*A Book Study of*

*Revelation*

*The*

*“Revelation*

*Of*

*Jesus Christ,”*

*Revelation 1:1*

Including the Full Text of the Book of Revelation,

A Study Outline of Each Passage With

A Diagram and Notes

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A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

Introduction

This volume contains a study outline from which I studied in classes and preached in the Fall of 2012 at the local church where I pastor, Cross Pointe Church of God, in Cleveland, TN. The outlines were forged in our worship and study in the Word together. Thanks be to the Lord and the indwelling of His Spirit.

The purpose of this study was to review the text, outline it’s sequence, provide notes on questions that arise, and apply its message to the issues of contemporary living.

I believe the most important thing about studying the book of Revelation is to interpret and declare each passage in light of the stated purpose of the book found in the very first phrase of chapter one, verse one,

 **“The revelation of Jesus Christ,…”**

This volume includes:

* An initial diagram of the Book
* Introductory chapters highlighting
	+ The role of the Spirit in the Revelation
	+ Major themes in the Revelation
	+ Worship in the Book of Revelation
* Study outlines of each chapter
* Notes within the outline regarding relevant issues concerning the text
* Each Scripture verse in bold text following each point of the study outline

I pray this study will be a blessing,

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**THE SPIRIT IN REVELATION**

**Various Passages**

**Introduction:** The Spirit and the engagement and dependence of the believer upon the Spirit of God is vital to understanding and being faithful to the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

**The Spirit Bears the Message of the Revelation To and With the Church**

1. The Spirit Is the Means By Which the Revelation is Communicated to John and Marks the Four Major Sections of the Book Revelation, Using the Spirit’s Intervention As the Guide
	1. In the Message to the Church Now (Rev. 1:10-3:22**)-“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day…”** Rev. 1:10
	2. In the Message Concerning the Events that Transpire On Earth While the Church (24 Elders) Is In Heaven (Rev. 4:2-16:20**)-“I was in the Spirit…”** (Rev. 4:2)
	3. In the Message Concerning the Outcome for the Bride Faithful to God and For the Unfaithful Who Give In To the Deception of the Harlot (Rev. 17:3-21:9**)-“So he carried me away in the Spirit…”** (Rev. 17:3)
	4. In the Message Concerning the New Beginning for God’s People, the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21:10-22:7**)-“And he carried me away in the Spirit…”** (Rev. 21:10)
2. The Spirit Calls the Church to Be Ready for the Coming of Christ at the Rapture, to be the Bride, and for the New Earth. The Church Today is Told to **“Hear what the Spirit saith to the churches…”**
	1. The Church was warned to be ready as the Bride for if they hear the Spirit and overcome, they would receive what a Bride receives:
		1. New Name (Pergamos, 2:17; Philadelphia, 3:12)
		2. A Wedding Garment (Sardis, 3:5; Laodecia, 3:18)
	2. The Church, as it responded to the Spirit and overcame, would receive victory at the White Throne Judgment
		1. Not experience the second death (Smyrna, 2:11; 20:6)
	3. The Church, as it responded to the Spirit and overcame, would receive at the New Heaven and New Earth:
		1. The Tree of Life (Ephesus, 2:7; 22:12)
		2. Crown of Life (Smyrna, 2:10; 22:3-4)
		3. Christ Who is the Light/Star (Thyatira, 2:28; 22:5)
3. The Spirit is at the Center of the Testimony of Christ-
	1. Declared concerning the Bride and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb**-“for the testimony of Christ is the Spirit of Prophecy”** (Rev. 19:10)
	2. Declared with the waiting Bride**-“And the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’”** (Rev. 22:17)
4. The Spirit is the Means By Which the Message/Prophecy of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, the Beginning and the End, Of Things Which Were, Are and Are to Come Is to Be Communicated (Rev. 22:6-21**)-“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’”** (Rev. 22:17)

**The Spirit Is the Spirit of Life To the Witnesses of Christ**

1. The Spirit Is the Spirit that Gives Life to the Two Witnesses During the Tribulation**-“The Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet...”** (Rev. 11:11)

**The Spirit Is the Comforter To Those Who Witness of Christ**

1. The Spirit Confirms His Role as Comforter in the Midst of the Death of the Martyrs**-“Yea, saith the Spirit, ‘That they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them”** (Rev. 14:13)

**The Spirit of God is Perfect and Complete in It’s Victory**

**Over the Foul Spirits of the Devil**

1. The Perfection of the Spirit of God is Depicted As the Seven Spirits of God
	1. As a means of Grace**-“From the seven Spirits which are before His throne”** (Rev. 1:4
	2. As Christ’s instrument in the message to the Churches now**-“These things saith he that the seven Spirits of God”** (Rev. 3:1)
	3. As the Messenger from the throne of God from which come the judgments of God-
		1. **“And out of the throne proceeded…the seven Spirits of God”** (Rev. 4:5)
		2. **“In the midst of the throne…which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth unto all the earth”** (Rev. 5:6)
2. The Evil Spirit Work of Satan Is Depicted
	1. In the overview of things to come in Revelation 16
		1. **“three unclean spirits like frogs”** v. 13
		2. **“For they are spirits of devils”** v. 14
	2. In the description of Satan’s primary deceiver, the harlot/Babylon, in Revelation 17-18

**“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit”** 18:2

**THEMES OF THE REVELATION OF CHRIST IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

 **(Chapters in Revelation)**

Intro: To understand the message of Revelation, it is helpful to see twelve major themes

1. Christ is the Beginning and the End-Chapters 1, 21-22

2. Christ the One Who calls the Church to be ready-Chapters 2-3

3. Christ is Sovereign and in Control-Chapters 4-6

4. Christ is Redeemer-Chapter 7

5. Christ is Victor over Satan-Chapters 8-9, 12

6. Christ gives witness of Himself before and during the Tribulations-Chapters 10-11

7. Christ wins spiritual warfare over Satan-Chapters 12-13

8. Christ is victor over Satan’s blasphemy-Chapters 13-16

9. Christ is the all Faithful One calling for a faithful people (the Bride)-Chapters 17-21:9

10. Christ is the One revealed by the Spirit-Strategic verses creating the four major sections of the Book:

1) 1:10-First, the message to John and the Church today-Chapters 1-3

2) 4:2-Second, the message concerning the events and dynamics of the tribulation-Chapters 4-16

3) 17:3-Third, the message describing the contrast between the Bride of Christ and the unfaithful-

Chapters 17-21:9

4) 21:10-Fourth, the message that Almighty God and the Lamb are the center of the new heaven,

new earth and the eternal city-chapters 21:10-22:7

11. The message of the prophecy of Revelation of Jesus Christ is to be declared by a Church

anticipating Him-Chapters 1, 22

12. Christ is to be Worshipped-Chapters 4-5, 7, 11, 14-15, 19

**WORSHIP AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Various Passages in Revelation**

Introduction: Revelation has one goal, one purpose, one reason; Jesus Christ is Lord! This is revealed in 5 distinct descriptions of worship in the Book of Revelation

**The Five Worship Recognitions of Christ in Revelation**

1. Worship *As the Tribulation Begins* - chapters 4-5
	1. Holy Beasts Worship Christ and His Authority

**4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**

**9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,**

* 1. The Church, the 24 Elders, Gathered at the “Rapture” in Heaven, Worship Christ, His Power and Authority

**4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**

**11 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.**

* 1. The Holy Beasts of Heaven and the Church in Heaven Worship Christ As Christ Takes the Book/Scroll of Judgment

**5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.**

**9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

* 1. The Angels Join the Holy Beasts and the Church to Worship Christ as the Lamb in Heaven

**5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;**

**12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.**

* 1. All Creatures Shall Worship Christ-A Foretaste of Eternity

**5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

**14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.**

1. The Redeemed Worship Christ *During the Tribulation* on Earth-chapter 7
	1. The Redeemed, Including the Gathered/Raptured Church, in Heaven Worship Him

**7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;**

**10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

* 1. Those Redeemed During the Tribulation on Earth Worship Christ

**7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,**

**12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?**

**14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

1. The Church in Heaven Worship the Lamb *As the Final Stage of the Tribulation Begins* In Contrast to Those that Worship the Dragon, the Beast and the Image-chapter 11

**11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

**16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,**

The Church Worships…(a paradigm for our worship today)

1) With thanksgiving

**17 Saying, We give thee thanks,**

2) God’s great power

**O Lord God Almighty,**

 3) He is the Beginning and the End

**which art, and wast, and art to come;**

 4) He has all Authority

**because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**

5) The anger of the nations is of no comparison to His wrath

1**8 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come,**

6) He will bring all of humanity to judgment

**and the time of the dead, that they should be judged,**

7) He rewards His servants

**and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great;**

 8) He will destroy the destroyers who do not serve Him

(Note: Gods’ servants are ultimately for the eternal renewal earth through the New Earth. Whereas those who are not the servants of the earth are truly the destroyers of the earth.)

**and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.**

**In Contrast is the Manner in Which the Deceived Do Not Worship Christ But Choose to Worship… chapter 13**

1. Satan the Dragon and
2. The First Blaspheming Beast

**13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**

**4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?**

**8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**

1. *Israel Worships Christ the Lamb* As a Result of the Tribulation-chapters 14-15

**14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

**2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:**

**3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.**

They Worship by Singing the Song of Moses and the Lamb, Afirmimg The Lamb as...

* + 1. Having great and marvelous works
		2. Lord God Almighty
		3. Just and true in all His ways (particularly in the midst of this final judgment upon the unbelievers of the earth and the fallen earth itself)
		4. King of saints
		5. One to be feared
		6. One to be glorified
		7. One Who is Holy
		8. One Whom all nations will eventually worship
		9. One Who now brings the final judgment

**15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.**

**4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

1. Christ is Worshipped *At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb* –chapter 19
	1. Many People in Heaven Declare as One Voice a Twelve-Fold Description That Christ Is The…(with the “smoke” of the sacrifice of praise rising eternally to God)
		1. One to be praised (Alleluia)
		2. One Who is Saviour
		3. One to be Glorified
		4. One to receive all honour
		5. One Who has all power
		6. One Who is Lord
		7. One Who is God
		8. One Who is True in Judgment
		9. One Who is Righteous in Judgment
		10. One Who judged the Whore (Rev. 17-18), the corrupter of the earth
		11. One Who avenged the blood of those martyred by the Whore
		12. One to be praised repeatedly (again, Amen, Alleluia)

**19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:**

**2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.**

**3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**

The People in Heaven, The Church, Four and Twenty Elders, and Four Beasts/Spiritual Beings, That Have Given the Praise, Are Seen Falling Down, Declaring Affirmation (Amen) and Praise (Alleluia)

**4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.**

* 1. A Voice from the Throne Commands Praise…
		1. Unto God
		2. By all His servants
		3. By all that fear Him
		4. Regardless of their stature (small and great)

**5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.**

* 1. The Church as a Great Multitude Respond With Praise to God and that the time of His Bride, the Church, has come
1. Their sound of praise was as many waters
2. Their sound of praise was as mighty thunderings
3. They sound praise (Alleluia)
4. They declare His Lordship
5. They declare He is God
6. They declare He is King (omnipotent reigneth)
7. They affirm their gladness
8. They affirm their rejoicing
9. They give honor to Him
10. They declare the time of the marriage of the Lamb and the Bride has come

**6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

**7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come,**

**WHO IS JESUS TO YOU? ARE YOU DECEIVED?**

**HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END**

**Revelation 1**

Intro: Christ is first revealed to John. Christ words of Himself are that He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. This is the central revelation of Christ that begins the prophecy of the book and ends it in Revelation 22.

1. John begins the Revelation of Jesus Christ that he received clarifying
	1. The prophecy was given by God as the Revelation of Jesus Christ v. 1
		1. For His servants
		2. To reveal things that would happen
		3. By God’s messenger angel
		4. And, was given to John

**1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:**

* 1. The prophecy John records had three facets as… v. 2
		1. The Word of God
		2. The testimony of Jesus Christ
		3. The things that he saw

**2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.**

* 1. Blessing is for all who… v. 3
		1. Read the prophecy
		2. Hear the prophecy
		3. Keep the things written in the prophecy
		4. Note the timeliness of the prophecy

**3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

* 1. From whom the prophecy comes… vs. 4-6
		1. John to the Seven Churches of Asia
		2. Christ
			1. Grace and peace from Christ
			2. Who is, was, and to come (repeating Christ’s admonition of Himself that He is, “Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End”
			3. The Faithful Witness
			4. First Begotten of the Dead
			5. Prince of the Kings of the Earth
			6. Him that loved us
			7. He Who washed us from our sins in His Own blood
			8. He Who made us kings and priests unto God and His Father
		3. Perfect work of the Spirit of God (seven Spirits) before Christ’s throne

**4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;**

**5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

**6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

1. John declares… v. 7
	1. Christ is…
		1. Coming with clouds
		2. Every eye shall see Him
		3. Those that pierced Him shall see Him
		4. All kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him
	2. Even so come Lord, Amen

**7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**

1. Christ declares Himself as “Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End” vs. 8, 11

**8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**

1. John is commanded to write under the Spirit’s direction, the testimony of Jesus Christ

vs. 9-10a

* 1. John identifies himself
		1. As a brother of the readers
		2. Companion in tribulation
		3. As in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ
		4. As one on the isle of Patmos
			1. For the Word of God
			2. For the testimony of JesusChrist

**9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

* 1. John identifies his condition as “in the Spirit on the Lord’s day when he received the Revelation of Jesus Christ 10a

**10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,**

* 1. John identifies the central command he received to write-vs. 10b-11
		1. Came from a Great Voice
		2. Came from Christ’s central declaration that He is “first and last”
		3. The command was to see and write what he received
		4. The command was to especially send the message to the Church

**and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,**

**11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.**

1. As a result, John observes Christ in a ten-fold description as… vs. 12-16
	1. One standing in the midst of the Church, part of His messengers (candlesticks)

**12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;**

**13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks**

* 1. Son of Man-the One Who became incarnate

**one like unto the Son of man,**

* 1. Clothed in splendor

**clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.**

* 1. Pure

**14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;**

* 1. Transforming as He looks upon all things

**and his eyes were as a flame of fire;**

* 1. Overcoming

**15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;**

* 1. Powerful in His message

**and his voice as the sound of many waters.**

* 1. One Who controls the Church (seven stars)

**16 And he had in his right hand seven stars:**

* 1. Word that pierces

**and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:**

* 1. Light and Life

**and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.**

1. Christ admonishes John-vs. 17-20
	1. John sees Christ and falls at His feet as a dead man

**17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.**

* 1. Christ places His hand on John, telling to not be afraid

**And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not;**

* 1. Christ gives a three-fold description of Himself as…
		1. First and Last, repeating His previous self-description

**I am the first and the last:**

* + 1. Resurrected One

**18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;**

* + 1. Holder of the keys of hell and death

**and have the keys of hell and of death.**

* 1. Christ command John to write what he sees

**19 Write the things which thou hast seen,**

* + 1. Things he will see as the are now (the message to the Church now, chapters 2-3)

**and the things which are,**

* + 1. Things he will see that are to come (chapters 4-22)

**and the things which shall be hereafter;**

* 1. Christ begins His Revelation by explaining the first part of the prophecy, the message to the Church now (chapters 2-3)

**20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.**

**CALL TO THE CHURCH TO HEAR THE SPIRIT’S MESSAGE REVEALING CHRIST**

**Revelation 2-3**

Intro: Christ and the Spirit speak first to the Church today to be ready and a witness/messenger of Christ. Christ is revealed in response to the questions posed primarily by the failings of the Churches, except the Church at Philadelphia. The seven churches of Asia Minor represent the condition and need of the Church throughout time.

1. Renew Your First Love-Ephesus 2:1-7
2. We Can Do A Lot of Good vs. 1-3
	1. Work is Good – “I know thy works”
	2. Work is Not Easy – “and thy labour”
	3. Work Takes Patience – “and thy patience”
	4. Work for God Means Doing Good and Hating Evil – “thou canst not bear them which are evil”
	5. Work Takes Accountability – “thou has tried…and found them liars”
	6. Work Takes Persistence – “bourne…patience…laboured…not fainted”
	7. Works Takes Purpose – “for my name’s sake”

**1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;**

**2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:**

**3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.**

1. But, Working is Not Enough vs. 4-5
	1. God’s Accountability is Not Like Ours – “I have somewhat against thee”
	2. We Can Work Our Way Out of Our Love for God – “thou has left thy first love”
	3. Love Grows Out of Humble Remembrance of Who We Were – “remember from whence thou art fallen”
	4. Love Is Nourished by Repentance – “repent”
	5. Love for God is Our First Work – “do thy first works”
	6. God’s First Accountability is About Our First Love – “I will come unto thee quickly and will remove…”

**4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**

**5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**

1. Loving God and Working for Him Brings Life vs. 6-7
	1. Hating a “Conquering High Mindedness” – “Nicolaitans”
	2. The Spirit of God Leads Us to Our First Love and Life

**6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.**

**7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

1. Face the Journey of Life for Eternity With Christ (Smyrna) 2:8-11
2. Never Travel Alone Without God, Start by Knowing Who God Is – “First and Last” (Who “was dead and is alive”) v. 8

**8 And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;**

1. The Journey Takes Effort, Work is Important, Even Though It Goes Unrecognized – “I know they works” v. 9
2. The Journey is Long, We Go Through Trouble– “tribulation and poverty” v. 9
	1. Don’t Lose Sight of the Path, Have the Right Perspective on Poverty and Riches – “but thou art rich” v. 9
3. Guard Your Heart on the Journey, Keep the Sacred – “I know the blasphemy of them which say …” v. 9

**9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.**

1. Face the Agony, Be Unafraid of Things Which Cause Suffering – “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer” v. 10
2. Face the Competition, Be Unafraid of the Devil – “behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried” v. 10
3. Go the Distance, Requirement of Faithfulness – “be thou faithful” v. 10
4. Measure the Distance, Realize the Journey is Death and Life – “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” v. 10

**10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

1. Journeying With God is to Live an Overcoming Life v. 11

**11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**

1. Hold to His Word in Your Life (Pergamos) 2:12-17
2. God’s Word Cuts – His Word: - “sharp two-edged sword” v. 12
	1. God’s Word as a Sword
	2. Always effective – “sharp”
	3. Point Pierces – has the fatal blow
	4. Bottom Edge Cuts - offensive
	5. Top Edge Rips – “finishes the job”

**12 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;**

1. God Knows Where You Are, in comparison to His Word -“I know thy works”

v. 13

1. God Knows Where You Live, what you have to put up with – “where you dwell”

v. 13

1. Living Next to Satan, a land under Satan’s rule – “where Satan’s throne is” v. 13
2. Holding On Takes Holding Fast, God knows your grip –“”you hold fast to My name” v. 13
3. Publicly Holding Our Private Faith – “you did not deny My faith” v. 13
4. Holding On to the Death – “…My faithful martyr…killed…Satan dwells” v. 13

**13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.**

1. Holding the Sword As Well As the Faith, what you confess must be confirmed by the Word – “But…”
	1. Listening to a voice not based on the Word – “doctrine of Balaam” v. 14
		1. Not hearing rightly can be a stumbling block – “stumbling block before the children of Israel” v. 14
		2. It may taste good but it does not line up with His Word – “eat things sacrificed to idols” v. 14
		3. It may satisfy your flesh but does not line up with His Word – “commit sexual immorality” v. 14

**14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.**

* 1. Honoring a voice not based on the Word- “doctrine of the Nicolaitans” v. 15
		1. “High Mindedness” – “Nicolaitans”
		2. God hates the high minded

**15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.**

1. Gripping the Word Begins with Repentance, letting go in order to hold on-v. 16
	1. Repenting of high minded (Nicolaitans), pleasure seeking (Balaam)
	2. God’s “quick” response v. 16
	3. God Cuts Down the High Minded and Pares the pleasure seeking with His Word – “I…will fight against them with the sword of My mouth” v. 16

**16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**

1. God’s Reward for Repentance – v. 17
	1. Spirit Received – “hear what the Spirit says”
	2. Sustained Effort – “to him who overcomes”
	3. Supply from God to Replace Self Satisfying Voices of Balaam – “hidden manna to eat”
	4. Stone to Replace Self Promoting High Mindedness of the Nicolaitans – “white stone … a new name written”

**17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**

1. Guide Your Life By Christ the Star (Thyatira) 2:18-29
2. Seeing God: The One Who Sees the Fire v. 18

**18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;**

1. Setting the Course: Greater Today than Yesterday v. 19

**19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.**

1. Sidelined by Seduction: Controlled by the Vision vs. 20-21

**20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

**21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

1. Searching for Control: The Importance of the Heart vs. 22-23

**22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.**

**23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

1. Setting Your Course by the Star: Ruled by His Vision vs. 24-29

**24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.**

**25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.**

**26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:**

**27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.**

**28 And I will give him the morning star.**

**29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

1. Bear the Name Given by Christ (Sardis) 3:1-6
	1. Sardis, the city that wanted to live; the church that thought it was alive.
		1. A city that was a fortress
		2. A city that had died and was resurrected
		3. A city that had a reputation
		4. A church that absorbed it’s city, name and reputation
	2. Alive by name but dead by reputation v. 1

**1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.**

* 1. Aligned with death but works that are not perfect v. 2

**2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not**

**found thy works perfect before God**

* 1. Awakened by repentance, the watchfulness of repentance v. 3

**3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**

* 1. Acquiring a name and walking in “white raiment” v. 4

**4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.**

* 1. Alive by name eternally by the confession of the Eternal One vs. 5-6

**5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

**6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

1. Hold Christ as the Key that Controls Your Life (Philadelphia) 3:7-13
	1. Philadelphia, the city of opportunities, liars and affection. We all want a future,

but we have to know what to hold on to, what to let go and Who to love. Philadelphia was a key commercial center, but Christ is The Key.

* 1. Knowing Who He Is v. 7

**7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;**

* 1. Knowing What He Does v. 8

**8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**

* 1. Knowing Who He Has Defeated v. 9

**9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.**

* 1. Knowing When He Keeps Us v. 10

**10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.**

* 1. Knowing What to Hold To v. 11

**11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

* 1. Knowing Him vs. 12-13

**12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.**

**13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

1. Keep Christ as the Amen, the Ruler of Your Life (Laodecia) 3:14-22
	1. Laodecia, the Self-Sufficient City
		1. Located on a plateau above a valley, city of authority, wealth and ease
		2. Known for banking, one of the richest cities in the Roman Empire
		3. Rebuilt itself after an earthquake with no help from Rome
		4. Rare breed of sheep and wool
		5. Had a school of medicine
		6. Center for the worship of Zeus
	2. Christ is the “Amen:” our need is to depend on Him and not ourselves. “Amen”

means, “Verily, verily, it is so,” especially in the eyes of God. v. 14

**14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;**

* 1. “Lukewarm” is when you are under your own power and self-sufficiency,

satisfied with the way you have controlled your own circumstances. vs. 15-16

**15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**

**16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.**

* 1. The fire of God must burn out the self-sufficiency of the “I have need of nothing”

spirit vs. 17-19

**17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**

**18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**

**19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.**

* 1. Christ it the “Witness:” Beyond the door self-sufficient, “I have need of nothing”

spirit is relationship with Him as our Witness v. 20-22

**20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

**21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.**

**22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**

Conclusion: The great force that deceives the most is fear. That is why Christ said, “I am the Beginning and the End,” and, “Do not fear” (1:17). Fear in the end times will drive many to believe deceptions that will replace, redefine and attempt to remove Christ from His central place in the Church, the World, and all of time and existence.

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**LONGING FOR THE WORD: CHRIST DETERMINES THE END**

**Revelation 4-5**

Introduction: When Christ speaks, things happen, especially in Revelation. It is at His authority that the judgment begins in Revelation 4-5. He is the only one worthy to open and thereby begin the judgment. The Word Himself opens the Word that will bring the judgment. As the Word, He is the Beginning and the End of the judgment, the earth and the destiny of all who either believe and long for Him or those who continually reject Him.

1. Preparing with praise for the Lord of all, the Word, the Beginning and the End 4:1-3

**Revelation 4**

**1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.**

**2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.**

**3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.**

1. Constantly acknowledging the authority of the Lord, the Word-v. 4
2. The Church is with Christ, seated around His throne, because it had gathered earlier to meet Him in the air. They have:
	1. White raiment symbolizing purity and readiness
	2. Crowns of gold symbolizing honor

Note: Christ taught the “gathering” of the pre-tribulation Church in the air in Mt. 24. Paul taught the “rapture” or “gathering” of the pre-tribulation Church in the air in I Thess. 4. In each of those passages, three elements were taught by Christ and Paul:

* Christ comes in the air and awaits in the air
* Angels sound trumpets
* The Church gathers from earth to the air to be with Christ

The pre-Tribulation Church is then depicted with Christ as the 24 Elders or "four and twenty" in heaven from Revelation 4-19 when it returns to earth with Christ. The phrase 24 Elders may be a number used because it is representative of the 12 Apostles of the foundation of the Church and the 12 tribes of Israel of promise that believed in Jesus as Christ, the Messiah, both comprising the pre-Tribulation Church gathered with Christ in the air in what is referred to as the rapture.

**4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**

1. The throne of Christ displays the authority that will bring the end of all things as we know them and the new beginning of the new heaven and new earth; the result of the judgment of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The authority of the throne that will bring about this judgment is… v. 5
	1. Proceeded with power displayed in lightening and thunder
	2. By virtue of messengers displayed through voices
	3. Administered through the perfection of the Spirit of God seen as light seen as the seven Spirits of God, seven being used to represent perfection

**5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

1. Before the throne are the principles elements of the judgment that will be directed or proceed from the throne-vs. 6-9
	1. A sea of glass represented masses of people
	2. Four beasts, or indescribable spiritual beings, that are represented as perfect in attentiveness to Christ and their mission by having full eyes in front and behind. They are further described, indicating the nature of their mission and the nature of the judgment
		1. One like a lion, representing authority and power with which Christ sends forth the judgment
		2. One like a calf, representing dependence upon Christ Who will send forth the judgment
		3. One with the face of the man, representing the human dynamics into which Christ will intervene in the judgment
		4. One like a flying eagle, representing the swiftness with which Christ will send the judgment
		5. The beasts are solely dedicated to giving glory, honor and thanks to Christ as they carry out His judgment. Giving Christ honor is the climax of this summary of the judgment to come.
		6. Jesus Christ on the throne is declared as the One Who lives forever, His eternity as the Beginning and End, is the heart of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

**6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.**

**7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.**

**8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**

**9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,**

1. Honor and worship of Christ as the One Who lives for ever and ever, the Beginning and the End, is climaxed as the Church… vs. 10-11
	1. Falls down in honor to Christ’s deity
	2. Worships Him as the one Who lives eternally
	3. Casts any authority and honor they have (crowns) unto His authority
	4. Proclaims His worthiness
		1. To receive glory, honor and power
		2. Because He is the Creator of all things, the power of the Beginning and the End
		3. Because He is the One Who judges all of creation by the standard of Himself, i.e., His pleasure

**10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**

**11 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.**

1. God is seen sitting on the throne and in His hand is the book of the judgment 5:1
	1. The book or Word of judgment is identified and has divided into seven sections or “seals.” 5:1

Note: The judgment has a chronological sequence, but the purpose of the seven seals is not to reveal a chronological sequence of events. Some of the seals reflect the sequence of the judgment. However, the purpose of the seals is to emphasize certain themes about the judgment and the manner in which the judgment reveals Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 5**

**1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.**

* 1. An angel proclaims through a question that no person is worthy of the authority or power required to open and thereby carry out this final judgment upon the earth as we know it. No one was even worthy to look at the content of the judgment-vs. 2-3

**2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?**

**3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.**

* 1. Depicting longing for judgment and transformation of the earth, John weeps-v. 4

**4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.**

1. The believers in the Church declare He is Worthy and the power of His Word-vs. 5-9
	1. An elder from the gathered Church encourages John to not weep because Christ as the One coming out of Israel, as promised, prevailed in promise and victory and is worthy to open the book and thereby dispense with it’s judgment. The Word of judgment is released by the Word Himself.-v. 5

**5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.**

* 1. John then beholds the throne with fresh eyes and now sees Christ anew- v. 6
		1. In the middle of the throne
		2. In the middle four beings of the judgment
		3. In the middle of the Church
		4. Christ is seen with new focus as the One ready to dispense the judgment because He is…
			1. Standing, ready to begin the judgment
			2. The One Who as the Lamb fulfilled the promise for Israel
			3. Having perfect power (seven horns)
			4. Having perfect perception (seven eyes), which are the perfection of the Spirit sent to dispense the judgment

**6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.**

1. Christ takes the book/Word of judgment from the Father whereupon… vs. 7-9
	1. The beings/beasts of judgment and the Church worship Him
		1. Having harps
		2. Having vials holding the prayers of saints
		3. Singing a New Song proclaiming that Christ is the One…
			1. Worthy to open the judgment book/Word and carry out the judgment
			2. Slain/crucified
			3. Who has redeemed them
				1. By His blood
				2. Every family group, language, people and nation

**7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.**

**8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.**

**9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

* + - 1. Christ blesses those who declare Him and His Word- vs. 10-12

**10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.**

**11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;**

**12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.**

7. All the earth declares He is Worthy and the power of His Word- vs. 13-14

**13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

**14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.**

**WHAT WILL THE END BE LIKE?**

**Revelation 6**

Introduction: Christ wants us to know to increase our faith, faithfulness and forward the message that He is the Beginning and the End. The four horses and horsemen, the altar and the great earthquake describe six powerful aspects of the time of tribulation.

1. The End begins with the opening of the Word of God’s Judgment by Christ the Word-v.1
	1. A great sound occurs like thunder
	2. One of the beasts of God’s judgment calls to John to observe carefully as John is about to see for the first time the judgment that will follow
	3. What follows is an overall look at the critical elements of the judgment that will follow

Note: “Beast” was used to describe indescribable beings that may have been spiritual. The term describes beings that carry out the commands and judgments of God. The term also describes beings in the air, from hell and on earth that carry out the deception of Satan.

**Revelation 6**

**1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.**

1. The judgment will be a time of conquering, depicted by- v. 2
	1. A white horse is seen representing mighty conquering
	2. The rider has a bow, an advanced weapon of destruction
	3. The rider has a crown given to him, meaning that he will ride with authority granted to him
	4. The extent of the conquering will be great

**2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.**

Note: The riders do not represent a timeline as much as they represent dominant kinds of events that will happen over and over at various stages of the tribulation. There is a sequence to the tribulation and events before and after. However, “conquering,” “death from warfare,” “commercial upheaval,” and “death from many sources” occurs at various times during the tribulation.

1. The judgment will be a time of great death from warfare, depicted by… vs. 3-4
	1. A rider on a red horse

**3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.**

**4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.**

4. It will be a time of commercial upheaval and controls- vs. 5-6

**5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.**

**6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.**

5. It will be a time of death from many sources- vs. 7-8

**7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.**

**8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.**

6. It will be a time of the perseverance of martyred saints, from before and during the tribulation- vs. 9-11

**9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:**

**10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

**11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.**

7. It will be a time of upheaval by the earth that will change the earth- vs. 12-16

**12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;**

**13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.**

**14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

**15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;**

**16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:**

8. It will be a time of God’s wrath. Our message is to sound the alarm- v. 17

**17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**

**WHERE WILL GOD’S PEOPLE BE, INCLUDING ISRAEL?**

**Revelation 7**

Introduction: In the midst of the tribulation, God will redeem His people (Isa. 66:22; Ez 36:26). Three groups are noted, those saved before the Tribulation, those saved during the tribulation and perfected Israel, i.e., those of Israel who come to worship the Lamb during the tribulation.

**Revelation 7**

1. God will hold back & control the upheaval so that His people will be redeemed-v. 1

**1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.**

2. Israel will worship the Lamb (Rev. 15). This is the first group, perfected Israel- vs. 2-8

**2 And 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 given to hurt the earth and the sea,**

**3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.**

**4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.**

**5 Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.**

**6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.**

**7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.**

**8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.**

3. The tribulation will result in the redeemed worshipping the Lamb vs. 9-10; and vs. 13-14

**9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;**

**10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**

4. The “gathered” (raptured) Church will worship the Lord in heaven during the tribulation . This is the second group.- vs. 11-12

**11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,**

**12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Note: Verses 13-14 below is a further description of the first group noted earlier in vs. 9-10

**13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?**

**14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

5. The End will bring the New Heaven where Christ will be the temple. We will praise Him. And, he will wipe away all tears from our eyes (Rev. 22)- vs. 15-17

**15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.**

**16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.**

**17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH?**

**CHRIST WILL BE REVEALED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH**

**Revelation 8**

Introduction:The people of the earth will reap from the earth destruction and death

1. The Lamb is in control of what will happen by the earth and by Satan in chapters 8 & 9

A. The destruction and death will be so great, and the power of Christ that releases

this judgment will be so great, that it begins with honor and horror first noted with the silence of Godly fear and awe. The Lamb Breaks the Seventh Seal. 8:1

**Revelation 8**

**1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal on the scroll, there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour.**

B. The instruments of the judgment are messenger angels from the Lamb- v. 2

**2 I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets.**

 C. The judgment goes with the prayers of God’s people as an offering to the Lamb

on the Throne through a messenger angel – vs. 3-4

**3 Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God’s people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, mixed with the prayers of God’s holy people, ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out.**

 D. The judgment goes forth from the altar of worship and causes thunder, lightning,

and the earth to quake- v. 5

**5 Then the angel filled the incense burner with fire from the altar and threw it down upon the earth; and thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and there was a terrible earthquake.**

2. The first four angel messengers bring destruction and death upon the people of the

earth through the destruction and upheaval of the earth. The First Four Trumpets- v. 6

**6 Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts.**

A. The first angel messenger from Christ begins hail, fire and blood bring

destruction to one third of the trees on earth- v. 7

**7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down on the earth. One-third of the earth was set on fire, one-third of the trees were burned, and all the green grass was burned.**

 B. The second angel messenger from Christ begins fire in the sea converting one-

third of earth’s water to blood, death to one-third of the creatures in the seas, and destruction of one-third of the all the ships in the sea- vs. 8-9

**8 Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and a great mountain of fire was thrown into the sea. One-third of the water in the sea became blood, 9 one-third of all things living in the sea died, and one-third of all the ships on the sea were destroyed.**

 C. The third angel messenger from Christ begins a burning star coming from

heaven named, Bitterness, will turn one-third of earth’s rivers and springs into a deadly bitterness that will kill many who will drink it- vs. 10-11

**10 Then the third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one-third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star was Bitterness. It made one-third of the water bitter, and many people died from drinking the bitter water.**

 D. The fourth angel messenger from Christ begins the striking of one-third of the

sun, moon and stars so that one-third of daylight and night is dark- v. 12

**12 Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet, and one-third of the sun was struck, and one-third of the moon, and one-third of the stars, and they became dark. And one-third of the day was dark, and also one-third of the night.**

3. An eagle messenger declares complete terror will come to the people of the earth as a

result of the upheaval of the earth from the Lamb of Judgment and His fifth, sixth and seventh messenger angels to follow-v. 13

**13 Then I looked, and I heard a single eagle crying loudly as it flew through the air, “Terror, terror, terror to all who belong to this world because of what will happen when the last three angels blow their trumpets.”**

4. The people of the earth have been ravaged from the earth through the first four

messenger angels in chapter 8 and will be further ravaged by the fifth and sixth angel messengers in chapter 9 which will emphasize Satan’s destructive work upon the people of the earth.

**WHAT WILL SATAN DO?**

**Revelation 9**

Introduction: The messenger angels from the Lamb continue, with the fifth and sixth messenger angels releasing Satan and the powers of Hell on earth

1. The fifth messenger angel from the Lamb (8:1) releases Satan in His original form who in turn releases the powers of Hell for death and destruction- vs. 1-3

**1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.**

**2And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.**

**3And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**

A. The powers of Hell are released to reek havoc upon the earth and bring scorpion like

torment to those who are not redeemed, those not redeemed by the Lamb as listed earlier in chapter 7- vs. 4-6

**4And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

**5And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.**

**6And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.**

B. The powers of Hell will be… vs. 7-10

1) Unstoppable (horses)

2) Appear with faces like humanity (faces)

3) Have beauty (hair)

4) Have crushing power to strike (lion)

5) Be completely protected (breastplate)

6) Strike fear in others (sound)

7) Will strike while others are unaware (tails)

C. The effect of the powers of Hell upon humanity will last five months

**7And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.**

**8And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.**

**9And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.**

**10And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.**

 D. The leader of the powers of Hell will be an angel of Hell named in Hebrew,

Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon (“destruction experienced in Hell) v. 11

**11And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.**

2. The destruction released from Hell itself is only the beginning of torment- v. 12

**12One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.**

3. The sixth messenger angel from the Lamb brings judgment from the altar of God- v. 13

**13And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the Golden Altar which is before God,**

4. The Word of God from the Golden Altar of God instructs the sixth messenger angel from the Lamb to release four other messenger angels from the wickedness found at the original place on earth where Satan first established is earthly work, Euphrates- v. 14

**14Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.**

 A. The four messenger angels from Euphrates are released to kill one-third of

humanity within a year, month, day and hour – v. 15

**15And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.**

 B. The four messenger angels from Euphrates use an army of horsemen- vs. 16-17

 1) There are 200 million of them

 2) They are protected by the fires of Hell

 3) Their horses are set for constant attack

 4) They are fueled by the fires of Hell

**16And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.**

**17And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.**

 C. The horsemen of Hell from the four messengers of Hell use one-third of humanity

with the fire of Hell- v. 18

**18By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.**

5. The scorpions of Hell and the horsemen of Euphrates are powered by the fires of Hell- v. 19

**19For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.**

6. The two-thirds of humanity who are not killed by the fires of Hell do not repent but in

fact do the following: vs. 20-21

A. Continue to worship the devils and idols of Hell (devils, idols, gold, etc.)

B. Murder

C. Continue in sexual perversion and distortion (fornication)

D. Steal (thefts)

**20And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:**

**21Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**

**In Chapter 9, Hell has truly come to earth.**

**WITNESSING ABOUT CHRIST BEFORE THE TRIBULATION**

**Revelation 10**

Introduction: Tell everyone that Christ is revealed as the One Who will completely change heaven and earth with the revelation of Who He is, the Beginning and the End.

After the six messenger angels of chapters 8-9, Christ is revealed as the One who will have witnesses of Himself before (Rev. 10) and during (Rev. 11) the tribulation.

No matter how great the horror of judgment or evil upon the earth now and into the time of the tribulation, Christ will have a witness. That witness was John (Rev. 10) and the Book of Revelation was written that we (Rev. 22) may be witnesses of Christ, Who He is, especially in light of the end of all things to come and the New Heaven and New Earth to come.

In the sobering midst of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, chapter 10 is a sobering reminder that the purpose of the Book is that Christ may be revealed and that John and we must not hide the message of Revelation (Rev. 22) but warn others.

1. Another Messenger Angel Brings the Revelation of Christ In a Little Book to John

1. The Angel is Mighty and Lovely for the Message and Mission is Great and

Wonderful- v. 1

**1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:**

1. The Message Is In a Little Open Book-Open Because the Message Must be

Communicated- v. 2a

**2 And he had in his hand a little book open:**

1. The Messenger Angel Sets One Foot on Sea and One Foot On Earth to Indicate

That the Message Must Be Communicated Everywhere- v. 2b

**and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,**

2. The Voice of the Messenger Angel Does Not Convey Words, Because the Words Are in the

Book. But, the Force, Urgency and Character of the Message are Conveyed- v. 3

 A. The voice is loud for the message must be clearly heard

 B. The voice is as the roar of the lion because it is a powerful warning

C. Seven Thunders Are Heard Simultaneously With the Roar of the Messenger Angel,

Amplifying the Power and Swiftness of the Message About the Revelation of Jesus Christ

**3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.**

4. A Voice from Heaven Tells John to Not Alter the Message But Convey It As Is- v. 4

**4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.**

5. The Messenger Angel Conveys the Message From Christ that All Things As We Know Them Will Come to an End- vs. 5-6

**5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,**

**6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:**

6. The Messenger Angel Conveys that As the Judgment of Christ Proceeds with the Seventh Trumpet Angel (the First Six Were In Chapters 8 &9), That Christ, The Mystery of God Previously Communicated By the Prophets, Shall Now be Fully Revealed- v. 7

(Note: It is with the full Revelation of Who Christ is that all evil must end and the imperfections of the earth must be changed to perfection for only that which is holy can survive and exist in the full presence of Who He fully Is.)

**7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

7. The Voice from Heaven Instructs John (As Well As Us) to Take the Little Book from the Angel and Eat It So That the Words of the Revelation of Christ May Come From His Mouth

vs. 8-10

A. As Long As John Held the Message of the Book Within Himself (His Belly), It

Was Bitter

 B. As John Communicated the Message Outside of Himself (His Mouth), It was

Sweet As Honey, i.e., Life Giving and Redemptive to Others and Himself

**8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.**

**9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.**

**10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.**

8. After Seeing Some Of the Judgment to Come, John is Reminded that He Must Tell Others (rf. Rev. 22)- v. 11

**11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**

**WITNESSES OF CHRIST DURING THE TRIBULATION**

**Revelation 11**

Introduction: No matter how great the evil or judgment, the clearest message will be Christ revealed through all of the great and terrible things that will happen.

1. The Same Messenger Angel of Chapter 10 Now Turns to the Messengers Who Will Reveal Jesus Christ During the Tribulation
	1. The Messenger Angel Tells John to Measure and Take Note that the Temple of God, His Altar and Those Who Worship Him are With God In Heaven (v. 19)v. 1

**1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.**

(Note: These are described elsewhere as the 24 elders. They are the Church which was gathered together with Christ in the air when Christ descended into the heavens and angels blew trumpets to summon the dead and living in Christ to Him before the tribulation [Mt. 24:31; I Thes. 4:15-18.])

 B. The Messenger Angel Tells John to Take Note that Outside of the Heavenly Temple,

i.e., on Earth, are Unbelievers, and the Holy Things of God Will be Defamed for 3 ½ Years- v. 2

**2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**

1. The Messenger Angel Gives Power to Two Witnesses to Reveal Christ During the

3 ½ years When Christ will be Defamed as Described above in verse 2. v. 3

(Note: During the worst part of the tribulation, the second 3 ½ years, the main point of the tribulation will still be made, i.e., it is all about Jesus Christ and the revelation of Who He is. To guarantee that this point is made, there will be these two witness who will continually reveal Christ. The main point is not the suffering, death, transgressions and evil, He is the main point.)

**3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.**

(Note: Since the witnesses are identified as “my” witnesses, this Messenger Angel is in fact the One Whom the Message is About, Christ.)

 B. They are life giving and anointed (olive trees), reflecting (candlesticks) God- v. 4

**4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.**

C. Their witness will be powerful and those that hurt them will themselves be

devoured and killed by the message proceeding from their mouth- v. 5

**5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.**

 D. The witnesses will have power to fulfill their message of Christ, power to: v. 6

 1. Hold back the rain (life)

 2. Turn water to blood (death)

 3. Smite the earth with plagues (torment)

**6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.**

1. After the Message of the Two Witnesses is Complete, The Beast Out of Hell Makes War Against Them and Kills Them. People will revel over their carcasses- vs. 7-10

**7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.**

**8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.**

**9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.**

**10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.**

1. The Witnesses Are Resurrected After the Pattern of Days of Christ’s Resurrection as An Ultimate Witness of Christ Which Comes from a Voice in Heaven, But the Enemies of the Witnesses Will See Them Arise- vs. 11-12

**11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.**

**12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**

1. At the Resurrection of the Two Witnesses A Great Earthquake Occurs- vs. 13-14
	1. Bringing Destruction and Death
	2. Prompting Fear and Worship of Christ by Some (some during the tribulation will be converted to Christ)
	3. Signaling Swifter Judgment to Come Near the End of the Tribulation

**13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

**14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.**

1. A Seventh Messenger Trumpet Angel from the Lamb (the first six were in chapters 8 & 9) Now Sounds It’s Trumpet- v. 15a

**15 And the seventh angel sounded;**

A. The final stage of the tribulation begins. This stage will ultimately end with the

downfall of all kingdoms of earth and transition to the New Heaven and New Earth, completed in chapters 21 & 22. v. 15b

**and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

 B. The 24 elders, i.e., the Church, in heaven before God worship Him at the

declaration that the final stage and transition has begun- v. 16

**16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,**

The Church declares…(a paradigm for our worship today) vs. 17-18

1) With thanksgiving

**17 Saying, We give thee thanks,**

2) God’s great power

**O Lord God Almighty, which art,**

 3) He is the Beginning and the End

**and wast, and art to come;**

 4) He has all Authority

**because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.**

5) The anger of the nations is of no comparison to His wrath

**18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come,**

6) He will bring all of humanity to judgment

**and the time of the dead, that they should be judged,**

7) He rewards His servants

**and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great;**

 8) He will destroy the destroyers who do not serve Him

(Note: Gods’ servants are ultimately for the eternal renewal earth through the New Earth. Whereas those who are not the servants of the earth are truly the destroyers of the earth.)

**and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.**

1. The Temple in Heaven, First Seen In Verse 1 Is Opened to Reveal the Word of the Testament God Has Had With His Servants. The Power and Might of the Testament Is Reflected by Lightnings, Thunderings, An Earthquake and Great Hail- v. 19

**19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.**

**THE WAR FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD: A PICTURE OF CHRIST, THE CHILD WHO IS THE LAMB, AND HIS SUPREMACY OVER THE DRAGON, SATAN**

**Revelation 12**

Introduction: In order to sense the spiritual dynamics involved with the Revelation of Christ as the Beginning and End, a drama is used to convey the power, potency and peril of the unfolding of the Revelation of Christ from before, during and after the tribulation; especially the real spiritual reality that Christ is revealed as victorious over Satan.

“Drama” is used to describe the presentation of Revelation 12 to not indicate that these are fictitious events or fables. Rather, “drama” indicates the reality of real spiritual beings and events. This depiction reaches out to our very hearts and souls to move us to be in awe of the magnitude of what has, is and will occur in heaven and earth.

Thus far in Revelation, Satan has been referred to and Christ’s glory has been described. The purpose of this chapter is to reveal Christ directly as the One Who is victorious over Satan himself.

1. A Drama Illustrating the War Being Waged Before, During and After the Tribulation

1. The drama appears in heaven illustrating the spiritual substance of what

was happening- v. 1a

**1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven;**

1. The first character is a woman of splendor perhaps representing Israel

wearing a crown with 12 stars perhaps representing the 12 tribes of Israel. She is pregnant with a child. The child represents Christ. The woman is ready to deliver the child- vs. 1b-2

**a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:**

**2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.**

1. A spiritual being in heaven appears who is Satan, represented by

a great red dragon, a symbol of evil

1. The dragon’s knowledge (heads), power (horns) and authority (crowns)

are represented- v. 3

**3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.**

 2. The dragon’s power is represented by his tail being able to cast upon

the earth fallen angels or evil spirits upon the earth- v. 4a

**4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:**

 3. The dragon’s purpose is to devour the Child as soon as it is born- v. 4b

**and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.**

2.The drama unfolds as the woman brings forth the Child- v. 5

 A. The Child is born with authority (rule) greater than the dragon

 B. The Child is born with power (rod) greater than the dragon

C. The Child rather than being devoured is immediately recognized to have Divine Authority (unto God…throne)

**5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

3. The drama continues as the woman flees to God’s safety for 3 ½ years, perhaps

 the second half of the Tribulation- v. 6

**6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**

4. The drama turns to the spiritual warfare being waged and the defeat of the

 dragon who is the Devil, Satan

A. Michael, the archangel and the angels of God fight the dragon and his evil

 Angels- v. 7

**7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,**

B. The drama goes back and forth in time as it depicts the defeat of the

 dragon and his angels who are cast out of heaven on to earth- vs. 8-9

1. The dragon is identified as the “Devil” and “Satan,” names which characterize his essential nature as a deceiver (the primary tool of Satan during the end times and the Tribulation being deception)- vs. 8-9

**8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.**

**9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

5. The drama breaks out into a declaration of the indisputable salvation, authority and power of Christ in being victorious over Satan, the deceiver and accuser of God’s people. Three characterizations are given of each of three groups, the saved, the unsaved and Satan, the Dragon. The time of the drama now turns toward the time of the Tribulation, perhaps, the second 3 ½ years- v. 10

**10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

1. The people who experience Christ’s salvation are characterized as overcoming Satan, the deceiver through the blood of the Lamb-v. 11

**11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb,**

1) The people who experience Christ’s salvation overcome as they testify

 about Christ the Lamb

**and by the word of their testimony;**

1. The people who experience Christ’s salvation are characterized as having a love for Christ greater than a love for themselves (the reverse of which is one of the Devil’s main deceptions, self-centeredness)

**and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

 B. The unsaved are characterized as being under the wrath of Satan- v. 12

**12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

1. Satan, the dragon is characterized as especially attempting to persecute

the woman, perhaps, Israel, during the Tribulation- v. 13

**13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**

1. The woman is carried to a safe place for the second 3 ½ years of

the tribulation- v. 14

**14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.**

1. The dragon tries to capture the woman, though she is hidden, but

she is hidden by means of a flood- v. 15

**15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.**

1. The woman is spared when the earth swallows the flood from

Satan- v. 16

**16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**

1. Satan, the dragon, then turns its focus from the woman, Israel, to

Christians. This may indicate that during the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation Israel will be safe from the dragon and Christians (remnants of the Child’s seed) will be murdered for their testimony- v. 17

**17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**THE WAR FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD: A PICTURE OF THE BEASTS SATAN WILL USE ON EARTH, WHAT DOES 666 MEAN?**

**Revelation 13**

Introduction: During the Tribulation, Satan will use unusual deception on the earth.

1. The First Beast Satan will use during the tribulation described.
	1. The First Beast may rise out of the mass of humanity. The “sea” is often used as a metaphor to describe masses of people- v. 1a

**1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea,**

* 1. The First Beast has distinct characteristics- vs. 1b-2
		1. Knowledge (heads)
		2. Power (horns)
		3. Authority (crowns)
		4. The main characteristic of “Blasphemy”
		5. Deceptive (leopard)
		6. Lethal (bear)
		7. Frightening (lion)
	2. The First Beast is given it’s power, opportunity and authority from Satan, the Dragon

**having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.**

**2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**

1. The Tribulation world responds to the First Beast
	1. With wonder because it is healed from a mortal wound- v. 3

**3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.**

* 1. With worship to Satan, the Dragon, because the world knows the Dragons power comes from Satan, thinking that no one can win at a war against Satan and his First Beast- v. 4

**4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?**

1. Satan, the Accuser, equips the Beast with a trait like his own, blasphemy- v. 5a

**5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies;**

* 1. The First Beast is given power from Satan for 3 ½ years, perhaps, the second half of the Tribulation- v. 5b

**and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**

* 1. The First Beast blasphemes God, His name, His place of worship (perhaps in heaven and/or earth), and the saints in Heaven- v. 6

**6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.**

1. The First Beast wages warfare upon Christians. This may be during the second 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and/or the time after the Millenium before the final great battle in Rev. 20, and before the great white/final judgment of God in Rev. 20
	1. The First Beast wages warfare against the saints, involving all nations- v. 7

**7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.**

* 1. The unsaved during the Tribulation and/or in Rev. 20 worship the Beast rather than Christ the Lamb- v. 8

**8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

* 1. Warning issued about judgment upon those that force their own way and the character of patience and faith to be maintained by believers. This may refer to the second 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and/or the final battle in Rev. 20 and the great white/final judgment of God in Rev. 20. vs. 9-10

**9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.**

**10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**

**Another Beast from Hell who deceives by appearing as the lamb**

1. A Second Beast appears from out of the earth
	1. He appears to be like Christ the lamb- v. 11a

**11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb**

* 1. Yet, He speaks lies and evil as Satan, the Dragon- v. 11b

**and he spake as a dragon.**

* 1. He has power like the First Beast- v. 12a

**12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him,**

* 1. He causes the usaved of the earth to worship the First Beast- v. 12b

**and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.**

* 1. He does wonders, like fire coming from heaven- v. 13

**13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,**

* 1. He is a deceiver through miracles he is able to do- v. 14

**14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.**

* 1. He brings the first beast to life- v. 15a

**15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak,**

* 1. He makes the first beast an image to be worshipped- v. 15b

**and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**

* 1. He marks unbelievers with a number on their forehead, the main function of which is to control commerce- vs. 16-18

**16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:**

**17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

**18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.**

Note: The main defense against the deception of the Second Beast and the blasphemy of the First Beast is a call to Wisdom, versus deception.

The first beast is a counterfeit of the power and resurrection of Christ. The second beast promotes the first beast through deception about Who Christ really is.

In the drama of Chapter 12, Satan fails. So Chapter 13 illustrates how Satan will produce a counterfeit using the first beast creating a blasphemous counterfeit Christ and the second beast creating deception that unbelievers would believe the first beast to be as Christ.

The only description of the power of the mark of the beast is its control of commerce. It may be that as events unfold now and after the rapture, the primary tool of Satan’s deception is and will be commerce. The deception may center on people trying to worship God and “mammon” (Mt. 6:24), i.e., giving as much value to the control of finance and financial concerns over their lives as unto God and/or as long as one is financially secure, one might believe or allow anything.

**CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD, REVEALED AS THE ONE WORSHIPPED BY ISRAEL, THEREBY SIGNALING THE FINAL PHASES OF GOD’S JUDGMENT**

**Revelation 14-15**

Introduction: Israel believes in Christ as the Lamb of God as a testimony against the power of the Devil’s deception and control represented by 666 in Rev. 13

**Revelation 14**

1. The Lamb of God, Christ stands on Mt. Zion- v. 1a

Note: Attention now turns to the final chapter of Israel. The work begun in Gen. 11:27 ff. with the Sons of Terah, the father of Abraham, the people through whom would come the Saviour, and the Lamb, is now perfected with Israel eventually worshipping the Lamb. This perfection and completion of Israel stands as a testimony against the deception and falsehood of the antichrist coming out of Rev. 13 that tried to supplant the Lamb and deceive people, especially Israel, away from the Lamb.

**1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion,**

1. Perfected Israel has come to believe in Christ as Messiah in Revelation 7, the 144,000, stands with Christ. They are Israel believing in Christ as the Lamb of God- v. 1b

**and with him an hundred forty and four thousand,**

Note: In Revelation 7:4-8 ff., the 144,000 are clearly described as coming from the 12 Tribes of Israel. They are now further described, especially the nature of their faithfulness to the Lamb.

* 1. Israel of the Lamb have the name of the Father on their foreheads, in contrast to 666 mentioned at the end of Rev. 13:18. v. 1c

**having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

* 1. A voice from heaven sings powerfully (waters…thunder) and melodiously (harps) at the celebration of the perfection of Israel- v. 2

**2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:**

* 1. Israel of the Lamb (144,000), from all the earth, sings a new song, described as the Song of the Lamb in Rev. 15:3, before Christ on the throne, and the beasts that carry out Christ’s judgment. Isreal of the Lamb also sings before the Church (elders) v. 3

**3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.**

* 1. Israel of the Lamb has been faithful to Christ the Lamb- v. 4

**4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.**

* 1. Israel of the Lamb has been found without fault by the Lamb of God- v. 5

**5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

1. **On the occasion of Israel being faithful and perfected by believing and being faithful to the Lamb, a first messenger angel announces that**
	1. As a result, full judgment (hour of His judgment) comes to the earth- v. 6

**6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,**

* 1. The earth is transformed so that glory would be given to the Lamb- v. 7

**7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

1. A second messenger angel declares in contrast to the glory given to the Lamb that the kingdom/city of Babylon will fall. Babylon had allured the nations away from faithfulness to the Lamb- v. 8

**8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**

1. A third messenger angel declares- vs. 9-12
	1. Those that have been marked (on their forehead) because they believed the deception of Babylon and worshipped the antichrist described in Rev. 13, will fall under the wrath and judgment of God
	2. The emphasis is upon torment as a result of the judgment
	3. The torment of the deceived under judgment is contrasted with the patience of the faithful that overcame the deception

Note: The mark on the forehead, besides an actual mark, may be an indication of the deception of the mind, a way of thinking that believes a lie and deception of Satan rather than the patient, faithful perseverance of those who continue to believe the Lamb of God

**9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,**

**10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:**

**11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

**12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**

1. A voice from heaven, now cries out
	1. Commanding blessing upon those faithful to the Lamb even unto death- v. 13a

**13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:**

* 1. The voice is identified as the Spirit of God, the Comforter, Who declares rest for those who have been faithful unto the Lamb- v. 13b

**Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**

1. Christ, as the Son of man, appears on a cloud with victory (golden), authority (crown), and reaping judgment (sickle). The sickle may indicate the reclamation of the earth as the part of the purpose of judgment- v. 14

**14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.**

1. A fourth messenger angel from the temple cries to the Son of man on the cloud, declaring that it is time for the harvest judgment, that the earth has now reached the fullness of the time for judgment- v. 15

**15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**

1. The Son of Man begins the harvest judgment upon the earth- v. 16

**16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.**

* 1. A fifth messenger angel from the temple in heaven joins the harvest judgment- v. 17

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

* 1. A sixth messenger angel from the altar in the temple in heaven with the power of fire cries to the fifth angel to harvest the fruit of the harvest- v. 18

**18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.**

* 1. The fifth messenger angel gathers the grapes of the harvest judgment, casting the grapes into the winepress of God’s judgment resulting in blood rising to the bridles of horses, stretching for 200 miles (8 furlongs=1 mile) vs. 19-20

Note: The blood resulting from the judgment is real and may represent the fact that the deception created by the whore Babylon was to believe that the false Christ would bring life but in fact brought an end to life, i.e. blood.

**19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**

**20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**

1. Seven messenger angels appear in heaven with the final phase of God’s judgment upon earth- v. 15:1

**Revelation 15**

**1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

1. In the midst of the judgment, the victorious worship the Lamb. They have been victorious over each phase of the enemy’s work during the tribulation- v. 2
	1. The beast that gave the enemy’s work power (beast)
	2. The one who attempted to present a false Christ (image)
	3. The deception of marking persons (mark)
	4. The control of the enemy’s deception (number)

**2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.**

1. The particular song is noted with importance because – vs. 3-4
	1. It is the song of Moses, affirming God’s work through Israel
	2. It is also/and the song of the Lamb, affirming the perfection of Israel and Christ as the Lamb

Note: Perfected Israel, the 144,000 along with others who have been faithful to the Lamb during the tribulation, sing the song of the Lamb in worship to the Lamb as God as well as the song of Moses.

* 1. The song’s substance affirms The Lamb as
		1. Having great and marvelous works
		2. Lord God Almighty
		3. Just and true in all His ways (particularly in the midst of this final judgment upon the unbelievers of the earth and the fallen earth itself)
		4. King of saints
		5. One to be feared
		6. One to be glorified
		7. One Who is Holy
		8. One Whom all nations will eventually worship
		9. One Who now brings the final judgment

**3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.**

**4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

1. On the occasion of the final judgment, the focus turns to the temple in heaven from which the judgment has flowed as the testimony of God since chapter 4. – v. 5

**5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:**

* 1. Seven messenger angels come from the temple, v. 6
		1. Having the plagues of judgment
		2. Being pure (pure and white linen) in their task of judgment
		3. Being victorious and unstoppable (golden girdles)

**6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.**

* 1. One of the messenger angels is given particular vials of God’s wrath as part of the judgment. These vials may indicate the very final stages of God’s ultimate wrath- v. 7

**7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.**

* 1. The temple in heaven is filled with smoke as the stages of the final, ultimate judgment of God begins, noting… v. 8
		1. The glory of God
		2. The power of God
		3. That God stands alone in His glory, power and judgment

**8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.**

Note: The judgment of God is no light thing. The deception has been great, but great has been the faithfulness of God’s people. God is powerful in His redemption of the faithful and His judgment of the deceived.

The primary characteristic in Rev. 14 of those that overcome is patience. Patience marks many of the following reminders, drawing us to faithfulness and away from deception.

**CHRIST REVEALED AS THE ONE WHO WILL TRANSFORM THE EARTH, WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON EARTH IN THE FINAL PHASES OF JUDGMENT?**

**Revelation 16**

Introduction: The final phases of God’s judgment during the Tribulation come upon the earth and its people as a response to the blasphemy that abounds

1. A voice out of the temple in heaven commissions the seven messenger angels of Rev. 15:6 to pour out God’s wrath of judgment- v. 1

**1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.**

1. The first messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment creating a grievous sore on those who have the 666 mark of the beast (Rev. 13:18) and worshipped the antichrist- v. 2

**2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.**

1. The second messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment making the sea as blood of a dead man and all living creatures in the sea die- v. 3

**3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea**.

1. The third messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment turning the rivers and fountains of waters to blood- v. 4

**4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.**

* 1. The third angel declares- vs. 5-6
		1. God’s righteousness because of His judgment
		2. That the judged are given blood to drink because they have shed the blood of God’s saints and prophets

**5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.**

**6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**

* 1. A voice from the altar in heaven affirms the judgments are… vs. 7
		1. From the Lord God Almighty
		2. True
		3. Righteous

**7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

1. The fourth messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment causing persons to be scorched by the sun. As a result, the people… vs. 8-9
	1. Are scorched with great heat
	2. Blaspheme God
	3. Do not repent
	4. Do not give God glory

**8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.**

**9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

1. The fifth messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment upon the pseudo authority (seat) of the beast who… vs. 10-11
	1. Had kingdoms (pseudo authorities) of darknes
	2. Has followers who under God’s judgment will gnaw their tongues with pain who
		1. Because they blasphemed the God of heaven
		2. Because of pains and sores inflicted by the judgment of God
		3. Would not repent before God for what they have done

**10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,**

**11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.**

1. The sixth messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out God’s wrath and judgment upon the place on earth that has been the fountain of evil since the book of Genesis, Euphrates. As a result… v. 12
	1. The water dries up
	2. The “kings of the east” have a way by which they can come, cross and be further instruments of God’s judgment

**12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.**

1. Three unclean spirits arise- vs. 13-14a
	1. They are like frogs, bringing pestilence and torment
	2. They come from the mouth of the Satan the dragon
	3. They come from the mouth of the beast
	4. They come from the false prophet, the counterfeit lamb, the antichrist described in Rev. 15
	5. They are spirits of devils
	6. They work miracles
	7. They go forth to deceive the kings of the entire earth

**13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

**14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world,**

Note: This may be looking beyond the tribulation and the Millenium to the one last and final battle described in Rev. 20:7-10 which occurs just before the final judgment of all of humanity, the Great White Throne Judgment in Rev. 20:11-15.

* 1. They deceive the nations and kings of the earth to battle one last time in the final battle described as the “great day of God Almighty.” v. 14b

 **to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

Note: After this one last battle which occurs after the Tribulation and the Millenium in Rev. 20:7-10 only two things remain, the Great White Throne Judgment (rev. 20:11-15) and the New Heaven and New Earth (Rev. 21-22)

1. Christ Himself speaks because this is the sixth angel signaling the finality of God’s judgment when all things will forever be different. Christ warns… vs. 15-16
	1. He comes unknown to anyone, as a thief
	2. Blessing only comes to those who watch and prepare themselves
	3. Those who are not ready will be defenseless, shamed and judged
	4. Christ will call the place of His Final Victory in this final battle after the Tribulation and the Millenium, Armageddon. After Armageddon, Satan will be locked in hell forever (Rev. 20:10).

Note: “Armageddon” is Hebrew for “har”-mountain *and* “megiddo”-a place in Palestine; may be from root, “megid”-precious things, or from “megidon”-place of crowds

**15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

**16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

1. The seventh messenger angel of the wrath and judgment of God pours out
God’s judgment into the air- vs. 17-18
	1. A voice from heaven declares, “It is done.”
	2. Other manifestations occur
		1. Other voices are heard
		2. Thunder (power)
		3. Lighnings (swiftness)
		4. Great unprecedented earthquake of judgment

**17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.**

**18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.**

* 1. The “great city,” perhaps Babylon divides into three parts, perhaps as a result of the great earthquake, and the “cities of nations” fall as a result of the wrath of God’s judgment- v. 19

**19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.**

* 1. The shape of the topography of the earth is changed with no more islands and no more mountains- vs. 20-21
	2. Great hail from heaven falls judging the blasphemy of people against God

Note: Because of the vast destruction of the earth in verse 20, this may be a look beyond the Tribulation and the Millennium to the destruction that makes the New Heaven and New Earth possible in Rev. 21 & 22. Also, because of the judgment falling from heaven in verse 21, this may also look beyond the Tribulation and the Millennium to the fire from heaven that ends the Battle of Armagaddon in Rev. 20:9.

**20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

**21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.**

**CHRIST REVEALED, THOUGH THE HARLOT OF SATAN RISES,**

**WHAT WILL SATAN’S GREATEST DECEPTION BE LIKE? A HARLOT**

**Revelation 17-18**

Note: Revelation 17-18 indicate the great climactic tool of Satan in the end times, commerce. The mark of the beast was about commerce, “buying and selling” (13:17). Much of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount was about commerce, i.e., not being able to worship God and mammon (Mt. 6:24). Christ’s end time message in Mt. 24-25 emphasizes faithfulness to the master rather than self-centered commercial gain (Mt. 25:14-30). The Great White Throne Judgment will be about the nature of one’s faithfulness to Christ and one’s “works” (20:12).

1. One of the seven messenger angels of the wrath and judgment of God from Rev. 16 shows John the essential character of the deception and control Satan uses leading up to the return of Christ and the Bride in Rev. 19 and that this will be judged (judgment) by Christ 17:1-2
	1. The deception of a whore characterizes the deception and control
	2. The whore will have powers (many waters) of deception and control
	3. Her control (kings) and effect (drunk) has been global
	4. Her method is characterized as a harlot that draws one away from another to be unfaithful

**Revelation 17**

**1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:**

**2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**

1. The same angel carries John in the Spirit for special insight. The work of the Spirit emphasizes the importance to know the character of end time deception as that of a whore- vs. 3-5
	1. The whore is on top of a scarlet beast, indicating that the harlot uses the beast
	2. The whore is full of the blasphemy emphasized in Rev. 13-16
	3. The whore rides the beast that has special knowledge (heads)
	4. The whore rides the beast that has special power (horns)
	5. The whore is attractive (purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, pearls)
	6. The whore offers a special, alluring cup
		1. The cup attracts with splendor (gold)
		2. The cup is full of ungodliness (abominamtions)
		3. The cup is full of unfaithful desires (filthiness, fornication)
	7. The whore is identified as…
		1. Full of hiddenness (mystery)
		2. Full of the kingdom against God (Babylon)
		3. Full of power (great)
		4. The source of deception (mother of harlots)
		5. Full of ungodliness (abominations)

**3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

**4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:**

**5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth.**

1. The whore is has killed so many saints that she is drunk on their blood- v. 6a

**6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her,**

1. John is taken back by the magnitude of her deception- v. 6b

**I wondered with great admiration.**

1. The angel from the seven angels of Rev. 16 declares to John that the whore and the knowing (heads) and powerful (horns) beast are actually no mystery- v. 7

**7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the beast is the same beast that had been resurrected by Satan in chapter 13. v. 8

**8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the beasts knowledge (heads) is actually earthly – v. 9

**9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the beast’s authority over the kings of the earth has been and is destined to completely fall because the kings and ultimately the beast will fall. Further, the tragedy is that the kings will be completely (mind) be deceived to give power and strength to the beast- vs. 10-13

**10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.**

**11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.**

**12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.**

**13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the whore, the beast and the kings doomed under God’s judgment shall be overcome by the Lamb, who has been their target all along; noting that those remain faithful to the lamb are called, chosen and faithful- v. 14

**14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the waters that the whore and the best sat on are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues that are deceived but the powers that come under the whore’s deception will eventually turn on her and be judged with her in hell. vs. 15-16

**15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**

**16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that God will allow their hearts to be deceived in all of this and the Word of God’s judgment will be therefore fulfilled- v. 17

**17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

* 1. The angel clarifies that the whore is actually the pseudo kingdom/city Satan empowers to counterfeit and deceive the kings and peoples of the earth against the Kingdom/City of God and faithfulness to God- v. 18

**18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**

1. Another angel comes from heaven from where the judgment of God is coming, declaring as an act of Holy Proclamation, Decree and worship, the downfall of the whorish empire, kingdom and city of Satan 18:1-3a

**Revelation 18**

**1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.**

**2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.**

**3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,**

1. The Declaration of the angel includes the critical, if not central role, that commerce, the ability to “buy and sell” (see “666” Rev. 13:17-18), at the deceptive heart of the harlot empire and world system- v. 3b

**and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.**

1. A voice from heaven from where the judgment of God comes from calls the people who have been deceived to reject the allurement of the harlot empire and world system perhaps centered around commerce- vs. 4-7

Note: Versus 4-9 indicate

1. The mercy of God to offer redemption to those that are deceived
2. Indicate that the work of the harlot empire may even be part of the great and final deception, battle, and judgment described in Rev. 20:7-10
3. A call to come away from the harlot- v. 4

**4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**

1. The iniquities of the harlot are know by God and will be judged by God- v. 5

**5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities**.

1. The harlot’s judgment will doubly administered by God- v. 6

**6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.**

1. The harlot is described and quoted indicating the character of the deception- v. 7
	1. Glorifying oneself
	2. Careless indulgence (lived deliciously)
	3. Destined for toment and sorrow
	4. Grand entitlement (queen)
	5. Rejecting abandonment (no widow)
	6. Rejecting sorrow

**7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.**

1. The declares swift judgment on the empire of the harlot reminiscent of the final judgment at the last battle described in Rev. 20:7-10. vs.8-10

**8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.**

**9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,**

**10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.**

1. The judgment, weeping and mourning over the commercial control that is perhaps the central characteristic of the allurement of the harlot is described
	1. Merchants are affected because the power of 666 controlling buying and selling (Rev. 13:17) is broken- v. 11

**11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:**

* 1. Merchandise at the heart of the harlot’s deception and empire is taken away as a result of God’s victorious judgment- vs. 12-14

**12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, 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,**

**13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.**

**14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.**

* 1. The response of the merchants deceived by the harlot of commerce- vs. 15-19
		1. The harlot made them rich
		2. Now fear because of the torment, weeping and wailing of the harlot
		3. Mourn over the former allure of the harlot
		4. Mourn the swiftness with which commerce and the harlot were judged

**15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,**

**16 And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!**

**17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,**

* + 1. Mourn the former magnitude of the harlot of commerce
		2. Mourn the death of the harlot as formerly great, rich and control of commerce now swiftly judged and ended in one hour

**18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!**

**19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.**

1. By contrast the voice from heaven where God’s judgment comes calls for rejoicing in heaven, and by the apostles and prophets, because God’s judgment has brought vengeance- v. 20

**20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.**

1. A mighty angel of God’s wrath and judgment cast the harlot commercial empire of Babylon, the false kingdom, into it’s fatal end to be no more. The onslaught of this evil commercial empire will no more come against nor kill the prophets and saints of God- vs. 21-24

**21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**

**22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;**

**23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.**

**24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.**

**CHRIST REVEALED AS CONQUEROR: CHRIST’S SECOND COMING TO EARTH IS WITH HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH**

Introduction: The Church is described in many ways in Scripture, but the ultimate description in the Book of Revelation is as His Bride. The unfolding of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is in four parts.

**First Part: A Praise Service in Heaven as a Prelude to the Wedding** vs. 1-5

1. Many People in Heaven Declare as One Voice a Twelve-Fold Description That Christ Is The…(with the “smoke” of the sacrifice of praise rising eternally to God) 19:1-3
	1. One to be praised (Alleluia)
	2. One Who is Saviour
	3. One to be Glorified
	4. One to receive all honour
	5. One Who has all power
	6. One Who is Lord
	7. One Who is God
	8. One Who is True in Judgment
	9. One Who is Righteous in Judgment
	10. One Who judged the Whore (Rev. 17-18), the corrupter of the earth
	11. One Who avenged the blood of those martyred by the Whore
	12. One to be praised repeatedly (again, Amen, Alleluia)

**Revelation 19**

**1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:**

**2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.**

**3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**

1. The People in Heaven, The Church, Four and Twenty Elders, and Four Beasts/Spiritual Beings, That Have Given the Praise, Are Seen Falling Down, Declaring Affirmation (Amen) and Praise (Alleluia) v. 4

**4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.**

1. A Voice from the Throne Commands Praise… v. 5
	1. Unto God
	2. By all His servants
	3. By all that fear Him
	4. Regardless of their stature (small and great)

**5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.**

**Second Part: The Entry of the Bride** vs. 6-10

1. The Church as a Great Multitude Respond With Praise to God and that the time of His Bride, the Church, has come- vs. 6-7a
	1. Their sound of praise was as many waters
	2. Their sound of praise was as mighty thunderings
	3. They sound praise (Alleluia)
	4. They declare His Lordship
	5. They declare He is God
	6. They declare He is King (omnipotent reigneth)
	7. They affirm their gladness
	8. They affirm their rejoicing
	9. They give honor to Him
	10. They declare the time of the marriage of the Lamb and the Bride has come

**6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**

**7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come,**

1. The Church Declares Her Readiness as the Bride for Christ, the Groom- vs. 7b-8
	1. That the Bride Church is made herself ready
	2. That the Bride Church has been given the ability to dressed and ready in a wedding garment that represents her condition
		1. Finery prepared for her
		2. Clean
		3. Pure from unfaithfulness
		4. Righteousness as those separated unto Christ (saints/holy)

Note: The Church was warned to be ready as the Bride for if they hear the Spirit and overcome, they would receive what a Bride receives:

* + New Name (Pergamos, 2:17; Philadelphia, 3:12)
	+ A Wedding Garment (Sardis, 3:5; Laodecia, 3:18)

The Church, as it responded to the Spirit and overcame, would receive victory at the White Throne Judgment

* Not experience the second death (Smyrna, 2:11; 20:6)

The Church, as it responded to the Spirit and overcame, would receive at the New Heaven and New Earth:

* The Tree of Life (Ephesus, 2:7; 22:12)
* Crown of Life (Smyrna, 2:10; 22:3-4)
* Christ Who is the Light/Star (Thyatira, 2:28; 22:5)

**and his wife hath made herself ready.**

**8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

1. John is Commanded to Record that Blessing is Given to Those Who Are Ready for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb- v. 9

**9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God**.

1. The Voice From the Direction of the Throne (v. 5, now v. 10) is Identified as a Fellow Servant Messenger Who Identifies the Revelation of Jesus as Prophecy and That the Covenant Testimony We Have With Him Is to Bear Witness/Prophesy of Him; further, Our Covenant Testimony is a Witness/ Prophecy of Him- v. 10

**10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

Note: The Spirit of Prophecy means the message is from God, but the message is not so powerful that the message or the messenger is to be worshipped. God alone is to be messenger. We fail in this when we focus more on the message or messenger than upon the One that the message is about. This is an appropriate correction because the One that the message is about is suddenly revealed after this as the Victorious One Who now receives His Bride.

**Third Part: The Entry of the Groom** vs. 11-18

1. Christ Comes Down from Heaven- vs. 11-13
	1. Riding a White Horse of Victory and Conquering
	2. He is Called Faithful
	3. He is Called True
	4. He Judges in Righteousness
	5. He Makes War
	6. His eyes pierce as flames of fire
	7. On His head are many crowns of supreme sovereignty
	8. His Name is so divine, it is not fully known by humanity
	9. His garment has been colored with blood (perhaps His blood spilled at the Cross and/or the blood of the martyrs)
	10. His Name serves as the Word, Himself, that has been given

**11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.**

**12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.**

**13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.**

1. With Christ as His Wedding Entourage Are the Armies of Heaven- v. 14
	1. The army is upon horses of conquering also
	2. The army is clothed similarly as the Bride, fine linen, white and clean garments

**14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.**

1. Christ Is Further Described, Emphasizing His Victory and Rule- vs. 15-16
	1. His weapon is His Word which proceeds from His mouth as a sharp sword
	2. He smites the nations with His Word
	3. He rules the nations with an unbreakable rod
	4. He carries out the fierce wrath of God
	5. On His body and thigh garments are written the declaration of His sovereignty, King of Kings and Lord of Lords

**15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

**16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.**

1. An Angel Declares That Creation Should Make Itself Ready for the Processional Departure of the King, His Bride and His Army. The supper of His judgment is the battle that is a Wedding Supper- vs. 17-18
	1. The Angel is greater than all of nature by standing in the sun
	2. The Angel declares and commissions nature to be ready
	3. The Angel commissions the birds of the air to come to the marriage supper for they will be the ones to harvest the devastation that Christ the One and Only King will bring upon all other rivaling powers

**17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;**

**18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.**

**Fourth Part: The Glorious Processional Departure of the Groom, Bride and Wedding Party (Army of the Groom) That Consequently Win a War Against the Unfaithful and Kings on Earth** vs. 19-21

1. The Beast Worshipped Falsely Rather than Christ, the Powers (Kings) of Earth, and Their Armies Gather to War Against Christ and His Army of Heaven as they Come from the Marriage Celebration- v. 19

**19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.**

Note: The setting is one which compares the Harlot/Whore of Rev. 17-18 and the Bride, the Church/24 Elders, that has been with Christ in heaven during the Tribulation. The Harlot represents unfaithfulness and the driving force behind the deception of the Tribulation (depicted by the Harlot sitting upon multitudes in Rev. 17:1 and upon the beast Rev. 17:3). This is the setting because the context which ushers the Battle of the Second Coming is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Christ proceeds from the Marriage Supper/Celebration of Readiness and Faithfulness to conquer the unfaithfulness wrought by the Harlot.

1. The Consequences of Christ’s Victory at the Battle of the Second Coming Are Described vs. 20-21
	1. The Beast that was falsely worshipped and miracle working false prophet, both described in Rev. 13, are cast into hell
	2. The kings and armies are slain by the Word proceeding from Christ and the fowls of the earth that were told in vs. 17-18 to make themselves ready for this task, now devour their carcasses

**20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

**21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

Note: This Battle that takes place upon Christ’s Second Coming to Earth, accompanied by the Church as the Bride and the armies of heaven is not the Battle of Armageddon. Armageddon is the one last great battle described in Rev. 20:7-10. Armageddon takes place after the Millennial Reign, Rev. 20:3b-4. The sequence is as follows:

1. The Rise of the Whore/Harlot Revelation 17-18
2. Revelation 19
	1. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb,
	2. Second Coming of Christ with the Bride and the Armies of Heaven,
	3. Winning of the War at the Second Coming Against the Kings of the Earth
3. Revelation 20
	1. Satan Placed in Hell for 1,000 Years,
	2. The Millennial Reign of Christ and the Saints Upon the Reclaimed Earth,
	3. The Second Resurrection of the Rest of the Dead,
	4. Satan Released for a Brief Time,
	5. The Battle of Armageddon Against Satan and the Nations,
	6. Satan Put in Hell Forever,
	7. The Great and Final White Throne Judgment

Revelation 19 foretells the outcome of the unfaithful who give in to deception as unto a whore versus the celebration and victory for those who remain faithful as a bride.

**CHRIST ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM AND JUDGES SATAN AND ALL OF HUMANITY: THE FINAL FIVE PHASES BEFORE THE LAST JUDGMENT**

**Revelation 20:1-10**

Introduction: With the defeat of Satan at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Final Judgment countdown begins that lasts a thousand years.

Note: The countdown of the final judgment in Revelation 20 has 5 phases

1-Satan placed in hell for a thousand years while Christ establishes with the saints

the Millennial Kingdom- vs. 1-3

 2-The saints from the rapture and the saints saved during the tribulation reign with

Christ on earth, establishing His Millennial Kingdom- vs. 4, 6

 3-The dead at that time are not resurrected until the completion of the

establishment of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom- v. 5

 4-Satan is released at the end of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom reign to tempt and

deceive the nations, then do battle against the saints. Consequently, he is

defeated and put in hell with his beast and false prophet forever-vs. 7-10

 5-The final, Great White Throne Judgment occurs where everyone who has ever

lived is judged either to eternal torment in hell or to live in the New Heaven and New Earth forever with Christ and the saints- vs. 11-15

1. Satan placed in hell for a thousand years while Christ establishes the Millennial Kingdom with the Raptured and Tribulation Saints- vs. 1-3
	1. A messenger angel sent from heaven with the key to hell and a chain in his hand for the Devil

Note: This may be Christ because He is described as the One with the keys to death and hell in Rev. 1:18

**1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

* 1. The messenger angel/Christ binds the devil, described as:
		1. “Dragon”-the evil one in Revelation
		2. “Serpent”-the evil tempter in Genesis
		3. “Devil”-the false accuser
		4. “Satan”-the adversary

2 **And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

* 1. The dragon is bound and cast into hell for a thousand years
		1. He is “cast,”-he resisted
		2. He is “shut up”-he cannot escape
		3. A “seal” is placed on him-he is under God’s judgment
		4. The “seal” is to keep him from deceiving the nations during the millennial reign of Christ
		5. He will be “loosed” temporarily when the purpose of the millennial kingdom is fulfilled

Note: Satan will be loosed for one more final deception attempt before the final judgment by Christ later in the chapter.

**3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

1. Christ reigns for a thousand (millennial) years- v. 4
	1. “They” may be the bride, the raptured church, seen sitting upon the throne. This may be a completion of the process of the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19).
	2. Judgment during the Millennial Reign is given to “them,” perhaps the raptured church which were promised by Christ that they would rule and reign with Him (Mt. 19:28)
	3. Also, (noted by the word, “and”) reigning with Christ will be those who are saved during the tribulation and
		1. Did not worship the beast
		2. Did not worship the image of the beast
		3. Did not receive the mark of the beast on their foreheads
		4. Did not receive the mark of the beast on their hands

Note: The purpose of the Millennial Kingdom may be to demonstrate to the nations one last time before the final judgment the blessings of living under Christ’s reign.

**4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

1. Clarification between the raptured church, those saved during the tribulation, the “rest of the dead” and those in the “first resurrection” vs. 5-6
	1. The “rest of the dead” may either be those who died during the tribulation or all those who have ever died, regardless, all who have ever lived will face the great final judgment in vs. 11-15. The “rest of the dead” will be resurrected after Christ’s Millennial Reign is finished, perhaps, to face Satan’s last deception, v. 7.
	2. The “first resurrection” was the resurrection that took place at the rapture described in I Thess 4 by Paul and by Christ in Mt. 24

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

* 1. Clarification about those who were resurrected at the rapture
		1. “This” refers to those mentioned in the previous verse, v. 4. John is still looking at the thrones he saw at the beginning of v. 4 and the angel clarifies the identity of those whom he sees. “This” refers to:
			1. Those that were seen on “thrones” who reign with Christ in His Millennial Reign. They are those who were resurrected at the rapture.
			2. Also, (noted by the word, “and” in v. 4) mentioned after describing the resurrection saints reigning with Christ, are those who died in Christ during the tribulation.
			3. The resurrection of both groups is described as the “the first resurrection” (see item 3.b. above)
		2. The “second death” is the death that takes place after the resurrection of the “rest of the dead” (v. 5). The “second death” has no power over those who were resurrected at the rapture and died during the tribulation because they will have their names written in the Book of Life at the great final judgment in vs. 11-15, and they will not die the “second death” of judgment upon the unbelievers at the great final judgment.
		3. Those raptured in the “first resurrection” will serve as “priests of God and of Christ” because they will help or minister as priests to others alive during the Millennial Reign to serve God. They were in heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 4-19).
		4. Those raptured in the “first resurrection” will “reign” with Christ during the Millennial Reign because they will serve Him and help in His service during the thousand years after having been in heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 4-19).

**6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

1. Satan is loosed from his captivity in hell to deceive the nations one last time- vs. 7-10

**7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,**

* 1. Satan’s purpose is to “deceive”/plot, scheme (*planos*)
	2. Satan deceives the nations (*ethnos*), perhaps understood as “peoples”
	3. “Four quarters of the earth” indicates everyone will be deceived who is on the earth. This may be after the “rest of the dead” are resurrected, meaning that perhaps all people who have ever lived will have seen the Millennial Kingdom and have the choice between Christ and the deception of Satan
	4. “Gog” and “Magog” are part of the deception of Satan, a king and a false kingdom to deceive all people and attack Christ and those who believe in Him and serve Him
		1. “Gog” (*gog*), literally, “mountain,” may indicate a “king,” Satan’s false king in contrast to Christ, the King of the Millennial Kingdom
		2. “Magog” (*magog*), literally, “a land or covering,” may indicate the land or false kingdom that Satan will use to deceive and attack
		3. The deception of Satan turns to a battle involving the number of whom he has deceived that is as the “sand of the sea”

**8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

* 1. The battle is described in no uncertain terms
		1. Satan’s army, resulting from his deception arises from the ends or “breadth” of the earth
		2. They “compass” the “camp of the saints,” which is at/or includes a “beloved city.” The camp/city may describe one place on earth where all the saints have gathered.
		3. “Fire” comes down from God in heaven and “devours”/defeats the attackers of the people of God

**9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**

* + 1. After being defeated in battle, the Devil is cast into hell where the beast and false prophet of the tribulation are. Satan remains in hell forever hereafter.

**10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

1. Those who were deceived by Satan one last time, await the great final judgment in vs. 11-15

**CHRIST ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM AND JUDGES SATAN AND ALL OF HUMANITY: THE FINAL LAST JUDGMENT, THE END OF ALL THINGS AS WE KNOW THEM**

**Revelation 20:11-15**

Introduction: With the defeat of Satan at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Final Judgment countdown that lasts a thousand years.

Note: The countdown of the final judgment in Revelation 20 has 5 phases

1-Satan placed in hell for a thousand years while Christ establishes with the saints

the Millennial Kingdom- vs. 1-3

 2-The saints from the rapture and the saints saved during the tribulation reign with

Christ on earth, establishing His Millennial Kingdom- v. 4, 6

 3-The dead at that time are not resurrected until the completion of the

establishment of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom-v. 5

 4-Satan is released at the end of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom reign to tempt and

deceive the nations, then do battle against the saints. Consequently, he is

defeated and put in hell with his beast and false prophet forever- vs. 7-10

 5-The final, Great White Throne Judgment occurs where everyone who has ever

lived is judged either to eternal torment in hell or to live in the New Heaven and New Earth forever with Christ and the saints- vs. 11-15

1. The fifth and final phase of the final judgment described in Rev. 20 begins with the appearance of the “great white throne” v. 11
	1. “Great” describes it’s unprecedented majesty
	2. “White” describes it’s unprecedented purity of judgment
	3. “Throne” describes it’s unprecedented authority
	4. Christ sits on the throne with a face from which heaven and earth sought to “flee away” from, but could not; meaning that the face of His judgment will be inescapable. Everyone who has ever lived will not be able to avoid appearing before Christ, the final judge and the final judgment

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

1. The actual judgment as it occurs is described twice- vs. 12-13
	1. The first description emphasizes that God is the judge
		1. All the “dead” have been raised, perhaps at v. 5 as “the rest of the dead.” All the previously dead have been resurrected in either the “first resurrection” (v. 5) of the dead, the raptured saints and those who died in Christ during the tribulation (vs. 5-6); or the second resurrection of the “rest of the dead” noted in v. 5 and v. 12.
		2. “The books,” perhaps recording their works, are used
		3. “Another book,” the “book of life,” is used
		4. The judgment is based on the records of God (“books”)
		5. The criterion is the “works” that they have done. Their faith in Christ has been demonstrated and found real by their works.

**12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

* 1. The second description of the same event emphasizes that everyone who has ever lived will be raised at the end of the Millennial Reign, and perhaps at the end of the great final battle, to face this final judgment. This is the second resurrection because the first resurrection was of the raptured Church and those who died in Christ during the tribulation. The second resurrection is of those who have previously died, not knowing or not believing in Christ.
		1. Those lying in the “sea” are resurrected
		2. Those who have died (“death”) have been raised
		3. The criterion of judgment is noted again as in the first description of this final judgment. The criterion is whether their works have demonstrated the reality of their faith or lack thereof in Christ

**13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.**

1. Death itself is ended and cast into the lake of fire, along with the sentence of hell. That is, after the final judgment is over and all have been judged who would go to hell because they did not demonstrate faith in Christ by their works, no one else will be punished to hell- vs. 14-15
2. The “second death” describes the final judgment in which persons who do not believe in Christ, nor demonstrated that belief by their works, die once again after the “second resurrection” and are sentenced to eternity in hell

**14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

**15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

The rest of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, i.e., chapters 21-22, describes the eternity for those who believed in Christ and demonstrated their faith by their works. Their eternity will be with Christ in the New Heaven and New Earth. And, that the Church today must share the message of the prophecy of the Revelation of Jesus Christ as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

**THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH:**

**NEW LIFE RATHER THAN THE SECOND DEATH**

**Revelation 21:1-8**

Introduction: John is shown the new heaven and new earth reserved for the redeemed in contrast to those who die the second death and spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

Note: There are two descriptions of the new heaven and new earth. The first is in Rev. 21:1-8 and emphasizes the preparation for those redeemed, as opposed to those who will spend eternity in Hell. The second is in Rev. 21:9-22:7 and emphasizes the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb as the Center of the new heaven and new earth.

1. As part of the destiny of the final judgment described in Rev. 20:11-5, John is further shown the new heaven and new earth- v. 1a

**1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:**

1. The first heaven and earth are completely changed. One characteristic is noted at this point, there will be no large bodies of water (sea) v. 1b

**for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.**

1. A city comes down out of heaven. The city is… v. 2
	1. “Holy,” completed devoted to God
	2. The “new Jerusalem,” the city that God is completely dedicated to Him and promised an eternity
	3. “Coming down from God out of heaven,” having to earthly origin but completely constructed by God
	4. “Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband,” emphasizing the devoutness and closeness with which God has prepared the city

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

1. The next description emphasizes the relationship God will have with His people- v. 3
	1. The city is pronounced as the dwelling (tabernacle) of God that has come to humanity
	2. God will “dwell” with His people
	3. The righteous will be His (“his people”)
	4. A double emphasis of God with His people in close relationship, “and God himself will be with them”
	5. God will be their God while dwelling closely with them

**3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.**

1. The result of God dwelling with His people is described- v. 4
	1. He will wipe away all tears
	2. There shall be nor more death
	3. There shall be no more sorrow
	4. There shall be no more crying
	5. There shall be no more pain
	6. This result is made possible because all things as we have known them will be done away

**4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

1. God declares from His throne the reason why all things are as we have known them will be done away… v. 5
	1. God has made all things, as we have known them, new
	2. John is reminded to write because this is based on God’s Word which is irrefutably, true, faithful and bound to happen

**5And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

1. Christ’s mighty declaration that He made about Himself in chapter 1 is repeated now that the Revelation of Who He is as the Beginning and the End has been prophesied from chapters 2-21. He declares once again that, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.” v. 6a

**6And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.**

* 1. The consequences of Christ being the Beginning and the End are noted for the believer- v. 6b-7
		1. Believers are given the water of life freely for their thirst
		2. Believers are rewarded for being overcomers (a promise made to each of the seven churches and the church today in chapters 2-3)
		3. To believers He will continually reveal Himself and be their God
		4. Believers will be in continual relationship to God as dear children

**I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

**7He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.**

* + 1. The consequences of Christ being the Beginning and End are noted for the unbeliever in contrast to the believer who will spend eternity in the new heaven and new earth. Unbelievers are described as… v. 8
			1. “Fearful” of everything but God
			2. “Unbelieving” of Christ
			3. “Abominable,” lacking devoted relationship with God
			4. “Murderers,” lacking in lifegiving relationship with others
			5. “Whoremongers,” caring only for themselves
			6. “Sorcerers,” having rather worshipped Satan
			7. “Idolators,” having rather worshipped counterfeits for God
			8. “Liars,” children of their father the Devil, the father of liars
			9. They will spend eternity in the torment of hell
			10. They experience the “second death,” after having been resurrected to face the final Great White Throne Judgment

**8But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

Just as in life, so in the final judgment, it is hard to understand why people would choose to not worship God when the comparative destiny of the saints and the unrighteous is so sure and clear.

**THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH:**

**WHERE THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY AND THE LAMB ARE THE CENTER**

**Revelation 21:9-22:7**

Introduction: In this second description of the new heaven and new eart, the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are described as the Center. In the first description in 21:1-8, the emphasis was upon the blessings received by those who have been faithful.

1. One of the messenger angels of the final judgment takes John and shows him where the bride, the Lamb’s wife, will be- v. 9

**9And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.**

1. The Spirit (see section in this volume on “The Spirit in Revelation”) takes to show him the holy Jerusalem- v. 10a

**10And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem,**

1. The city comes out of heaven from God- v. 10b

**descending out of heaven from God,**

1. The city has the glory of God- v. 11a

**11Having the glory of God:**

1. The city has light like precious stones- v. 11b

**and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;**

1. The city has gates that were established through Israel- vs. 12-13

**12And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:**

**13On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.**

1. The city has foundations established through the apostles of the Lamb-v. 14

**14And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

1. The city has perfect dimensions, i.e., “foursquare” vs. 15-16

**15And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.**

**16And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**

**17And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.**

1. The city is constructed of the purest and most beautiful materials- vs. 17-21

**18And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.**

**19And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;**

**20The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.**

**21And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.**

Note: The references to the transparency of the materials the city is made of may be intend that as precious as the materials are, they only serve to reflect the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb, the heart of the city.

1. *The center of the city* is not the temple, for there is no temple. *The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb is the Center of the city*. (rf. Eze. 48:30-35, esp. v. 35) v. 22

**22And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.**

*The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb is the Center of the city because in that city*:

* 1. The Lamb is the light, representing the source of life and knowledge- v. 23

**23And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.**

* 1. The saved live in the Lamb Who is the Light- v. 24a

**24And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it:**

* 1. Kings of the earth bring glory to the Lamb- v. 24b

**and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.**

* 1. The Lamb Who is the Light will be eternal and there will be no darkness- v. 25

**25And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.**

* 1. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought to the Lamb- v. 26

**26And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it**.

* 1. The unsaved and all evil cannot enter- v. 27

**27And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

* 1. The Lamb provides a pure river of life- 22:1

**Chapter 22**

**1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

* 1. There is a tree of life drawing life from the river of the Lamb, giving life/healing to the inhabitants of the city- v. 2

**2In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

* 1. There is no curse of sin because only servants of the Lamb will be there-v. 3

**3And 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:**

* 1. The face of the Lamb will be seen- v. 4a

**4And they shall see his face;**

* 1. The inhabitants will take their identity from the Lamb- v. 4b

**and his name shall be in their foreheads.**

* 1. There will be no night or artificial “candle” light or light from the sun because the Lamb will be the light- v. 5a

**5And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:**

* 1. As a result of the Lamb, the inhabitants will reign and live forever- v. 5b

**and they shall reign for ever and ever**.

1. The messenger angel ends the revelation/prophecy of Jesus emphasizing that they are real, i.e., faithful and true- v. 6a

**6And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true:**

* 1. Emphasizing that these events are soon to come- v. 6b

**and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.**

* 1. Quoting Jesus Himself concerning the urgency- v. 7a

**7Behold, I come quickly:**

* 1. Pronouncing blessings upon those that keep the sayings of the prophecy- v. 7b

**blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.**

This mighty message of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is the final word for humanity. It describes the past, present and eternal future for humanity. We and this world, as it has been, as it is and will forever be is all defined by Christ, the Lamb.

**TELL THE MESSAGE OF THE REVELATION PROPHECY OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Revelation 22:8-21**

Introduction: The book of Revelation ends with John hearing from the messenger angel that brought the message that he must tell the message. For John and all who do not tell the message of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, not just the message of Jesus Christ, but the particular Revelation of Jesus Christ John has just received, there are serious consequences for not proclaiming the prophecy.

1. John immediately begins worshipping the messenger angel- v. 8

**8And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.**

1. The messenger angel tells John to instead worship God- v. 9

**9Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**

1. The messenger angel emphasizes the importance of not being quiet about the prophecy he has just received- v. 10a

**10And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book:**

* 1. Because the prophecy has already begun- v. 10b

**for the time is at hand.**

* 1. And, do not let evil discourage the telling of the prophecy, because evil will continue (rf. The words of Jesus in Mt. 24:6-8, 12-13) v. 11

**11He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.**

* 1. Because the prophecy includes the Great and Final Judgment- v. 12

**12And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

* 1. The Judge will be the Beginning and the End, Christ Himself –v. 13

**13I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

* 1. Blessing is in the judgment for those who in their works do Christ’s commandments- v. 14a

**14Blessed are they that do his commandments,**

* + 1. They have eternal life- v. 14b

**that they may have right to the tree of life,**

* + 1. They are eternal citizens of the eternal city- v. 14c

**and may enter in through the gates into the city.**

* 1. Those who are judged to hell (20:15) are outside the eternal city in hell. Their works are described- v. 15

**15For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

1. Jesus Himself underscores the importance of the message
	1. The messenger angel was sent by Him- v. 16a

**16I Jesus have sent mine angel**

* 1. That the churches, especially, may know the prophecy- v. 16b

**to testify unto you these things in the churches.**

* 1. The message is about Christ Who is the completion of Israel- v. 16c

**I am the root and the offspring of David,**

* 1. Christ sent a message to guide us because He is the guiding star- v. 16d

**and the bright and morning star.**

1. The message of the prophecy is to be carried out by the bride, the Church, through the Spirit- v. 17a

**17And the Spirit and the bride say,**

* 1. The confession of the Spirit and the bride is, “Come,” Lord with all that you are and will do- v. 17b

**Come.**

* 1. The confession of any who hears the prophecy should be, “Come” v. 17c

**And let him that heareth say, Come.**

* 1. The message is for everyone, especially as they are in need (“thirst”) for the living water Who is Christ the Lamb of the City of the new earth-v. 17d

**And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

1. John declares the importance of the message being received and believed- vs. 18-19

**18For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book,**

* 1. Adding to the words of the prophecy will bring plagues to the person

**If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:**

* 1. Taking away from the words of the prophecy will take the person out of the book of life

**19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**

1. John’s last confession regarding what he has received- v. 20
	1. Christ Himself, Who is the message of the Revelation, says that He is coming quickly

**20He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly.**

* 1. John affirms the message by saying, “Come”

**Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

1. John’s final prayer is that God’s grace would be with them, those that hear and must tell the message of the prophecy of the Revelation of Jesus Christ- v. 21

**21The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**