the Lord - Stoning

The penalty for blaspheming God was death by stoning. The Valley of Meggido will have 180 miles of soldiers packed side-by-side, and then this hail will come, there will be no place to Run, no place to hide. The scene will be horrific;
(Leviticus 24:16 NKJV) 'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death.

Talent in Hebrew & Greek

A talent in the Hebrew weighs 114 pound, and a Greek talent weighs 96 pound. If you get hit with one, it really won't matter whether it is Greek or Hebrew talent.

Scene on Earth – In Heaven

I do have good news today. While this horrific scene is going on down here on earth, there is another scene going on in heaven, and it is a marriage supper, it is for all those that have overcome:
(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

They Overcame

And how did they overcome, through the blood of the Lamb:
(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "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.

White as Snow / Freedom Death Can't Touch / The Stone has Been Rolled Away

Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow, no other fount I know, nothing but the Blood of Jesus. We have been freed, inside and out, a freedom that not even death could take away. The stone has been rolled away, He is not there, for He has risen. So too He would say to us today, the stone has been rolled away, go live, enjoy your freedom, enjoy your forgiveness. I pray today that you enjoy the greatest love story ever told, it is a love story about you, and the God who loves you so much that He can't stop thinking about, from before the foundations of the world, every pound of the nail through His body there upon the cross, and today every nail He pounds as He prepares a place for you in heaven, thinking of you, ah someday my Bride will be here, I can't wait.

Revelation 16:17

It is Done – Operation Andrew: (16:17)

(Revelation 16:17 NKJV) 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!"

Will Hear Again / Heard Before

It is Done - We will hear these words again "It is Done!", in chapter 21, and we have heard them before (John 19) when Jesus breathed His last there upon the cross, "It is Finished". The context of Revelation 16:17 was the culmination of God's wrath (the 7 Bowls) during the Tribulation Period. Revelation 21 is in the context of immediately following the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20) which is sentencing of those not written in the Book of Life to the Lake of Fire. And John 19, It is Finished, was in the context that there is a way of escaping the Revelation 16 and Revelation 21 judgment and wrath, and that is by allowing Jesus to take your place:

(Revelation 21:5 NKJV) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

(Revelation 21:6 NKJV) And He said to me, "It is done! 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."

(John 19:30 NKJV) So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Blessing / John on Patmos / Big Picture – Ignite Fire to do Something

Revelation is the only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it, because it gives us a clear picture of what is going to happen in the last days, and also, the judgment that awaits for those who have not received Him as Savior from their sin and the judgment to come. That is a blessing for us because this book should ignite a fire in our heart to do something about those who are perishing in their sin:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready / Get others Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, we who are saved know these things to be true, we believe and we know that we have eternal life. And now he writes Revelation so that not only we might be ready, but that we can have other ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).

- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Things not Good / Half World / Death Toll Unimaginable

The things we are seeing in this Tribulation Period are not good. At the end of the 6th seal we saw that over half the earth's population has perished, and things got tremendously worse the 7 bowls were poured out, the death toll is unimaginable.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets & Bowls

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores (16:2)

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood (16:3)

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood (16:4)

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9)

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth (16:10-11)

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up (16:12-16)

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake (16:17-21)

Continually Spoken about Need to Save Others / This Study – How To / Practical - Applicable

We have continually talked about our need to reach out to the lost to do all that we can to pull them out of the fire of this judgment to come. In this message today we will be very practical, very applicable, very specific on how to do this, of how the Lord may use us to snatch people from judgment to come, and that is Operation Andrew that we will be speaking of in this study.

(Jude 1:20 NKJV) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

(Jude 1:21 NKJV) keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

(Jude 1:22 NKJV) And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

(Jude 1:23 NKJV) but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Take 1 Minute to think of Lost

Today we are going to have a baptism, we are going to celebrate the gift of new life. I ask that for the next minute, in silence, you think of people in your life, immediate circle of life who you wish would be getting baptized. I ask that you think of 10 people, maybe 20 people, that if life goes unchanged they will experience Revelation 16, and Revelation 20, the bowls of wrath and the White Throne Judgment.

Schindler's List – Exhausted Life's Wealth

At the very end of the movie, Oscar Schindler and his wife prepare to flee the war factory which he used to harbor Jews who would otherwise be sent to death camps. Schindler is a true story of a man during WW2 that exhausted all his wealth to payoff Nazi Politicians to not take the Jews that he knew off to the concentration camp and die with the other 6 million Jews that were killed.

Show Video Clip

In a very powerful moment, he confesses to his Jewish clerk, Itzhak Stern (Ben Kingsley) that he, Schindler, could have saved more Jews. Itzhak reads the inscription on the ring that was given to him by some of the Jews he saved: "It's Hebrew, it's from the Talmud. It says, 'Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire.'" Oskar begins to cry saying "I could have gotten more. This car would have bought 10 more, this gold pin would have brought 2 more, at least 1. I could have gotten more and I didn't!"

I Pray you do Not Look Back and Wish

I pray my brother and sister in Christ, that you don't look back on life, and wish that you would have done more to save that person, that loved one, from the wrath that is to come. That the trivial pursuits of life, our pride and self-interests, will one day have us looking back in regret of all the opportunities lost.

Today You may Become Uncomfortable – Good

I know today, there will be some of you that will become very uncomfortable, because you are going to be asked to leave your comfort zone, make a sacrifice, and actually have to get involved. This may make you very uncomfortable.....good, I hope and pray that it does. I hope this word today pierces you, that you can not rest until you take action.

We always Think we Still have Time / There is no More Time

We so often say, later, tomorrow, or after I'm out of school, after the kids are out of school, after this push at work is over, after I learn more Scripture, after I get all prayed up. Precious people, there is no more time, we can't hope that those words "It is Done" are years away, we must live as if those words may be tomorrow, and all that we have is today. There is no more time, "It is Now".

Operation Andrew / Approach – Not Method / 80% / It is Simply Praying

Operation Andrew is a very effective and practical approach towards doing something about the lost in our life. It is not a method, it is an approach, for people are God's method's. Operation Andrew is what Billy Graham says is the very heart of all his Crusades, in fact they say that 80% of the decisions for Christ at the Crusade are a direct result of Operation Andrew. Operation Andrew is simply about praying daily for unsaved friends and family.

Praying Gives me the Mind of Christ / God Brooding – Rev 15 / Puts us into Action

What Operation Andrew does is put the Holy Spirit into action in that persons life, and after praying for them daily, it will put the Holy Spirit into action in us, to get us into action for that person. If I can sum up in another way of what Operation Andrew does in you, in me, it gives us the mind of Christ, it makes us be and act like our Savior, it breaks our hearts of the things that breaks God's heart, and that is that he wishes none should perish but that all should seek repentance. May I refer you back to God brooding in the Temple alone, brokenhearted that it has come to this (Rev 15). It takes us to a place where we can no longer, not think about the lost, not realize they are perishing, we take on the mind of Christ, and we can no longer sit by, we must get into action:

(Philippians 2:3 NKJV) Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

(Philippians 2:4 NKJV) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

(Philippians 2:5 NKJV) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Talk more How it Affects the Person we Pray For

I will talk more about what our prayer does in the person who isn't saved at the end of this message.

First Talk of Andrew / Just Ordinary Man

Before we talk about Operation Andrew, I first want to talk about Andrew the person, one of the 12 Apostles. I think we look at the Apostles as mountain of men, people we could only read about, but never become, but a close look at his life will reveal that he was just an ordinary man. His walk was simple, and his witness equally as simple.

Not Words – Just Point / No need to be Billy Grahams / Stay close – it just Happens

We will see from Andrews life that it's not our words, or gifted tongue that brings people to the Lord, but Andrew gives us a great example of just being a pointer. We don't have to be bold evangelist, Andrew wasn't. But Andrew shows us that if we stay close to Jesus, Evangelism and mighty things just happen

Mentioned 13 Times / Disciple of John Baptist / Led Brother Peter to Jesus

Andrew is mentioned only 13 times in 12 verses. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who became one of Jesus' first disciples and led his brother Simon to Jesus. Because of John the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, Andrew followed Jesus to His overnight lodging and became one of His first disciples. He figures prominently in several early extra-biblical church traditions. He is believed to have been killed on an x-shaped cross.

5 Examples

5 Examples we can learn from Andrews life.

1. Called to follow Jesus and he Did
2. At Jesus side to see His Power and Receive His Power
3. Brought Friends and Family to Jesus.
4. Brought the Undesirable, or the Unpopular to Jesus
5. Brought people to Jesus even when he wasn't Sure.

1. Called to follow Jesus and he Did

*(Matthew 4:18 NKJV) And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and **Andrew** his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.*

(Matthew 4:19 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

We have to follow before anything else can happen. Are you sure you have done that?

2. At Jesus side to see His Power and Receive His Power

STUDENT OF CHRIST

A good bible student is asking Lord, what does this mean to me, how do I apply it my life:

*(Mark 13:3 NKJV) Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and **Andrew** asked Him privately,*

(Mark 13:4 NKJV) "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?"

(Mark 13:5 NKJV) And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

SAW JESUS' POWER

Andrew hung out where the Lord was, and because of where he hung out, he saw Jesus do great things. So too will it be in our life. The more you see God work, the more you will grow, the great excitement you will have in your life:

*(Mark 1:29 NKJV) Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and **Andrew**, with James and John.*

(Mark 1:30 NKJV) But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once.

(Mark 1:31 NKJV) So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

(Mark 1:32 NKJV) At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed.

(Mark 1:33 NKJV) And the whole city was gathered together at the door.

(Mark 1:34 NKJV) Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

RECEIVED POWER FROM JESUS

Listen gang, the day you said "I do" to Jesus is the very same day you were ordained into the ministry.

God has a call upon every believers life. You will need His power to fulfill that calling:

(Mark 3:14 NKJV) Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,

(Mark 3:15 NKJV) and to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:

(Mark 3:16 NKJV) Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter;

(Mark 3:17 NKJV) James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder";

*(Mark 3:18 NKJV) **Andrew**, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite;*

AT JESUS' SIDE THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is communion with God, our Creator. Andrew was there to hear the promise of the Holy Spirit to the believer, and then he and the others waited for it as they tarried in prayer there in the upper room; *(Acts 1:8 NKJV) "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

(Acts 1:12 NKJV) Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. (Acts 1:13 NKJV) And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.

(Acts 1:14 NKJV) These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

(Acts 2:1 NKJV) When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

(Acts 2:2 NKJV) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

(Acts 2:3 NKJV) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

(Acts 2:4 NKJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Received Power by Being with Jesus

In all we have seen, Andrew received power simply by being where Jesus was. Do you want to be filled with the Spirit, have power from High, then take Andrews example. Be in the Word, for Jesus is the Word. Be in prayer for when we pray the Spirit is interceding. Baptism means "immersion", if you want to be immersed in the Spirit, immersed in Christ, immersed with the Father, it is really easy, immerse yourself in the reading of the Word, and spend time in communion talking with your Creator.

3. Brought Friends and Family to Jesus.

This is something we see in the Life of Andrew, he was always just bringing people to Jesus, here he brings his brother.

(John 1:40 NKJV) One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

(John 1:41 NKJV) He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

(John 1:42 NKJV) And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

97% Said would Come

When a person who does not attend church was asked if they would go to church if asked by a friend, 97% said they would. It is that simple, we put a barrier up saying people don't care, but look at this statistic.

When say No / Keep Being an Andrew – Point to Jesus / Some Plant some Water

I've shared with a lot of people, but not many have come to the Lord, but I just keep doing what Andrew does, I point them to Jesus and let Him do His stuff.

(1 Corinthians 3:6 NKJV) I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

(1 Corinthians 3:7 NKJV) So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

(1 Corinthians 3:8 NKJV) Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

(1 Corinthians 3:9 NKJV) For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

Use to get Uptight / Problem – Put Self in Equation / Jhn 6:44 / Lord make Opportunity

I use to get so uptight about how I was going to tell some one about Jesus; Problem #1 I put myself in the equation. John 6:44 is a memory verse for every evangelist, it is freeing and liberating. We say Lord make the opportunity and then work through us, again no pressure. We can bring people to Jesus through prayer.

(John 6:44 NKJV) "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

4. Brought the Undesirable, or the Unpopular to Jesus

Here again we see the life of Andrew, bringing people to Jesus. But this time it is important to see who he brings, he brings some Greek men:

(John 12:20 NKJV) Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast.

(John 12:21 NKJV) Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

*(John 12:22 NKJV) Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn **Andrew and Philip told Jesus.***

(John 12:23 NKJV) But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.

Greeks not Friends of Jews /

The Greeks were not buddies with the Jews, the Jews thought they were just fuel for the fires of Hell. Jesus dispels that mindset they had by showing them that God's love is for everyone.

No One is Beyond Saving – No Matter what you Think / You have Wrongly Convinced Self

No one is beyond saving, no matter what your preconceived ideas may be. Ohh they are too wretched, oh they will never come to church or the festival, they are too deep in their sin. God says bring them! There are those sitting here right now, today, and you have convinced yourself that God will not save that certain person, you have convinced yourself that they would never come to the Crusade or come to Church; I tell you that you have bought the lie of Satan, and God is telling you, look at the life of Andrew. God doesn't care about your preconceived ideas, the people you think are lost, He says bring them to me.

5. Brought people to Jesus even when he wasn't Sure.

Once again, Andrew bringing someone to Christ, and he had no idea what for:

*(John 6:8 NKJV) One of His disciples, **Andrew**, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,*

(John 6:9 NKJV) "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

Bring them See what God may Do / Talents – Car, Music, Elderly

Andrew brought somebody to Jesus even when he wasn't sure what Jesus would do with Him. Some people have talents but don't know what to do with them, we can take them to Jesus in prayer, take them to the Lord through His Word, or bring them to the Pastor and see what the Lord might do. We can bring people to Jesus even when we not sure why, they may musical talent to bless the church, or can work in the nursery, help fix someone's car, help the elderly, can share a suffering with someone who is suffering, etc.

Harvest is Plentiful / Recruit some Workers

The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. People get other people involved in serving the Lord, in Evangelism, get them turned on to Operation Andrew themselves:

(Matthew 9:36 NKJV) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

(Matthew 9:37 NKJV) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

(Matthew 9:38 NKJV) "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Closing

Quote

I love the quote:

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I should do and, with the help of God, I will do!

Andrew Met Jesus – Began Life of Bringing Others – Pray you become Andrew

Andrew met Jesus, and then began a life of bringing people to Jesus, I hope you become an Andrew.

How

How, take out your Operation Andrew Cards. Here are the approach of Operation Andrew:

Look Around -- your mission field is right where you live, work, or go to school. List names of individuals you know who need Jesus Christ, whom you will pray for regularly.

Look Up -- because God changes people through prayer. Pray each day for those on your list that God will give you opportunities to share his love with them.

Free Will / Pray of a Hedge

- Listen, don't throw the "Lord save them" prayer. God cannot violate their free-will, but He so much desires to see them come to Him. We pray in intercession for them. Pray Father put a hedge around them and keep the Evil One from his distracting thoughts. Lord that you at this time show Johnny the emptiness and vanity of life. Lord at this very moment, let him recognize the void in his life, Lord that you would show him his sin, his offense before you, and his need for a Savior.

Look Out -- for ways to cultivate friendships with each person on your list and earn their confidence. Spend time with them. An invitation to dinner or a special event will build friendships which can open the way to talk about Christ.

Don't Know Much / Know God will Move You to Action

- I don't know much on how this prayer thing works concerning the other person, free-will, God's sovereignty, but I do know how it works for me and you. It is impossible to pray for someone day and day out, and not be moved into action. Pray for someone who is perishing to hell, everyday, and God will break your heart for them, He will soften your heart for them, He will give you compassion for them, and you will be begging for opportunities to spend time with them, and impart God love unto them.

Don't Know what to Say / CLWC / They Rest – We Work / Weigh in Light of Schlinder

- Maybe you feel that when the time comes you won't know what to say, then good news again, the Christian Life and Witness Classes are in our backyard and they will prepare you. I must ask you, what is it that you do on Monday's or Thursdays, and only at that, what could be more important. Do you need rest, we'll get plenty rest in heaven, but those who are perishing, they are resting now and then will come the day when they will have no rest, where the fire is not quenched and the worm dies not! As they rest, we must work, we both can't rest. I ask you to reflect back on the video clip, and weigh it in the balance on what you do on Mondays or Thursdays now, and what those 5 Mondays or Thursdays at the CLWC may do in your life and your unsaved friends life.

Look Forward -- by beginning to talk with each person on your list about attending the Festival with you. Choose a specific date, pray and invite them.

Look After -- those who respond to Christ during the Festival or begin to show interest in the Gospel, for they need your encouragement. Continue to love and pray for those who do not respond.

Will Cost You / Have to Sacrifice

Praying daily will cost you, it will be a sacrifice, as it unfolds it will cost you to move from your comfort zone. You may have to turn it off, put it down, but need I remind you, there is no time left, those words were true on Calvary, "It is Finished", and as sure as those words were, it is as sure of these words to come, "It is Done".

Operation Andrew Card

Today I am going to ask you to make a commitment, and that is to give yourself to these next 3 months, and fully engage yourself to praying for specific people who are lost and perishing. Lets see what the Lord may want to do. Also, you may want to put on their someone that needs to rededicate their life to the Lord, they once walked with the Lord and have drifted far away, it is time for them to come back home. Pray that you will have the opportunity to share Christ with them, pray that they will go to the Crusade in July, pray that they will go visit a church.

Your Cards

You have been given 2 cards. Right now I would like you to think of 1, 5, 10, people that you will commit to praying for, and write them on your card (which you will keep with you). Then on the second card write just the first names of those people, or better just write an initial, of either their first name, or last name, or the 3rd letter of their first name, something like that. Because we will take that card, and nail it to our wall, and for the next 3 months someone in this church will continually be praying for your card, we will have times of corporate prayer praying over those cards, at our men's and woman's study we will pray over them. But mostly, every Wednesday, and every Sunday, when you walk in this church you will be reminded of the commitment you made before the Lord, and to them, to pray.

Chapter 17

The Woman Rides the Beast (Mystery Babylon): (17:1-18)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores (16:2)

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood (16:3)

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood (16:4)

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9)

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth (16:10-11)

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up (16:12-16)

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake (16:17-21)

Not a Religious Person / Religion Binds – Jesus sets Free / Re-linking

I am not a religious person, but that is what people say of us don't they, oh he is a religious person, no I am not. The very word means to bind up. That is what religion does, it binds people up. Some are bound by rules and regulations, others say I am free, my religion isn't legalism with rules and regulations, I can do as I please and my god accepts me as I am (they too are bound up for they become slaves to their lusts and desires). Every time the word religion is used in the Scriptures it is used in the negative sense, except once, that is James 1:27 which speaks of pure and undefiled religion is this, to take care of the orphans and widows, and keep oneself unspotted from the world. Religion binds, religion is impure, religion is defiled and Jesus came to set people free (John 8:32) and that is why He was always at odds against the religious people. Jesus did not fit into their idea of religion, and still does it today. The word religion in Latin is "re – liagre" and it means to re-link. Man wants to be linked to God, but there is only one way, and that is through His Son Jesus, anything else is a dead religion, for it is dead because it leads to death. Men come up with all ways to re-link to God, but they refuse the One way. Here in our text today we see the subject of religion addressed very clearly, particularly the False One-World Religious System of the Tribulation, and we see the foreshadow of it today, we see it shaping and molding before our very eyes today..

(James 1:27 NKJV) Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

(John 8:31 NKJV) Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Recap / Filler Information – Not in Chronological Order / Span whole 7 Year Period

Chapters 17 and 18 is filler information of what is going on during the 7 year Tribulation period. These 2 chapters and not in chronological order of the book, rather they give commentary on things that are happening over the whole span of the 7 year period.

Babylon – Political/Economic & Spiritual / Should read Together

These 2 chapters deal with Babylon. There is a political and economic Babylon, and a spiritual Babylon spoken of here in Revelation 17 and 18. We will look at the spiritual Babylon today here in chapter 17, and economic Babylon next week in chapter 18. Really these 2 chapters should be read and studied

together because they are so overlapping, but we will do just a chapter a week.

Additional Study

For more study (on this place called Babylon) you should read Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 51-52, and Revelation 17-18 all in one sitting. In Isaiah and Jeremiah it speaks of the total destruction of Babylon which is an event yet future, and the evil behind all false religions (Satan).

Can be rather Confusing / False Religions are Confusing / Can't Nail them Down

This can be a rather confusing chapter. It is confusing because this chapter we talk about the One-World Religious system, which is a false religious system. Of course it is confusion; try to study any of the false religions, and you will become confused, because there is no absolutes in them. Try to nail a cultist down on what they believe, and you can't, because their beliefs continually contradicts themselves, and so do they, and so you can never get to bottom, bottom line with them. I always leave confused on what exactly is that they believe. I find myself now, that when I talk about God outside the church circle, I need to say Jesus Christ instead of God so the person knows exactly who I consider God.

Start with Answers – then Questions / 2 False Religions / Half – Half of Tribulation

So let's start with the answers and see what the questions were. We will look at 2 false world religious systems in this passage. A world ecumenical system that last for the first half of the tribulation period, and then the last half will be a united worship of the Anti-christ after he commits the abomination of desolation in the Temple:

(Matthew 24:15 NKJV) "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

Terms of Definition

As we read, know that the woman (the harlot) is this One-World religious system, and that the Beast is the Anti-christ.

(Revelation 17:1 NKJV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

(Revelation 17:2 NKJV) "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

(Revelation 17:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:5 NKJV) And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

(Revelation 17:6 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:7 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:9 NKJV) "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

(Revelation 17:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:11 NKJV) "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

(Revelation 17:12 NKJV) "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no

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

(Revelation 17:13 NKJV) "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

(Revelation 17:14 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 17:15 NKJV) Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

(Revelation 17:16 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:17 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:18 NKJV) "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Tale of 2 Cities / Babylon birthplace of all False Religions

Babylon is mentioned 300 times in the Bible, its mentioning is second only to Jerusalem. Spiritually, this Bible is a tale of a cities. You can break the spiritual into 2 cities, the city of man (Babylon), and the city of God (Jerusalem). Babylon, the birth place of all false religions, going back to Nimrod and the tower of the Babel. And then there is the center of the true religion, there in Jerusalem where the Lord laid His life down.

Chapter 12 Comparison

Chapter 12 we saw a woman, and here in chapter 17 we see another woman. They are both representative of their appropriate city, of what they stand for, the true worship of God, and then the false worship of God:

Chapter 12 – City of Jerusalem

John taken to Heaven
Woman is mother if the Son of God
Woman clothed with the Sun
Influences Sun, Moon, and Stars
Dragon is the Enemy
Woman is Pure
Hated by Powers of the Earth
Sustained by the wings of Heaven
Final location is New Jerusalem

Chapter 17 – City of Babylon

John taken into the Wilderness
Woman is mother of Harlots
Woman clothed in Scarlet
Influences the Kings of the East
Enemy is the 10 Kings
Woman is a Harlot
Caressed by the Powers of the Earth
Sustained by the Dragon
Final habitation is with the Demons

Rev 17 Deals with judgment of False System / Global – Leaders Bought In

Revelation 17 is the dealing with, the judgment of the false religious system. This false religious system is global and far reaching as we see in 17:15 that it has reached across all the nations, and in verse 2, we see the leaders of the world have bought into it also.

(Revelation 17:15 NKJV) Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

(Revelation 17:2 NKJV) "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Never One Gov't until Religions United / Anti-christ Major Role – Charisma / How Not Deceived

There will never be a one world government or economical system apart from a united religious system. Religion cause division, so the world leaders must unite the worlds religions into it 1 in order to unite the world politically and economically. The Anti-christ will play the major role in making this happen, and thus we can see how charismatic he will be, for we today can not imagine all the worlds religions coming together in peace. This Anti-christ is going to be something. He will bring peace to the Mid-East (Daniel 9) and unite the world religions. That is power, that is charisma, and if you don't know Jesus today I have no idea how you are not going to be wooed by this man, deceived to follow him, I would not sleep until I made peace with Jesus Christ ----- today! If you are fooled by what the world has to offer you today, just

wait until this time in history, Tribulation upon the world, and a man so convincing as the Anti-christ (remind you, he will come in peace, which will be his cloak of deception, he won't come initially as evil, but later will turn evil).

(Revelation 17:1 NKJV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

(Revelation 17:2 NKJV) "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Church in Heaven – Religious Structure Remains

At this point in the Book of Revelation, although the church is in heaven, the structures, systems, and stuff of religion—referred to here as the great harlot—remain intact on earth.

Universal Power – Political Powers

Note the *universal power* of the false religious system as the harlot consorts with the political leaders of “many waters,” or many nations.

(Revelation 17:3 NKJV) 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.

Unique Position – Anti-christ Endorses

Note the *unique position* of the false religious system as the harlot is seen riding the Beast, or Antichrist. The Anti-christ is endorsing this religious system. At this point, all true believers —are in heaven. This leaves only the trappings of religion atop the Beast.

Important to See / Woman rides – Then turned On / Anti Demands Worship

Important to catch this, right now the woman is on the Beast, but latter the beast will turn on her. The Beast, who is the Anti-christ (we learned that in Chapter 13) will exult and promote this One-World religion, but then later will turn on it, and claim himself to be the heart and should of the religion, and will demand all men everywhere to worship him:

(Revelation 17:16 NKJV) "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.

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

(Revelation 13:7 NKJV) It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 17:4 NKJV) 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.

Unlimited Prosperity - Wealthy / Outwardly Attractive – Easy Believism – No Repentance

Note the *unlimited prosperity* of the false religious system as seen in the purple robes and precious jewels with which the harlot is attired. This religious system outwardly is very attractive, but inwardly it seeks to devour, people will be attracted to this religious system because it will appeal to their flesh. Easy believism is what I see it being, no mentioning of repentance, no rules, just right. Jesus is the only way, is just too narrow minded, they will say we are glad those Christians are gone.

Unholy Passion / Spiritual Fornication / Vow of Faithfulness – Lives Contrary

Note the *unholy passion* of the false religious system as seen in the golden cup in the hand of the harlot, full of the fruits of her fornication. The context is spiritual adultery and fornication. The cup is not for God's service, but for abominations and filthiness. An adulterer is someone who makes a vow of faithfulness, but lives a life of unfaithfulness.

(Revelation 17:5 NKJV) And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

All False Religions / Nimrod means Rebel / Founder of Mystery Babylon

This religious system is the mother of all false religions. Genesis 10 tells us of the founder of this false religion, it is Nimrod. We are told he was a mighty hunter against the Lord. The word Nimrod means "rebel." The mighty hunter, before the LORD is not in a good sense. It is in a rebellious sense, against the LORD. Nimrod hunted the souls of men, he was wicked and evil. Nimrod is the founder of the Babylonian Religious System and he became a dictator of the civilization that he established.

Babel – Gate to God / Defies what Established Noah – the Innocent Sacrifice

Babel is a compound word, "Ba" which means gate, and "bel" which means God, So we have man trying to build a gate to God. The word later became synonymous with confusion. Any religion apart from the true religion will always cause confusion. So Nimrod is leading man into this false gate as it flies directly in the face to what was established when Noah left the ark. Noah knew that man approach, his gate, was through the shed blood of the innocent upon the altar, Through the transfer of guilt to the innocent as a substitute, all a foreshadow of Christ.

(Genesis 8:20 NKJV) Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Deeper Study – Our Study on Pergamos & Thyatira

For a deeper study on this mystery Babylon go back to our study in Genesis chapter 10, and go back to our study on the Church of Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17), and Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29) which was very in-depth.

Nimrod's Wife / Semiramis - Queen of Heaven / Tammuz / Christmas & Easter

Let me just give you the 30,000 foot level of this Mystery Babylon, false religious system. Nimrod had a wife whose name was Semiramis and she became known as "The Queen of Heaven." She had a son, which she claimed to be virgin born (which a can't figure out if she was already married) and she named him Tammuz. He was being groomed to be the center of worship by the people. One day while hunting, a wild boar gored him; he lay dead for three days and when he was found he revived. They celebrated his birth on the 25th of December. They would burn a Yule log on the fire until it was completely consumed, but in the morning a tree would appear, brightly decorated in the home (the parents would bring it in after the children fall asleep). It was an evergreen tree, which was a symbol of perpetuated life. To celebrate his resurrection from being gored by the boar, they began to decorate eggs and to have a celebration in the springtime, which later became known as Ashtar, the Greek for Semiramis. The egg, again, is a symbol of continued life. Does all this sound familiar? These are the true roots of these holidays, and they were thousands of years before Christ.

How Could This Be / Before Foundations of the World

How could Satan so perfectly counterfeit the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, because as we know, Satan has access to the throne of God, He was worship leader in heaven before He rebelled, and here is the most important piece to see, the gospel was laid out before the foundation of the world, Satan knew the story of the gospel before the worlds were even fashioned. So to make a counterfeit was no problem:

(Revelation 13:8 NIV) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Catholic Church – Much Bigger / Multi-Faith Merging – Not Argue over Name

Is this the Catholic Church, many liken this to the Catholic Church because of its wealth, the Queen of Heaven relationship, and historically how the Catholic Church has brought in some many of the influences of this Mystery Babylon such as rituals and Pontiffs (again see study on Pergamos). I believe it is much broader than that. This religious system will include all churches of the people that missed the rapture. We see this ecumenical movement already today. We see Jews worshipping with Christian denominations. We see Muslim worshipping with Jews. Notice there in verse 5, she is the mother of harlots (plural), this will be a multi-faith religion, that brings all faiths together. They will not argue if God's

name is Jesus, Allah, Krishna, Buddha, Self, or "the God with in", they will all come in agreement that their god is the same god.

Video Clip – One Way

US – State Religion / Not What Said – Can't be Said / Jesus on TV / Kentucky BCE

By the way, we are seeing a growing strength of a State Religion just here in the USA; it is not on what is said, but what can't be said. The Christian voice is being silenced, God is being forced out, written out of our Laws and Moral standards. It isn't what is being said, but what can't be said. Speak of perversion on television, but don't use the name of Jesus or people are offended. Not what is said, but what can't be said, and it bears the same effect. Maybe you read this week (20 April 2006) that the Kentucky Board of Education has voted to take the first step in redefining how America dates time. The board voted to include a new secular system of dating the calendar, BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era), and added it to the BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini, Latin for "in the year of our Lord") method. The new secular system of time dating will appear in the curriculum and other materials used by Kentucky educators. This new system is already being included in textbooks across the nation. The new method will replace the birth of Christ as the dividing point in history. For example, the new system would change 2006 AD (Anno Domini) to 2006 CE (Common Era). It also opens the door for the ACLU to find a liberal activist judge who will forcefully remove the use of BC and AD. The ACLU types will claim that the use of BC and AD are a violation of the First Amendment because it dates history based on the birth of Christ.

(Revelation 17:6 NKJV) 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.

Unsettling Persecution

Note the unsettling persecution perpetrated by the false religious system. Bear in mind that John wrote the Book of Revelation in the midst of ten waves of persecution that would ultimately claim the lives of six million believers.

John in Awe / Devouring Saints in Name of God / Dark Ages

John is in awe because he is trying to reconcile how a religious system, in the name Of God, could devour Saints. This isn't anything new, as we have studied the Dark Ages and the millions of people killed in the name of God and Church. Remember she is an adulterer and a fornicator. An adulterer is someone who makes a vow of faithfulness, but lives a life of unfaithfulness.

(Revelation 17:7 NKJV) 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.

Initially Woman rides Beast / Beast Carries Her / Beast uses Her for his Agenda

Initially, we saw the woman riding the Beast (verse 3). Here, we see the Beast carrying the woman—a small, but important change of terminology as Antichrist employs the false religious system to serve his own agenda.

(Revelation 17:8 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:9 NKJV) "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

(Revelation 17:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 17:11 NKJV) "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

(Revelation 17:12 NKJV) "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

(Revelation 17:13 NKJV) "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to

the beast.

You Look Confused – Let me Clear Up / Thanks Alot

The angel says John you look confused, let me clear things up for you. After you read 7-13, you say thanks that really cleared things up. Let me do my best to help clarify. Verses 8-12 are going to give us specific insight about the Anti-christ, the powerful world leader of the Last Days, the one who will carry and promote the one world government, economy, and religion. As I had mentioned chapter 17 and 18 are filler information, and they really should be studied in one sitting.

Verse 8 – Mortal Wound

Verse 8 - *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition* - Appears to be speaking of the Anti-Christ after receiving the mortal wound, but coming back to life, or appearing to die and come back to life. (Revelation 13:12)

(Revelation 13:12 NKJV) 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.

Verse 9 – City of Rome

Verse 9 - *The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.*- The city Rome is known as the city upon 7 hills throughout history (please reference encyclopedia Encarta). So the headquarters is going to be in Rome.

Verse 10 – History of 5 Empires

Verse 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.* – In world history 5 empires have fallen (the 5 major empires in history to this day. Egypt, Assyria, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Grecian. The one during the day of this writing was Rome (which had yet to fall, and is still yet to come, the Revived Roman Empire.

Another Way – 5 Emperors / Speculate Reincarnation

Another way of looking at this, and you still end at the same point, the Roman Empire. At the time John wrote this, there had been seven Roman emperors: Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Tiberias, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, and Domitian. Some speculate that the Anti-christ will be a spiritual reincarnation (the same demonic spirit that energized them will be the one who energizes the Anti-christ) of one of these Roman Emperors (like Nero or Domitian), could be, I see it as the Anti-christ will be an evil man for we have studied in the past how they slaughtered the Christians.

Verse 12 – Daniel 7

Verse 12 - (Revelation 17:12 NKJV) *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.* – Daniel 7 (speaking of the 4 Beasts tells us that the ten horns of the beast signify the ten nations of the revived Roman Empire.

Daniels Vision / Kingdoms – Babylonian – Medes – Grecian / 4th Roman empire

Daniel tells us that the vision that he saw or the Lord told Daniel that these beasts that he saw rising out of the sea are kingdoms that shall arise to rule over the earth. The first was the Babylonian kingdom, the first world empire. But it was to be replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire. In the visions of Daniel, the first was like a lion. The second was like a bear, the Medo-Persian Empire, that would destroy the Babylonian or conquer the Babylonian Empire. The third would be the Grecian Empire, the leopard that would conquer the Medo-Persian Empire. The fourth, of course, was the Roman Empire that would conquer over the Grecian Empire.

(Daniel 7:3 NKJV) "And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

(Daniel 7:4 NKJV) "The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

(Daniel 7:5 NKJV) "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

(Daniel 7:6 NKJV) "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

(Daniel 7:7 NKJV) "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.

(Daniel 7:8 NKJV) "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.

Revived Roman Empire – EU Superstate / 25 States / Could be 10 Regions

The revived Roman Empire is what we see developing as the modern day European Union (that is the land area that the Roman Empire encompassed). Right now today there are 25 members with 5 in consideration, with another 15 who have not made a decision one way or another. Now when everything is said and done, there will either be 10 major states of this new European Union, they merge together (say Ireland and Great Britain), or this could be speaking of 10 regions, and so they divide themselves into regions, not individual states. The bottom line, the number is going to be 10 in the end.

Will be of One Mind with Anti-christ

Since the Rapture has happened at this point, Antichrist and this ten-nation federation will be of one mind.

(Revelation 17:14 NKJV) "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."

Kingdoms Destroyed by Jesus

These kingdoms will be destroyed by the Lamb. The Battle of Armageddon, when Jesus returns they will try to destroy Jesus but He will destroy them (Rev 19). The end of the story is Jesus wins.

Preach – You should Live Accordingly / For me – Just Read I am Chosen / Heart will Respond

Verse 14 - *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.* – the continually puts a word of comfort and encouragement in these passages of darkness, he does it for John and the Christians who would read this during intense persecution, and He does it for us today. This would be the place where I would say to myself, say to you, we are the chosen, we are the faithful, therefore we must live accordingly, are you? But no, this is a verse that all I must do is read it, and say Lord this is what you think of me, this is how you regard me, chosen and faithful! My heart becomes stirred to think that that is how He thinks of me. I am lifted into the heavenlies, I'm blown away, I am proud, I am with Him. No need to preach to me, just remind me of who I am and I will live accordingly.

(Revelation 17:15 NKJV) Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

(Revelation 17:16 NKJV) "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.

Anti-christ Uses False System / Then Turns on It

After using the false religious systems to unify the world kingdoms and gain control of all, the Anti-Christ, with the help of his 10 sub-rulers will turn against this one-world religious system, plunder and destroy it, and seize all power and worship for himself. This will happen at the Mid-Tribulation point (3 ½ years) when the Anti-christ goes into the rebuilt temple there in Jerusalem and demand to be worshipped, just as the Scriptures prophesied.

(Revelation 13:8 NIV) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

(Daniel 9:27 NKJV) 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."

Sin will Disgrace Us / Looks Good – Arrayed in Pearls – Purple Robe of Confidence / Rom 3:23

So, too, we will be disgraced, denuded, and devoured by any sin we attempt to control rather than confess. Oh, perhaps, like the harlot, we can ride the sin for a season, arrayed in the pearls, precious

stones, and purple robes of confidence—but eventually, like the harlot, we will be burned and eaten up by the very sin we thought we controlled. I believe the language in this verse is purposely horrific because, truly, the wages of sin is death (Romans 3:23).

(Revelation 17:17 NKJV) "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.

God uses Beast to Destroy False Religious System

According to His own will, God will use the Beast to destroy the false religious system.

(Revelation 17:18 NKJV) "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Religion Binds – Jesus sets Free

All false religions will come back bite and devour. Religion binds, Jesus sets you free. Let me tell you what true religion is, true freedom:

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Jesus Came that we Have Life

Jesus came that man may have life, for He is the Author of Life. 2000 years ago He left His throne in heaven, that man may have a way to enter into life with Him. Chapter 17 is the Religion of Death, a life apart from Him, binding and defiled. But oh, we who have chosen, the Author of Life, has set His throne not in Babylon, but in our hearts. He has called us chosen, and faithful and the Author of Life is continuing to write His story about the Bride He loves so much, that He laid His life down for her.

Chapter 18

The Destruction of Babylon & the Worlds Economic Center (18: 1-24)

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap / Filler Information – Not in Chronological Order / Span whole 7 Year Period

Chapters 17 and 18 is filler information of what is going on during the 7 year Tribulation period. These 2 chapters and not in chronological order of the book, rather they give commentary on things that are happening over the whole span of the 7 year period.

Babylon – Political/Economic & Spiritual / Should read Together

These 2 chapters deal with Babylon. There is a political and economic Babylon, and a spiritual Babylon spoken of here in Revelation 17 and 18. We looked at the spiritual Babylon in chapter 17 last week, and this week in chapter 18 we will look at the economic Babylon. Really these 2 chapters should be read and studied together because they are so overlapping, but we will do just a chapter a week.

Additional Study

For more study (on this place called Babylon) you should read Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 51-52, and Revelation 17-18 all in one sitting. In Isaiah and Jeremiah it speaks of the total destruction of Babylon which is an event yet future, and the evil behind all false religions (Satan).

Highlight of Chapter 17 / Harlot because Used and Abused

Let me just give the highlights of chapter 17 for refresher. Chapter 17, the One-World religious system of the Tribulation period will begin with a uniting of all the faiths (easier to do now the Church has been Raptured), as the charismatic Anti-christ will draw and point people to it; but half way through the Tribulation period, at the Mid-Tribulation point the Anti-christ will say he is the God of this religious system, and demand all people to worship him, thus destroying that religious system after it served his purposes. The religious system based in Rome will appear to control the European coalition of the revived Roman Empire—but only for a certain season, for these kings will ultimately turn against Rome and, after using her to gain control of the reigns of world power, will trash her. That's why Babylon is called a harlot in chapter 17. She's used, abused, and thrown away.

Study Points

In our study today we will address 3 points:

1. Where is this Babylon located? (Literal or Figurative)
2. What is it all about? (Economic Center)
3. What does it mean to me today? (not getting wrapped up in the things of the World).

(Revelation 18:1 NKJV) After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

(Revelation 18:2 NKJV) And he cried mightily 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!

(Revelation 18:3 NKJV) "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."

Every Nation – Far Reaching – Global

Verse 3 - For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication - every nation has interaction with Babylon, every nation is affected by Babylon.

Babylon mentioned 300 Times in Scripture

Mentioned more than three hundred times in Scripture, Babylon was founded on the plain of Shinar near the Euphrates River by Nimrod. The city came to its zenith under King Nebuchadnezzar at the height of the Babylonian Empire. The city walls were so great, that they could race 6 horses with chariots around the top of the great walls.

Literal Babylon? – Hard to Say / Spiritualized – Symbolic / Some think USA

Is it the literal city Babylon is hard to say, because as we read these 2 chapters it is clear that there is much spiritualizing applied. As for the One-World religion, the Babylon spoken of is spiritualized. As for chapter 18, the Babylon spoken of has been debated over the centuries as to whether it is a spiritual idiom (symbolic); the debate that it is the literal Babylon in Iraq has gained much momentum since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Where as, other has conjectured that it is New York City, or even the whole USA, others have said Rome, Tokyo, London, and the such. I really do not know; there is a Biblical principle not take things literal unless it is clearly a spiritualized mean, and even that still leaves me wondering. I'll keep an eye on Iraq as long as I breath here, and wait for further information, and have full knowledge from the mezzanine there in heaven after I'm raptured.

Scriptures Supporting Literal Babylon

There are Scriptures that align to lead us to believe this is the literal city Babylon. Jeremiah 51 speaks of the utter destruction of Babylon, which we see here in Revelation 18. Babylon has been overthrown, trampled under, but never totally destroyed and left totally uninhabited as spoken of in these passages of Scriptures. Although destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C., there have always been small communities of inhabitants in Babylon. Isaiah, however, prophesied that not even shepherds and their flocks would hang out there, that it would simply be a place for weird birds and wild animals. Go on the web and you can see Babylon today as Saddam Hussein was in the process of rebuilding it. Saddam had architects from Japan come to help rebuild it, he invested hundreds of millions dollars in the process. Saddam's desire was for Babylon to be the center of the world, and he would be the reproduction of the Great Nebuchadnezzar:

(Jeremiah 51:26 NKJV) They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD.

(Isaiah 13:19 NKJV) And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Isaiah 13:20 NKJV) It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

(Isaiah 13:21 NKJV) But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches will dwell there, And wild goats will caper there.

(Isaiah 13:22 NKJV) The hyenas will howl in their citadels, And jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come, And her days will not be prolonged."

See Photos of Rebuilt Babylon**

Scriptures Supporting it is Symbolic / I don't Know / Not in Order

As we go through this passage we will point out some of the possible reasons that this isn't the literal city Babylon. As for me, I really am not sure, and I am waiting for further information. It is possible that the reason chapter 17-18 are not in chronological order is because the establishing of these 2 things (one world religion and economic system) are already in work, and will come into it's full fruition during the Tribulation Period.

Most Important – What means to Us / Spiritual Application

What is most important to us today isn't who this city literally is, but what it represents to us today, what it means to us, so we can apply the spiritual applications to our lives today, and I think what that is will become quite clear as we start to develop this.

(Revelation 18:4 NKJV) 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.

Tribulation Saints / Stay Away

The voice from heaven speaks to those who become believers during the Tribulation. The church is already in heaven, but the Lord will still save souls—so many that in the Tribulation there will be a large number of people who finally understand the gospel message and are converted to Christ. To them, this clarion call comes from heaven, saying, "Stay away from Babylon." No doubt this is also a calling to not take the mark of the Beast, which will be required to do all buying and selling during this time.

(Revelation 18:5 NKJV) "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

(Revelation 18:6 NKJV) "Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.

(Revelation 18:7 NKJV) "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Tower Babel – The Sins have Made It / Greek – Assembling Together / How man Sees

The goal of the builders of the Tower of Babylon's birthplace was to "build a tower whose top may reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4). In reality, the only thing that reached to heaven was their iniquity. The Greek here for that word reached is the assembling together of objects, just like the tower of Babel, they reached into heaven, but not as they thought they would. Amazing how different reality really is, from what we think, and how God sees it.

Her Payback will Be Double

Babylon is about to receive twice the wrath and destruction ever perpetrated by her.

Refuses to see Needs of those Suffering

She who has had interaction with all nations and with whom all nations have been involved in fornication now says, "I'm a queen, not a widow. I'm neither impoverished nor in need of anything." The implications is that she refuses to see the sorrow around her, she is so absorbed in her luxuries and high living that she refuses to see those that are starving, those that are suffering in this great time of Tribulation.

God Sees her Differently / Same for Man

"You claim to be a queen and you see no sorrow. But I look at you differently," declares God. "You're going to be judged thoroughly." A story of many of men today, they refuse to see themselves honestly, as God see them, and they live a life of self-deception, ignoring the fact they are wretched, naked, and poor, but because of their luxuries they possess they think they are well off.

(Revelation 18:8 NKJV) "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 judges her.

(Revelation 18:9 NKJV) "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,

(Revelation 18:10 NKJV) "standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Stand Far Off – Afraid to Come Near / Nuclear Fallout

Not wanting to be tormented with the same torment with which Babylon is tormented, the kings of the earth will lament and mourn—but "standing afar off"—at a safe distance. The utter destruction of a city like Babylon taking place in one hour would most likely be the result of a nuclear exchange—the fallout of which would help explain why the kings of the earth "stand afar off."

Day of Writing / Impossible destroy in 1 Hour / Old Commentaries

At the time of this writing, 2000 years ago, it was impossible to destroy a major city in one hour, the Apostle John writing this must have been blown away. Today, a nuke can do this with no problem. It is

fun to read old commentaries from just 100 years ago, and read those teachers say I have no idea how this could happen, but it will.

(Revelation 18:11 NKJV) "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

Not Poor Babylon – My Poor Wallet

No one is saying, "Oh, those poor people in Babylon." No, they're saying, "Oh no, the world economy is wiped out."

Bloomington Mall

And as the results of the destruction of Babylon are described, it feels as if we're on a floor-by-floor tour of a huge department store like Saks Fifth Avenue or Bloomingdale's....

(Revelation 18:12 NKJV) "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;

(Revelation 18:13 NKJV) "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.

All Luxuries – not Necessities

Please note not one of the aforementioned deals with life's necessities. They're all luxuries. Babylon specializes in materialism gone mad.

1st Floor

Revelation 18:12 (a) - First floor: Jewelry

The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls...

2nd Floor

Revelation 18:12 (b) - Second Floor: Clothing

...and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet...

3rd Floor

Revelation 18:12 (c) - Third Floor: Home Furnishings

...and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble.

4th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (a) - Fourth Floor: Cosmetics

And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense...

5th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (b) - Fifth Floor: Food Court

...and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep...

6th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (c) - Sixth Floor: Automotive

...and horses, and chariots...

Basement

Revelation 18:13 (d) – The basement

...and slaves, and souls of men.

The word "slaves" literally meaning "bodies," this is the basement—the Adult Bookstore. This is pornography, prostitution, and drugs.

All Luxuries – not Necessities

Again, please note not one of the aforementioned deals with life's necessities. They're all luxuries. Babylon specializes in materialism gone mad.

(Revelation 18:14 NKJV) "The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

(Revelation 18:15 NKJV) "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

(Revelation 18:16 NKJV) "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!

(Revelation 18:17 NKJV) '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

(Revelation 18:18 NKJV) "and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

(Revelation 18:19 NKJV) "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 on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

Wail because Financially Crushed / One City Impacts World – New York

They wail because they are financially crushed, who is going to buy our good now. Babylon is the city that drives world economy, so everyone who exported from or imported to her is saying, "Oh no! How will we buy and sell now?" One city destroyed, yet it will impact the whole world's trade and economy. That is why many people say the Babylon spoken of here is not literal but figurative, and it represents a city like New York, London, Tokyo, or Rome.

Location of Babylon – Long way from Sea

This passage is one that makes us wonder how could it be the literal Babylon, for it is not a sea port, and that is a far way for the merchant ships to see the smoke rising. My estimate is that it is about 300 miles inland. That would be like us seeing the smoke rising from New York City if it was it with a nuke.

(Revelation 18:20 NKJV) "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

World Weeps – Heaven Rejoices

The peoples' response to the destruction of Babylon is to weep and wail. But heaven's response is to rejoice. How differently the world's perspective is on things compared to the heavenly perspective.

(Revelation 18:21 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 18:22 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 18:23 NKJV) "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.

Complete Destruction – Possible just like Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The entire life of the city comes to a complete, abrupt halt in the aftermath of what is most likely a nuclear exchange. To John, the destruction in a single hour of the economic capital of the world would have been unimaginable. To our culture, having seen even the infancy of nuclear warfare demonstrated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this is completely possible.

Drug Trafficking

Verse 23 - for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived – The word translated "sorceries" being pharmakeia, or "drugs.". Babylon's identity is that this city has caught the entire world in her web of drug

traffic. As we sit here today that seems a far cry from Babylon being the center of drug trafficking, but not hard to apply to the United States as we are the largest drug using cultural in the world. The drug trafficking industry in the US is in the hundreds of billions, right there with the billions of dollars made and spent on pornography. The number 1 money trading on the Internet is pornography.

(Revelation 18:24 NKJV) "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Turning the Eye Away / Economy over human Rights

The blood of the saints is on Babylon's head. Since 1900, an average of 250,000 born-again believers have been martyred every year. This issue is presently before our own Congress as the Christian community is saying the U.S. must take a stand—particularly as it relates to the nation of China, where the highest percentage of this type of persecution has taken place. But our country refuses to do this, instead granting China Most Favored Nation status in order that her 2.5 billion people can buy our cars and computers, and we can buy from her our cheap trinkets. Whoever this Babylon is, they will put economy over human rights. In the book of Jeremiah, God brought judgment against Israel, and among one of the reasons was that she turned her eye away to the needs of the widows and orphans, those who needed protection, Israel did not aid, so God brought judgment. 40 million abortions in 40 years in the USA.

Application for Us – Come out of Her

(Revelation 18:4 NKJV) 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."

God says Separate / Heavenly Citizenship – Aliens / We are Separated by Blood of Jesus

God says for us to separate ourselves from this world, unto Him. We have a heavenly citizenship, we are aliens in this foreign land, does the world see us as that way. The Lord doesn't remember our sins as He does the sins of the world for we have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus, and how that makes us different from the world.

God Calling us Out – that Means Separation / Lie of Satan not being Legalism

Based on this, God is calling us out to a relationship with Him, and that means separation from the world. People often ask the question, what does the Bible say about this, or that, and what they really are asking is how close to the world can I live and still be saved. Christian don't fall for the Satan mind play, oh if you say don't do this then people are going to say legalism, rules and regulation, stuffy religion.

People Worried about Giving Up – have it All Wrong / Not Separation From – but "UNTO"

People who are worried about what they have to give up, have got it all wrong, and maybe that is you; if in your mind you think you are telling people what they have to "give up", then you have it all wrong too, even if your aren't doing those things. Separation is not about what I have to give up - **Separation to God is not separating from, but separating unto!** The call is to be separated unto a love relationship with your Creator, your Father.

What are you Really Giving Up – Amazing What He Gave Up

Giving up, what are you giving up, really what is it that you are giving up? God gave His Son up for you, what is it that you are giving up that compares to that? The amazing thing truly is what He gave up for us. He left His throne in heaven, became man, took on the guilt and shame of sin, then stretched His arms out upon a wooden cross, and let spikes pierce His hands, and the Author of Life, gave His life, because we became so confused by our sin, that we became confused on what life really was.

The Author of Life – Secured our Eternity / All I want for You is GOOD / Separating Unto

The Author of Life, secured our eternal life, and then says the life I have for you is not only there (in Heaven), but let me show you a life here, for all that I ever have for you, all I ever want for you, is that very best. What have we given up for Him? This separation we are called to isn't separating from, but to, and when you see that, the separating from will naturally happen.

ALL GOING TO BURN IN 1 HOUR

Whatever that thing is that you don't want to give up, that possession, that position, that lust, that pleasure, in one hour it is all going to burn.

Dietrich Reinhold

A story was told of Dietrich Reinhold, a man known throughout his community to be very wealthy. One night he went to sleep in his huge mansion, only to wake up a couple hours later in a cold sweat, frightened by a dream in which an angel appeared to him, saying, "At midnight, the richest man in the valley shall die." That's me, thought Reinhold, and he sent a servant to quickly fetch the doctor. The doctor came hastily, listened to Dietrich's story, and sat with him until the clock struck twelve. When the last bell sounded, just as Dietrich was breathing a huge sigh of relief, he heard a pounding on his door. He opened it to find one of his servants. "Master! Master Reinhold! Hans has just died!" And suddenly Dietrich Reinhold understood that Hans, the servant who was known throughout the region as one who loved the Lord, was the richest man in the village.

IN 1 HOUR / Fools to be Rich on Earth – Paupers in Heaven

Dear friend, in one hour—and the hour could be very soon—your entire empire, however big or small it might be, could burn. That is why Jesus said we are fools if we're rich on earth but paupers in heaven.

100 Years Ago – South Seas Shipwreck

One hundred years ago, a sailor shipwrecked in the South Seas found himself washed to the shore of a small island. The natives took one look at his white skin and made him their god. "This is my lucky day!" thought the sailor. But after six months of being treated like a king and learning the customs of the people, he was shocked to discover that each god served for one year, only to be sacrificed at the end of the year to the next god. So seeing a bigger picture than living the life of luxury for the next six months, what did this guy do? He set his subjects to work on building a boat. When it was completed five and a half months later, he got on it and sailed away. A story on opposite of that is:

Confederate Spy – Rose O'Neal Greenhow / 200K in Gold

A Confederate spy during the Civil War, Rose O'Neal Greenhow received two thousand dollars in gold as payment for her memoirs and boarded a ship home with the gold sewn into the hem of her dress and petticoats. Sailing on the blockade-runner Condor, she reached the mouth of the Cape Fear River just outside Wilmington, North Carolina, when a Union ship gave chase, forcing the Condor aground. Rose, fearing capture and reimprisonment, persuaded the captain to send her and two companions ashore in a lifeboat; but in stormy seas, the small vessel overturned. The ship sank, and so did Rosie to a wet grave.

What would happen if – Next 6 Month / World lose it Grip / If Can't Live without It – Get rid of It

Gang, what would happen if we said, "Since Babylon is all going to burn, why don't I do something radical and spend the six months I have left to prepare for eternity? I'll use whatever I have on this earth for God's glory by giving it away or sharing it with others"? If that were truly our mind-set, we'd gladly lend our little brother our new CD player or our friend our new car. You see, the problem doesn't lie with material possessions. The problem only arises when we grasp them too tightly or when they keep us from fellowshiping with our Lord or loving our neighbor. If you have something in your life that you say I just can't let go of it, I can't live without out, go home and get rid of right now, that thing has you.

Send it Ahead

How do we disentangle our hearts from the things of Babylon and focus on the things of heaven? By putting our treasure there, by giving stuff away, by helping people out, by doing whatever we can to be as generous as we can possibly be. We set our hearts on heaven not by building bigger barns, but by becoming bigger people in light of eternity. Gang, even if the Rapture doesn't happen in our lifetime (which I am convinced it will), the riches you have generously dispensed on earth in obedience to the Spirit will make you rich in heaven because you've been obedient to the Spirit of God. Lay your treasures up in heaven. Where your treasure is where your heart will be.

(Matthew 6:19 NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

(Matthew 6:20 NKJV) "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Worship the Babe

Be like the wise man who searched out Jesus the babe, lay treasures at His feet, worship Him:

(Matthew 2:9 NKJV) When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

(Matthew 2:10 NKJV) When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

(Matthew 2:11 NKJV) And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In One Hour it is all going to Burn!

Chapter 19

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb: (19:1-10)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now ½). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores (16:2)

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood (16:3)

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood (16:4)

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9)

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth (16:10-11)

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up (16:12-16)

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake (16:17-21)

Glad to Get Past those Things

How glad we are to get past those things to these things in today' passage. Chapters 6-16, the 7 Seals, the 7 Trumpets, and the 7 Bowls which claim over half of the worlds population. And then chapter 18-19 takes place after the destruction of Babylon—the political and commercial epicenter of the world, and after Babylon – the One World Religious system which is described as a harlot as it seduces people into a system that leads them away from the True and Living God.. As you read this chapter, that starts with "after these things", which are the things we studied in chapters 6-18, and as we come to the marriage supper of the Lamb, we can't help but praise God, sing and say Alleluia.

Alleluia – 4 Times

Alleluia is a Hebrew word and it is used 4 times in the New Testament, and all 4 times here in these verse we just read. It means "Praise the Lord", or "Praise God".

(Revelation 19:1 NKJV) After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

(Revelation 19:2 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:3 NKJV) Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

(Revelation 19:4 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

(Revelation 19:5 NKJV) Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

(Revelation 19:6 NKJV) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

(Revelation 19:7 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) 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."

So lets break it down verse-by-verse.

(Revelation 19:1 NKJV) After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

Alleluia – 4 Times / Heavenly Language – Universal Word

Alleluia - Alleluia is a Hebrew word and it is used 4 times in the New Testament, and all 4 times here in these verse we just read. It means "Praise the Lord", or "Praise God". This word seems to be part of the language of heaven so if you, so if you want a little heaven on earth, here is a word for you to speak. Interestingly, "Amen" and "Alleluia" are the only universally known words. That is, they are understood in every language, by every culture, I can go to Russia, China, France, etc and say Alleluia, and they know what I am saying

Salvation belongs to the Lord / He is Only Way – Contrast Rev 17

Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! - Notice that Salvation belongs to the Lord, there is no other way, He is the only way, but we praise him and sing Alleluia because He has provided a way. This statement is directed at Revelation 17, the One World Religion where people thought there was another way, their way. Verse 1 makes it clear there is only one way, and that way belongs to the Lord.

We Sing Alleluia – because Clothed in Fine Linen / Clean & Bright – No Blemish / Back to Garden

We sing Alleluia because in verse 8 we are clothed in fine linen. All of God's redeemed are clothed in fine linen. The linen is clean and bright and the word bright lends us to see it as if we are clothed in Light (for the Greek word is "lampros" from which we get our word "lamp"), we are pure and unblemished for the light reveals that there is no impurity found within us. We are back to the garden, before the fall, living as God intended and thus we sing Alleluia. What a comparison to Babylon in chapter 18, as people were clothing themselves in the fine linen of the world but that isn't clean and bright, it only covers and hide their shame and the true nature of their heart that says we will not have this man rule over, we refuse to say Alleluia, Praise God. That linen was destroyed in 1 hour, whereas the linen we are clothed in will never wear out, and last for all eternity; and so we sing Alleluia.

Nothing in Material World Compares – Spontaneously Praising Him / In the 7-11

There is nothing in this material world that can fill or compare to this scene, it is how we were created, to long for this scene, to fellowship with our Creator, and when we stand in His presence our hearts will melt in love for Him, and we will naturally and spontaneously praise Him. Ever have those days, times, where you are thinking on Him, reading something, or listening to a worship song, or watched His mighty works and you find yourself just praising Him, naturally and spontaneously. Then you really you are in the 7/11 and the whole store is staring at you.

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:2 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:3 NKJV) Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

Contrast of Babylon / Saints Devoured - God Devours

Look again at the contrast of Babylon. That system devoured the saints of God, but here we see God devouring her, shedding her blood for shedding the blood of the saints.

Smoke Rises Forever / Continually Reminder – World Fading / Dead in Trespasses – yet Escape

Her smoke rises up forever, possibly as a reminder to us of being delivered by God, that for all of eternity we will see this smoke, and it will be a reminder of God's mercy upon us that He called out to us, even when we were dead in our trespasses and sin, and he gave us the wisdom to see the vanity and futility of anything this world could offer us, and we chose and Him, and escaped the wrath that came upon that worldly system. This world system is fading and its all going to burn, in just t hour. I pray you considered last weeks study, that you really took inventory and asked yourself where and what things am I investing my time, money, efforts into.

(Revelation 19:4 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

(Revelation 19:5 NKJV) Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

(Revelation 19:6 NKJV) 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, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Enemies Defeated – Things as Should Be / No Questioning God

The praise, for God has judged and defeated all enemies and now reigns supremely. Finally all things are as they should be. We are of one heart and one mind, No more questioning of why God, why did you allow this to happen on earth, what was your reasoning? Rather, we are in agreement with all that He has done and we sing Alleluia.

Amen – So Be It / Elders – Mature Ones / Want to be an Elder

Verse 4 – Amen: Amen means “so be it”. The elders—or mature ones—are those who say, “So be it. Praise the Lord.” You can gauge your spiritual maturity on whether you are one that says, “so be it Lord”, or you are one that says, “why God, how could, where are you and what are you doing”. Elders, mature ones say “so be it, and on top of that I also say Praise You Lord.

Praise God Small & Great / Lack of Fear and Reverence / Fear – Beginning of Wisdom

Verse 5 - "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" - Notice again there in verse 5, notice the contrast to Babylon. The people on earth both small and great worship the world system but here in heaven, both small and great Praise Him. It says those that fear Him, the word fear means “reverence”. I think there is not only a lack of fear and reverence for God amongst the heathen, but even the church here on earth has lost the fear and reverence for Him. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The division, gossip, habitual sin, flaunting of sin, it all stems from that man has lost the fear of the Lord:

(Proverbs 9:10 NKJV) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

(Revelation 19:7 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:8 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) 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."

Marriage of Lamb – Lamb Center of Attention / Bride waiting and Longing For

Not the marriage of the Bride, but of the Lamb. The groom is the center of attention, the Bride is waiting, longing to see the Groom, the Lamb. It's not a list of things to do that prepares us for the Marriage Feast. It's an embracing of what the Lamb has done.

Bride made Ready / What is Righteousness of Saints

The Bride made herself ready. In the Book of Isaiah, we see what “the righteousness of saints” is...

(Isaiah 61:10 NKJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Not my Righteousness / We are Robed in His Righteousness

It's not my righteousness that saves me, for Isaiah goes on to say that my righteousness is as filthy rags (64:6). No, it's the robe of righteousness the Lord places around me that affords me entrance to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

(Isaiah 64:6 NKJV) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) 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."

John Blown Away / See Fellow Brethren – Fruits of His Labor / Pray that your Experience

At this point, John is so blown away by seeing the bride, that he falls at the feet of the angelic messenger. John is blown away because He sees the fruits of His labors, he sees fellow brothers and sisters, those that He invested in, those that are standing there before the throne partaking in this glorious marriage Supper of the Lamb, those that escaped the wrath to come. I pray that is your Marriage Supper experience.

Cults say Jesus an Angel

"Don't worship me. I'm just a fellow servant," the angel declares. Throughout the Gospels we see people worshipping Jesus....

- Peter fell down and worshiped Him, saying, "Depart from me. I'm a sinful man" (see Luke 5:8).
- Thomas said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Yet Jesus never says, "Don't worship Me. I'm just an angel." Therefore, the contention of the Mormon or Jehovah's Witness that Jesus is nothing more than an angel is completely erroneous. Jesus receives worship because He is more than an angel. He is God Incarnate.

How Glorious / How about Chronological Order / Jewish Marriage Process

How glorious this Marriage Supper will be. But maybe your mind is asking, wait a minute Ray, you said the book of Revelation is pretty much in chronological order, and if that is so, then why is the bride and this Marriage Supper here in chapter 19, and not back in chapter 4. The answer of that comes through the understanding of the Jewish Marriage process.

Along the Way – See Prophecy / His Great Love for You

Along the way of understanding how this applies to us in terms of the prophecy, the Pre-Tribulation rapture of the church, you'll also see the depth of His love for His Bride.

3 Stages of Jewish Marriage Tradition

The answer lies in an understanding of the Jewish marriage tradition, which comprised three stages.... The Engagement, the Betrothal, the Wedding.

The Engagement

Pre-Arranged by Fathers

Historically, Jewish children would often be engaged by the age of two or three—sometimes before they were even born. That is, families that shared the same values and social standing would say, "If you have a daughter and I have a son, let's agree right now that they will marry each other." You see, the Jewish people looked at marriage as far too important to be left up to the decision-making skills of young adults. So it was up to the father specifically to arrange with other fathers to whom his son or daughter would be engaged.

Scripture – Men chose Own / Ended in Disaster

Scripture does record a few cases when men chose their own brides. But each of these marriages ended in heartache or disaster....

- Against his father's wishes, Esau married an Ishmaelite (Genesis 28:8, 9).
- Jacob fell in love with Rachel at first sight, but ended up working for her for seven years before unknowingly marrying her sister (Genesis 29).
- Samson "loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah" (Judges 16:4).

Since the result of a man choosing his own wife without the directive of his father often resulted in tragedy or difficulty, it became the norm for the father to select his child's spouse.

The Betrothal

Ages 12-15 / Maybe Meet 1st Time / Father of Groom Negotiate the Price

The engagement led to the betrothal—usually between the ages of twelve and fifteen for a young lady. At this point, bride and groom would perhaps meet for the first time, as the father of the groom would negotiate the bride price.

3 Variables

The price would be based upon three variables.

- First, it would be predicated upon the **father's wealth**. If the father of the groom was a rich man, he would pay a high price so as not to look like a cheapskate.
- Second, the price would be determined by the **bride's worth**. If she was attractive or otherwise gifted, her bride price would be higher.
- Thirdly, the price was based upon the **groom's work**. That is, in some cases it was up to the groom to pay the price.... (we see that example in Jacob as he worked for Rachel)

Portion of Money to Bride as Security – In case Widowed or Divorced

A portion of the bride price would go to the bride to use as security in the event she was widowed or divorced.

Remainder Money to Father – For No Family Name – Defense - Business

The remainder of the bride price went to the bride's father in compensation for the fact that, unlike a son, his daughter wouldn't be able to carry on his name, help defend him, or take over the family business.

After Price – Contracted Signed / Bride Groom sip from Cup of Wine / Legally Betrothed

After at least a portion of the bride price was laid upon the table, a contract would be signed to further validate the agreement. Then, the prospective bride and groom would sip from a single cup of wine, at which point they were legally betrothed.

For Next Year – Not Drink of Vine – Nor Live Together / Bride & Dress / Groom & Mansion

For the following year, the couple would not drink of the vine nor live together. The bride would begin to wear a veil, signifying that she was "taken." She would also begin to prepare her wedding dress, sometimes from material provided by the groom (Ezekiel 16:10). Meanwhile, the groom would begin construction on what is called in Hebrew "a little mansion"—a room built onto his father's house. When the father decided the preparations were complete, his son, wearing a crown, would be sent off to his wedding (Song of Solomon 3:11).

The Wedding.

Knew not the Day / Mansion Near Complete – Gather Friends

Although the bride didn't know the exact day of her wedding, she knew it would most likely be in autumn to allow for the completion of harvest, and that it would most likely be on a Wednesday. Wednesday was the day couples got married because Thursday was the day the courts were opened. If it was discovered on her wedding day that the bride was not a virgin, she could easily be divorced the next day. As the preparation of her "little mansion" neared completion, the bride would begin to gather her friends to await the arrival of her groom.

Day of Wedding / Groom & Best Man walk Streets Blowing Trumpet / Bride Meet Him in Street

On the day of his wedding, the groom and his friends—particularly his best man—would walk through the streets with trumpets blaring, taking the most circuitous route to the bride's house. Already attired in her wedding dress, when the bride heard the sounding of the trumpet, she would arise and receive a blessing from her father. Then she would run out the door to be met by the groom in the streets.

Canopy / Not Vows – But Contract Drawn Up Year Ago

Together, they would make their way to the four-postered canopy under which they would be married. The ceremony itself consisted not of vows, which were Roman and Greek in tradition, but simply a reading of the contract that had been drawn up a year before, along with a blessing.

Procession to Little Mansion / Best man – Spotless Virgin / Celebration for 7 Days

The procession would then continue on to the "little mansion," where the best man would stand outside the door while the marriage was consummated. Why would he stand outside the door? To wait for word from the groom that the bride was a virgin—as evidenced by a blood-spotted bed-sheet. If the bride were, indeed, a virgin, the wedding celebration would continue for seven days. If not, the guests would go home, and the bride would face either divorce or death by stoning.

7 Days – Only Vacation in Life / Bride Never Seen – Groom Come out to Visit – Bring Food - Gifts

Although seven days spent in an addition to one's father's house while friends and family partied just outside the door may not sound like the ideal honeymoon to us, but in the Jewish culture, being waited on for a week was glorious. You see, this would be the only time in their entire lives when the bride and groom would do no labor. Remember, there were no vacations in those days—no holiday cruises, no jets, no Maui. The one and only time people were able to kick back was during their marriage week. During this week, the bride would never be seen. The groom, on the other hand, would occasionally come out and greet the guests before bringing back food and gifts to his bride.

After 7 Days – Bride presented to World

After seven days, the groom would present his bride to his family, friends, and community—at which time the marriage feast would end in a final great celebration

Picture Perfect

Looking again at this process, it becomes a picture-perfect analogy of our Bridegroom's relationship with us....

The Engagement

Elected by Father for His Son / Mind-boggling

Just as the Jewish father chose whom his child would marry, it's mind-boggling to realize that our heavenly Father elected us to be the bride for His Son (1 Peter 1:2).

(1 Peter 1:2 NKJV) elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

The Betrothal

1.) Fathers Wealth / Proof of Intent Paid the Price

As proof of this intent, He paid the bride price, based first upon His wealth. How rich is God? Neither all the gold in the world nor all of the galaxies in the universe would begin to reflect His wealth. Instead, the "bride price" God paid for us was something of which He had only one: His Son (John 3:16).

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

My Child

I am very much looking forward to my child coming in 3 months. I look forward to the fellowship and love we will have together as one. But, I wonder if God ever put me in the same position He allowed Himself to be put in. Lets say my wife wasn't who she is, lets say she chose to live foolishly, be that drugs, or

reckless driving, and one day the word was given to me that my child died because my wife was foolish, selfish, reckless. It was her sin that took my child away, how would I react to her. Amazingly, God the Father can look upon us, the ones who took His Son away from Him, suffer Him with loss, and yet say, you are My Bride, how I long to be with you. That is amazing love.

2.) Bride's Worth / 6 Cow Woman / Not 6 Cows – Gave Self

Second, the price had to be according to the bride's worth. The story is told of an Arabian man who had one daughter so plain he doubted anyone would ever want to marry her. One day, however, he received word that a man from a distant village was so taken with her that he was coming to see him with bride price in hand. Prepared to take whatever he was offered, imagine the father's surprise when the visitor offered him six cows for his daughter's hand. Six cows! thought the father in amazement. "The highest price ever paid in this village has been three cows!" So it was that the father gave his daughter's hand in marriage. Two years later, the daughter and her husband returned to her home village, where everyone was startled by her exquisite beauty. "How is she so beautiful?" they wondered. The answer was simple: Because her husband saw her as worth six cows, a six-cow beauty is what she became. That's how God views me. I don't understand it, but I rejoice in the fact that God looks at me and says, "I am in love with you so passionately that I'll give everything to bring you into the kingdom in order that you might live with Me forever and ever throughout eternity." To this end, God gave not six cows or even six galaxies—He gave Himself.

3.) Groom's Work

Third, the bride price was determined by the groom's work. Jesus paid for us with His life. Willing to suffer and endure the pain and shame of the cross.

The Contract – This Word / Not Sip the Cup Again

The bride price paid, just as a contract was signed and a cup of wine shared by the bride and groom in a Jewish betrothal, we hold in our hands the "contract" of the Word of God, along with Jesus' promise that He would not drink of the cup again until He did so with us in the kingdom (Matthew 26:29). And as a bride wore a veil that, although it obscured her vision, signified her relationship with the groom, so at present we see through a glass darkly, but shall one day see our Bridegroom clearly (1 Corinthians 13:12).

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Our Wedding Dress – Robed in His Righteousness

Like the Jewish bride whose wedding dress was made from material provided by her groom, we are invited to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14) and robe ourselves in His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

He is Building the Mansion

Like the groom who added a "little mansion" to his father's house, Jesus went to His Father's house to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

At Appointed Time / Trumpet is Near / Israel – Europe / We are to read Ourselves – Mansion Done

Then, at the time appointed by the Father, the Son, wearing many crowns (Revelation 19:12), will come for us, His bride (Mark 13:32). Like the Jewish bride, we don't know the day or hour of His return, but like her, we know the season (1 Thessalonians 5:1). We understand the place of Israel, the problems in Jerusalem, the coming together of the European Union, One-World Religion, One-World Economy, Mark to buy and Sell. We understand from Bible prophecy that the Lord's coming is near, even at the very door (Mark 13:29). Thus, like the Jewish bride, we ready ourselves for the day we will hear the trumpet and the shout (1 Thessalonians 4:16), before we are caught up to meet the Lord, not on earth, but in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

The Wedding.

The Virgin Bride / Validation – He made Us Pure

In the context of a Jewish wedding, John's position as "friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29) and his message of repentance in preparation for the coming Bridegroom (Matthew 3:3) becomes clear. "Therein lies the problem," you say. "If the marriage is to be validated on my purity, I deserve only divorce or stoning because I sin miserably; I mess up constantly; I fail continually." Good News! The validation of our relationship with our Bridegroom doesn't depend on our sinlessness, but on His. It is the vesture dipped in His blood (Revelation 19:13) that allows us to be presented to Him without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27):

(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

(Ephesians 5:26 NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

(Ephesians 5:27 NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Don't have to Clean-up Act

You mean we don't have to clean up our act, do this, or accomplish that? No, Jesus said blessed are those who are simply watching for His coming (Revelation 16:15), blessed are those who realize the price has been paid, the work done. Precious people, that's what true Christianity consists of, marveling at the love of the Father and of the Son for me and for you.

(Revelation 16:15 NKJV) "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."

Honeymoon for 7 Years / Then Presented to World

We then are afforded a glorious honeymoon with Him—not for seven days, but for seven years as He serves us, His bride, in heaven (Luke 12:37). At the end of seven years, we come back to earth with Him in the Second Coming (Revelation 19:14) where, at the marriage feast of the Lamb, we are presented as His bride forever and ever. And that is why we see the marriage feast in Revelation 19 rather than in chapter 4. The analogy is perfect.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

He Paid the Price / 6 Cow Woman – Beautiful Glorious Bride

Dear friend, if you have said, "Lord, I know I have sinned and failed, but I believe You love me and that You paid the price for me," Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate! In the Lord's sight, you are a six-cow woman, a beautiful, glorious bride.

Sing Alleluia

When you grasp this passage of Scripture, of course you will sing Alleluia.

The Battle of Armageddon: (19:11-21)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Last Study / This Study / Dinner? / Seeing Jesus in New Way

In our last study we saw a great supper, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, as we will dine with Him for a 7 year honeymoon celebration. Well in today's passage, there is another feast, but it is not a festive celebration, it is one that man will wish he had turned down the invitation to attend. It is the Battle of Armageddon, and the bloodshed will be so great that it will come us to the horses' bridles, and so much dead bodies that the birds of the air will have a banquet. This chapter is the climax of the Battle of Armageddon, which I personally think is a war that has been going on there for some period, and then it finishes off this last battle (we saw it's beginning back in Revelation 16 when the Euphrates river was dried up to prepare the way for the Kings of the East). This will be bloodshed like man has never seen, as the armies will come to meet in this place of war to fight one another, but when Jesus returns (with His angels and saints) the common hatred for Jesus will unite the two, and they will fight against Jesus, but be totally destroyed. I am not trying to be funny, but dinner reservations are being accepted for both the Marriage Supper and this final Battle, you can have dinner, or be dinner. We will see Jesus today in a way we aren't use to, as a fierce warrior, we like to talk of Him for His love and mercy, today we will see Him still in love (for that is His nature) but we will see Him also in His wrath. The Lamb is also the Lion, hence why we call this book the Book of Revelation (unveiling) because Jesus is unveiled before us: *(Revelation 16:12 NKJV) 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.*

(Revelation 14:20 NKJV) 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.

Lets read the passage for context and then go back and break it down verse-by-verse.

(Revelation 19:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

(Revelation 19:15 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:16 NKJV) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

(Revelation 19:17 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 19:18 NKJV) "that you may eat the flesh of kings, 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."

(Revelation 19:19 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:21 NKJV) 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.

Starting back at verse 11:

(Revelation 19:11 NKJV) 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.

The Unveiling – Revelation / Heaven & Earth Collide

Speaking of revelation, the unveiling of Jesus, heaven and earth collide again in this chapter (last time – Jesus' First Coming) and all man will see Jesus revealed in His power and glory. I look forward to this day and I can't wait to point and say I'm with Him.

Heaven Opens / Jesus Coming With – Not For

Verse 11 - Now I saw heaven opened: Back in 4:1, the door of heaven was opened to receive the saints and now in chapter 19 the door opens again and Jesus comes out with His saints. Jesus isn't coming to get His saints, He is coming with His saints. I think we covered that conclusively in our studies and especially in last weeks study,

(Revelation 4:1 NKJV) 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."

Verb Tense / He only is Faithful and True / All that I say – I will Do / Words & Actions

Verse 11 - And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war: The verb tense is that He always judges in righteousness and always makes war in righteousness. That is why He and He alone can be called Faithful and True, only He will do what He says He will do, every time. The Faithful and True God will say to you today, all that I say that I am, I am; and all that I say I will do, I will do. Believe my Words spoken to you for my words are my actions and I want to act in your life and I want to take you to heights you never dreamt of (to the heavenlies), and I want to take you to places you never imagined (you will ride with Me). How remarkable!

Heaven not as Far Away as Think / Remember in Prayer

Heaven is open to God's saints. It is not as far away as you may think it is. It is open to you and to me and He says come to Me. Remember this scene, this picture when you pray, that heaven is opened up to His saints, His children, and He says come lets talk, tell me what on your heart, and me share My heart with you.

(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) 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.

Different Crown / the Bow versus the Sword

Different crown than Anti-Christ. The Anti-Christ crown is a wreath (stephanos) (Rev 6:2) which was a crown given at the Olympics, it was temporary, it would perish for next year or at some point the victor would be defeated. Jesus comes with His crown which a royal crown, made of gold and I believe the point is being made very clearly, your victory is short lived, your kingdom has ended. Jesus has come, and no one can or will defeat Him. Notice the Anti-Christ came with a bow but No arrows, used peace as his disguise to gain the popular vote, but in the end his true nature comes out that he will kill anyone that gets in his way of total world domination. Jesus comes with a sword, and He comes to make war. When Jesus roles up His sleeves He ain't putting on the ritz, our God is an awesome God (I love Isaiah 52:10)
(Revelation 6:2 NKJV) 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.

(Isaiah 52:10 NKJV) The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

His Name / Always Approaching never Arriving / Heaven not Boring

Verse 12 - He had a name written that no one knew except Himself: No one knew this name except Jesus. We will always be approaching but Never arriving. Jesus will always have a name which we do not know. We will explore Jesus through all eternity and never come to an end of Him, thus eternity, We will continually find ourselves falling down at ft feet in amazement as we see a new dimension of Him. Heaven will be anything but boring my friends.

(Revelation 19:13 NKJV) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Blood of Vesture / Isaiah 63

Verse 13 - He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood: This isn't the blood of the saints, nor His blood from the cross. This blood is the blood spoken of in Isaiah 63. His vesture is dipped in the blood of His enemies:

(Isaiah 63:1 NKJV) Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?; "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

(Isaiah 63:2 NKJV) Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

(Isaiah 63:3 NKJV) "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

(Isaiah 63:4 NKJV) For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

(Isaiah 63:5 NKJV) I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.

(Isaiah 63:6 NKJV) I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth."

Book of Promises – Principles – Doctrine / Book of a Person

Verse 13 - and His name is called The Word of God: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus is the Word of Life. Some people just see the Bible as a book of promises and that is all they look for. Some see it as a book of principles, apply these principles and life will be wonderful. Others see it as a book of doctrine, theology, and they are so right they are dead right for it is nothing but an intellectual book to them. The Bible is all these things, but the Bible is more than that. This Bible from Genesis through Revelation is about a person, a Living person. This Word of God is a person, and they are both alive, living, powerful, sharper than a edge sword. If Bible reading is a drag or bore to you, then I will tell you that you are missing it, for Jesus is anything but boring, and enter into the Word and you enter into Him:

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

(John 1:14 NKJV) 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.

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

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

This is You and Me

This is you and me here, we are now reading about ourselves, so put yourself in the story. The armies of heaven will include the angels and saints (the angels are a part of this army (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thes. 1:7); and so are the saints (1 Thes. 3:13; 2 Thes. 1:10). Jude describes the same scene (Jude 14-15). The word saints means "holy ones" and could refer to believers or angels). That is going to be cool, saddled up next to an angel (what is up dude). Clothed in fine linen, white and clean. No camouflage, no battle fatigues, no armor, no mention of a sword (I am hoping I get a sword, it's a guy thing). Maybe we will have swords, I am not totally sure, hopeful though. Whatever the case there will be no need for us to fight, Jesus will wage the war, we will watch in amazement at His great power.

(Revelation 19:15 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:16 NKJV) And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Difficult to See Him this Way / Hurt My Kids

He is coming in power. He is coming in fierce power. As children of God it can be difficult for us to see Him this way, so fierce, so frightening (if you are His enemy). From the everyday view most people will say of me, you are a nice guy. But what they don't see, maybe don't know is there is another side of me, that should a person molest or attack my family, my children, there is a fierce side of me that they would never imagine exists, that would be unleash, an anger and wrath to protect my loved ones that no one knew existed. Jesus will unleash His fierce fury upon His enemies that have come against His loved ones.

KING OF KINGS

Verse 16 - And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. – I love this title, and I love the way it is spelled out in all capitals. Let there be no mistaken, who the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS is. This is the only place in the whole Bible that I found this spelled out in all capitals. We see one similar occurrence in the NT, and that was when the sign was hung over Jesus' head when He hung on the cross – and there again, let there be no mistake who the KING OF THE JEWS is!

(Matthew 27:37 KJV) And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

The WORD – the Battle is Over

I've seen artists render this scene with a literal sword protruding from the mouth of the Lord. I don't believe such is the proper view. I believe the "sharp sword" that comes forth from His mouth is simply the Word He speaks—sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus will speak, and the battle will be over.

(Revelation 19:17 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 19:18 NKJV) "that you may eat the flesh of kings, 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."

(Revelation 19:19 NKJV) 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.

Angel calls Bird / Knows where Victory Lies / Great Example for Us

Verse 17 - Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,- Notice the angel is calling the dinner guests before the battle even begins, he knows where the victory lies. Great example for us, next time you are in a spiritual battle, call the birds to come enjoy God's victory over the enemy, the demons will tremble, for they too know, they just need reminding.

Imagine the Scene

Imagine the scene. They are gathered for war, and before Jesus even appears millions of birds start hovering over head, imagine how eerie that would, they would be saying this doesn't look good

The Flesh

6-times the word flesh is used in this passage, dinner for the birds of the air. If you are sowing to the flesh, here is the final outcome

Verse 19 / Armies Gather to Fight Each Other

Verse 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: Often this battle is called the battle of good versus evil, but it is important to note that it starts with evil against evil. They first gathered to fight each other, but their common hatred for Jesus will have them unite together to fight Jesus and us.

Battle takes place at Megiddo / Rev 16 / 60 Miles North / Napoleon

We know from chapter 16 that this battle will take place in the Valley of Megiddo. This valley of Megiddo where this final battle will be fought is 60 north of Jerusalem. When Napoleon stood overlooking this valley he said it was the greatest battlefield he had ever saw, and wished he could wage war there. Hundreds of million of men will come to war here, and the blood will flow 180 miles, 3 to 4 feet high. That is unimaginable

(Revelation 14:20 NKJV) 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.

Kings are Pawns of Satan

These kings will be pawns of Satan, and be energized to come to this place for the final battle by Satan. The Kings of the East will come with 200,000 million men just in their army alone; the Euphrates river will be dried up to prepare their way:

(Revelation 16:13 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 16:14 NKJV) For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

(Revelation 16:16 NKJV) And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

(Revelation 9:14 NKJV) saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

(Revelation 9:15 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:16 NKJV) Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Kings of the East – Rising Sun / Severe Famine

The phrase translated "kings of the east" is literally "kings of the rising sun" in the original text. The "land of the rising sun" traditionally and historically referring to both Japan and China, the pieces of the puzzle of prophecy begin to fall into place—for the technology of Japan (and fast up and coming China) and the sheer manpower of China could easily produce the two-hundred-million-man army prophesied in (Revelation 9:14–16). Why would China want to go to war? China has a problem: One and one-half billion people—that is, one of every four people on earth—will live in China, and at this time of the Tribulation there is a tremendous famine going on. To address this situation, the Chinese government imposed a fifteen-year prison sentence on couples with more than a single child. As a result, due to the massive abortion of baby girls, sending their boys to war could be seen differently.

They Worshipped the Anti-christ / Now turn on him

Back in Revelation 13 we saw all the world worshipped the Beast (Anti-christ), they believed he was their deliverer, but by the end of the Tribulation the world sees that he could not deliver what he promised, and insurrections and rebellions begin:

(Revelation 13:8 NKJV) 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.

Filled with Warfare

The Valley of Megiddo, also called the Jezreel Valley is located sixty miles north of Jerusalem, the Jezreel Valley has been filled with warfare.

- When Gideon and three hundred men overcame the Midianites, it was at the valley below a little hill called Megiddo.
- When Samson took on the Philistines, one of the key battles was at Megiddo.
- King Josiah was killed at Megiddo.
- Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera at Megiddo.
- The Turks, Muslims, Syrians, Egyptians, and the Europeans have all waged war in this valley.
- In his disastrous excursion into Egypt, Napoleon passed through the Jezreel Valley. "If ever there is a place on earth where the last war must be fought," he declared, "it is here." The armies of the world will indeed gather at Armageddon. And Antichrist, the false prophet, and Satan himself will meet them there.

Why Satan Gather them Here?

Why would Satan gather all the armies to come fight here?

1st – Destroy Israel

First, to devour Israel. The ultimate anti-Semite is Satan. If He can destroy Israel, Bible prophecy will fail, for how can Jesus return to rule and reign from Israel if Israel ceases to be?

2nd Kill any Believers Left

Second, to destroy believers. Having wiped out the nation Israel, Satan would then wipe out all who oppose him.

3rd – Egypt from South / Russia from North / China from East / All Converge

Finally, to determine who will rule the world. Satan knows he will ultimately encounter God at Megiddo. Daniel 11:40–47 outlines the actual strategy that will be used in this final battle (Daniel 11 is the most detailed Scripture on the Battle of Armageddon – the first 35 verses speak of Antiochus Epiphanes, and then transition into future prophecy of the End Times). While Antichrist is headquartered at Babylon, the king of the south—Egypt and the northern African nations—will launch an insurrection against him. At the same time, the king of the north— (most likely Russia)—will come south in order to assist the Egyptians and the northern African nations in their rebellion against Antichrist. So we see Egypt coming north, Russia coming south, China coming from the east—and they all converge in Megiddo.

(Daniel 11:40 NKJV) "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through."

(Daniel 11:41 NKJV) "He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon."

(Daniel 11:42 NKJV) "He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape."

(Daniel 11:43 NKJV) "He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels."

(Daniel 11:44 NKJV) "But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many."

(Daniel 11:45 NKJV) "And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him."

The Battle First Against Each Other / Then See Jesus

The armies of the world gather in the plain of Jezreel, the valley in northern Israel called the Valley of Megiddo—the place we know as Armageddon. Two hundred million men have come from the East; Antichrist is storming into Jerusalem to secure his power base. According to Daniel 11, the South, which would include the Pan African nations and the Arab states banded together, also head toward Israel, to which the Northern armies come from Europe. They all converge to fight one another. But as the battle begins, everyone looks up and sees One whose eyes are like fire, crowned with many crowns, riding a white horse, leading an innumerable army. And suddenly, all of the weapons of all earth's armies are turned upon this One—which was Satan's intention all along.

First Came Lowly – Now Comes in Power / Lights will Bow Down / How Bright does He Shine?

Jesus, He came lowly the first time riding a colt. This time He comes in powers. In the Book of Matthew it says when Jesus returns that the sun and stars will be darkened. The only light that shines at this time will be Jesus. There will be only one light shining, the Lord of glory, the KING OF KINGS. When Jesus returns to earth, even the light will bow before Him, will not share in His glory. How brightly is Jesus shining in your life? I pray you will let the other lights that compete against Him diminish today, so you can see the brilliance of your God:

(Matthew 24:27 NKJV) "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

(Matthew 24:28 NKJV) "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

(Matthew 24:29 NKJV) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

(Matthew 24:30 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 19:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 19:21 NKJV) 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.

Anti-christ – False Prophet cast Lake of Fire / Hell is Eternal

Both the anti-Christ and the false prophet will be lifted up before the troops and cast into the Lake of fire. They will be the first two thrown into the Lake of fire. We will see that they will still be there after the Millennial Reign, so that dispels that life ends at hell, we see that hell is as eternal as heaven.

After battle – We Stand in Awe

After this Battle we will stand and admire Him, stand in awe of Him:

(2 Thessalonians 1:6 NKJV) since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,

(2 Thessalonians 1:7 NKJV) and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

(2 Thessalonians 1:8 NKJV) in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Thessalonians 1:9 NKJV) These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

*(2 Thessalonians 1:10 NKJV) when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints **and to be admired among all those who believe**, because our testimony among you was believed.*

Psalms 149 – High Praises

In Psalm 149 we will be with Him, and we will lift the high praises to Him, giving Him glory for His awesome power. This is how mighty your God, and may you know that today and see Him in that way, He is mighty, and He is your God:

(Psalms 149:6 NKJV) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two-edged sword in their hand,

(Psalms 149:7 NKJV) To execute vengeance on the nations, And punishments on the peoples;

(Psalms 149:8 NKJV) To bind their kings with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron;

(Psalms 149:9 NKJV) To execute on them the written judgment; This honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!

Rev 14 – Lamb on Mount Zion

Revelation 14 John says I saw a Lamb standing on Mount Zion. After this battle at Megiddo, Jesus will march on to the Temple there in Jerusalem, He will dismount to observe the scene, take His rightful place and stand as Victor.

(Revelation 14:1 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Sound of Battle Over

The sound of battle is over, the only noise to be heard will be the swords being put back into their sheaths, we will dismount with Him, and we will all bow in awe of our Great King.

What we Long For / He Establishes His Kingdom / Why we Say Come Quickly Lord

It is what we all long for in our hearts, God taking back this fallen world, establishing His reign on earth, it is what we have been longing for, every election knowing nothing will be set right until the right King comes, and that is why the spirit and the Bride say come quickly Lord.

Chapter 20

Satan Bound / The Millennial Kingdom / Satan Loosed / White Throne Judgment

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
 - New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Outline for Chapter 20

- Satan Bound – 20:1-3
- The Millennial Kingdom – 20:4-6
- Satan Loosed/Cast into Lake of Fire – 20:7-10
- White Throne Judgment – 20:11-15

Lord Returned / 1st thing Satan Bound

The Lord has come back. The final, climactic battle of Armageddon is over. The Millennial kingdom has begun....Jesus Christ is coming to establish His 1, 000 year reign on the earth, and the first thing necessary to establish the kingdom is that Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit.

Satan Bound (20:1-3)

(Revelation 20:1 NKJV) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

(Revelation 20:2 NKJV) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

How Fitting – Satan Bound

How fitting, all the people that Satan bound and chained and now it is he that is bound. I love it when Jesus reverses the tables, He is anything but boring, He is exciting and creative, and we will spend all eternity with Him as He reveals Himself to us.

Bound by Just an Angel / Not Counterpart to God / Ish 14 – This who Troubled Us

Satan is bound not by the Lord, not by a host of angels, not even by Michael the archangel—but by a single, unnamed angel. We often imagine a huge cosmic struggle going on constantly between God and Satan. Oh, we know God will win ultimately—but for now, we assume it's touch and go. Not true. Satan is not the evil counterpart of God. God is God. There is none like Him, none who can even begin to challenge Him (Deuteronomy 4:39). Satan, previously known as the archangel Lucifer, has always been a created being. Thus, if there is a counterpart to Satan, it would be an archangel like Michael or Gabriel—but not God. That is why when we see Satan from a heavenly perspective, we will say, "Is this the one who troubled the whole world?" (Isaiah 14:16) Holding a chain in his other hand, it only takes one hand of a single angel to detain Satan.

(Isaiah 14:16 NKJV) "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

(Isaiah 14:17 NKJV) Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

Dragon – Serpent - Devil – Satan

The Devil and all that he is identified here and bound here. The "dragon", the fierceness of Satan as we saw him devouring the saints and the world as we saw in revelation 12. The "serpent" who is the deceiver, as we saw in Genesis 3. There is the Devil the tempter as we saw in Matthew 4. And then there he is as "Satan" the one who desires to sift us.....bound, all that he is bound up with him.

(Revelation 12:17 NKJV) 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.

(Genesis 3:1 NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

(Matthew 4:1 NKJV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

(Luke 22:31 NKJV) And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

(Revelation 20:3 NKJV) 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.

Shut-up / Shut-up

Verse 3 - and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up – This is twofold, Satan is shut up as in locked away, and shut-up as the Lord silences his mouth.

Bottomless Pit – Abussos / Place of Worst Demons / As Seen in 5th Trumpet

Verse 3 - and he cast him into the bottomless pit -The bottomless pit, or abussos into which Satan is tossed is the place wherein the worst demons are presently incarcerated—a place so horrific that the demons of Matthew 8 begged to be cast into a herd of swine rather than be sent there. I sometimes think the door to the pit is somewhere here in Pasadena and has a loose seal. We seen the contents of the

bottomless pit bag in chapter 9 (the 5th Trumpet), and we seen it contained the worst of the worst of demons:

(Revelation 9:1 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:3 NKJV) Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Satan Tried to Seal Jesus in Tomb

Verse 3 - *and set a seal on him*, - What did Satan try to do to Jesus? He tried to seal Him in a tomb (Matthew 27:66). But Jesus didn't stay there. Now the tables are turned.

(Matthew 27:66 NKJV) So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Satan Bound 1,000yrs / Lion – Abide own Vine – no Slaves – Plowshares / Fantastic time Peace

Verse 3 - *so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished* - Satan will be in the abussos for one thousand years. This explains how the wolf can lie down by the lamb, how the lion and bullock shall graze together, how snakes shall eat only dust—how peace will reign (Isaiah 65:25). It explains how every man will abide under his own vine (Micah 4:4), how no one will have to work for anyone else (Isaiah 65:23)—how prosperity will abound, and no more war as the swords are beat into plowshares. The Millennium will be a fantastic time of unparalleled peace and total prosperity because Satan will not be on the scene.

(Isaiah 65:20 NKJV) "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

(Isaiah 65:21 NKJV) They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

(Isaiah 65:22 NKJV) They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

(Isaiah 65:23 NKJV) They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

(Isaiah 65:24 NKJV) "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

(Isaiah 65:25 NKJV) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

(Micah 4:4 NKJV) But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

(Isaiah 2:4 NKJV) He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

(Isaiah 11:1 NKJV) There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

(Isaiah 11:2 NKJV) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

(Isaiah 11:3 NKJV) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

(Isaiah 11:4 NKJV) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

(Isaiah 11:5 NKJV) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

(Isaiah 11:6 NKJV) "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.

(Isaiah 11:7 NKJV) The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

(Isaiah 11:8 NKJV) The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

(Isaiah 11:9 NKJV) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

(Isaiah 11:10 NKJV) "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

(Isaiah 11:11 NKJV) It shall come to pass in that day That the LORD shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

(Isaiah 11:12 NKJV) He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

(Isaiah 11:13 NKJV) Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart, And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

(Isaiah 11:14 NKJV) But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west; Together they shall plunder the people of the East; They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab; And the people of Ammon shall obey them.

*(Isaiah 11:15 NKJV) The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, And strike it in the seven streams, And make men cross over dry-shod.
(Isaiah 11:16 NKJV) There will be a highway for the remnant of His people Who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.*

God still has plan for Satan

Verse 3 - *But after these things he must be released for a little while* - Rather than being cast into outer darkness, or Gehenna, Satan is held in the abussos, the bottomless pit, for one thousand years because God will still have a job for him to do—as we will see in verse 7....

The Millennial Kingdom (20:4-6)

This period is known as the Millennial Kingdom, the Kingdom Age, and it last for 1000 years. It is the last period of dispensation on the earth. Scholars agree on at least 7, but some add merge the last 2, some break them out.

Seven/Eight Dispensation Periods

- #1 Dispensation of Innocence:** (from creation to fall).
- #2 Dispensation of Conscience:** (from fall to flood,)
- #3. Dispensation of Government:** (from flood to Babel)
- #4 Dispensation of Promise (Vision):** (from Abraham to Exodus).
- #5 Dispensation of the Law:** (from Exodus to Calvary - The law was given).
- #6 Dispensation of Grace:** from Calvary to the Rapture – the Church Period)
- #7 Dispensation of Tribulation:** (7 year period)
- #8 Dispensation of Millennial Kingdom:** (1000 yr period).

(Revelation 20:4 NKJV) 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 a thousand years. (Revelation 20:5 NKJV) But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

World Longs Peace / Laugh when Arrested Disturbing Peace

The world longs for a one world government, a world of peace where there are no more wars, no more killing, no more divisions and the likes. The world truly is looking for peace. I always laugh when someone is arrested for disturbing the peace, for I wonder where they found peace to disturb in the first place. Finally, peace on the earth, and it found here in Revelation 20.

One of Most Prophesied Events / Caused Division and Hatred in Church

This passage is about peace, one thousand years of peace, one of the most prophesied events in all of the scriptures, it is known as the Millennial (1000year) Kingdom. The passage is on peace, yet it has caused so much division in the church, it has caused so much hatred in the world, and it has brought on so much death in the world.

3 Views

The passage of peace has 3 common views/positions people take on the Millennium:

- A-Millennium
- Post-Millennium
- Pre-Millennium

1.) A-Millennium

No Millennium / Catholic – Lutheran – Presbyterian - Episcopalian

A-Millennium – the “a” in the Latin (by the way the word Millennium isn’t used in the Bible it is just referred to as the 1,000 years or Kingdom Age), so the ‘a” means “no”, so they take the position that it is no-millennium. They believe it is symbolic, Those denominations include the Catholic Church, Lutheran Church, Presbyterian Church, and the Episcopalian Church.

Say Symbolic – Like Satan can't stop Preaching / Long Chain / Divine Outline

They say it is all 'symbolic, like Satan won't be able to stop the preaching of the gospel, and that this is the kingdom age. The problem is that if this is the Kingdom Age, and Satan is bound than and that is one long chain. They need to observe the Divine Outline of the book back in 1:19.

2.) Post-Millennium

Church Establishes / Evangelism / Thought Depresses Me

Post-Millennium – the Post Millennium belief is that the church establishes and prepares the Kingdom Age and Jesus will come back after we Christianize the world through evangelism and rid it of evil, and Then Jesus will come back to claim His spotless bride. The very thought of that depresses me, for if you leave that up to man, we will never see Jesus.

Last 20 years / Dominion Theology / Church Subdue World / Divine Outline

The theologies that have exploded in the last twenty years are Kingdom Now, Dominion Theology, Reconstructionist, Latter Rain. They all teach that the church will subdue the world and make it perfect, then the Lord can return, but not until the world is perfect. Find that in the Bible, would you?! Their Twisted theology comes because they don't understand the divine outline of the Book of Revelation, and because they do not take the whole counsel of God

Another Problem / Earth gets Worse

Another problem with this position is that it contradicts scriptures for the Word tells us that when Jesus returns the world will be as it was in the days of Noah. We read about it also in 1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy, 2 Peter 3, and Jude that the earth will be in terrible shape when Jesus returns, not good;
(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

(1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

(2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV) But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

Another problem / Forced Conversion / Israel Cast Aside - Hitler

Another problem is that men have believed that if necessary, use force, that happened in the Crusader period. Also, this position cast Israel aside which contradicts what we have been studying all through this book. One such person who took this approach, to horrendous extremes, was Adolf Hitler who thought he were ushering in the 1,000 year reign, and Hitler thought he was destroying the vile offspring of the Christ killers.

3.) Pre-Millennium

Rapture – Tribulation – Battle – Jesus Returns

Pre-Millennium - The third view, the correct view, is that it is a literal 1,000 year period. The Pre-Millennium believe that God will rapture His church, then there will be 7 years of Tribulation on earth climaxing at the Battle of Armageddon, and Jesus returning with His saints to then set-up the Millennial Kingdom.

In this Period we Reign with Christ

In this period Christ will reign from Jerusalem and we will reign with Him. We will be in our glorified bodies. That means to me that I can eat anything I want and not worry about the impact. That excites me.

Time of Peace / No Deaf – Feeble – Blind

The Scriptures tell us that this will be a time of peace, and health. The blind will see, the deaf will hear
(Isaiah 35:3 NKJV) Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.
(Isaiah 35:4 NKJV) Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."
(Isaiah 35:5 NKJV) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
(Isaiah 35:6 NKJV) Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

Time of Massive Repopulation / Long Life Span / Lots of Kids / Pre-Fall / Streams in Desert

This will be a time of massive repopulation as people will live hundreds of years as God will restore the earth to the conditions of the earth before the fall. People will live lifespan as in the days of Adam, 800 and 900 years (Ish 65 says a child will still be considered a child at 100). So massive repopulation of the earth, could you imagine how many children the Williams family would have if they lived 1000 years. It appears the earth will be back to as it was before the fall. The Bible says that the rose will bloom in the desert,

(Isaiah 65:20 NKJV) "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.

(Isaiah 35:1 NKJV) The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; Isaiah 35:2 NKJV) It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.

*(Isaiah 35:6 NKJV) Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. **For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.***

(Isaiah 35:7 NKJV) The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

Maybe Axis Shift / No More Hurricanes - Floods

It appears the earth will be restored to the Edenic glory as it was before the flood, as it was in the Garden of Eden. The earth, the whole earth, will be a paradise. There will probably be an equalizing of the climates. There will be no more hurricanes. There will probably not be any polar icecaps. We do know that under the polar icecaps there were at one time forests under the icecaps. The coal deposits tell us that. We do know that in the frozen Arctic Circle in Siberia, in that icy tundra, they have found the remains of mammoths that were frozen in place. When they were cut open, the digestive tracts had parts of tropical vegetation. So we know that at one time, the climate of the earth was vastly different than it is today. That there didn't exist the polar icecaps, but there were tropical animals roaming around the area of the North Pole. Without the polar icecaps, of course, the land surface would be covered more with water. There would be a difference between the present percentage of sea and land. But without the polar icecaps, you would not be getting these tremendous radical changes of climate. There would be much more sun. The earth, of course, presently is tilted at twenty-three and a third degrees, which gives us our seasons. Perhaps God will readjust because the Bible says the earth is going to wobble like a drunken man and will be moved out of its place. Perhaps the Lord will correct, and we will not be in a twenty three and a third degree angle on our axis in relationship to the sun, but directly perpendicular which would bring not the seasons but an equal kind of daylight and nighttime. And the whole earth could be like Hawaii. There will be a renewed longevity of life. There will be, of course, greater moisture in the atmosphere because of the evaporation of the oceans with more water and not the storms and so forth. There will be a greater evaporation. More moisture will be carried in the atmosphere, which will give us more filters from the ultra violet rays and all. And the earth will be a beautiful place. The whole earth will be filled with His glory! Righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. We will be living with Christ and reigning with Christ over the earth:

(Isaiah 24:20 NKJV) The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.

3 Groups make it Out of Tribulation

I am not totally clear on who these people of the Millennium will be. We are clear on 3 groups that end up at the end of the Tribulation: they will be believers saved during the Tribulation, unbelievers that did not take the mark of the beast or worship the world's system but somehow managed to make it to the end, and thirdly there will be unbelievers that did take the mark of the beast. Some believe that all those that take the mark will be consumed, I think Matthew 25 supports that. Those that were unbelievers who didn't take the Mark of the Beast some teachers say die also, but I am not sure to be honest, I don't think the Scriptures are conclusive on that. How about the Believers that make it through the Tribulation, do they get glorified bodies and rule and reign, I am not sure there either, again I don't think the Scriptures are conclusive to say one way or another. All the Believers can't get glorified bodies and rule and reign, while all the unbelievers die, for then there would be nobody to make up the Kingdom.

(Matthew 25:31 NKJV) "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

(Matthew 25:32 NKJV) "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.
 (Matthew 25:33 NKJV) "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.
 (Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
 (Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;
 (Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'
 (Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?
 (Matthew 25:38 NKJV) "When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?
 (Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'
 (Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'
 (Matthew 25:41 NKJV) "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:
 (Matthew 25:42 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;
 (Matthew 25:43 NKJV) 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'
 (Matthew 25:44 NKJV) "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'
 (Matthew 25:45 NKJV) "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'
 (Matthew 25:46 NKJV) "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

We Rule – No Satan – but Human Nature / Extraordinary Powers

So we will rule with Jesus, and though those living in the Millennium won't be influenced by Satan, they still will have their human nature to deal with. So when they think of ripping off a bicycle, we will be those who enforce Christ's righteousness. That is, before the guy can even develop the plan to steal the bicycle, we'll say, "Don't even think about it." It will be an enforced righteousness that governs the Millennial kingdom and that allows a glorious time of peace on earth. So we will have extraordinary powers in our glorified bodies.

We won't be Judged / When is It / We will Give and Account – Well Done

We won't be judged on the White Throne Judgment we will read in a moment, for that judgment is about man's sin, and our sin has already been judged. We will be judged however, and that judgment is called the Bema Seat Judgment (2 Cor 5), I don't know when Bema Seat Judgment is. Is it right after Rapture, sometime during 7 year Marriage Supper, right before we return for the Second Coming, is it before or after the Lord separates the sheep from the goats? I really am not sure. We won't be judged for our sins, but we will give an account for what we did with the gifts that He gave us. We will be rewarded for what we have done in His name. This is called the Bema seat of Christ. This is where we will hear those words, "well done thy good and faithful servant, you have been faithful with the little things, I will make you ruler over many". Those words come from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25.

(2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV) *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

(2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV) *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.*

(2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

(Matthew 25:14 NKJV) "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

(Matthew 25:15 NKJV) "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

(Matthew 25:16 NKJV) "Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

(Matthew 25:17 NKJV) "And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

(Matthew 25:18 NKJV) "But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

(Matthew 25:19 NKJV) "After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

(Matthew 25:20 NKJV) "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

(Matthew 25:21 NKJV) "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

(Matthew 25:22 NKJV) "He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

(Matthew 25:23 NKJV) "His lord said to him, '**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'**

(Matthew 25:24 NKJV) "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

(Matthew 25:25 NKJV) 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

(Matthew 25:26 NKJV) "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

(Matthew 25:27 NKJV) 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

(Matthew 25:28 NKJV) 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

(Matthew 25:29 NKJV) 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

(Matthew 25:30 NKJV) 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(Matthew 25:31 NKJV) "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Don't want to Rule / Christ thinks it is Good Idea / Invest Wisely – Run to Win Prize

"I don't like this idea of ruling or of judging," you might be saying. But let me tell you something: Jesus would not have taught us to be seizing opportunities to use our time and treasure wisely here on earth if He thought we wouldn't like the reward for doing so. And Paul would not have told us to run so that we might win the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24) if the prize was not something to be greatly desired.

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

(Revelation 20:6 NKJV) 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.

First Resurrection / Jesus – Us – Martyred Trib Saints – OT Believers

Verse 5 - This is the first resurrection - The first resurrection is not a single point in time. Rather, the first resurrection begins with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23). It continues on to include those who believe in Jesus but died before the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:14), believers who are alive at the time of the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:17), those who are martyred in the Tribulation for their refusal to take the mark of the beast (Revelation 20:4), and the Old Testament saints who believed in Yahweh but did not have opportunity to be a part of the church because they died before Jesus came. Thus, the first resurrection speaks of all those who are included in the grand plan of salvation.

(1 Corinthians 15:23 NKJV) But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

2nd Resurrection / 2 Deaths / Born Once Die Twice – Born Twice Die Once

The first resurrection is the resurrection unto life, but the second resurrection is the resurrection to damnation. There are 2 deaths spoken of in the Bible, a physical death and a spiritual death. There is a saying, Born once, die twice, born twice die once. If you are only born and never accept Jesus then you die twice, a physical death and then the spiritual death (which is eternal separation from God). If you are born and then accept Jesus (which is to be born-again - born the second time) you may die once physically but not the second death, spiritually which is eternal damnation. this Lake of Fire.

If Nothing is Going Right – Blessed because part of First Resurrection

Gang, even if nothing else in your life goes right, you are so blessed because you are part of the first resurrection. You are going to heaven. The first death is physical. The second death is eternal. Yes, we will die physically unless the Lord raptures us first. But the second death is for those who are damned eternally. Glory be to God, over us this second death has no power.

Satan Loosed/Cast into Lake of Fire (20:7-10)

(Revelation 20:7 NKJV) Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

(Revelation 20:8 NKJV) 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.

Satan Deceives Millennium People / Living Force Righteousness / Now Given Choice

Who will Satan try to deceive? Those born in the Millennium—those living in enforced righteousness and peace because there's no other choice, those who never had an opportunity to decide whether or not they would follow the Lord. You and I have made such a choice. We have "chosen to be chosen." We have "selected to be elected." Here, those born during the Millennium are also given this choice.

Somehow Satan Deceives Them / Perfect Environment – Peace – Prosperity – Gov't / Heart

I am blown away by the fact that somehow Satan will be able to persuade a great number of people to rebel against the One who will have done nothing but good for them and who will have given them a perfect environment wherein plenty, prosperity, peace, and perfection prevail. But I am only blown away until I stop to realize how good the Lord has been to me; how He gave His life for me; how He provides for me, walks with me, blesses me—and how often I turn my back on Him, fail to learn of Him, refuse to talk to Him. And then I understand how Satan will be able to get a number of those living in the Millennium to echo the cry of Jerusalem: "We will not have this Man to reign over us" (Luke 19:14). No one can blame the environment, that the government was not there for them, at the end of the 1,000 years we will see that it was always about man's heart, the condition of his heart. Remember the 7 Dispensations, man has run through them all, and it just reveals that it has always been man's heart. (Luke 19:14 NKJV) *"But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'*

Why – Love Requires a Choice

Why will the Lord allow this to happen? Because God is love, and love requires a choice.

If my wife agreed to marry me simply because I was the only man on earth or only because I held a gun to her head—our relationship wouldn't be based on love, but on the absence of any other choice.

Satan Loosed – Choice

So, too, God lets Satan loose for a short season in order to give people a choice.

(Revelation 20:9 NKJV) 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. (Revelation 20:10 NKJV) 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.

Circle Jerusalem

The rebellious group led by Satan encircles the city of Jerusalem in a futile attempt to wrest power from the One who reigns within.

He Loses – Cast into Lake of Fire

Satan's purpose in God's plan having been accomplished, he is cast into the lake of fire to join the Beast and the false prophet.

Cartoons Wrong / Lake of Fire – Outer Darkness / Flames shed no Light it is so Dark

The cartoons are wrong, and Hollywood is terribly mistaken in portraying hell as a hot place where people play poker and talk to one another amidst flickering flames and an occasional jab by Satan's pitchfork. Man won't be singing Highway to Hell, Hells Bells, Running with the Devil, or Sin Wagon. You see, in addition to being called a lake of fire, hell is called a place of outer darkness (Matthew 8:12). Consequently, the torment in a place so dark even the flames of the lake of fire don't shed any light is exceeded only by the inner torment people feel throughout eternity as they recall the sermons they heard and the invitations to salvation they ignored.

Separated from God – and Their Gods / No Heaven for no Sin

Not only will man be separated from the One True God, they will also be separated from their gods, the gods they made while here on earth. That is one reason why God would not allow them in heaven, for as soon as they get there they will look for their gods, their passions, and it will not be found.

God wishes none Perish

Jesus said specifically that hell was not created for people, but for the devil and demons (Matthew 25:41). Peter said God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Yet, God, being Light, if man says, "I don't want God," he will be consigned to darkness. God, being health, if man says, "I don't want God," he will be relinquished to a place of pain. God, being a Father, if man says, "I don't want God," he will spend eternity in isolation.

Rather Die than live without You

God, on the other hand, says, "I would rather die than live without you." And He did just that when He died on the Cross in order that, forgiven of our sins, we might live with Him forever.

White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

(Revelation 20:11 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 20:12 NKJV) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, 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.

(Revelation 20:13 NKJV) 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.

Throne is Great & White / No Description – Music – Angel / Frightening / Sin will Stand Out

The throne is great and it is white. No other description, no music, no angels, nothing that we read in Chapter 4. It is a frightening description. All both small and great. The CEO who sat on his throne, to the party person who bowed before the porcelain throne, every one who rejected Jesus will stand in White, and their sin will stand out with no where to hide.

We won't Stand here – Sin Judged / Book of Life – The Books of Damnation

Will believers stand before God at this White Throne Judgment? - No. If you're a Christian, this judgment doesn't apply to you, for you were judged when Christ was on another throne—not a white one, but a wooden one; when He wore a crown not of gold, but of thorns as He died to cleanse you from every sin you ever have or ever will commit. If you're a Christian, your name is written in the Book of Life. The names of those who said, "I didn't buy into that Christian stuff they were always trying to cram down my throat," or, "I needed my space," or, "I had to explore various aspects of spirituality," aren't. "But I lived a pretty good life," they'll protest. Yet the books wherein are recorded the reasons for everything they ever did will prove otherwise....

Handwriting Against Us – Wiped Out

That's why I am so glad I'm saved. The Bible says the "handwriting of ordinances that was against us"—all of our mistakes, sins, and failures—were blotted out by the blood of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:14). In other words, the pages and pages containing my sin are all illegible because they're covered with the red blood of Jesus.

(Colossians 2:13 NKJV) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

(Colossians 2:14 NKJV) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Heaven Illuminated – Fellowship – Peace - Rest

The books will be there. Heaven will be illuminated by Jesus Christ. Hell will be total darkness. Heaven will be continual fellowship, hell will be total isolation and loneliness. Heaven will be peace and rest, hell will be continually unrest and torment.

Hell Horrible – Hell Avoidable / Can't Guarantee you Anything – But Eternal Life

Hell is the most horrible place, but it is the most avoidable place. Today I can't guarantee you health, wealth, that your spouse won't leave you, that your will child will be healthy, but I can guarantee you that you can avoid this place, if you repent of your sin and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Accept Jesus and you are written in the book of Life, and the other books are thrown out.

(Revelation 20:14 NKJV) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(Revelation 20:15 NKJV) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Maybe Say that is Interesting – Concerned with Today / We Win

Maybe you're saying, "What will happen at the end of the world is all very interesting, but the bottom line is that I'm a believer, and I know I'm going to heaven. I'm far more concerned about the problems facing me right now." So was John. The Book of Revelation was written specifically to a group of people facing far greater problems than you'll ever face. And the message it contains is as vital for us as it was to them: It's not over yet. Satan and death itself will be cast into the lake of fire. They lose. And all who embrace what Jesus did on the Cross when He plunged into hell on their behalf—all whose names are written in the Book of Life—win.

NOTES: Appendix – 7/8 Dispensation Periods

God says I have given you all these over the ages, and have shown you that even when you have these things, you still won't be happy; it will only be a personal relationship with me that will make you happy. So he marches us through these periods of dispensations in the Bible.

#1 Dispensation of Innocence: (from creation to fall). They say, "you see if I just didn't have lousy parents I wouldn't be so messed up". Well Adam was made perfectly and had no parental influence, except by God the father. People can't blame their parents, Adam and Eve had the perfect parent and they still chose to sin. In Ezekiel 18:2, *God said I want this proverb no more heard in the land, our fathers ate sour grapes so my teeth are on edge* - in other words don't blame your family for past problems, if you are grinding your teeth it is your problem. Our generation and culture needs to understand this. Quit the blame shifting, trying to excuse their actions because of the parents. It is one of the leading defense cases now, murders and rapist are trying to claim dysfunctional family caused their horrible behavior. Adam and Eve represented you and me, and proved man will mess up, even in a perfect environment- because we are sinners.

#2 Dispensation of Conscience: (from fall to flood,) They say, "If we can just do what is right in our own sight, then everything will be alright. Live and let live. Do what is right for you, and I'll do what is right for me and we will all get along". Look what happened when everybody followed his or her own conscience. They became so vile, sex with fallen angels (demonic spirits), etc, the world was so perverted, only Noah was righteous. (Genesis 6:5-6 NKJV) *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.* God had to flood the earth and start over.

#3. Dispensation of Government: (from flood to Babel) They say, "the government will make everything right". Babel was a government works program. Lets all pull together, become one, and we can achieve anything, and everything will be great. (Genesis 11:3-4) *And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.* They said, "We will ascend up into heaven built with bricks and mortar. The mortar was made from asphalt, but in those times the word was "slime" (how fitting as we see so much corporation in our government). Their government works program couldn't get them into heaven and they ended up being dispersed throughout the world.

#4 Dispensation of Promise (Vision): (from Abraham to Exodus). They say, "If I just had a vision, something to look forward to, if I could just get out of this mess, then everything would be ok. If I could just have a fresh start". How many times I have seen women with this vision, "if only I can get a breast enhancement, then my husband would love me, or men would notice me, then I'd be happy." But vision doesn't go as planned, for what they find out is that it doesn't bring them closer to God, but into the world. Men have their same; whether it be hair on their head, six pack abs, a sports car. Whatever it is, they find that their vision takes them away from the Lord, and into a bondage.

God gave Abraham a promise/vision that was passed down the line.

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a **vision**, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*

(Genesis 15:7 NKJV) *Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."*

(Genesis 15:5 NKJV) *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

(Genesis 15:18 NKJV) *On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;*

But somehow with this great vision promised, the next generation begins to fail, and so on, and so on. Abraham's son Isaac was promised the same vision, but he plans on passing this blessing on to the next son Esau based off of food (Genesis 27:4); but the younger son Jacob steals the blessing from his brother by tricking the aged Isaac (Genesis 27:19); Jacob favors his son Joseph over the other brothers, so they in turn sell him into slavery in Egypt.

The whole family ended up going down to Egypt. We had just read that they were promised land **from the river of Egypt**, not in Egypt. They never did see their vision come to pass, instead they ended up baking bricks in Egypt for 400 years of bondage. (Genesis 15:13 NKJV) *Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.*

#5 Dispensation of the Law: (from Exodus to Calvary - The law was given). They say, "If we just had some rules to live by, some do's and don't." The problem with the law was that man couldn't do it, he couldn't keep them. People think if I can just get the 7 habits of effective people, and get that down. If I can just get the "how to's" from the "who's who", I would be happy and successful. So people read this book and listen to that tape, the problem is it might be good stuff, but we just can't do it. We see history repeat itself over and over. Israel does well, then they fail, they do well, and then they fail. They go from the mighty kingdom under David and Solomon, to being captives to the Babylonians. They go from rebuilding their nation and city after the Babylonian captivity to being under Roman rule.

The law is good but we are sinners and just can't do it. The law was to show us how short we fall from God's standard, and the need we have for Him. (Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV) *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

#6 Dispensation of Grace: (the one Paul is speaking about here – Grace; from Calvary to the Rapture) We realize that it isn't living in innocence, or our conscience, or government, nor a vision thing, or rules and regulations – but just grace. I love you, I died for you, I rose again, if you will just embrace me by faith, confess your need for me, you will be saved. This period goes from the resurrection of Christ all the way until the next period – The Tribulation

#7 Dispensation of Tribulation: (7 year period) They say, "I'm not going to believe something I can't see". During the Tribulation people will see and still not believe. In Revelation 6- 19, angels fly across the earth proclaiming the gospel (Rev 14:6-7), the moon turns to blood (Rev 6:12), the rivers and seas turn to blood (Rev 16:3-7), the two witnesses rise from the dead (Rev 11:11-14)..... talk about seeing it, yet people still won't believe. After seeing all this, people cry out to the mountains - fall on me (Rev 6:12). They will not cry out to the Master, the Rock of Ages. The whole idea of seeing before you believe is false. God says believe it and then you'll see it. You believe in me, and it will be amazing what you see.

#8 Dispensation of Millennial Kingdom: (1000 yr period). People say, "if I could just live in a good environment. If we didn't have pollution and disease, and crime, well then we would be happy and content, and live in harmony." The world will have 1000 years of perfection, the lion shall lie down with the lamb, with no more sickness or wars. Things will be right and fabulous, the environment will be right, yet people still won't believe. At the end of the 1000-year millennial reign, there is a rebellion against God. 1000 years of perfection, yet still people rebel against God

You can through the Bible, and see all the various scenarios. Innocence, conscience, government, vision, rules, seeing it, right environment Yet people still don't come to the Lord. All the excuses are still just excuses. The only answer is Jesus Christ, through grace.

Chapter 21

New Heaven and the New Earth (21:1-8)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
 - New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Hospital – School – Gym – Travel Agency / Eye has not Seen

It is true that the church is to be a hospital where people who are hurting can come and be healed through the body of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ (Matthew 9:12). It is also true that the church is to be a school where we can study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). It is also true that the church is to be a gymnasium wherein we work out our own salvation (Philippians 2:12) and exercise unto godliness (1 Timothy 4:7). But perhaps most importantly the church is to be a travel

agency, booking people on an eternal excursion to heaven. Revelation 21 and 22 constitute a travel brochure for just such a journey.... For eye has not seen nor ear has heard all the great things the Lord has for His people:

(1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV) But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

(1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Remarkable Passage / Gives Detail – so Set our Sight Above

This is a remarkable passage of scripture, as God gives us a most wonderful description of what heaven will be like. He gives us this passage with its detail because we are called to set our sights above and not below, and that eye has not seen nor ear has heard, so here we are reading about our future.

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Out of Our Mind – Found the Greatest Thing / Heaven made for Us – Every Detail

Precious people, now we are all completely out of our mind or we have found the greatest thing in the universe, and we know it is the later. Heaven is the place that is made for us. There will never be a place where we say I wish God would have done this or done that, God will have every detail taken care of.

We will be Home / Love Home in Pasadena – Heaven Finally Home

We will be home, we will be with our family, we will be with our Father. I love my home here in Pasadena, I look forward to coming home to it at the end of the day. I look forward to seeing my family and being with my family. To be honest I could stay there with them all day and be perfectly content. One of the greatest reasons I leave it, is to come here, because I long to be with the rest of my family. This is my home away from home. But I also find myself being at home when I am invited over to your homes for fellowship, many times I wish there was more time so I could stay longer. When we get to heaven, will be home, and it will be all the above and I so look forward to that.

Maybe Your Home not All That / Home Long for is Heaven / Warmth – Peace – Fellowship

Maybe your home life past or present wasn't a home at all. Abusive, unloving parents or spouse, God says that home you long for is here for you in heaven. The warmth, the love, the peace, the fellowship, it is here, and I have prepared a place for you the Lord says:

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(John 14:4 NKJV) "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

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

(Revelation 21:2 NKJV) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(Revelation 21:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 21:4 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 21:5 NKJV) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

(Revelation 21:6 NKJV) And He said to me, "It is done! 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.

(Revelation 21:7 NKJV) "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

(Revelation 21:8 NKJV) "But the cowardly, unbelieving, 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."

Lets take a look at this verse-by-verse.

(Revelation 21:1 NKJV) 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.

Major Changes / Earth Dissolved / Big Bang /

Some major changes. Heaven and earth have passed away. 2 Peter 3:10, the earth is cast away, dissolved (with a great noise it happens – so the Big Bang Theory is true, just in reverse):

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Why New Heaven – Polluted by Satan

Due to the pollution and destruction of our planet, we understand the need for a new earth. But what is the reason for a new heaven? According to Job 15:15, the heavens are not clean in God's sight. Why? Because Satan's presence has polluted them (Revelation 12:10).

(Job 15:15 NKJV) If God puts no trust in His saints, And the heavens are not pure in His sight,

(Revelation 12:10 NKJV) 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.

Jesus Holds them Together – then lets Go

What we read about in 2 Peter 3:10 would have blown the minds of those reading all the way up to the period we live in, the Atomic Age", we have seen what happens when the atom splits, we have seen the results of the Atom Bomb. Scientist know how to make the atom split, but they have no idea what holds it together, so the best they could come up with was "atomic glue", we call Him Jesus, we call Him Savior, and one day the One who holds it all together, will also just let it go, and the universe will vaporize:

(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Ish 65 – bara / We Watch Genesis 1 all Over Again / Exciting – Heaven not Boring

In Isaiah 65:17, it says God is going to create a new heaven and a new earth. The Hebrew word used there is "Bara", it means to create out of nothing (the Hebrew word "asa" means to assemble out of existing material). So God will create a new heaven and a new earth, out of nothing. We will get to be witness and present of Genesis 1 all over again. We will watch Him and hear Him say, Let there be, and it will. How exciting. Have I ever said that heaven will be anything but boring, for God is exciting and so creative beyond our imagination, heaven will be anything but boring. How amazing and how exciting for us to watch and be a part of this.

(Isaiah 65:17 NKJV) "For behold, I create (bara) new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

No More Sea

Verse 1 - Also there was no more sea – No beach, no ocean, say it isn't so! Beloved, eye has not seen, nor ear heard.....We may be surfing clouds, the sea will pale in comparison to the sea of glass before the throne, whatever it is, it is going to be better than the sea we know and love today – so it is going to be great. What I am so glad about, is that over the ages the sea has been a cause of separation, dividing nations and peoples, but in the new heaven and earth, there will be no more separation. We will be a untied kingdom and family.

(Revelation 21:2 NKJV) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Jerusalem – New Capitol

Jerusalem, the new capitol of the new creation. The world would do well to recognize that today, save a lot of pain and suffering.

Imagine John Seeing this Scene / Waves of Persecution / Spiritual Eyes – This Future Scene

Imagine John, on the Island of Patmos, 90-100 years old, exiled on this rocky barren island, his skin stretched and sagging from being dipped in a pot of boiling oil (based on Church tradition). Imagine seeing this scene from where he is at, that moment, with the waves of persecution coming against the church. I pray God gives us spiritual eyes to see this ourselves, for maybe you feel like you are on your own island suffering and your heart is heavy for those you love who are suffering also. May your heart be lifted to this promised guaranteed scene.

Beautiful City / Love Annapolis / Rollers in Brides Hair / May we Adorn Ourselves

This city is beautiful, it is prepared. The beauty is unspeakable. What a scene, not to be likened to any city this world has to offer. This city is like a bride on her wedding day, perfect in every way. Me and Renee love weddings we love seeing bridal parties when we go to Annapolis, because we love to see the bride adorned in her beauty. We have never seen a bride coming down the aisle with rollers in her hair, smeared make-up, bear in one hand, flowers in the other, and a cigarette hanging from her mouth, saying "alright where is he, lets get this thing over with". She is always adorned in beauty. This is what the New Jerusalem will be, and it will be holy and set apart. May we as the Bride of Christ adorn ourselves the same way for our Bridegroom Jesus Christ.

(Revelation 21:3 NKJV) 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.

Behold – Consider This – Loud Voice / With them 3 Times / John 1 – Matt 1

Behold-consider this, spoken with a loud voice so we hear it clearly. Notice the "with them", through this verse. The tabernacle is *with men*, and He will dwell *with them*, God Himself will be *with them*. God is making it clear that He will be with us, and that we will be with Him. Immanuel (God with us), the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the tabernacle of God is with men, this is the total fulfillment of God dwelling with us:
(John 1:14 NKJV) 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.

(Matthew 1:23 NKJV) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

(Revelation 21:4 NKJV) "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."

First Act/ Not done by Angel / His Hand / Nephew – Eye to Eye / I'm Ready

First thing He will do, is wipe our tears away. The first act by God recorded for us in the new heaven, is He wiping our tears away, The hand of the Father wiping them away. Not an angel, but God personally. He caught every tear you ever shed, and now He touches them with His hand. I picture Him looking with His eyes into our eyes, those eyes of compassion, His gentle touch, then His warm embrace. What we long for, His eyes looking upon us with love, His touch touching us to behold us, that He longs to behold me, to hold my face in His hands, looking upon me in love. I'll never tire of His touch. When my nephew was a baby, when he wanted to talk to me, he would put both hands on my face and turn my head so we would meet eye to eye and have my undivided attention; oh to have the eyes of the Lord looking into my eyes. I don't know about you, but I'm ready, I am ready to see Him face to face, and eye to eye.

(Revelation 21:5 NKJV) Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

Record this John – Get this Word Out / Faithful – Genuine & Dependable / Make Sure Know

God personally talks to John and said write these things down, record this, make sure these words get to my people, my children, let them hear these words which are faithful (which means “genuine and dependable). Make sure they know a day is coming that I will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there will be no more death, sorrow (despair), or crying.

What Words Mean – John – Church / Mother with Cancer – the Poor – the Desperate

What would these words mean to John exiled to the island of Patmos, and what would they have meant to the Church in 90AD who were being beheaded for proclaiming Jesus is their Lord, and that Jesus is the One True God, those that have or would have their loved ones fed to lions, or burned at the stake, with no end in sight. What these words would mean to a mother who lost her baby, the 40 year old with cancer and 3 kids, the lonely, the poor, and the desperate. God said John write these words, make sure they hear them, for they are faithful and true.

Mean to Me / Memory of My Failing

Oh what these words mean to me, that He will make all things new. Just as the heaven and earth are vaporized and dissolved, so will the memory of my failings, all the people I hurt through my selfishness and ignorance. All the times I failed the Lord. I don't know about you, but I am ready to hear these words.....it is done!

(Revelation 21:6 NKJV) And He said to me, "It is done! 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.

Means to Stand Accomplished

It is done means “stands accomplished”. Spoken like a true carpenter, it is done, my work is complete.

Then Comes the Invitation – Come and Drink

Then comes the invitation, all who are thirsty, come and drink.

(Revelation 21:7 NKJV) "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Overcome through the Lamb

As we have studied we overcome through the blood of the Lamb:

(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "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.

(1 John 5:4 NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.

(Revelation 21:8 NKJV) "But the cowardly, unbelieving, 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."

Only 2 Decisions / Heaven not for Everyone

There are only 2 decisions, to accept Him or reject Him. Sad to say heaven isn't for everyone, although all are invited.

Clearest Verse – Profession not Enough

To me verses 7-8 are the clearest Scriptures against those who think they can profess with their mouths, but not repent of their sin. God puts the 2 of them together with 2 separate endings. Doesn't matter if you say “well we're going to get married anyways”, or “I am a victim, it was my up bringing”, the Lord makes it clear right here, profession and excuses is not salvation, it is profession and repentance that leads to salvation.

God Extends Invitation / All who are Thirsty

God speaks to all of us today, He extends His invitation to you today, all who are thirsty, come and drink of the fountain. The travel brochure is available for your reading today, and reservation are being accepted.

The New Jerusalem (21:9-27)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
 - New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Acts 17 / Not Believe This

Acts 17:11 says don't believe a thing that Ray Bolas tells you, go and check it out for yourselves. I hope you have your Bibles with you today because you are not going to believe what you'll hear today, you'll need to see it with your own eyes:

(Acts 17:11 NKJV) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Read About Eternal Home / Eye has Not Seen

What you read today is about your eternal home. This passage is truly eye has not seen nor ear has heard all that the Lord has in store for those who love Him:

(1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV) But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Literal – Not Symbolic / No “was like” – Chp 9

This place that we read about today is literal, it is not symbolic. Because the things we read are so unbelievable, so amazing, some Bible teachers try to make all that we read here as symbolic. I point out to you that nowhere does it/will it say "was like: or "as if" like we read back in Chapter 9 when we were reading about the demonic beings being released from the bottomless pit:

*(Revelation 9:7 NKJV) 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.*

*(Revelation 9:8 NKJV) They had hair **like** women's hair, and their teeth **were like** lions' teeth.*

*(Revelation 9:9 NKJV) 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.*

Don't Measure Symbolism

Nor do you don't measure symbolism as well see in this passage as John is told to measure the walls of this city.

(Revelation 21:15 NKJV) And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

Description hard to Believe / Something way more Incredible

The descriptions given in this passage are so incredible that people have a hard time believing it. Let me tell you something way more incredible, and that is that God would leave His throne 2000 years and come to this earth to be spit upon, mocked, beaten with no less than 39 lashes upon His back, stripped naked, had nails pierced through His hands and feet, and hung upon a cross to redeem you and I from our sins. If you can believe that, than this shouldn't be any problem.

What Long For – Heading To

This place we read about today is what we are longing for, and where we are heading to.

(Revelation 21:9 NKJV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

(Revelation 21:10 NKJV) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

(Revelation 21:11 NKJV) having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

(Revelation 21:12 NKJV) 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:

(Revelation 21:13 NKJV) three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

(Revelation 21:14 NKJV) Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

(Revelation 21:15 NKJV) And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

(Revelation 21:16 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 21:17 NKJV) Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

(Revelation 21:18 NKJV) The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

(Revelation 21:19 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 21:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 21:21 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 21:22 NKJV) But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

(Revelation 21:23 NKJV) The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

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

(Revelation 21:25 NKJV) Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

(Revelation 21:26 NKJV) And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

(Revelation 21:27 NKJV) But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Now lets break it down verse by verse.

(Revelation 21:9 NKJV) Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Wait a Minute / God's Perspective – Heaven not Heaven without You / May Words Flood Back

Wait a minute you may say, we just read about a city (heaven), and the city is referred to as the bride; I thought we were the bride. Oh, how beautiful this passage is, you see from God's perspective, heaven and you are the same thing – His Bride. From God's perspective, heaven will not be heaven without you there. God says I see you brilliant, I see you sparkling, I see you shining, heaven would not be heaven without you there, heaven will not sparkle without you there. Oh that we would know what His thoughts are towards us, what he thinks of us. Christian when you wonder, when you question, when you doubt, may these words come flooding back to you – *Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

(Revelation 21:10 NKJV) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

God Saves best for Last / Rapture – Supper – 1000 – Heaven / Remember this Up and Down

God saves the best for last. Notice the progression through this book. First we are raptured, that's awesome, then we enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb for 7 years, that's awesome (especially considering all that is going on upon the earth at that time with the tribulation). Then we get to rule and reign with Him during the Millennial kingdom, how awesome will that be? And Now we not only get to see, but we get to live in the New Heaven and the New Earth. All of this for us began here for us, living in and getting saved out of this fallen world. Remember this as you struggle through this earth, as you go through the ups and downs we all experience living here, God is saving the best for last, and it keeps getting better and better.

Satan's Approach Opposite / Offer is Immediate / Pops & Shows us: Drink – Smoke – join up

Now keep that in mind for Satan's approach is just the opposite. He offers the best first and the worst last. You youth, let me tell you, what Satan has to offer you today is the best it is going to get, it will only get worse and worse. What God is offering is still yet future to receive, what Satan offers is immediate, here and now. He pops in and shows us things that we do not have and says here take it and it will fulfill you now. Don't wait for marriage enjoy it, take these drugs, smoke this stuff, move on to someone new,

kickback and relax rest today church will be there tomorrow. He offers his best today, and the rest gets weaker and weaker, worse and worse.

Christian – How Great to Know we Saved

Christian how great is it to know we are saved today, how wonderful it is to live this Christian life, and yet to know that He is saving the best for last

(Revelation 21:11 NKJV) having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

(Revelation 21:12 NKJV) 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:

(Revelation 21:13 NKJV) three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

City is a Cube / 3 gates a Side / Name of Sinners / City speaks of Grace

This glorious city is a cube, a square, (some think it hovers and never lands) and there are 3 gates on each side and each gate has the name of one of the Tribes of Israel marked overhead. Look at this city of grace, the names of sinners marked overhead. The whole city speaks of Gods grace. The gates aren't names, righteousness, holiness, faithfulness; which I think would have been great names (hey I'll meet you at the gate of righteousness for a heavenly café mocha), now instead I will meet you at the Gate of Judah or Dan. Pick any of the of the 12, and there is something you can relate to their weakness, failings, and or struggles and we will continually say, oh what a God of grace, you chose the nails so that I can be here. Will not praise explode from our hearts every time we stand in this city, and realize we were saved by grace, by the precious blood of the Only Begotten – glory to His Name?

(Revelation 21:14 NKJV) Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Imagine John Seeing his Name / Going back to Preach / Sagging Skin – its but a Scratch

Imagine John seeing his name on one of those walls. I imagine John leaving Patmos and going back to preach in the churches and people saying oh my look at your sagging deformed skin, how painful that must be, how painful to be dipped in that boiling oil. But John seeing his name on this city would respond, "ah its but a scratch". Christian when we live our life backwards from heaven, we see the glory that is to yet be revealed, when we put that in perspective of some pains in our life today, we will say "ah its but a scratch".

(Revelation 21:15 NKJV) And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

(Revelation 21:16 NKJV) 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.

Cube 1500/side / 2.250 million / New York to Gulf / HOW BIG IS YOUR PROBLEM

This cube measures approximately 1500 miles per side (12,000 furlongs). It is a cube. The square mileage would measure about 2,250,000 square miles. That means it would measure (at it's base) from about the border of Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and from New York city to the city of Denver in Colorado. And the same amount upward. The cube equals 3,375,000,000 cubic miles. Christian, how big is your problem you may be dealing with right now. Do you believe that your God has the power to see you through it. What is that sin problem in your life, what is that marriage problem, financial problem. How does it compare to New York to the Gulf of Mexico.

How Crowded / 100 Billion – 20 Billion / 75 Acres

How crowded will it be there? Here is just an estimate for consideration; today there are about 6 billion people on the earth. Someone estimated that if since Adam to today, and through the Millennial Kingdom, and all the innocent children who perished due to abortion or early deaths, that if the total

civilization for the history of man would be about 100 billion people. Now if 20% got saved, that would mean 20 billion people in heaven (remind you - wide is the road that leads to destruction, and narrow is the gate that heads to heaven). But even at 20 Billion, even if each persons mansion was a 75 acre cube, that would still leave 3/4 of this city with free space for God to do whatever else he will do with it (golf courses (now that going to be a long tee-shot), water parks, whatever that may be. What an amazing place this will be.

(Matthew 7:13 NKJV) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

(Matthew 7:14 NKJV) "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Imagine John going from the View of Patmos to Heaven / Live life Backwards

Imagine John from his view of Patmos to his view of this. Blown away I am sure. Hey Christian, did I ever tell you the key to life is to live backwards, live from heaven backwards to today and watch how small all the cares of the world become.

(Revelation 21:17 NKJV) Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

Walls 200 ft Thick / Walk through Tunnel / Abraham looked for City / Separates Godly from Worldly

I am not sure if this measurement is height and thickness, I tend to lean that it is both. So 144 cubits would make the thickness of the walls around the city is about 200 feet thick. You will have to walk through solid diamond like stones, a tunnel of diamond just to get into the city. Abraham looked for a city not made with hands, whose builder and maker was God. This is the city that Abraham looked for, this is the city and these are the things that Abraham set his heart upon, the things above. These things, the things of God, the things above are the things that make some men godly and leaves others worldly. Men and woman who read these things and believe them and set their hearts upon them and realize they are worth more than anything this world has to offer, they are the people that live godly lives, they are the people who are truly free as the things of this world have no hold upon them.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

(Revelation 21:18 NKJV) The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

(Revelation 21:19 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 21:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 21:21 NKJV) 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.

Gold is Asphalt in Heaven

Gold is used as asphalt in this city. Our whole monetary system is based and backed by gold. Nuke Fort Knox and our monetary system has no backing, collateral if you will. The wealth of the world based on gold. How many wars and lives lost over gold. The golden rule, he who has the gold rules. What is the Lord saying here? What the world considers materially the greatest most precious thing is common pavement in heaven. Set your heart on the things above, not on the earth. Jesus said in Matthew 16, what does it profit a man if he gains all the "asphalt" in the world, yet in the end loses his very soul.

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Matthew 16:24 NKJV) Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

(Matthew 16:25 NKJV) "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

(Matthew 16:26 NKJV) "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Gates set Equally – 500 miles apart / Men be Clear where to Meet

Now if the gates are set apart equally that means they will be about 500 miles apart. Now men let me give you some good advice, if we are going to tell our wives to meet us at one of these gates lets be real sure we are completely clear on which gate it is for it is a long way to the next gate.

Foundations & Stones

Now the foundations of the walls are made with all different kinds of precious stones. Here are the stones and their colors to give you some idea of how brilliant this city will be;

1. Jasper - purest clearest diamond.
2. Sapphire - blue.
3. Chalcedony - sky blue with yellow streaks in it.
4. Emerald - green.
5. Sardonyx - white with blood red veins.
6. Ruby - red
7. Chrysolite –blue, green, and gold
8. Beryl - yellow green
9. Topaz - golden
10. Chrysoprase – blue, apple green and yellow
11. Jacinth - violet and blue
12. Amethyst – ranges from a faint purple to an intense purple

One Pearl – Big Oyster

Each gate is carved out of one pearl set into the walls (those are some huge oysters).

Pearly Gates – No Peter / No ID Check – Men Decide Today

This is where we get the pearly gates, but notice there is no Peter standing and guarding the gate. The gates are opened, there is no ID check, for every man decides today if they get in. If you do not know Jesus today, if you have even a shadow of a doubt, please do not leave this place without being sure that you have reservations.

(Revelation 21:22 NKJV) But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

(Revelation 21:23 NKJV) The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

No Temple – Big Sanctuary - His Presence

No temple, for this city is one big sanctuary with His presence in the midst.

God Illuminated the Temple of OT

The Temples of the Old Testament were illuminated by God Himself and so will this Holy Temple, and so will He here in this Holy Temple:

(Exodus 40:35 NKJV) And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

(2 Chronicles 7:1 NKJV) When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Imagine City from a Cloud

Imagine what this city will look like. I look forward to going outside the city, maybe finding me a cloud (if there are such strings in the New Heaven and Earth) and just sitting there from a distance and see the brilliance of this city breaking forth. Imagine the Light of Jesus illuminating outward from the center of the city, going through all these precious stones and their colors we just read about. It will be a Light show beyond our imaginations. I look forward to all of us sitting together just being amazed. I don't know about you, but I'm ready.

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

(Revelation 21:25 NKJV) Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

(Revelation 21:26 NKJV) And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

(Revelation 21:27 NKJV) But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Book of Life – Philp 1:6

Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life. We will be there, for He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Pastor John to his Flock – Key to Victory - Heaven

As chapter 21 draws to a close, I hear Pastor John, by the inspiration of the Spirit, saying to his flock in the midst of tribulation and persecution, "The key to victory, the remedy to hopelessness, despair, depression, it is one thing: heaven."

Let not heart be Troubled

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

(John 14:4 NKJV) "And where I go you know, and the way you know."

(John 14:5 NKJV) Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus deals with Depression / Take focus off Heaven – onto World – Depression / Extent of Above

Jesus deals with depression in 6 verses, six powerful verse. Saint, if you take your focus off eternity and get caught up in the present world, like Peter on the water, you'll sink into the ocean of depression. But the extent to which you set your heart on things above is the extent to which you will be free from defeat and discouragement.

May we be Heavenly Minded People – Book Ourselves and Others Flight to New Jerusalem

May we be a heavenly minded people as we book ourselves and as many others as we can on the flight to the New Jerusalem.

Chapter 22

The River, the Tree, and the Light (22:1-9)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
 - New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Writing to Be Ready

John is writing so that we might be ready, and we have talked so much about be ready to meet Him, and to have others ready to meet Him also, but in today's passage (as in our last study), he is writing so that we might be ready to be blown away by the things we are going to see in heaven. Today's passage is purely, eye has not seen nor ear has heard all the things God has prepared for those that love Him:

(1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV) But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Scene Mind Blowing / River – Tree - Light

This scene of heaven is mind blowing, as we will see the river of life flowing through heaven, the tree of life that yields a different fruit every month, and we will see the Light of God illuminating heaven as there will be no need of the sun or lamps because His radiance illuminates all of heaven.

(Revelation 22:1 NKJV) And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

(Revelation 22:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 22:3 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 22:4 NKJV) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

(Revelation 22:5 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 22:6 NKJV) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

(Revelation 22:8 NKJV) Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

(Revelation 22:9 NKJV) 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."

Amazing Passage / River – Tree - Light

Amazing passage of Scripture. The River, the Water of Life, the Tree of Life, and the Light of God.

Jesus – Radical Statement / John 14:6

Jesus, God, came to the earth and made a powerful, made a radical, made a life changing statement, I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me:

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Deeper than we Know – Fully Revealed in Heaven / All Jesus Proclaimed Seen Here

That passage of Scripture is much deeper than we will ever imagine, but it will be fully revealed to us in heaven. The things we see in heaven today, in this passage, are all things that Jesus proclaimed He is to us. Heaven is the ultimate fulfillment of all that Jesus said He was – I Am the way, the truth and the life

Jesus the Way – He Illuminates the Way / Light gets Brighter – no Glimmer of Darkness

Jesus is the way – He illuminates the way for us, He is the Light that lets us see through the darkness, and show us the way to heaven. That Light gets brighter and brighter for us as we grow in His knowledge, as our vision sharpens in on heaven, and then that day when we are there, the illumination *will be total, never to see another glimmer of darkness.*

(1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Jesus the Truth / Freedom only in the Truth

Jesus the truth - the truth that sets man free only comes through the tree of life. From the Tree of Life comes the healing from the curse, as we look to the cross.

(John 18:36 NKJV) Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

(John 18:37 NKJV) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

(John 18:38 NKJV) Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

Jesus the Life – Water poured forth from His Side / Blood Cleanses – Water of Life – Spirit

Jesus the life – The Water of Life poured out for us when His side was speared and water and blood poured forth upon us. The blood cleansing us from our sin, and the Water of Life, the Spirit of God, flowing from the throne of God upon us.

(John 19:34 NKJV) But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

(John 19:35 NKJV) 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.

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

(John 7:38 NKJV) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

(John 7:39 NKJV) But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

(Revelation 22:1 NKJV) And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

River flows from Throne / River Of – not River With / All Life comes Through/From Throne

This river flows from the throne of God. Notice it is not a river with life, but a river of life. Life flows in this river and as the Bible declares all life comes through/from the throne of God.

This River of Life / Imagine the Woman at the Well / If you Knew – Still so Much to Know

Verse 1 - And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. – The pure river, the water of life, preceding from the throne of God. Can you imagine, should she have been alive, when this letter made its circulation to the churches, and as it would be read to the congregation, and the woman at the well would hear these words - *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.* I am sure she would have broken Paul's counsel on woman should speak out in church. I could picture her jumping up, read that again, read again, oh read it again. Jesus had said to her if you knew who it was you were talking, who was asking for drink, you would ask and He will give you living water. She responded, but there was still so much more to Him than she had ever imagined:

(John 4:5 NKJV) So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

(John 4:6 NKJV) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

(John 4:7 NKJV) A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."

(John 4:8 NKJV) For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

(John 4:9 NKJV) Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

(John 4:10 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

(John 4:11 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

(John 4:12 NKJV) "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

(John 4:13 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

(John 4:14 NKJV) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

(John 4:15 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

(John 4:16 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

(John 4:17 NKJV) The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,'

(John 4:18 NKJV) "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

(John 4:19 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

(John 4:20 NKJV) "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

(John 4:21 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

(John 4:22 NKJV) "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

(John 4:23 NKJV) "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

(John 4:24 NKJV) "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

(John 4:25 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

(John 4:26 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

(John 4:27 NKJV) And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

(John 4:28 NKJV) The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,

(John 4:29 NKJV) "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"

If Only You Knew / So much more to Know / Pray Study takes us Deeper

If only she knew – she did well on what she did know, that Jesus was the Christ, but so much more for her to know. Dear saints there is so much more to know about Him and of Him. I pray this study will cause you to go to deeper waters, to greater depths in Him. I pray that you will never be content in what you know of Him, that you will always know there is so much more to know and that will cause you to keep seeking more of Him.

Zech 14 Millennial - Dead Sea back to Life / Ezk 47 Fishing Industry / Prophetic - Practical

According to Zechariah 14, as Jesus comes back to earth (establishes the Millennial Kingdom), He will set foot upon the Mount of Olives—which will usher in a radical topographical change in Israel. The Mount of Olives will split in two from north to south, causing a river to flow to both the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The infusion of fresh water into the Dead Sea will, in turn, cause it to come back to life to such a degree that a fishing industry will thrive in the region (Ezekiel 47). It is fascinating to me that Ezekiel's account provides not only prophetic information, but practical application....

Ezekiel Vision / Ankles – Knees – Waist – Over Head

As Ezekiel was given this vision, a man appeared to him, saying, "Step into the river." Ezekiel did, and the water was up to his ankles. "Come out," said the man and took Ezekiel downriver one thousand cubits or so, where Ezekiel was told to go into the river once more. This time the water was up to his knees. "Come out," said the man and took Ezekiel one thousand cubits farther downriver, where he told Ezekiel to go into the river yet again. This time the water was up to Ezekiel's waist. When he was told a fourth time to go into the river, the water was over his head, and Ezekiel was caught up in its flow.

(Ezekiel 47:1 NKJV) Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.

(Ezekiel 47:2 NKJV) He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.

*(Ezekiel 47:3 NKJV) And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; **the water came up to my ankles.***

*(Ezekiel 47:4 NKJV) Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; **the water came up to my knees.***

*Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; **the water came up to my waist.***

*(Ezekiel 47:5 NKJV) Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; **for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed.***

(Ezekiel 47:6 NKJV) He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

(Ezekiel 47:7 NKJV) When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other.

Won't Force Deeper – But Will take us Deeper

Dear saint, the Lord won't force us to go any deeper in Him than we choose—but He will take us as deep as we wish....

Ankles – Standing on Promises – Born Again

Some get their feet wet up to their ankles. They are standing on the promises, born again, saved.

Knees – More than get Wet / Be part of What God is Doing – Praying in Spirit

Others, wanting to go deeper, go up to their knees—that speaks of prayer. "I want to do more than get my feet wet, Lord," they say. "I want to be part of what You are doing. Use me in prayer." And they get involved in intercessory ministry—praying in the Spirit.

Waist – Reproduction / Standing – Interceding – Reproducing

Others, wanting to go deeper still, wade in to their waists—signifying reproduction. Not only are they standing on the promises, or up to their knees in intercessory ministry, they are adding to the kingdom by witnessing to their family, friends, and neighbors.

Head – Going to Let Go / No Holding Back – Wherever it Takes Me – For your Glory

But there comes a point where some are just over their heads, saying, “Lord, I’m going to just let go. Have Your way in my life. I’m giving it to You without reservation. I don’t know where this will take me, but I’m Yours totally. Do what You want to do in and through me for Your glory.”

Maybe in Doldrums – Launch to Deeper Waters / Maybe get Rapids - Overtured – No Regret / Spirit on the Move in Us

Maybe right now you’re in the doldrums in your walk. If so, I encourage you to launch out into the deeper waters of faith. Oh, maybe your kayak will get overturned in the rapids a few times and maybe you won’t know exactly where you’ll land. But I guarantee you won’t regret it. I’m so glad that the water of life flows right through heaven because it means that the Lord’s Spirit is on the move even there and that we can continue going deeper and deeper in Him throughout eternity. The rivers of living waters are flowing out upon us.

How Glorious – Let it Flow / Pennsylvania / Ray Boltz – Let Spirit wash Over You

How glorious it is, to put ourselves in places, whether it be prayer, ministry, worship, and just let the Rivers of Living Waters wash over us, how freeing, how exhilarating. When I was a youth growing up in the rural country of Pennsylvania, way back in the woods was a waterfall whose source was a fresh water spring miles upstream. Me and my friends would hike back there on hot summer days, and just sit underneath that fall and let the fresh water pour over us. It was freeing, it was fresh, it was invigorating. Just settle in your seat for a few minutes, let this song by Ray Boltz, and the Spirit of the Lord wash over you, just sit under this River of Life, and be refreshed, and then we’ll pick up the rest of our study.

I Go to the River / Ray Boltz

Ray Boltz’s song – I Go to the River (Allegiance Album – Word Records & Music)

I have walked in a garden
The morning after the rain
I have watched in silent wonder
As everything changed
Oh, what a gift from the Father
Is the Water of Life
Like a river that flows
Deep in my soul
It’s from an endless supply

CHORUS 1

Where do I go when I’m thirsty and dry
I go to the river and I always find
Rest for my soul
Peace for my mind
I go to the river

When Jesus prayed in the garden
His brow was furrowed with pain
And what appeared to be drops of blood
Were falling down like the rain
He found strength for the journey
He found it down on His knees
And where He knelt a river flows
And it flows for you and me

CHORUS 1

CHORUS 2

What do I do when I'm covered with stains
I go to the river and I wash them away
Everything's new
Everything's changed
I go to the river

It's a river of healing
It's a river of faith
It's a river of gladness
It's a river of grace
It's a river of mercy
It's a river of love
It's a river of freedom
It's a river of blood

CHORUS 1

CHORUS 2

The River Flows for Us Today

This river flows for you and me today, it flows from the throne of God, and it is available for us today because Jesus is the River of life. I pray you find time today to set yourself apart to let the waters flow over you for all needs, healing, faith, gladness, grace, mercy, love, and freedom.

(Revelation 22:2 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 22:3 NKJV) 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.

Wait a Minute / Therapeia – maintaining – Exhilaration – Invigoration / Tired – being Tired

"Wait a minute," you say, "if the leaves are for healing, does that mean there will be sickness in heaven?" No. The Greek word translated "healing" is literally therapeia, from which we get our word "therapy." It doesn't mean healing from sickness, but rather a maintaining of health. In fact, the original language also implies exhilaration and invigoration. Do you ever get tired of being tired? I do. What a grand day it will be when we are in heaven, shooting the rapids of the river of life, eating of the fruit of the Spirit, revived eternally by the leaves of the Tree of Life.

The Tree Transplanted / Also – Tree Good & Evil / God's Mercy – Live forever free of Curse

We saw this tree before in the Garden of Eden, and God had to transplant it, unless Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of Life after eating of the Tree of Knowledge and Evil, and then man would never die and continue in their cursed state continually become more and more vile. God's mercy, grace, and love He transplant this tree, so that now we in our redeemed, regenerated, glorified bodies will eat of it and live forever, free from the curse.

(Genesis 2:9 NKJV) And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

(Genesis 3:22 NKJV) Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever";

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

Nations Plural

Nations, plural form, speaks of the diversity of all that will be present in heaven, we will fellowship with our brothers and sisters from Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, China, Russia, Mexico. I can't wait to meet every last

person in heaven, to find out their story. To talk to the saint from the Sudan who was martyred for their faith the same time I was living comfortably in America. To hear the story of the saint from Russia who came to saving faith in the 1950's even when the government told here there was no God. The Jewish man who lost it all when He heard Jesus preach that day on the Temple Mount, and He knew He was the promised Messiah. How glorious it will be as we will celebrate together the freedom from the curse.

(Revelation 22:4 NKJV) They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

People so Worried giving Something Up / What does He want? – To See your Face

People so worried about what they have to give up, what the Lord wants from them, do you know what the Lord wants from you, He wants to sit in front of you, He wants to see you face to face. He wants to behold you, He wants to hold you.

What Happen for Us / Full Satisfaction – be Like Him / Bought with Blood – Not God

What will happen when we see His face? Like David, we shall at last be truly satisfied (Psalm 17:15) because when we see Him, we'll be like Him (1 John 3:2). To look into His eyes and to know we were bought with blood, not with gold. That He would consider me of that value. There is no doubt, God is Love!

(Psalms 17:15 NKJV) As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Can't wait to See His Name on You / Why Wait – See it Now / You'll have to Tell Me

I can't wait to see the name of the Lord written on your you. I can't wait for heaven to see His name written on your head, Clay, Phil, Gerald. How glorious that day will be, I can't wait. But wait, why wait, why not see the name of the Lord written on our brother and sisters head right now. Imagine how life changing that would be for this church and every church if we did that today. When I look at a brother or I look at a sister, the first thing I see on their forehead is the name of Jesus, they are the Lord's person, they have been purchased by Him, with His divine blood, and that He is so deeply in love with them He calls them His Bride. What would happen church if we did that, if we saw our brothers and sister this way, the name of Jesus written on their head, that we would see them robed in the righteousness of Christ. I think a lot of bickering and backbiting would end, I think a lot of division in the church would end, I think love would emanate so heavily through the churches that the world would be lining up outside the door to get in, to GET IN on the love. I am not just filling space in a sermon, how I pray that this is what we will do. Church of Calvary, when you look at that brother or sister, may you see Jesus written on their forehead. It interesting, I can't see my forehead unless I look in the mirror. I think the application is clear if we consider it, you'll have tell me that is, to show me that it is, if I am to know that it is.

(Revelation 22:5 NKJV) 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.

Imagine Apostles – Disciples Reading This / Light of Universe / Eyes Opened Wider / Only Knew!

Imagine the Apostles and Disciples reading this verse? Light of the world, Light of the Universe. How there hearts would be warmed (as Light does), how the eyes of their understanding would be opened more as the revelation of Jesus Christ was revealed even more to them. Again, if only we knew.....

Verse 5 Ends Imagery of Heaven / Conclusion of Revelation

Verse 5 ends the imagery of heaven. Verse 6 will start the conclusion of this book of Revelation and the Bible for that matter. He will tell us that these words (as all His words) are faithful and true, these things written are sure and they will surely come to pass. He will end this chapter by saying don't add to, or take away from these words. So His last words about heaven are here in verse 5.

Ends with Reign Forever

Amazingly the Lord ends His topic of heaven by saying they shall reign forever and ever. What all that means is beyond me, but that is what He says and it assures me that heaven will be anything but boring, heaven is going to blow my mind, and the Lord doesn't even try to explain to us what we will reign over.

(Revelation 22:6 NKJV) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

Faithful – dependable / Without Fiction

Faithful means “dependable”. One of the definitions of true is “without fiction”. How many people say these things sound like science fiction, you are all crazy.

Shortly – 2000 Years Ago / See God’s Compassion

Verse 6 - And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place – We heard these words all the way back when we began this study, these things will take place shortly. Maybe you say “shortly, that was 2000 years ago”. Mind you a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day to the Lord. What we see here is God’s love, compassion, and mercy in that He wishes that none would perish but that all should seek repentance: (Revelation 1:1 NKJV) 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,

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

(2 Peter 3:8 NKJV) But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) 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.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Ever a Generation / Tachometer / rpm / Little at First – Faster / Tach is Pegging

But if there has ever been a generation who can say shortly, it is ours. The word here for shortly in the Greek is “tachos”, it is where we get our word tachometer. It is the “rpm”, revolutions per minute of the engine. The higher the rpm’s, the faster the engine is turning, and there is a point where you will hit redline and be turning your engine so fast it will blow. Same application here, we will see signs about us, a little at first, and then more, and more, and more, so much so that we will hit the redline. Precious people the tachometer is pegging, look at the signs around us. The revived Roman Empire before our very eyes, the Mark of the Beast, the One World Economy, One World Religion, and the rebirth of the Nation Israel. I am excited, the engine is about to blow.

(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Reading & Hearing is Over – Time for the Keeping (military) / Weigh them in the Balance

The reading and the hearing is over now all that is left is the keeping of these words. The word keep is a military term and it means to guard and protect, with your very life if need be. We have heard together for almost 50 weeks, we have read and heard about the Revelation of Jesus Christ, and all the things of the last days. All that is left for us now is the question, are we going to keep these things, guard them in our hearts and mind, weigh them in the balance of our daily lives as the lust and pulls of this world come against us.

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

We Now Accountable

We are now accountable for the things we have read and heard.

This Hope - Purifies Himself

Any man who has this hope purifies himself:

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Set Eyes on Things Above

We are told to set our eyes on the things above, I hope no ones life has not been changed through this study:

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Revelation 22:8 NKJV) Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

(Revelation 22:9 NKJV) 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."

Same Thing Just Happened / How Could – How Could We

I find it interesting that the same thing happened just a couple pages earlier in chapter 19. After he fell down and worshiped an angel, the angel said to John, "See thou do it not." So how could John worship an angel again? The same way we make the same mistakes and commit the same sins over and over and over again. But the good news is that the Lord taught us to forgive so many times that we lose count (Matthew 18:22). And if He taught us to forgive to that degree, how much more will He!

(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) 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."

Blew it Again

"Oh, Lord, I blew it again," I cry. "Again?" He says. "What are you talking about? I don't remember you blowing it before" (see Hebrews 8:12).

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

So Powerful is this Blood – Obliterates every Trace of Sin

You see, so precious, so powerful is the blood of Jesus to the Father, that it obliterates every trace and memory of sin. I love that! It's what gives me such boldness to come before the throne of grace so that I may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Listen Beloved, John repeats his mistake, but the Lord still gave him the revelation of Himself. When we mess up, lets seek forgiveness (ignore our flesh and the evil one saying forget it, you can't come before the throne), ignore those condemning lies and come back to the throne, and let the Lord give you revelation of Himself.

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

Back to Our Story / Only Result is to Worship / Back to Reality – Quit Whistling - Smiling

Back to our story; for John the only possible resultant after hearing all these things and seeing them, is to worship God. Imagine John when he comes out of the Spirit, and then he is ordered back in the rock quarry to work. Hey old man the Prison Warden would yell out, go bust those rocks up and load them on the ship.....what you smiling at? Quit whistling too!

Could Work ever be Drag / How about You – How will what You seen and Heard Change You

Could work and life every be a drag again after seeing these things? How about you, how will your life change after hearing and seeing these things we have just studied. John worshipped in the midst of trials and persecution, can you?

Lets Worship

Lets worship the Lord

The Testimony of Jesus Christ

(22:10-21)

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) 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.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "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."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

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 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon
 - Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
 - New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Book 8 Times / His Testimony – Revelation of Jesus / Far Beyond Interesting Study Prophecy – Life Changing Actions

The word book is used 8 times, 7 times specifically about this book of Revelation, which obviously this book must be pretty important. In verse 16 Jesus says this book is His testimony, for this book is about Him (the Revelation of Jesus Christ) . This book is far beyond an interesting study of prophecy but it is the testimony of Jesus Christ and His testimony should always bring about life changing actions:

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

Sense Urgency in His Voice – Be Ready – Coming Quickly / Church of Philly / Faithful - Ready

In these verses today we can and sense that there is an urgency in His voice, get ready and be ready. Verse 7, 12, and 20 tells us He is coming quickly. Interestingly we like to think of ourselves as the Church of Philadelphia (the Faithful Church) and of the 7 churches only to Philadelphia does He say "I am coming quickly". The faithful church, is the be the church that is ready, not caught off guard, the people living purified lives, the people busy about getting other people ready.

(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

(Revelation 22:12 NKJV) "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

(Revelation 22:20 NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus

(Revelation 3:11 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown."

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(Revelation 22:6 NKJV) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

(Revelation 22:8 NKJV) Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

(Revelation 22:9 NKJV) 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."

What else is there for us to do but worship Him after we read these things, and see His awesome power, yet at the same time His great love for us.

(Revelation 22:10 NKJV) And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."

(Revelation 22:11 NKJV) "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 righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

(Revelation 22:12 NKJV) "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

(Revelation 22:13 NKJV) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

(Revelation 22:17 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

(Revelation 22:20 NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

(Revelation 22:10 NKJV) And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

Those who too Complicated / Too many Interpretations / Direct Command / Divine Outline

There are preachers, professors, authors, commentators, and sincere brothers and sisters who say, "Don't read Revelation. It's too complicated. There are too many interpretations. Seal it up." But here is a direct command from heaven: "Don't shut it." People think Revelation is a hard book to understand. But if you follow the divine outline given in chapter 1, verse 19, it becomes crystal clear....

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- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
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(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Promised Blessing / Unseal – Open Up / How can Our hearts Keep this Contained

Verse 3 of chapter 1, promises a blessing for those who open this book and study, read it, hear it, and keep it. After we do this, do these things, He says don't seal it up. That means therefore to open it up, and let the things in it, out. How can we keep all this sealed up, I feel like I would explode if I don't get to talk about voluminous love, mercy and grace; how could we keep quiet about the about the One that if the writers had kept writing about all that he did when He walked this earth it would fill all the libraries in the world? How could we ever keep quiet about the One that His words of counsel are unlimited to us, meeting every need for every one of life's situation. The omnipotent God meaning His love is all powerful, along with all powerful mercy, grace, and hope, what better things to be overpowered by?. Being omnipresent means that His love can reach us anywhere, bringing healing and hope wherever we may be, and His love will find us no matter how far we have gone. Being omniscient He knows our hearts, our minds, and reach us in any of our situations, could there ever be a better counselor for man? Is there anything greater for man than to come face to face with the True and Living God? And then to read all the things that He has planned for us in heaven to boot:

(1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV) But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

(1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Wish was like Jeremiah / Recap End Times / Just used Christian Conversation / Let it Out – So all the World Hears

Tell people, don't be ashamed, don't care what they think of you. Listen my friend, have you ever read like Jeremiah (one of my favorite men of the Bible), Elijah, Daniel, or John the Baptist and say, oh how I wish I was a prophet, could foretell the future of God. Well you can, and God made it so easy that even we can't mess it up. He has given us the script, we need not doubt anything we say. God will take up His church, then a great world leader will come on the scene, he will be wounded but live, he will demand all

take a mark if they wish to buy or sell. The world will follow him, then at a point he will go into the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem and proclaim himself God. All during this time the world will be in great upheaval both with war and natural disasters. Our prophecies will come to pass 100% because verse 6 says His words are faithful, dependable, a sure thing, I can be a great Jeremiah-like prophet of the Last Days. God says don't seal them up, nor lock them away to only be brought out for Christian conversation, let them out, let them loose upon the world so that the world might hear and respond. Verse 11 tells us of what this word will do upon the hearer that we tell:

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

(Revelation 22:6 NKJV) Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

(Revelation 22:11 NKJV) "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 righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

More Sure the Way / Reject – Accept / Revelation of Jesus / If not Convinced – What Could

Their response, the person heading in those directions will continue more so after hearing these things. Those who reject these words will more sure the way they are going. But those who receive them, hear them, keep them, will more sure, they will be more grounded in the path of righteousness (just as verse 3 of chapter 1 promises). Remind you this Book is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, it is His testimony to the lost and dying world. In other words, if you cannot be convinced of the truth of the Word by the revelation of Jesus Christ and the fulfilling of Bible prophecy, what could possibly convince you? After reading this book, you have no other logical option, no other rational recourse than to say, "Jesus is Lord, and I'm going to live for His kingdom."

Wheat & Tares / Bow – Stiff / Let Word go Forth – We give – No Responsibility what they Do

Jesus spoke of the end where He will divide the wheat from the tares. How interesting a farmer says the way to tell the wheat from the tare while they are still on the stock is that the wheat becomes heavy and causes the stock to bow over, while the tare is light and continues to stand straight up. The perfect example of the 2 hearts before God, the heart that bows to worship Him as Lord and the heart that stand tall in defiance against Him. Jesus says that is the way it will be, don't let their stiff-necks keep us from letting these things we have studied in these 22 chapters out. Be honest, be open, and let the word go forth without worry of how a person may respond. We are only called to let it out, we have no responsibility on how they will hear and handle it.

(Matthew 13:24 NKJV) Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

(Matthew 13:25 NKJV) "but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

(Matthew 13:26 NKJV) "But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

(Matthew 13:27 NKJV) "So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

(Matthew 13:28 NKJV) "He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

(Matthew 13:29 NKJV) "But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

(Matthew 13:30 NKJV) 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."'" "

(Revelation 22:12 NKJV) "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

What is His Work - Believe

What is the work that He will judge us by, Jesus tells us in John 6:28-29:

(John 6:28 NKJV) Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

(John 6:29 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Breeze Through / We are His Inheritance

Lots of people breeze through this to say He is going to reward us, which He is, but look again closely, He says My reward is with Me. Who is coming with Him, His saints. He considers us His reward. How

special do you see yourself, I hope special enough to see what God considers you. If you recall our last study, from God's perspective heaven would not be heaven without you there:
(Ephesians 1:18 NKJV) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

(Revelation 22:13 NKJV) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

Jesus – God / First and the Last / JW's & Mormons

Jesus here is again speaking of His Godhead. Give these verses to the Jehovah Witness or Mormon next time they knock on the door:

(Isaiah 41:4 NKJV) Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.'"

(Isaiah 44:6 NKJV) "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

(Isaiah 48:12 NKJV) "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

(Isaiah 48:13 NKJV) Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Another Manuscripts / No Argument – Same Thing / Purifies Self

The NIV says "blessed are those who wash their robes". The difference comes from the interpretations of another manuscript, that manuscript says blessed are they that wash their robes, while another manuscript says blessed are they that keep His commandments. Some want to argue it, but I see no argument here for they are they same thing, we wash our robes by keeping His commandments. He who believes these things purifies Himself:

(Revelation 22:14 NIV) "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

200 Foot Thick / What an Experience that will Be

Verse 14 - and may enter through the gates into the city - These gates have walls 200 feet thick of pure sparkling diamonds. what a sight that will be, and what an experience that will be to walk through them. Blessed are they that do His commands, for they shall have the right to the tree of life, and be part of when the saints go marching in. This by the way is the last of the (you guessed it) 7 Beatitudes of the Book of Revelation;

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

*(Revelation 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: '**Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

*(Revelation 16:15 NKJV) "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."*

*(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) 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."*

*(Revelation 20:6 NKJV) **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.*

*(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! **Blessed** is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

*(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) **Blessed** are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.*

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Closing the Book – Very Sobering / No Jokes – Stories – No Light Note / Strong – Be Ready

Here we are in the closing of the book and only 7 verses from the very end, God gives a very sobering exhortation, not all will enter in. God is being very sobering here, he doesn't close this book out with a few tender stories (there's my mommy with her red shoes on, or the other 10,000 circulating the internet) or funny jokes, He doesn't close it out on a light note, He closes it out with a strong warning, because it was written to us so that we might be ready. As long as this earth is revolving around this sun, God's heart is that none should perish but that all should seek repentance. I wish they would tell more stories in their sermons, lighten up the message, quit talking about hell, sin, and repentance – The Revelation of Jesus Christ;

(Revelation 1:1 NKJV) 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,

Dogs – Spiritually Unclean

Those referred to as dogs takes us back to Philippians 2, and the dogs are referred to as those that are spiritually unclean, those who are into the works of the flesh, they have not washed their robes:

(Philippians 3:2 NKJV) Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

(Philippians 3:3 NKJV) For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

(Philippians 3:4 NKJV) though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Sorcerers – Drugs / If Profess Christ – You must Deal with this Passage

Sorcerers is our word "pharmakia" where we get our word for drugs (more specifically illicit drugs). If you profess Christ and are using drugs, you have to deal with this passage. God Says you will be outside the city.

Sexual Immoral / Debate All you Want

Sexual immoral speaks of fornication, sex outside of your Marriage. If married that's adultery, if not married that is pre-marital sex. A person can say and think all they want, argue the scriptures, debate theology but God says they will be outside the city. He is saying you better get take the appropriate action today, because he is coming quickly.

Look at 14-15 in Context / Not who Professes / Those Practicing / If you Think you are OK - Wrong

Look at verses 14-15 in context, the Lord is specific that it is the ones who keep the commands that enter in. Notice He doesn't say those who profess me as Lord have the right to the tree of life, but those that who keep His commands. Those practicing a lie will not enter in. A habitual lifestyle (practicing) - if you are doing any of these things, and you think you are ok with God, and God is ok with it, then you are practicing a lie, and God says.....but outside are.....

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

(1 John 2:3 NKJV) Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

Eternal God / How? / Babe – Bethlehem / Christ Eternity – Existed Before David

Jesus identifying Himself as the eternal God. Jesus says, "I am both root and offspring of David. David comes from Me, and I from Him." How can this be? As the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus was the offspring of David; but as the Christ of eternity, He existed before David.

Bright & Morning Star – Last Self Description / The Way is Clear / No Confusing the Sun

The Bright and Morning Star is His last self-description of Himself, the BRIGHT and MORNING STAR. The way to heaven is clear, it isn't hard to find, Jesus is the way and shines bright enough for all to clearly

see. Our sun, the center of our solar system is a star and there is no confusing it with any other star in our solar system when it rises in the morning:

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Sun rises Declares New Day Coming / Lucifer Ish 14 / Satan offers New Day / Jesus' New Day

The Sun rises to declare a new day is coming. Interesting, in Isaiah 14:12, Lucifer is called the son of the morning. Satan and his counterfeit attempt to be like the MOST HIGH. Satan comes to man and offers him a new day, he offers and promises so-called better things (since the garden), The dogs, sexual immoral, drugs, Satan comes and offers better things, the immediate, here and right now. He says do it my way and I will give you better. But Jesus ends this Book, this Bible, by saying this is what I offer you. I offer you a new day, that one day will never end. For there will be no more night because He will illuminate our lives. This is what we who believe are living for, that new day that never ends.

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "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!

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

(Genesis 3:4 NKJV) Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

(Genesis 3:5 NKJV) "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

(Revelation 21:25 NKJV) Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

(Revelation 22:17 NKJV) 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.

No Conditions - Just Come / Meet Us – First Come

No conditions, just come. God is finishing His Bible by saying come. God meets us wherever we are at, but we must first come.

Invitation Comes to Lost World / Spirit woos – Bride Privilege of Issuing Invitation

The invitation to come is given to a world that is lost and dying, doomed and damned. It is the Spirit who woos people to Jesus; but we, as the bride, have the privilege of issuing the invitation.

Throughout – Come has been an Invitation

Throughout Scripture, "Come" has always been the invitation...

- (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
- (Isaiah 55:1 NKJV) "**Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters;** And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.
- (Matthew 11:28 NKJV) "**Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,** and I will give you rest.
- (Mark 10:14 NKJV) But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "**Let the little children come to Me,** and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.
- (John 1:39 NKJV) He said to them, "**Come and see.**" They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; (Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Book is His Testimony

This book is His testimony, it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ:

(Revelation 1:1 NKJV) 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,

If Tempted to Add – Review Plagues

If you're tempted to add to this book, you might want to review "the plagues that are written" in chapters 6 through 19.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores (16:2)

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood (16:3)

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood (16:4)

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9)

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth (16:10-11)

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up (16:12-16)

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake (16:17-21)

(Revelation 22:20 NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Last Words

The last words of God to man, "Surely I come quickly". The last words of man to God, "Even so, come Lord Jesus".

First Words Gods – Where are You / First Words Man – I was Afraid / There has been a Change

The first words of God to man was, where are you? The first words of man to God, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. now these last words of man to God, Even so, come Lord Jesus. There has been a change, redemption has been fulfilled, we the redeemed can say come, I have nothing to fear because you have clothed me in your righteousness.

(Genesis 3:8 NKJV) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

(Genesis 3:9 NKJV) Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

(Genesis 3:10 NKJV) So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Last Phrase OT – Curse / Last Phrase NT – Grace / Grace I Leave You

The last phrase in the Old Testament is, "Lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:6). That's the law. "God is upset. You should be doing more. What's wrong with you?" But the New Testament ends this way: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." Grace is the final word of the New Testament, and the final words I leave for today, because it is all about "Grace" – may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all today. Amen

*(Malachi 4:6 NKJV) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.***"