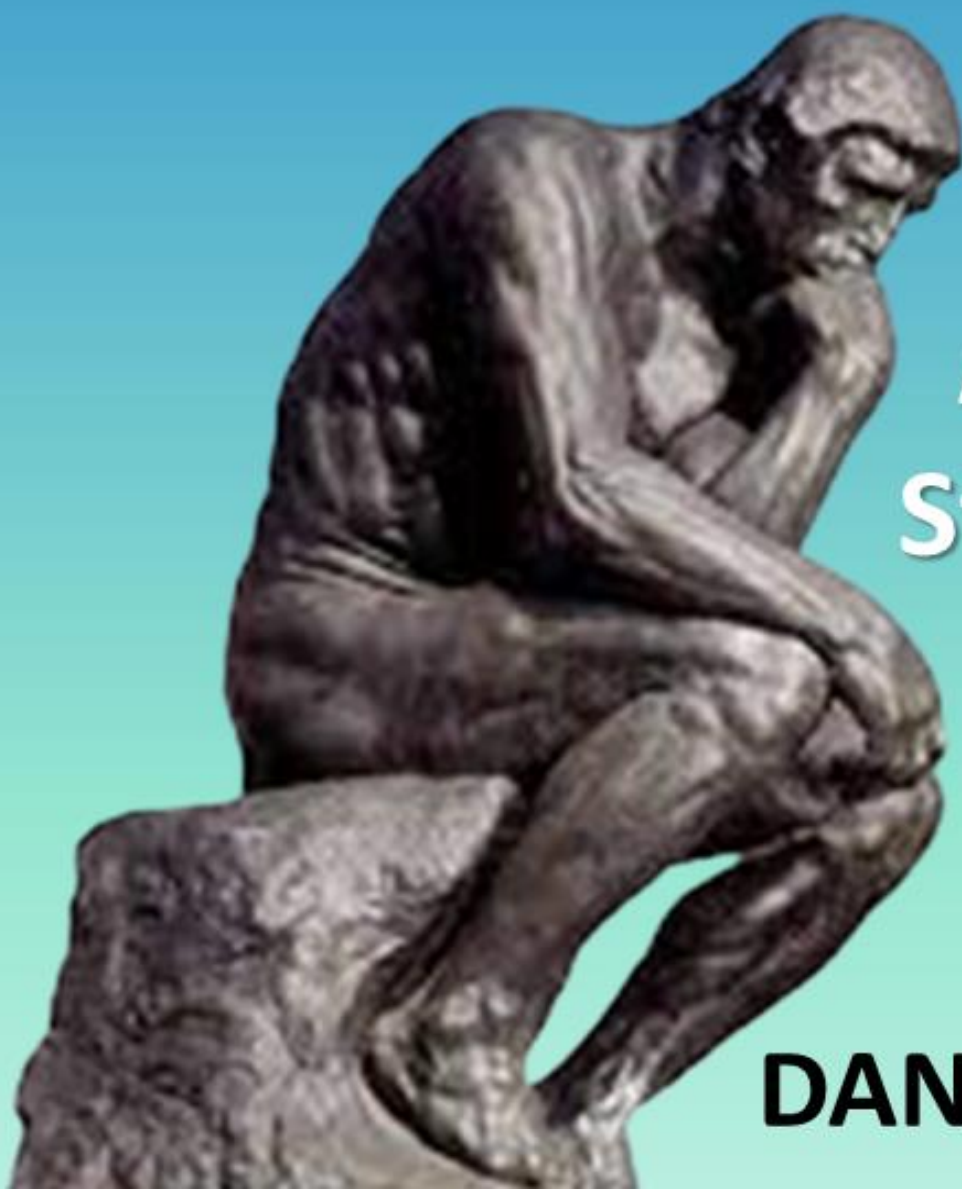


# REVELATION RECONSIDERED



A Fresh  
Study  
Approach

**DANIEL CLARKE**



## REVELATION RECONSIDERED

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All Scripture references are KJV

**THIS PDF VERSION presents the entire book of Revelation (KJV) together with helpful commentary throughout. This book also presents a balance of scripture references, both within and beyond the scope of the book of Revelation, to better explain matters, and to help those who wish to search the scriptures. (Acts 17:11)**

**Dear Reader,**

**Revelation Reconsidered** is meant to be a study and reference book, and therefore the text has been well spaced for those who wish to print out portions, or the entire book, for study and teaching purposes.

**Revelation Reconsidered** is not adding to nor taking away from the prophecy of the book of Revelation. (Rev22:18-19) Rather, this book presents all the verses and passages as they are found in the King James Bible, with helpful commentary added throughout to offer consideration and understanding.

**Revelation Reconsidered** is mainly focused on verses and passages that relate directly to Endtimes prophecy, and therefore after the opening passages of Chapter One, commentary has been kept to a minimum throughout the first five chapters.

**Revelation Considered** is complemented by **Revelation Rearranged** which offers a more in-depth study of the book of Revelation by rearranging portions of scripture into the order in which they are to occur "From Now to Eternity!"

I trust that this study book is a blessing to your Endtimes studies.

**God bless,**

**Daniel**

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## INTRODUCTION

God is not the author of confusion – but he is the master of mystery and intrigue, as the book of Revelation can attest to. The key to understanding the book of Revelation is to recognize that it is not chronological!

Throughout his Revelation experience, John was shown many events in visions. A careful examination and comparison of key scriptures will reveal that not all the events happen in the order in which they were presented to John. Some events happen in reverse order to add mystery and intrigue (Prov25:2), and sometimes John saw a vision repeated, to give varied or added information.

Perhaps this needs to be further explained, with examples ...

## **Think how a movie is made!**

Usually, the scenes of a movie are not shot in order. Oftentimes, a scene that appears late in a movie may have been shot early in the production of the film – and vice-versa.

It is also the practice of a director to shoot one scene from different angles using multiple cameras at the same time. This allows for different aspects of the same scene to be captured and then later revealed in the final production.

Sometimes the storyline is told in reverse order to add mystery and intrigue!

As we're about to discover, all these techniques have been used throughout the book of Revelation.

At the end of filming, a movie is “canned” – ready for editing. The editor's job is to carefully examine the footage, identify certain aspects, and then cut and splice the film into a meaningful movie.

Likewise, the book of Revelation is a record of many individual visions, like scenes in a spool of film, ready for editing.

Each scene needs to be examined, identified, rearranged, and then spliced together into the correct sequence of events to make “a meaningful movie”.

A careful examination of Revelation proves that the things which John saw, heard, and wrote about do not happen in sequential order.



The book of Revelation is like an unedited spool of movie film. Once this concept is recognized and accepted, and once the reader becomes aware of what to look for, then everything begins to make sense.

**The following 3 examples highlight that Revelation is not chronological**

Rev14:1-5 describes events that happen on earth and in heaven during Christ's millennial reign on earth. Whereas the following passage of Rev14:6-11 describes events that happen during the great tribulation.

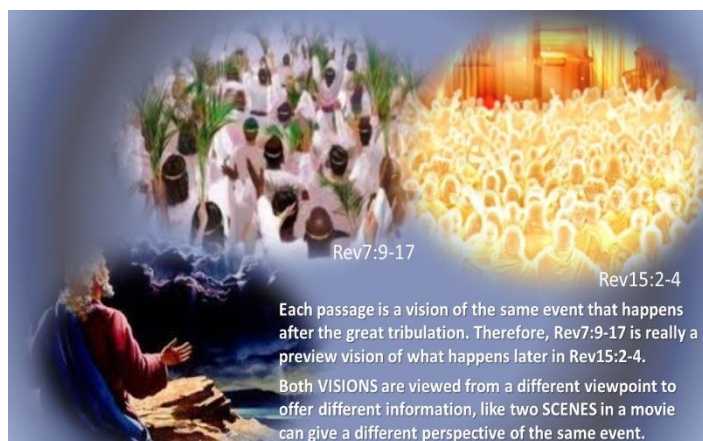
Therefore, Rev14:1-5 and Rev14:6-11 happen in reverse order, like events being reversed in a movie to add mystery and intrigue.

**Here's a second example**

Rev7:9-17 is a vision of the saints in heaven after the great tribulation. And Rev15:2-4 is also a vision of the saints in heaven after the great tribulation.

These are two visions of the same saints in heaven after the great tribulation.

Each passage is a vision of the same event that happens after the great tribulation.



Therefore, Rev7:9-17 is really a preview vision of what happens later in Rev15:2-4. Both VISIONS are viewed from a different viewpoint to offer different information, like two SCENES in a movie can give a different perspective of the same event.

### **And here's a third example**

In Rev14:8 we see an angel saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen!"

And Rev18:1-3 we see an angel saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen!"

This is the same angel, saying the same words after Babylon is fallen. But when does this happen? When does Babylon fall?

In Rev14:9-11, a third angel follows with a warning against receiving the 666 mark of the beast. To be effective, this warning must be given during the very early days of the great tribulation, at the time when the Antichrist causes everyone to receive his 666 mark.

Therefore, as the events of Rev14:8 and Rev18:1-3 happen before Rev14:9-11, we can understand that Babylon must fall during the early days of the great tribulation. This understanding is vital to surviving during those days.



And therefore, it is important to carefully examine the footage of Revelation and then arrange the verses and passages in their correct order to make everything meaningful.

**And now we begin a Chapter-by-Chapter study of the book of Revelation!**



# **THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

## **Study Book**

Chapters 1-22 with Commentary

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 1

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 1 shows us immediately that this is the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which the Father gave to him because he was found worthy. (Rev5:1-5) Jesus in turn has made known to us, his friends, what was revealed to him. (Jn15:15)

While Jesus was on earth, he said that only the Father knew the day and the hour of his return. (Matt24:36) However, that changed when God gave Jesus the information contained within the book of Revelation. (Rev1:1)

And because the Lord shall do nothing, except he first reveals it to his servants the prophets (Amos3:7), the book of Revelation offers much of what we need to know concerning the time of the end, especially the information concerning day and the hour of Christ's return. (Matt24:36)

**Rev1:1** 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:

**Commentary:** The term "things which must shortly come to pass" does not mean that all the things in Revelation shall happen soon after, but rather those things shall happen over a short period – in this case, mostly during the short period of the great tribulation, and shortly thereafter.

**Rev1:2** Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

**Rev1:3** 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.

**Commentary:** It is counted as a blessing to read and understand the prophecy of the book of Revelation, for most of these things are specially written and addressed to those living in the time of the end – to “this generation” that shall see all these things come to pass. (1Cor10:11 Matt24:340)

**Rev1:4** 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;

**Commentary:** Here, John is addressing the seven churches that are in Asia. However, all that was written to them in times past is written for our sakes today. (1Cor10:11)

**Rev1:5** 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,

**Rev1:6** And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

**Rev1:7** 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.

**Commentary:** When Jesus appears in the clouds to resurrect all believers “on the last day” (Jn6:39,40,44,54 Jn11:24), every eye is going to see him, including “they also which pierced him”. This seems to be an indirect reference to the Jews and is thereby referring to the 144,000. The 144,000 shall not be born-again believers at the very moment Jesus appears in the clouds, otherwise they would be Raptured with all other believers. (Jn20:29 1Thess4:16-17 Rev11:13) Rather, they remain on earth as “the remnant of Israel” who will later look upon Jesus and be saved. (Rom9:27 Zech12:10 Zeph3:13 Rev14:1-5)

**Rev1:8** 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.

**Commentary:** It is Jesus speaking here for one verse. The way in which the book of Revelation allows for a sudden change of speakers will become important to recognize as we progress further in our study. For example, there is a change from John speaking in Rev11:1-2, to Jesus speaking in Rev11:3-13 in which he gives a full account of his two witnesses. (Rev11:3) This sudden but subtle but recognizable change happens again between the angel speaking in Rev18:1-3, to Jesus then speaking in Rev18:4 to Rev18:24, wherein Jesus speaks concerning the judgment of Babylon and foretells what shall be the reaction of the world when it happens.

**Rev1:9** 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.

**Commentary:** Hereafter, John begins to give an account of his Revelation experience. Many of the things which John experiences and writes about in the

first five chapters are mysterious and not easily understood, or they only mildly or indirectly apply to the subject of our study – Endtimes.

Therefore, as “Revelation Reconsidered” is mainly focused on verses and passages that relate to events to happen during the time of the end, and beyond to Eternity, the commentary is kept to a minimum during the first five chapters of this study of the book of Revelation.

**Rev1:10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

**Rev1:11** 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.

**Rev1:12** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

**Rev1:13** And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

**Rev1:14** His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

**Rev1:15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

**Rev1:16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

**Rev1:17** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

**Rev1:18** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

**Rev1:19** Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

**Rev1:20** 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.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 2

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 2 deals mainly with the letters written to the seven churches which were in Asia in John's day.

It seems important to note that nowhere does scripture speak about, nor imply that these letters are meant to depict seven "church ages". Rather, Jesus instructed John to write letters to the seven "types" of churches that were in Asia as it was known at that time. These various types of churches have continued to exist down through the ages and can still be identified, to some degree, in this present time.

Hereafter, commentary has been kept to a minimum until Jesus begins to unseal the seven seals in Revelation Chapter 6.

**Rev2:1** 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;

**Rev2:2** 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:

**Rev2:3** And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

**Rev2:4** Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

**Rev2:5** 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.

**Rev2:6** But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

**Rev2:7** 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.

**Rev2:8** And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

**Rev2:9** 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.

**Rev2:10** 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.

**Rev2:11** 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.

**Rev2:12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;



**Rev2:13** 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.

**Rev2:14** 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.

**Rev2:15** So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

**Rev2:16** Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

**Rev2:17** 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.

**Rev2:18** 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;

**Rev2:19** 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.

**Rev2:20** 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.

**Rev2:21** And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

**Rev2:22** Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

**Rev2:23** 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.

**Rev2:24** 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.

**Rev2:25** But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

**Rev2:26** And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

**Rev2:27** 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.

**Rev2:28** And I will give him the morning star.

**Rev2:29** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 3

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 3 is a continuation of the letters written to the seven churches. It's worth noting that at the writing of the book of Revelation, John did not write in chapters and verse. Therefore, Revelation Chapter 3 is simply a continuation of the text from Chapter 2.

**Rev3:1** 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.

**Rev3:2** Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

**Rev3:3** 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.

**Rev3:4** 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.

**Rev3:5** 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.

**Rev3:6** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Rev3:7** 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;

**Rev3:8** 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.

**Rev3:9** 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.

**Rev3:10** 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.

**Commentary:** It is not in harmony with balanced scripture to imply that this verse means that the Endtime church shall be Raptured out of the world before the 70th week of Daniel begins.

Jesus said that he shall raise ALL believers “on the last day” (Jn6:39,40,44,54) – that’s a one-day, one-time “first resurrection” (Rev20:5) that happens when the sun and the moon go dark, and the stars fall from heaven, and there’s a great earthquake. (Rev6:12-13) These events happen immediately AFTER the tribulation. (Matt24:29-31) Therefore, balanced scripture rules out the possibility of a pre-tribulation Rapture.

**Rev3:11** Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

**Commentary:** “Behold, I come quickly” does not mean to imply that Jesus would come soon after Revelation was written. Rather, when Jesus does appear on the day of the Rapture, Jesus shall come as quickly as the lightning shines from the east to the west – just as he said he would. (Matt24:27)

**Rev3:12** 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.

**Rev3:13** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Rev3:14** 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;

**Rev3:15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

**Rev3:16** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

**Rev3:17** 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:

**Rev3:18** 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.

**Rev3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

**Rev3:20** 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.

**Rev3:21** 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.

**Rev3:22** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

**Commentary:** After Jesus had specifically addressed the seven various types of churches in Asia, John was taken in the spirit to be shown visions of things that shall happen in the future.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 4

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 4 begins with John being taken on a “spirit trip” to where he finds himself in the throne room in heaven, and where he sees and hears magnificent wonders.

**Rev4:1** 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.

**Commentary:** John is telling us that he saw a door – a portal opened in heaven. This is not talking about the church being Raptured before all the events that follow. We are called to rightly divide and interpret and balance the Word of truth, so as not to be ashamed of making or teaching a misinterpretation.  
(2Tim2:15 Jms3:1)

**Rev4:2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

**Rev4:3** 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.

**Rev4:4** 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.

**Rev4:5** 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.

**Rev4:6** 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.

**Rev4:7** 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.

**Rev4:8** 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.

**Rev4:9** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

**Rev4:10** 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,

**Rev4:11** 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.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 5

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 5, we begin to read about the marvelous events happening in the throne room that all lead up to the unsealing of the book with seven seals – the book or scroll that reveals so much concerning the very last days before Jesus returns.

**Rev5:1** 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.

**Rev5:2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

**Rev5:3** And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

**Rev5:4** And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

**Rev5:5** 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.

**Rev5:6** 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.

**Rev5:7** And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

**Rev5:8** 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.

**Rev5:9** 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;

**Rev5:10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

**Rev5:11** 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;

**Rev5:12** 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.

**Rev5:13** 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.

**Rev5:14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 6

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 6, we see Jesus begin to unseal the seven seals one by one. Each time a seal is opened, John is told to “Come and see!” Then John is shown a vision or a sequence of visions.

Each vision that John is shown is like a scene in a movie, and like scenes in a movie, the events in each scene do not necessarily need to be in sequence with each other, depending on the storyline. The scenes in a movie are dependent on the story being told and are presented under the direction of the storyteller.

Likewise, the events that John sees throughout Revelation do not necessarily play out in sequence. Rather, many visions throughout Revelation are presented mysteriously at the direction of the “Director” – God, the Master of Mystery and Intrigue. (Prov25:2)

**Rev6:1** 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.

**Commentary:** Balanced scripture proves that the first four seals do not reveal events – they reveal spiritual entities that have always existed down through the ages. Then the fifth seal offers spiritual insight and understanding of events in heaven and on earth during the time of the great tribulation, while the sixth and seventh seal offer visions of events to happen during the great tribulation.

Therefore, the first four seals do not represent events to happen sometime in the future. Rather, the “four horsemen of the Apocalypse” simply represent spiritual entities that have always existed, as explained below.

Incidentally, when considering the first four seals, we should focus on the horsemen and what they do, rather than on the colors of the horses.

**Rev6:2** 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.

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the first seal, John was shown a vision that revealed the spirit of Antichrist who sits upon a white horse and was given one crown and who carries a bow and can be identified as Gog at the battle of Armageddon, and the battle of Gog and Magog. (Rev6:2 Ezk39:1-4 Rev20:7-9)

When Jesus returns at the battle of Armageddon, he will also ride a white horse, but he has many crowns and does not carry a bow, because his word is a sharp sword coming out of his mouth. (Rev19:11-15)

**Rev6:3** And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

**Rev6:4** 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.

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the second seal, John was shown a vision that revealed a red horse, and the horseman had power and a sword to take peace from the earth. This is the spirit behind the vast and ever-growing

industrial-military complex that takes peace from the earth, all of which is the result of greed and hate, and envy. (Rev6:3-4 Jms4:1-3)

**Rev6:5** 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.

**Rev6:6** 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.

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the third seal, John was shown a vision that revealed a black horse, and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. This spiritual entity represents big and corrupt business. This horseman holds the power of false balance by which the mighty deceive and oppress the poor while maintaining luxuries for themselves. (Rev6:5-6 Prov11:1 Amos5:11)

**Rev6:7** And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.

**Rev6:8** 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.

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the fourth seal, John was shown a vision that revealed the spirit of Death, and the spirit realm of Hell that followed with him. These have the power to kill by various means, and their jurisdiction is over the nations of the world, which cover one-fourth of the earth's surface.

(Rev6:8 Rev20:13-14) This prophecy simply means that Death and Hell have jurisdiction over the peoples of the nations – nations that cover one-fourth of the earth, to kill them by various means wherever they are.

**Rev6:9** 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:

**Rev6:10** 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?

**Rev6:11** 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 fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the fifth seal, John was shown a vision to reveal that even the saints in heaven need to have patience that God will avenge their blood. This is told in scripture to encourage the patience of the saints still on earth – those who will need to endure the trials and tests of the great tribulation. (Rev6:9-11 Rev14:12 Matt24:13)

**Rev6:12** 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;

**Rev6:13** 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.

**Rev6:14** And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

**Rev6:15** 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;

**Rev6:16** 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:

**Rev6:17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

**Commentary:** When Jesus opened the sixth seal, he was shown a vision that offers a panoramic view of events that happen at both ends of the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth.

Rev6:12-13 is a “preview vision” of the Rapture that happens at the seventh, last trump of God that is revealed within the seventh seal. The Rapture happens when the sun and the moon go dark, the stars fall from heaven, and there’s a great earthquake. (Rev6:12-13 Matt24:29-31)

However, Rev6:12-13 does not list all the events that happen at the Rapture, otherwise, there would be no mystery that the seventh trump within the seventh seal is the last trump of God, as revealed in other scriptures. (Rev10:7 Rev11:15 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17)

Remember, God conceals a matter in mystery, and we need to solve those mysteries – and this mystery of the seventh trump being the last trump of God is no exception. (Prov25:2 Rev10:7 Rev11:15 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17)



In contrast to Rev6:12-13, the Rev6:14-17 passage reveals events that happen at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth – at the time the earth is judged with fire. (2Pet3:7,10) This is when every island and mountain is moved out of their places – they “dissolve” when the elements of earth melt with fervent heat, and the seas evaporate. At that time, God creates a new heaven (atmosphere) and a new earth out of the same elements, ready to receive the new Jerusalem. (2Pet3:7,10-11 Rev21:1-3)

**This may be a good place to examine some passages in scripture that, at first glance, appear similar but are comparatively different.**

Rev6:15-17 and Rev16:12-16 fall into this category. These passages are similar in the description but are comparatively different in that each passage reveals events that happen a thousand years apart.

In Rev16:12-16, the Antichrist is gathering the kings of the earth and the whole world to the battle of Armageddon, which happens before Christ’s thousand-year reign on earth.

In Rev6:15-17, at the end of Christ’s thousand-year reign on earth, the kings of the earth and mighty men and others are fleeing from the wrath of the Lamb (Jesus) and are hiding from the angels who are sent to bind them to be burnt when the seventh vial is poured out. These are the remainder of the wicked – those who were not devoured by fire at the battle of Gog and Magog.

(Matt13:40 Rev16:17-21 2Pet3:7,10 Matt13:30 Rev20:9)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 7

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 7, there is an interval between the opening of the sixth seal (Rev6:12), and the opening of the seventh seal. (Rev8:1) During this interval, John is shown visions of other events that happen before and after the main events of the great tribulation. This breaking up of the sequence of events is part of the intriguing way in which God has chosen to present his mysterious masterpiece known as the book of Revelation.

(Prov25:2)

Rev7:1-8 is a vision of the angels involved in the sealing of 144,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel who are sealed with the seal of God before the catastrophic events of the great tribulation begin. Scripture only mentions that the 144,000 are sealed for their protection, so they are not harmed from the events that follow the sounding of each of the seven trumpets of God. (Rev8:1 Rev9:4)

After this vision, John is shown another vision recorded in Rev7: 9-17 – a vision that reveals an innumerable number of resurrected saints from everywhere on earth, including those who have come out of the great tribulation.

**Rev7:1** 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.

**Rev7:2** 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,

**Rev7:3** Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

**Commentary:** Before the seven trumpets of God begin to sound, angels are instructed to seal the 144,000 of the twelve tribes of Israel. Scripture states that the 144,000 are only sealed for their protection so that they can pass safely through the events to follow. (Rev9:4)

We know from balanced scripture that these 144,000 cannot be in Jerusalem during the great tribulation, but rather they are the descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel that have been scattered abroad for the past two thousand years. (Matt24:15-21 Jms12:1 Ezk34:12)

Furthermore, and contrary to another popular doctrine, nowhere does scripture indicate that the 144,000 are given the ministry of evangelism to preach to the Jews throughout the great tribulation. This doctrine cannot be proven from scripture, and such teaching only distorts a better understanding concerning the true purpose and destiny of the 144,000 – as the remnant of Israel spoken of in scripture. (1Thess5:21 Rev14:1-5 Rom9:26-29 Matt19:28)

**Rev7:4** 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.

**Rev7:5** Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

**Rev7:6** 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.

**Rev7:7** 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.

**Rev7:8** 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.

**Commentary:** After John is shown this vision concerning the sealing of the 144,000, he is shown a “preview vision” of events that shall happen in heaven after the great tribulation.

Rev7:9-17 is a vision of saints in heaven after the great tribulation – “having come out of great tribulation”. This is a parallel vision to Rev15:2-4, which is also a vision of resurrected saints in heaven after the great tribulation – “them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name”.

As we’ll discover, Rev7:9-17 belongs with Rev15:2-4, as all these events happen after the great tribulation, and therefore after the seven trumpets of God have sounded, but before the vials of God’s wrath begin to be poured out, and therefore before the battle of Armageddon. (Rev15:1 to Rev16:16)

**Rev7:9** 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;

**Commentary:** Here again, and contrary to popular teaching, this vision of “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,” does not include the 144,000. Balanced scripture places the 144,000 on earth with Jesus during his thousand-year reign on earth (Rev14:1-5) – as the “saved flesh” remnant of Israel who shall form the twelve tribes of Israel – those who shall repopulate the earth during Christ’s millennial reign on earth. (Matt24:22 Rom9:26-29 Matt19:28 Dan2:34-35)

Balanced scripture also establishes that the 144,000 are not born-again believers at the moment Jesus appears in the clouds at the time of the Rapture (Rev1:7 Matt24:29-31KJV) – otherwise, they would take part in the Rapture when Jesus shall raise all believers “on the last day”. (Jn6:39,40,44,54 Jn11:24) Rather, the 144,000 become born-again believers when they look upon Jesus at the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ. (Zeph3:13 Zech12:10-11)

**Rev7:10** And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

**Rev7:11** 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,

**Rev7:12** Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Rev7:13** And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

**Rev7:14** 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.

**Commentary:** As stated in this passage of scripture, these saints don't appear in heaven until after the great tribulation. Then, in Rev15:2-4, John is shown this vision again, but from a different perspective to offer different and added information – in a similar way to how a director might use multiple cameras set at different angles to shoot one scene in a movie, then later use those varied scenes at different times throughout the movie, to add further information.

That is what the “Director” (God), has done with Rev7:9-17 and Rev15:2-4. Each passage is a vision of the resurrected saints in heaven after the great tribulation, and therefore after the Rapture, and after the seven trumps have sounded, but before the vials of God's wrath are poured out, and therefore before the battle of Armageddon. (Rev15:1 to Rev16:16)

**Rev7:15** 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.

**Rev7:16** They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

**Rev7:17** 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.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 8

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 8, Jesus opens the seventh seal which reveals the events that happen after the sounding of each of the seven trumpets of God.

Each of the seven trumps sound to announce events that are part of God's judgments (not wrath) that happen during the great tribulation. The seventh trump is when the mystery of God shall be finished. (Rev10:7) We can understand from balanced scripture that this mystery of God is the resurrection of ALL believers "on the last day" (the Rapture) that had been declared to God's servants the prophets. (1Thess4:16-17 Job19:25-27 Isa26:19 Dan12:2 Matt11:24)

The Rapture is the mystery of God that shall be finished when Jesus fulfills his promise to raise all that believe in him "on the last day", immediately after the tribulation, at the seventh, last trump of God. (Rev10:7 Jn6:39,40,44,54 Matt24:29-31 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17)

Once the resurrected saints are in heaven for the marriage supper of the Lamb and the judgment seat of Christ, then the vials of God's wrath can be poured out upon the earth. After the sixth vial has been poured out, Jesus and the armies of heaven shall return to earth for the battle of Armageddon. (Rev15:2-4 Rev19:7-9 2Cor5:10 Rev16:1-16 Rev19:11 to Rev20:3)

This outpouring of God's wrath before the battle of Armageddon does not include the seventh vial of God's wrath, which is reserved until after the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. (Rev16:12-21 2Pet3:7,10)

**Rev8:1** And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

**Commentary:** This is when the 144,000 are sealed, right before the seven angels begin to sound the seven trumpets of God that shall announce the judgment events of the great tribulation on earth. (Rev7:1-8 Rev8:6)

**Rev8:2** And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

**Commentary:** Firstly, we know from balanced scripture that the Rapture happens at the last trump of God sounded in the heavens, not a shofar or feast trumpet sounded on earth. (1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17)

Furthermore, there is no indication in scripture that the seven trumpets of God have anything to do with, or align with, Jewish feast festivals. In fact, during the great tribulation, neither Jew nor Christian nor any other religion will have much opportunity to freely celebrate traditional holy days. (2Thess2:4)

Therefore, it does not seem wise to try to align the Rapture with the observance days of the Jewish calendar. Such can be misleading. Jesus gave no such indication as a sign of his return. Rather, there is a more certain word of prophecy worth considering. (2Pet1:19)



When Jesus was given the Revelation from his Father's hand, he was given a more sure word of prophecy that would indicate not only the day of the Rapture but also the hour of his return. (Matt24:36 Rev11:11-12)

In the last days, Christians who better understand Endtimes prophecy will know both the day and the hour of the Rapture! (Amos3:7)

Carefully balanced scripture tells us that the Rapture shall happen "on the last day" (Jn6:39,40,44,54), when the sun and the moon go dark, and the stars fall from heaven, and there's a great earthquake (Rev6:12-13) immediately after the tribulation. (Matt24:29-31)

Balanced scripture tells us that the last day is the final day of Daniel's 70th "week" – 2,520 days from when the "holy" covenant is confirmed (Dan9:27 Dan11:28-33); that is, 1,260 days from the beginning of the great tribulation that begins in the midst of Daniel's 70th "week". (Read Matt24:15 then Dan9:27 then Matt24:21 and then Matt24:29-31)

Furthermore, the book of Revelation also reveals the very hour of the Rapture! According to carefully balanced scripture, the resurrection of all believers shall take place three-and-a-half days (84 hours) from when the two witnesses are killed, because they too must take part in the Rapture, since Jesus promised that he shall raise all believers "on the last day". (Jn6:39,40,44,54) There is no separate resurrection of the two witnesses! What is described in Rev11:11-12 is a partial description of what happens at the Rapture!

**Footnote Comment:** If the Rev11:11-12 passage seems out of sync with what is written in Rev11:15, all will be explained and clarified further along.

**Rev8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

**Rev8:4** And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

**Rev8:5** And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

**Rev8:6** And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

**Commentary:** We know from Rev8:1 that there is silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, but that doesn't seem to be the case on earth. It seems that right before the first trump sounds, there are thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

In addition to this, there is another global event that everyone on earth shall be aware of when it happens. From carefully balanced scripture, we can understand that during the early days of the great tribulation, three herald angels shall make loud pronouncements for everyone on earth to hear in their own language. (Rev14:6-12) The first of three herald angels shall fly around the earth and preach the everlasting gospel for everyone to hear in their own language, and then says to fear the Creator and to give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come. (Rev14:6-7) This fulfills the prophecy that the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, and then the end shall come. (Matt24:14)

This also seems to be the time when God shall put it in the hearts of the ten kings to give their power and strength to the Antichrist to utterly burn Babylon in one hour, as God's judgment. (Rev17:16-17 Rev18:10)

Here is where we must consider an expected reaction of Israel's greatest ally (America). When the Antichrist causes the Jew's daily sacrifice to cease, so that he can sit in the temple of God as God, we must consider how the US will react. (Dan9:27 2Thess2:4) To accomplish his goals without hindrance or threat from those who would oppose him, the Antichrist will first need to deal with opposing forces in a swift and permanent manner – and that's what scripture seems to indicate will happen. (Dan11:31,41-45)

Although there is great debate as to who or what is "that great city Babylon", and although many of God's people have endeavored to uphold a righteous standard in America, the Word informs us that in the very last days there will only be one candidate who shall be able to fulfill all the criteria listed throughout Revelation 18 – and sadly, that lone candidate will be America.

Therefore, let us recognize and accept that in the time of the end, in the very last days "that great city Babylon" shall be America – for Mystery Babylon is more than "a city", for that only her title. Mystery Babylon is also a nation, a kingdom, and the Whore who rides the seven-headed beast which represents all seven kingdoms that relate directly to God's people and to Endtimes prophecy. (Rev17:7,18) This understanding is vital to survival! (Rev8:4 Hos4:6)

Therefore, it is so important for those living in North America to heed God's early warning in Rev18:4 to "come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues".

**Rev8:7** The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

**Commentary:** Here are some important points to cover and understand!

Rev8:7 is the description of the nuclear devastation of Babylon! According to balanced scripture, this event shall happen early during the great tribulation. We can understand this from a careful study of Rev14:6-11.

In Rev14:9-11, an “herald” angel delivers a warning for the whole world to hear, saying not to worship the image of the beast, nor receive his 666 mark. For this warning to be effective, this angel must make his pronouncement early during the great tribulation, at the time the Antichrist causes everyone to worship the image of the beast and receive his 666 mark. (Rev13:15-18)

As this angel of Rev14:9-11 is clearly identified as “the third angel”, that makes the angel of Rev14:8 “the second angel”, and the angel of Rev14:6-7 “the first angel”, although these other two angels are not openly identified as such. This is a prime example of how God conceals a thing in mystery, but then leaves it up to us to search out a matter. (Prov25:2)

Therefore, because “the second angel” of Rev14:8 makes his pronouncement before “the third angel” of Rev14:9-11, we can understand that Babylon falls early during the great tribulation.

It is also important to note that this “second” angel is the same angel making the same pronouncement as mentioned in Rev18:1-3.

The vision John is shown in Rev18:1-3 is a repeat of the vision John saw in Rev14:8, but the Rev18:1-3 passage offers a little added information. Both passages of scripture are describing one angel and one event!

Next, note that it is “another voice from heaven” who speaks the Rev18:4-24 passage. This passage is not spoken by the angel mentioned in Rev18:1-3. This “other voice from heaven” in Rev18:4-24 is Jesus, beginning with a warning to his people to “come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues”.

This is not something that shall be spoken again from heaven at some time in the future! This is God’s early warning to his people, already recorded in the voice of his written Word – a warning to heed and obey! (Jn6:63 Hos4:6)

Jesus then continues throughout Rev18:5-24 as he explains why Babylon is to be judged, and what shall be the reaction of the world when it happens.

In summary, the visions of Rev14:8 and Rev18:1-3 belong between the first and second trumps. This is to say, the passages of Rev18:1-3 and Rev14:8 belong between Rev8:7 and Rev8:8 – between the first and second trumps. That is when Babylon falls!

Again, this illustrates the mysterious way in which God has chosen to present the events described throughout the book of Revelation. (Prov25:2)

Without a doubt, balanced scripture proves that Babylon falls at the sounding of the first trump (Rev8:7), and then the angel of Rev14:8 and Rev18:1-3 announces that Babylon has fallen, before the second trump of God sounds. (Rev8:8)

**Rev8:8** And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

**Rev8:9** And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

**Commentary:** It is not difficult to imagine how the nuclear devastation of America could result in the dislodgement of the land mass of not only the San Andreas Fault, but also the greater land mass of the Cascadia Subsection Zone. Such an event would likely appear as “a great mountain burning with fire” as it fell into the Pacific Ocean. This in turn would result in an unprecedented tsunami across the Pacific “Ring of Fire”, which could kill a third of the world’s marine life and probably destroy a third of the world’s ships.

**Rev8:10** And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

**Rev8:11** And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

**Commentary:** During times of war, it is common for rivals to poison the drinking water of their enemy. Today, it would be possible to achieve this globally, with the use of a guided missile loaded with a biological warhead. Remembering that John had never seen a modern-day missile, but if he had, he would have probably described it as “a great star from heaven, burning as it were (like) a lamp”.

And although Rev8:11 only mentions one “great star”, that doesn’t eliminate the possibility that John only saw one of many. Therefore, it is very possible that what John saw and described in Rev8:11 was a guided missile with a bio-warhead and the result that would follow the deliverance of such a missile. And because this falling “star” poisons the drinking waters and makes them bitter, such a missile could appropriately be named “Wormwood”, which, translated from the Ukrainian word “Chernobyl”, means a bitter herb. Military operations of this type are usually designated an appropriate title.

**Rev8:12** And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

**Commentary:** Considering the aftermath of the events that follow the sounding of the first three trumpets, it is not difficult to imagine the sun and the moon being considerably darkened by all the dust and debris that would be sucked up into the upper atmospheres.

**Rev8:13** And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

**Commentary:** Here, another “herald” angel flies through the midst of heaven (the upper atmosphere around the earth) and announces to the inhabitants of earth that there are three more woeful events to happen after three more angels sound the three remaining trumpets of God.

The reason for this angel to make such an announcement is to differentiate between the first four trumps and the last three remaining trumps.

We, as students of the Word, can identify that the events that follow the first four trumps are the result of Satan's wrath, in the form of the Antichrist (Rev12:12), but events that God allows as part of God's judgments. (Rev17:17)

However, the woeful events that follow the sounding of the last three trumps are events orchestrated and directed by heaven – events that come in the form of plagues and an earthquake. These events serve a two-fold purpose. Although these plagues are directed by heaven against the followers of the Antichrist to serve as judgments against the wicked who refuse to repent (Rev9:4 Rev9:20-21), these plagues also serve as a form of protection for God's people – those who have been sealed by God, which includes the 144,000 and all born-again Christians. (Rev9:4 Rev7:3 Eph1:13 Jn6:27)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 9

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 9, John continues to see visions of events that follow the sounding of the last three trumpets of God. However, the events that follow the last three trumpets differ from the first four trumpets.

The first four trumpets announce events that are the result of Satan's wrath, in the form of the Antichrist.

The last three "woe" trumpets announce events that are orchestrated and directed by heaven as part of God's judgment on the unrepentant who follow the Antichrist. (Rev9:20-21) However, these "woe" judgments also serve to protect those who have the seal of God – the 144,000 and all born-again Christians. (Rev9:4 Eph1:13 Jn6:27)

It is worth noting here that the judgments of God that follow each of the seven trumpets are not to be confused with the wrath of God that follow the outpouring of each of the seven vials of God's wrath. The outpouring of the vials of God's wrath comes after the great tribulation, while the resurrected saints, (which include those who have come out of great tribulation) are in heaven for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Then after the marriage supper of the Lamb, Jesus returns to earth with the armies of heaven for the battle of Armageddon and the gathering of the remnant of Israel. (Rev7:14 Rev15:2-4 Rev16:1-16 Rev19:7-9 Rev19:11 to Rev20:3 Ezk34:11-15 Rom9:26-29)

**Rev9:1** 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.

**Commentary:** Here, this “star” angel is given the key of the bottomless pit – which represents authority. (Matt16:19) Later, in Rev20:1-3, this star is identified as an angel who already has the key of the bottomless pit, and he is entrusted to bind Satan in chains and cast him into the bottomless pit. It also appears that he is the one who has command over the locusts that ascend out of the bottomless pit. (Rev9:4)

**Rev9:2** And 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.

**Rev9:3** And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

**Rev9:4** And 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.

**Rev9:5** And 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.

**Rev9:6** And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

**Rev9:7** And 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.

**Rev9:8** And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

**Rev9:9** And 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.

**Rev9:10** And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

**Commentary:** It seems unwise to speculate exactly what creatures John was seeing and trying to describe in this vision – we will know when the time comes. Rather, it seems more important to realize that these locusts are commanded not to harm those who have the seal of God – the 144,000 and all born-again Christians. (Rev9:4 Rev7:3 Eph1:13 Jn6:27)

**Rev9:11** And 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.

**Commentary:** Contrary to popular myths and tradition, Satan is not this king of the bottomless pit. The bottomless pit is the second last place Satan wants to be, with the last place being the lake of fire. (Rev20:1-3,10) Moreover, this king of the bottomless pit commands the strange, stinging locusts not to harm God's people, but rather directs the locusts to torment the wicked followers of the Antichrist.

**Rev9:12** One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

**Commentary:** This plague of stinging locusts is clearly identified as the first woe that accompanies the sounding of the last three trumps of tribulation. However, the same cannot be said when it comes to identifying the second and third woes that accompany the sixth and seventh trumps of tribulation. We will address this matter further in this study.

**Rev9:13** And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

**Rev9:14** Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

**Rev9:15** And 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.

**Commentary:** There are two ways to interpret this passage. We need to consider if the verse means that the four angels have taken an hour, a day, a month, and a year to prepare for something, or more likely, does it mean that their killing spree is going to last for that certain period of time. The latter seems the most likely because, by Rev9:20-21, it seems that the remainder of the wicked who are not killed by this plague do not repent of their wickedness.

**Rev9:16** And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

**Rev9:17** And 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.

**Rev9:18** By 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.

**Rev9:19** For 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.

**Rev9:20** And 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:

**Rev9:21** Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

**Commentary:** This plague is directed by heaven against the wicked followers of the Antichrist, rather than directed by the Antichrist against Christians and others who refuse to worship the image of the beast and his mark.

Furthermore, Rev9:20-21 indicates that the second woe has passed: after a year, and month, a day, and an hour – a specific length of time. Then the wicked who were not killed by this plague repent not of their wickedness.

This fact is important to note because the passing of the second woe is not mentioned until Rev11:14. By the time the two witnesses are killed, the wicked the world over will be rejoicing and sending each other gifts for three-and-a-half days (84 hours), because the two witnesses who have tormented them have been killed. (Rev11:10-11)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 10

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 10, we see there is another interval in the flow of scripture. In a similar way to how there is an interval between the sixth seal and the seventh seal (Rev6:12-17 and Rev8:1), here we see an interval in scripture between the sixth trump and the seventh trump. (Rev9:13-21 and Rev10:7 & Rev11:15)

Later, we will discover that there is another, but more subtle interval placed between the sixth vial and the seventh vial. (Rev16:12-16 and Rev16:17-21)

Revelation Chapter 10 offers some interesting insights as to why God presents parables and prophecy in mystery. (Prov25:2 Matt13:16 Matt11:25-6)

**Rev10:1** 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:

**Rev10:2** And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

**Rev10:3** And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

**Rev10:4** 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.

**Commentary:** The importance of this passage is not so much in what the seven thunders uttered, but rather the passage highlights the fact that the prophets were told specifically what to write or what not to write, as they were directed. (2Pet1:21) This is important! Here's why!

If John had identified the seventh trump, calling it the last trump of God, as Paul did in 1Cor15:51-52 and 1Thess4:16-17, then there would be no mystery concerning this matter. (Prov25:2) And if Paul had identified the last trump of God as being the seventh trump, then again, there would be no mystery.

**Rev10:5** And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

**Rev10:6** And swore 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:

**Commentary:** Many assume that this verse means that those living in the spirit world are unaware of time, or that time doesn't exist after the angel begins to sound the seventh trump. (Rev10:7) While it is true that God exists in a timeless dimension, balanced scripture proves that time still exists and is relevant to those living in the spirit world. Therefore, rather than assume that time shall no longer exist after the sounding of the seventh trump, we should look for a better understanding.

If time didn't exist in the spirit world, then time would not matter to the souls of the saints who cry out in heaven, "How long, O Lord" in Rev6:10-11.

Furthermore, when the veil is lifted between the spirit world and this physical world, there will be a thousand years of Christ's rule on earth, with the sun and the moon and the stars marking times and seasons. (Rev20:4 Gen1:14)

And if time didn't exist in the spirit world, then where is the relevance of time to Satan when he is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years? (Rev20:1-3 Rev20:10)

The understanding of the term "there should be time no longer" is simple. It means that the "time, times, and half a time" of the period known as the great tribulation is complete. Also, when the angel sounds the seventh trump, man's rule on the earth is finished and the kingdoms of this world become Christ's. (Rev12:14 Rev11:15)

**Rev10:7** 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.

**Commentary:** Note that this is not when the seventh trump is sounded. Rather, this prophecy states that in the days when the seventh angel begins to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished, as he has declared it to his servants the prophets. The seventh trumpet is to be sounded at a later time. (See Rev11:15)

The statement made in Rev10:7 is amazing, as it begs us to ask what is the mystery that had been declared to God's servants the prophets, and what happens at the seventh trump to finish that mystery.



Well, it's the resurrection of all believers – what we commonly refer to as the Rapture! But where does scripture prove that the Rapture had been revealed to God's servants the prophets? (1Thess5:21) The answer is in the Word!

The prophet Job knew about the Rapture! (Job19:25-27)

The prophet Isaiah knew about the Rapture! (Isa26:19)

The prophet Daniel knew about the Rapture! (Dan12:2)

And Martha knew about the Rapture to happen "on the last day". (Jn11:24)

And four times in a row, Jesus confirms Martha's words, that he shall raise all believers "on the last day". (Jn6:39,40,44,54) That's a one-day, one-time "first resurrection" (Rev20:5) that happens when the sun and the moon go dark, and the stars fall from heaven, and there's a great earthquake, which all happen immediately after the tribulation. (Rev6:12-13 Matt24:29-31)

**Rev10:8** 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.

**Rev10:9** 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.

**Rev10:10** 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.

**Rev10:11** And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

**Commentary:** This portion of the prophecy is a mystery – and like the mystery of the seven thunders, it’s probably better to let it remain a mystery for as long as the Lord chooses to conceal the matter. (Prov25:2 Dan2:22,30)

With that said, here is one possibility: As John the Baptist came in the power and spirit of Elijah (for he wasn’t Elijah raised from the dead, although Jesus said he was the Elijah who was to come – Jn1:21 Matt11:14), John the Revelator may fulfill the prophecy of Rev10:11 by being a spirit helper, so to speak, of one of the Lord’s two witnesses of Rev11:3-13. This idea is not against scripture, as this is what Jesus meant when he said, “If you can receive it, John the Baptist is Elijah who was to come!” (See Lk1:17 Matt11:14)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 11

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In the opening of Revelation Chapter 11, John has somehow been transported in the spirit and into the future to measure a temple that hasn't yet been built. This prophecy is speaking about the soon-coming third Jewish temple that we know, from balanced scripture, is to be built in Jerusalem at the time of the end, during the first half of Daniel's 70th "week". This "temple of God", as it is called in scripture, is the sanctuary in which the Antichrist shall one day sit during the time of the great tribulation. (Rev11:1-2 2Thess2:4 Dan8:13-14 Matt15:24)

Then from Rev11:3 to Rev11:13, we can recognize that it is Jesus speaking as he gives an account of his two witnesses who shall prophesy, in Jerusalem, for the 1,260 days of the great tribulation.

Then from Rev11:14, John begins to speak again as he reiterates what happened concerning the second and third woe and explains what he heard happening in heaven when the seventh angel sounded the seventh trump.

Also, Rev11:11 is where Jesus offers the information that reveals not only the day, but also the hour when the Rapture shall happen.

**Rev11:1** 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.

**Rev11:2** 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.

**Commentary:** As Christians, we understand that we are referred to as the temple of God. (1Cor3:16) We also understand that there is no longer a need for the sacrifice of animals for the remission of sins. (Heb10:1-18)

However, for nearly two thousand years the Jews have desired to someday return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple and resume their daily sacrifice. Prophecy predicts that such events shall happen in the last days, and prophecy foretells that the third temple shall be called “the temple of God” (2Thess2:4) – the temple that John is told to measure in Rev11:1-2.

This “temple of God” that John is told to measure could not have been the temple that stood in Jerusalem in John’s day, as that temple had been destroyed by the time John wrote the book of Revelation. And this “temple of God” could not have been in heavenly realms, because of the mention that the outer court is given to the Gentiles.

Somehow, John was taken in the spirit and into the future to measure a temple in Jerusalem that doesn’t yet exist, but will soon exist, and will be known as “the temple of God” in the last days. This is the “temple of God” where the Antichrist shall sit during the days of the great tribulation (2Thess2:4 Matt24:15 Dan9:27), when Jerusalem shall be trodden under foot of the Gentiles the forty-two months. (Rev11:2)

**Rev11:3** And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

**Commentary:** Although it is not acknowledged in the Red-Letter editions of the Bible, Rev11:3 to Rev11:13 is Jesus speaking, wherein he begins, “And I will give power to my two witnesses”. Thereafter, Jesus gives a full account concerning the ministry and deaths and resurrection of the two witnesses that all happen during the 1,260 days of the great tribulation.

**Rev11:4** These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

**Commentary:** Although there is much speculation as to who the two witnesses shall be, it remains just that – speculation. Rather, it seems wise to wait until the matter is revealed. One thing is certain – Moses will not be one of the two witnesses, as we know that he has already died and cannot be killed again.  
(Deut5:34 Heb9:27 Rev11:7)

**Rev11:5** 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.

**Rev11:6** 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.

**Rev11:7** 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.

**Commentary:** Note how Rev11:7 says that “when they shall have finished their testimony” (not their prophesying) they shall be killed. In Rev11:3, Jesus says that his two witnesses shall prophesy for 1,260 days – and this is true.

The two witnesses shall be killed three-and-a-half days before they have finished their prophesying. However, the witness of their resurrection is how they finish their prophesying – in action rather than in words alone.

It is very possible that the two witnesses will know that they will be killed, and they will probably be telling the world that three and a half days after their deaths, Jesus shall resurrect them. This could be the reason why their enemies will not permit their bodies to be buried so that their bodies can lie in the street of Jerusalem, while their enemies celebrate their deaths and watch in hope of disproving their prophesying. (Rev11:8-10)

However, when the two witnesses are resurrected 84 hours after they are killed, their enemies are going to be shocked, and great fear is going to come upon the world, because they will then know that God’s wrath is about to be poured out upon them. (Rev11:11 Rev16:1 Rev14:9-11)

It also needs to be understood that when Rev11:7 refers to “the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”, this term is a title attributed to Satan, who is the Antichrist – an unholy trinity comprising of the devil, the beast, and the false prophet. (Rev20:10 Rev16:13-14)

Satan shall be cast into the bottomless pit at the battle of Armageddon. Then after the thousand years is when he shall ascend out of the bottomless pit. (Rev20:1-3,7)

The bottomless pit is a prison, and it's the second last place Satan wants to be – the last place being the lake of fire, which shall be his final destination after the thousand years. (Rev20:1-3,7)

Currently, Satan walks to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down it. (Job2:2) Besides this, Satan has access to heaven where he accuses the saints on earth day and night until he is cast out for the last time at the beginning of the great tribulation. (Rev12:9-10) Satan does not yet reside in the bottomless pit! (Rev20:1-3)

**Rev11:8** 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.

**Commentary:** During the great tribulation, when Jerusalem is trodden underfoot by the Antichrist and his forces, the city is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt – certainly not “the holy city” during those days.

**Rev11:9** 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.

**Rev11:10** 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.

**Rev11:11** 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.

**Commentary:** In Matt24:36, Jesus told his disciples that only his Father knew the DAY and HOUR of his return. But that changed when Jesus was given the Revelation from his Father's hand. (Rev6:1,7) Then Jesus passed on this information to us, through John, so that we could know both the day and the hour of his appearing in the clouds to resurrect all believers. (Jn6:39,40,44,54 Rev11:11 Rev1:7 Matt24:29-31)

This knowledge fulfills the Lord's promise that he shall do nothing, except he first reveals it to his servants the prophets (Amos3:7) – and this promise especially applies to the day and hour of his return – the day and hour of the Rapture.

Therefore, it is important to understand that the two witnesses take part in the Rapture three-and-a-half days (84 hours) after they are killed. Jesus shall bring the spirits of the two witnesses, along with all the spirits of believers who have died in Christ, and they shall all be resurrected be raised on the last day. (1Thess4:13-18 Jn6:39,40,44,54) Hereby, we are not in darkness that that day, and even the hour, should overtake us as a thief in the night. (1Thess5:4)

**Rev11:12** 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.

**Commentary:** Although the Rev11:11-13 passage doesn't list all the events that happen at the time of the Rapture, there is enough information here and in related scriptures to identify that the two witnesses shall be resurrected, along with all other believers, "on the last day" (Jn6:39,40,44,54), in a one-day, one-time "first resurrection" (Rev20:5) that happens when the sun and the



moon go dark, and the stars fall from heaven, and there's a great earthquake immediately after the tribulation. (Rev6:12-13 Matt24:29-31)

There is no separate resurrection for the two witnesses. They shall be raised along with all other believers "on the last day". (Jn6:39,40,44,54)

**Rev11:13** 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.

**Commentary:** Although it is not directly identified in scripture, we can understand that this great earthquake is the third woe that accompanies the seventh trump which is sounded at the time of the Rapture. (Rev8:13 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17 Matt24:29-31)

Note how the passage also mentions that "the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to God". While all the unbelievers are frightened, because they know the wrath of God is coming upon them, this remnant (the 144,000 – Rom9:27) chooses to give glory to God. They have seen Jesus coming in the clouds (Rev1:7), and have seen the believers resurrected, and although they are not yet born-again believers, they choose to give glory to God, even in the face of all that is happening around them at that time. (Rev14:7)

Then, just 30 days after the Rapture and the earthquake that followed, Jesus and the armies of heaven are going to return to earth for the battle of Armageddon, to defeat the Antichrist and his forces, and to save the remnant of Israel (the 144,000) and gather them out of the countries where they have been scattered, so they can fulfill their purpose to repopulate the earth and form the twelve tribes of Israel during Christ's thousand-year reign on earth.

That is the true purpose and calling of the 144,000 remnant of Israel!  
(Dan12:11 Jude1:14 Rev19:11 to Rev20:4 Rom9:26-29 Ezk34:12-14 Matt19:28  
Rev14:1-5 Zeph3:13 Zech12:10)

**Rev11:14** The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

**Commentary:** Beginning at Rev11:14, John begins to speak again as he reiterates that the second woe is past – it passed back at Rev9:20-21. John also mentions that the third woe came quickly – that was the great earthquake that came quickly within the hour after the Rapture. (Rev11:13)

**Rev11:15** 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.

**Commentary:** To conceal in a mystery that the Rapture happens at the seventh trump, John doesn't mention anything about what happened on earth at the sounding of the seventh trump. Rather, John only writes about what he hears happening in heaven when the seventh trump sounds. Perhaps he was instructed not to write anything concerning the Rapture – like how he was told not to write concerning the seven thunders. (Rev10:4) Thereby, the mystery is preserved that the seventh trump is the last trump of God that sounds at the Rapture. (Prov20:5 Rev10:7 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17) However, this is not a mystery that is past understanding. (Prov25:2)

**Rev11:16** And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

**Rev11:17** Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

**Rev11:18** And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

**Rev11:19** 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.

**Commentary:** Here, we need to recognize that Rev11:18-19 covers a thousand-year time span.

Firstly, after everyone on earth sees Jesus coming in the clouds to resurrect all believers (Rev1:7 Matt24:29-31 Rev11:11-12), the nations are angry because they know that the wrath of God is about to be poured out upon them. This outpouring then happens between the end of the great tribulation and the beginning of the battle of Armageddon. (Rev15:1 to Rev16:16 Dan12:11)

Then, Rev11:18 mentions the time when the dead shall be judged, which happens at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ. (Rev20:11-15)

And then Rev11:18 reverts to mention the time when God shall reward the prophets and saints and those that fear his name, which happens at the judgment seat of Christ, which happens at the marriage supper of the Lamb before the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth begins. (2Cor5:10 Rev19:7-9)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 12

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 12, John is presented with a variety of visions and things that he hears.

The visions in Revelation 12 are not presented in chronological order. Rather, they cover wide periods of time, and they weave back and forth in time, like threads in a tapestry weave to and fro to present a picture.

For example, Rev12:3-4 describes how Satan, through king Herod, planned to kill Jesus when he was born, and then the passage identifies Jesus in the future as the one who will rule the nations with a rod of iron. And then the passage reverts to the time when Jesus was resurrected and caught up to his throne in heaven. (Rev12:3-4 Re20:4 Matt2:16 Acts1:9)

Chapter 12 also covers the future time when Satan and his angels will make war in heaven but will lose, to then be cast down to earth for the final time. Satan, in the form of the Antichrist, shall then persecute the woman mentioned in this chapter – the woman who flees into the wilderness on the wings of a great eagle to a place prepared for her by God, so that she can survive the great tribulation.

**Rev12:1** And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

**Rev12:2** And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

**Commentary:** This celestial vision represents several things, but ultimately represents Mary, the mother of Christ, who was both a Jew and the woman who delivered to the world the Christian church through the birth of Jesus. (Rev12:4-5)

**Rev12:3** 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.

**Commentary:** Rev12:3 is a vision that parallels the visions in Rev13:1-2 and Rev17:1,9-10. Each of these prophetic visions builds a layer-upon-layer understanding concerning the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God's people and to Endtime prophecy – those seven kingdoms being Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome (the “one is” kingdom of Rev17:10), and today's global “iron and clay” divide of dictatorships and democracies that shall morph into the New World Order – the final 8th kingdom which will have a governing council of ten kings under the supreme leadership of the Antichrist – the dragon himself. (Dan7:24 Rev17:11-12 Rev13:2)

**Rev12:4** And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

**Commentary:** Rev12:4 is speaking about the rebellious angels who follow Satan (Rev12:9), and about the time Satan, through King Herod, tried to kill the infant Jesus. (Matt2:1-18)

**As a point of interest here** – Angels are referred to as "the stars of heaven". (Rev12:4) Therefore, when Matt24:29 and Rev6:12 speak about the stars falling from heaven at the time of the Rapture, scripture is referring to the Lord's angels (not the literal stars) who he sends to gather us, to take us from earth's end of heaven to the far end of heaven. (Matt24:31)

**Rev12:5** 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.

**Commentary:** Rev12:5 is speaking about Jesus who shall rule the nations with a rod of iron during his thousand-year reign on earth. This verse also speaks about the ascension of Jesus after his resurrection. (Acts1:10 Lk22:69)

**Rev12:6** 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.

**Commentary:** Rev12:6 is a vision that offers a symbolic understanding of events that take place at the time of the great tribulation. This vision illustrates that those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Christians – Rev12:17) will flee into the wilderness, to a place prepared by God, and where they shall be fed for the 1,260 days of great tribulation.

**Rev12:7** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

**Rev12:8** And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

**Rev12:9** 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.

**Commentary:** Rev12:7-9 is referring to events that shall happen just before the beginning of the three-and-a-half-year great tribulation. When the leader of the New World Order gets a deadly wound to the head (Rev13:3), Satan and his angels will make war in heaven with Michael and his angels, but Satan will lose and is then cast down to earth with his angels, and there is no place found for them anymore in heaven. This is the time Satan possesses the slain body of the world leader, and he lives on as the Satan-possessed Antichrist.

We would be correct in thinking that Satan would not have the power and authority to bring the slain body of the world leader back to life. That power and authority would have to come from Jesus. (Matt28:18) Jesus is the resurrection and the life (Jn11:25), and it is Jesus who allows Satan to continue for 42 months, as the Satan-possessed Antichrist. (Jn11:25 Matt28:18 Rev13:5)

We might ask why God would allow such a thing. The answer is simple – to fulfill the words of God! (Rev17:17 Isa55:8-9)

**Rev12:10** 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.

**Commentary:** John then tells of a great voice in heaven explaining what shall happen when Satan is cast down to earth.

Currently, Satan has access to the courts of heaven where he continually accuses Christians on earth before God. (Job2:1-6) However, when Satan possesses the slain body of the leader of the New World Order, and he lives on as the Satan-possessed Antichrist, then Satan and his angels shall no longer have access to heaven, and Satan shall no longer be able to accuse the saints on earth before God.

**Rev12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

**Commentary:** This clearly establishes that those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Christians) are on earth during the great tribulation, and that they are willing to die for their faith rather than worship the image of the beast and receive his mark. (Rev12:17 Dan11:33-34 Rev13:15 Rev15:2)

**Rev12:12** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants 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.

**Commentary:** The souls of born-again believers in heaven are told to rejoice that Satan, the accuser of their brethren on earth, is no longer able to enter heaven; but they are also informed that Satan has great wrath because he knows his time is short – the period of the great tribulation (Rev12:10 Rev13:5)

**Rev12:13** And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.



**Rev12:14** 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.

**Commentary:** Although this passage specifically mentions the woman who gave birth to Christ is the one fleeing into the wilderness, the Antichrist shall also be persecuting those of all faiths when he sits in the temple of God as God, and above all that is called God. (2Thess2:4) But the Antichrist shall be most angry with Christians who are filled with the Holy Spirit and have the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is the spirit of prophecy (Rev19:10) because they shall have the power to witness and win souls to Jesus, and they shall be the ones doing great exploits and shall be instructing many, leading many to salvation in Jesus in those days. (Acts1:8 2Tim3:12 Dan11:32-33 Dan12:3)

The mention of “the two wings of a great eagle” in Rev12:4 might be symbolic of the wings of an airliner, a concept that would not have been understood until modern times. And although John only described one great eagle, it’s probably symbolic of many airliners heading in many directions.

**Rev12:15** 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.

**Rev12:16** 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.

**Commentary:** Satan is the father of lies and the master of deceit who deceives the whole world. (Jn8:44 Rev12:9) During the great tribulation, the Antichrist will be blaspheming and spreading his lying propaganda to the whole world. (Rev13:5 Dan7:25 Rev16:13-14)

Where it mentions “the earth” in Rev12:16, it means those who dwell on the earth – “the inhabitants of the earth”. (Rev12:13) Therefore, we need to understand that “the earth” shall do either of two things. Some of the earth will help the woman, while some of the earth will swallow up the flood of lies that the Antichrist spews out. (Jn8:44 2Thess2:9 Rev13:5)

**Rev12:17** 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.

**Commentary:** Here is further proof that Christians (those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ) are still on earth during the great tribulation.

Therefore, the Rapture could not have taken place yet, because Jesus said he shall raise all believers “on the last day” (Jn6:39,40,44,54 KJV) – that’s a one-day, one-time “first resurrection” (Rev20:5) that happens when the sun and the moon go dark, and the stars fall from heaven, and there’s a great earthquake, immediately after the tribulation. (Rev6:12-13 Matt24:29-31)

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### CHAPTER 13

#### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation 13, John has a vision of a strange multifeatured beast that is a composite of the beasts that the prophet Daniel saw in Dan7:3-7. These visions parallel the visions in Rev12:3 and Rev17:1,9-10 – visions that in different ways represent the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God’s people and to Endtimes prophecy: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome (the “one is” kingdom in John’s day – Rev17:10), and today’s global “iron and clay” divide of dictatorships and democracies that shall morph into the New World Order – the final 8th kingdom which will have a governing council of ten kings under the supreme leadership of the Antichrist. (Dan7:24 Rev17:11-12)

Then in Rev13:3-18, John’s vision zeros in on what happens immediately before and during the 1,260 days of great tribulation – from the time one of the seven heads of the beast is wounded to death and then lives to become the Satan-possessed Antichrist, after which the whole world is caused to worship the image of the beast (the Antichrist) and receive his 666 mark, without which no-one can buy or sell. Refusal to comply means facing the death penalty! Complying means facing the wrath of God! (Rev14:9-11)

**Rev13:1** And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

**Rev13:2** And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

**Commentary:** This vision is a composite of the beasts mentioned in Dan7:4-7. It is a parallel prophecy that represents the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God's people and to Endtimes prophecy – namely Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and today's global divide of dictatorships and democracies that shall morph into the short-lived Antichrist's kingdom of the New World Order.

Here, we see that it is the dragon, Satan, that gives this beast its power, seat, and great authority, whereas in Rev12:3 the seven kingdoms were depicted as a great red dragon. Either way, it is Satan who rules these kingdoms through their kings, until he finally rules in person on earth, as the Antichrist – the eighth kingdom, which is of the seven. (Rev17:10-11)

**Rev13:3** 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.

**Commentary:** When the "little horn" Antichrist is arises (Dan7:8), Satan gives him his power, seat, and authority. (Rev13:2) However, just before the middle of Daniel's 70th "week", this world leader shall get a deadly wound to the head and is killed. This is when Satan and his angels make war in heaven with Michael and his angels, but Satan is defeated and cast down to earth and possesses the slain body of the world leader, and he lives, as the Satan-possessed Antichrist – and then begins the events of the great tribulation. (Rev13:4 Rev12:7-9 Matt24:15,21)

**Rev13:4** 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?

**Commentary:** The world is going to marvel when they see the world leader killed, and then come back to life. It's going to appear to the world that he "was (is alive), and is not (is dead), and yet is (is alive again)" (Rev17:8), like how Jesus was alive, was dead, and is now alive forevermore. (Rev1:8)

However, the Antichrist's days are numbered. (Rev13:5) The very elect shall not be deceived, because they shall understand the circumstances behind this false resurrection. (Rev13:5 Matt24:24)

**Rev13:5** And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

**Commentary:** All power is given to Jesus, both in heaven and on earth. (Matt28:18) Therefore, it is Jesus who allows the Antichrist to continue a short space, "to try them that dwell on the earth". (Rev17:10 Rev3:10)

**Rev13:6** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

**Rev13:7** 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.

**Rev13:8** 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.

**Commentary:** There it is again in Rev13:7 – proof in scripture that the saints (born-again believers who have the testimony of Jesus Christ) are on earth during the great tribulation – before the Rapture when Jesus shall raise all believers “on the last day”. (Jn6:39,40,44,54 Matt24:29-31)

**Rev13:9** If any man have an ear, let him hear.

**Rev13:10** 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.

**Commentary:** When the saints on earth, and those in heaven, see the atrocities happening during the great tribulation, they shall need to have great patience that God will soon avenge their blood. (Matt24:21 Rev6:9-11)

**Rev13:11** And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

**Rev13:12** And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

**Rev13:13** And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

**Rev13:14** 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.

**Rev13:15** And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

**Commentary:** It is a bit of mystery as to who the false prophet shall be. It may be that the Antichrist shall be the embodiment of the devil, the beast, and the false prophet – an all-in-one unholy trinity, a counter representation of God the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. (1Jn5:7 Rev20:10)

**Rev13:16** 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:

**Rev13:17** 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.

**Rev13:18** 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.

**Commentary:** While there is much speculation as to what the mark of the beast shall be, some things are for certain – a recipient shall need to worship the image of the beast to receive the mark, and no one will be able to buy or sell without it. Refusal to comply will carry the death penalty! Worshiping the image of the beast and receiving his mark will result in facing the wrath of God. (Rev14:9-11)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 14

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 14, John sees events that happen on earth during the early part of Christ's thousand-year reign on earth, and he also hears things happening in heaven at the same time.

Then John sees visions of events that happen during the early part of the great tribulation, plus events that happen at the Rapture immediately after the great tribulation, plus further events that happen at the far end of the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth.

**Rev14:1** 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.

**Commentary:** This is a vision in which John sees the hundred and forty-four thousand on earth with Jesus during the thousand-year reign of Christ – most likely at the beginning of the millennium, before they begin to multiply and spread to cover and repopulate the earth. (Matt19:28 Rev20:7-8 Dan2:35b)

**Rev14:2** 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:



**Rev14:3** 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.

**Commentary:** Next, John hears what he describes as a loud voice from heaven, like rushing waters or thunder. This great voice is the sound of a great multitude of saints that no man could number, singing a new song in heaven. (Rev7:9-16 Rev15:2-4) However, on earth the story is different. The original Greek Bible implies that “if” the 144,000 could not learn that song, then no one could learn that song. Other translations imply that only the 144,000 could learn that song, which could further imply that they must be the only humans left alive to repopulate the earth. This discrepancy leads to various thoughts!

Is it possible that the phrase, “These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins” could apply to both boys and girls? (Gal3:28 Zeph3:13-20) And is it possible that the 144,000, being descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel that have been scattered abroad for the last 2,000 years, shall multiply to form the various, multicultural, “sheep and goat” nations during of Christ’s millennial kingdom upon earth?

(Jms1:1 Matt19:28 Rev20:4 Matt25:31-32,46 Rev12:5a Rev20:7-10)

**Rev14:4** 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.

**Rev14:5** And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

**Commentary:** This is a fulfillment of the Zephaniah 3:13 prophecy – a prophecy that cannot be spoken of concerning Israel today; not until the times of the Gentiles has been fulfilled and Jesus restores the kingdom to Israel. (Lk21:24 Acts1:6)

Next, John is shown a separate set of visions – a set of visions showing events that shall happen during the early days of the great tribulation. We can understand from Rev14:6-12 that there are three “herald” angels who make pronouncements for all the inhabitants on earth to hear and that those pronouncements must be made during the early days of the great tribulation.

**Rev14:6** 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,

**Commentary:** Although this angel is not openly identified as “the first” of three herald angels, we know that he is, because “the third angel” is clearly identified in Rev14:9, and all we need to do is count backward.

**Rev14:7** 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.

**Commentary:** This “first” herald angel preaches the everlasting gospel for everyone to hear in their own language, thus fulfilling the prophecy Jesus spoke in Matt24:14 – a statement of prophecy that concludes with the words, “and then shall the end come”. Then, the first herald angel says to give God the Creator glory, and that the hour of his judgment has come – referring to the judgment of Babylon that is about to happen. (Rev17:10)

**Rev14:8** 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.

**Commentary:** This is “the second angel” and can be identified as the same angel making the same pronouncement mentioned in Rev18:1-3. A further examination of scripture places this event between the first and second trumpets of God that shall sound early during the great tribulation. We understand this timing to be correct because of the content spoken by “the third angel” of Rev14:9-11.

**Rev14:9** 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,

**Commentary:** Here is “the third angel” that follows the first and second angel of Rev14:6 and Rev14:8. For the warning pronouncement concerning the image and mark of the beast to be effective, this event must take place early during the great tribulation, when the Antichrist demands that everyone on earth worship the image of the beast and receive his 666 mark. (Rev13:15-18) However, this angel makes clear to everyone on earth the consequences to those who do not heed his warning.

**Rev14:10** 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:

**Rev14:11** 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.

**Rev14:12** Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

**Commentary:** Next, John hears a voice from heaven and is instructed to write a short passage to address those who die in the Lord (believers in Christ) from that time forward. It seems from balanced scripture that those who die for their faith in Jesus during the great tribulation shall rule and reign with him during his thousand-year kingdom on earth. (Rev20:4)

**Rev14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

**Commentary:** After this, John sees another mysterious vision. (Rev14:14-20) Although this next vision mentions events that happen at the Rapture and at the battle of Armageddon to follow, this vision also mentions events that happen at the harvest, which happens at the end of the world when the earth is judged with fire. (Matt24:29-31 Matt13:39 2Pet3:7,10)

Perhaps what John describes in Rev14:14-20 was a composite vision illustrating events that happen both at the Rapture and the battle of Armageddon to follow, together with events that happen at the harvest at the end of the world. This certainly is a mysterious vision, and we cannot truly place the whole vision as happening at one specific time and place. Rev14:14-20 is one of those visions in which we see through a glass darkly. (1Cor13:12)

**Rev14:14** 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.

**Rev14:15** 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.

**Rev14:16** And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

**Rev14:17** And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

**Rev14:18** 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.

**Rev14:19** 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.

**Rev14:20** 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.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 15

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 15, John sees events that happen in heaven after the Rapture – events that happen immediately after the tribulation, but before the vials of God’s wrath are poured out, which therefore places Rev15:2-4 before the battle of Armageddon. (Rev15:1-4 Matt24:29-31 Rev16:1-16)

This vision of Rev15:2-4 corresponds with the vision of Rev19:7-9. Both visions happen in heaven after the great tribulation. And each vision places these saints who have come out of great tribulation at the marriage supper of the Lamb that happens in heaven while the vials of God’s wrath are poured out upon earth before the saints return with Jesus for the battle of Armageddon. (Rev19:1-10 Rev16:1-16 Rev19:11 to Rev20:3 Jude1:14)

It is important to note that the events in the vision of Rev7:9-17 happen after the great tribulation, and therefore after the Rapture. (Rev7:14 Matt24:29-21) However, John was shown the vision of Rev7:9-17 before he was shown the events that follow the sounding of the trumpets of God. (Rev8:1 to Rev11:15) In effect, Rev7:9-17 happens after the sounding of the seven trumps of God (Rev8:1 to Rev15:4), and therefore after the Rapture. These events are not written in chronological order. This is part of the mysterious way in which Revelation is written. (Prov125:2)

Once again – balanced scripture informs us that the saints in Rev7:9-17 and Rev15:2-4 have all come out of the great tribulation, having gotten the victory over the beast and his 666 mark of the beast. Therefore, the vision that John sees in Rev7:9-17 belongs with Rev15:2-4. These are all the same saints, in heaven, after the great tribulation. This is one of many examples to highlight the fact that the events described throughout the book of Revelation do not happen in chronological order.

It is also important to note that there is no mention in scripture that the trumps and the vials correspond or are interwoven in some way, as some Bible scholars teach. The trumps sound during the great tribulation to announce events that are part of God's judgments, whereas the vials are poured out upon the wicked as part of God's wrath that comes after the great tribulation.

Moreover, during the judgments, the plagues happen in thirds, whereas during the days of wrath, the plagues are full and complete.

**Rev15:1** 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.

**Rev15:2** 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.

**Rev15:3** 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.

**Rev15:4** 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.

**Rev15:5** And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

**Rev15:6** 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.

**Rev15:7** 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.

**Rev15:8** 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.

**Commentary:** This is an interesting verse because the seventh angel does not pour out his plague until after the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. At that time, the seventh angel shall pour out his vial into the air, which causes the whole earth to be judged with fire, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, forming a new heaven (atmosphere) and a new earth, ready to receive the new Jerusalem. (Rev16:17-21 2Pet3:7,10 Rev21:2-3)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 16

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 16, John describes what happens as each of the vials of God's wrath are poured out. It is important to note that when the seven trumpets of God were sounded, Christians were still on earth before the seventh, last trump of God was sounded to announce the Rapture. (Rev10:7 1Cor15:51-52 1Thess4:16-17 Rev24:29-31)

In contrast, we see that ALL the resurrected saints are in heaven for the marriage supper of the Lamb, before the vials of God's wrath are poured out. (Rev15:2-4 Rev19:7-9 Rev16:1-16) Then, after the sixth vial is poured out, Jesus and the armies of heaven return to earth for the battle of Armageddon. (Rev16:12-16 Rev19:11 to Rev20:3)

It is important to understand that the seventh vial is not poured out before the battle of Armageddon. The seventh vial is reserved to be poured out into the air after the thousand-years reign of Christ on earth, at the time the earth is judged with fire. (Rev16:17-21 2Pet3:7,10)

**Rev16:1** 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.

**Rev16:2** 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.

**Rev16:3** 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.

**Rev16:4** And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

**Rev16:5** 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.

**Rev16:6** For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

**Rev16:7** And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

**Rev16:8** And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

**Rev16:9** 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.

**Rev16:10** 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,

**Rev16:11** And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

**Rev16:12** 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.

**Rev16:13** 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.

**Rev16:14** For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

**Rev16:15** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

**Commentary:** Rev16:15 may seem out of place or repeated because it is spoken after the Rapture. The term, “shall come as a thief in the night” was also applied to Christians before the Rapture. However, here it is applied to the 144,000 – the “remnant of Israel” who are still on earth and about to be saved when Jesus and the armies of heaven return for the battle of Armageddon.  
(2Thess5:2-4 Matt24:22 Rom9:26-29 Rev19:14 Jude1:14)

**Rev16:16** And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

**Commentary:** In Rev16:12-16, the Antichrist gathers the kings of the east, and of the earth, and of the whole world to the place called Armageddon for the battle of Armageddon. We understand from Rev19:7-9, and then Rev19:11 to Rev20:3, that the battle of Armageddon follows the marriage supper of the Lamb. After the conclusion of the battle of Armageddon and the gathering of the remnant of Israel, the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth shall begin.  
(Dan12:12 Ezk34:12-13 Matt19:28 Rev20:4)

By a careful examination of balanced scripture, we are going to discover that there are a thousand years between Rev16:16 and Rev16:17.

Rev16:16 shows that the battle of Armageddon is still to take place after the marriage supper of the Lamb is completed in heaven, but before the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth begins. (Rev19:7-9 then Rev19:11 to Rev20:4)

Then, Rev16:17-21 describe events that happen after Christ's thousand-year reign on earth. That is when the seventh vial is poured out into the air, at the time of the harvest, which Jesus told us is the end of the world. (Matt13:39)

That is when the earth is judged with fire, and the elements melt with fervent heat. (2Pet3:7,10) That is when the mountains flee away and the seas are no more, and God makes a new heaven (atmosphere) and new earth out of the same elements, ready to receive the new Jerusalem. (Rev21:1-3)

**Rev16:17** 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.

**Rev16:18** 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.

**Commentary:** This earthquake is not to be confused with the earthquake that happens at the time of the Rapture. That earthquake can be identified as the third woe that accompanies the seventh trump (Rev8:13), which kills seven thousand in Jerusalem. (Rev11:13) That event is small in comparison to the global earthquake that happens at the end of the world. (Rev16:18)

**Rev16:19** 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.

**Commentary:** At the end of Christ's thousand-year reign, after the "tares" (wicked) are gathered and bound to be burned, and the "good seed" – the wheat, is gathered into the barn (heaven), scripture seems to indicate that a rapid succession of events will take place, all leading up to the seventh vial being poured out into the air, which results in the whole earth being judged with fire. (Matt13:30,38-39 2Pet3:7,10) When that happens, God remembers back the time when he judged "that great city Babylon". (Rev17:8) At the time when God judged Babylon, it was limited to Babylon only, whereas at the time of the harvest, God judges the whole earth with fire. (Matt13:39 2Pet3:7,10)

**Rev16:20** And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

**Commentary:** This happens when the entire earth melts with fervent heat, and the seas are no more – they evaporate to make the earth new again, like it was before the Flood, as described in Genesis Chapter 1 – only better!

**Rev16:21** 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.

**Commentary:** In the days following the Rapture, the Antichrist is gathering the kings of the east, and of the whole world to the battle of Armageddon (Rev16:12-16), whereas at the end of the world, the wicked are blaspheming God and hiding in the mountains and rocks, trying to escape the wrath of the Lamb that is to come. (Rev6:16)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 17

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 17 deals with “Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth”.

The key word here is “mystery” because Babylon is many things – a city, a nation, an evil seductive spirit, and the System of ungodly religion, politics, and finance, all of which are controlled by the spirit of Antichrist. Therefore, we need to understand that Babylon is not one thing, but many things.

**Rev17:1** 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:

**Commentary:** In prophecy, the term “many waters” usually means peoples and nations. In the time of the end, God is going to judge the great whore that sits on many waters. But who or what is this great whore?

**Rev17:2** 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.

**Commentary:** The whore is an evil spirit of Seduction with whom the kings of ungodly religion, politics, and finance have committed spiritual fornication – they have compromised themselves for power, popularity, and plenty.

**Rev17:3** 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.

**Commentary:** We understand from a balanced study of prophecy that the seven heads of the beast represent the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God's people and to Endtimes prophecy – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and today's global divide of dictatorships and democracies that shall morph into final New World Order with a governing council of ten kings, represented by ten horns throughout prophecy, or ten toes in the Daniel 2 prophecy.

**Rev17:4** 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:

**Commentary:** Although these attributes can be associated with the Vatican (which is one popular but limited interpretation of the Whore of Babylon), this prophecy has a far wider application.

**Rev17:5** And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

**Rev17:6** 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, I wondered with great admiration.

**Commentary:** This prophecy not only applies to the blood of martyrs of Jesus, but also the blood of the saints of all ages, whom the whore delights in killing.

**Rev17:7** 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.

**Commentary:** This woman is the evil, seductive Spirit that controls the heads of the beast (the seven kingdoms) by influencing and controlling the heads of the kings (leaders) of ungodly religion, politics, and finance.

**Rev17:8** 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.

**Commentary:** There is a lot to be understood in this short verse of prophecy. Firstly, this prophecy identifies the leader of the New World Order who is killed with a deadly head wound (Rev13:3), and then lives when Satan possesses his slain body, to then become the Satan-possessed Antichrist – the eighth king, who is of the seven before it. (Rev17:11)

**Rev17:9** And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

**Commentary:** In prophecy, mountains are used to depict kingdoms, as illustrated in Dan2:35 where the stone (Jesus – Matt21:42) becomes a mountain that filled the whole earth during Christ's thousand-year reign on earth. (Rev20:4)



In Rev17:9, the seven mountains represent the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God's people and to Endtime prophecy. The woman is the spirit of Seduction who controls the heads or kings of these kingdoms.

**Rev17:10** 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.

**Commentary:** At the time this prophecy was explained to John, five kingdoms had fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece), and the "one is" kingdom was the current kingdom in John's day (Rome), and the "one is to come" kingdom is today's global divide of dictatorships and democracies that shall morph into the final, short-lived kingdom of the Antichrist, with its governing council of ten kings.

**Rev17:11** And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

**Commentary:** This short line of prophecy explains how the "little horn" Antichrist leader of the soon-coming New World Order (Dan7:8) will get a deadly wound to the head, but then lives (Rev13:3) when Satan possesses the slain body, and he becomes the Satan-possessed Antichrist.

**Rev17:12** 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.

**Commentary:** These ten horns (also represented by ten toes in the Daniel 2 prophecy), are the ten kings who shall be governing the New World Order when the Antichrist arises. (Dan7:7-8)

**Rev17:13** These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

**Commentary:** When the Antichrist arises, he shall need to subdue three of the ten kings, until all ten agree to give their power and strength to him as the supreme leader of the New World Order. (Dan7:24) In return, he gives them power to rule with him as kings. (Rev17:12)

**Rev17:14** 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.

**Commentary:** During the great tribulation, these ten kings, along with the Antichrist, make war with those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Christians – Rev12:7 Rev15:2-4), but Jesus and the saints will defeat them at the battle of Armageddon. (Rev19:11 to Rev20:3 Jude1:14)

**Rev17:15** And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

**Commentary:** Whoever or whatever the whore of Babylon represents, her seat of authority has influence and control over the population of the earth.

**Rev17:16** 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.

**Rev17:17** 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.

**Commentary:** And whoever or whatever the whore represents in the last days, there will come a time when God shall put in in the hearts of the ten kings to hate the whore, to the point that they will burn her utterly with fire in one hour, as God’s judgment of her, so that the words of God should be fulfilled. (Rev17:16-18 Rev18:8-10)

**Rev17:18** And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

**Commentary:** Remembering that Babylon is a mystery, we must understand that although this prophecy refers to “that great city”, ancient Babylon was both a city and a nation, as well as a kingdom. Therefore, it seems unwise to think that the prophecy only refers to a city. Rather, from the diversity of description in Revelation 18 and elsewhere, it seems “that great city Babylon” is much more than a city – it seems she is a nation that has great influence over the whole earth.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 18

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation 18 deals with the judgment of Babylon. As we can see from Rev17:16-17, it is God who puts it in the hearts of the ten kings to hate the whore, and to judge her with fire in one hour, to fulfil the words of God. We can see from Rev19:2 that God is righteous in his judgment of her.

But who or what is Babylon? We learn from scripture that she is a mystery, but a mystery that is not past understanding. (Prov25:2)

We can understand from balanced scripture that Babylon can represent a city, a nation, and a kingdom, and the whore of Babylon – an evil spirit that controls the heads of the seven kingdoms that relate directly to God’s people and to Endtime prophecy. (Dan2:37-38 Rev17:7) In Rev17:18, the woman is called “that great city, which rules over the kings of the earth”. Therefore, Babylon is an interchangeable and all-encompassing term.

In a similar way, the term “Hollywood” can mean a geographical location, or the movie industry, or anything related to either. Likewise, in the past, the term “Detroit” has referred to the city of Detroit and the automobile industry. In the same way, the term “Silicon Valley” refers to a location in Southern California but can also be used to depict the hi-tech industry.

Therefore, when scripture refers to “the woman” and “that great city, Babylon” (Rev17:18), these terms can equally apply to a city, a nation, a kingdom, and the whore of Babylon. This realization can broaden our scope of understanding to incorporate all that Babylon is and represents, and all that is spoken of her throughout Revelation 18.

Although there several ideas as to who or what is “that great city, Babylon”, there is only one possible candidate who can fulfill all the criteria described in Revelation 18 – and sadly that candidate points to America.

And although there have always been many God-fearing people who endeavor to uphold a righteous standard in America, the Bible tells us that in the time of the end, in the very last days, her sins will have reached unto heaven to the point where God has no option but to judge her. (1Pet4:17)

Therefore, in the midst of Daniel’s 70th “week”, when the Antichrist makes his move against Jerusalem and causes the daily sacrifice to cease so that he can sit in the temple of God, as God, and above all that is called God, he is going to need to deal with Israel’s greatest ally in a swift and permanent manner. (Dan9:27 2Thess2:4 Dan11:44) This is when God puts it in the hearts of the ten kings to hate the whore and to utterly burn her in one hour.

However, God’s people have a chance to heed God’s early warning to come out of her, so that they are not partakers of her sins, and that they will not receive her plagues – her judgment that shall come upon her in one hour to utterly burn her with fire by nuclear annihilation. (Rev8:7) As difficult as this may be to accept, it is the truth concerning the events to happen during the time of great tribulation, which Jesus said shall be the worst time that has even been, or will ever be, upon the earth. (Matt24:21)

**Rev18:1** And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

**Rev18:2** 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.

**Rev18:3** 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, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

**Commentary:** Rev18:1-3 is describing the same angel making the same pronouncement as found in Rev14:8, but with added information.

The fact of the matter is that this vision, and the vision shown to John in Rev14:8, happen between the first and second trumps. (Rev8:7 and Rev8:8) Again, this highlights the fact that the book of Revelation is not chronologically written, and that some visions are repeated to give added information.

Keep in mind how a movie is made. During the filming of a movie, some scenes (visions) are shot out of sequence, and it is the editor's job to identify certain aspects of a scene so that he can cut and splice the film into the correct sequence. This is exactly what is happening here – Rev18:1-3 and Rev14:8 are repeated scenes, with Rev14:8 offering added information, but the timing of the event belongs between Rev8:7 and Rev8:8.

**Rev18:4** 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.

**Commentary:** As in Rev11:3, this “other voice” is Jesus speaking. In Rev18:4, Jesus is giving his people warning to come out of Babylon, so that they are not partakers of her sin, and that they shall not receive her plagues when her sudden judgment comes!

This is not a warning that shall be spoken again in the future, like that in Rev14:9-11. The words of Rev18:4-24 have already been spoken and recorded in God’s written Word so that those who have ears to listen can have time to understand and then heed the warning and respond accordingly! This understanding and the way people respond to the warning are vital to survival during the time of the end.

Then for the remainder of Revelation 18, it is the voice of Jesus that John continues to hear as Jesus explains the reason why God is going to judge Babylon, and what the reaction of the world is going to be following her judgment. (Rev18:4-24)

Remember, in Revelation 18, God is judging a city, a nation, a kingdom, and the woman – the whore of Babylon. In the time of the end, God will judge the epitome or the representation of all that Babylon is and has been throughout the ages. Therefore, when the prophecy of Revelation 18 speaks about things of the past, and even the blood of the prophets, and of the saints, the prophecy is all-inclusive, and is also using terms of things past.

**Rev18:5** For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

**Rev18:6** 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.

**Rev18:7** 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.

**Rev18:8** 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.

**Commentary:** Read the description of the events that follow the sounding of the first trump – that is a description of nuclear annihilation. (Rev8:7)

**Rev18:9** 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,

**Rev18:10** 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.

**Commentary:** Doesn't that sound like how things would be if America were someday annihilated by nuclear devastation?

**Rev18:11** And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

**Rev18:12** 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,



**Rev18:13** 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.

**Rev18:14** 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.

**Rev18:15** The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

**Rev18:16** 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!

**Rev18:17** 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,

**Rev18:18** And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

**Rev18:19** 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.

**Rev18:20** Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

**Commentary:** Those in heaven are told to rejoice over the judgment of Babylon, for even though it may seem severe, God is righteous in his judgment of her. (Rev19:2-3)

**Rev18:21** 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.

**Commentary:** Whether or not America will be inhabited again during the thousand-year reign of Christ of earth remains to be seen. Perhaps it will remain as it is described in Rev18:21-23 – as a memorial. (Rev16:19)

**Rev18:22** 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;

**Rev18:23** 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.

**Commentary:** Just like ancient Babylon in the prophecy of Jeremiah 51.

**Rev18:24** And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

**Commentary:** We may consider that the blood of the prophets, and of the saints does not pertain to America, but the verse certainly applies concerning the innocent millions who have been aborted. (Jer2:34) Remember, in the last days God going to judge the epitome of Babylon, which is inclusive of all that Babylon has been in the past, and all that she is in the time of the end.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 19

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 18 highlights the reaction in heaven concerning the judgment of Babylon, and then presents a brief glimpse concerning the marriage supper of the Lamb that happens in heaven after the Rapture, during the days when the vials of God's wrath are poured out upon the earth. Then Revelation 19 covers what happens immediately after the marriage supper when Jesus and the armies of heaven mount up on white horses to return to earth for the battle of Armageddon.

**Rev19:1** 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:

**Rev19:2** 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.

**Rev19:3** And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

**Rev19:4** And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

**Rev19:5** 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.

**Rev19:6** 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.

**Rev19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

**Rev19:8** 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.

**Rev19:9** 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.

**Rev19:10** 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.

**Commentary:** Apparently, this “angel” that John was speaking with is not an angel, but a fellow believer – a Christian. At certain times throughout his Revelation experience, John thought that he is being spoken to by an angel, possibly because of his glowing, heavenly appearance – like at the transfiguration. (Matt17:1-3)

However, twice throughout Revelation, this “angel” or messenger identifies himself as a “fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus” – meaning, he is a fellow believer, a Christian. (Rev19:10 Rev22:9)

**Rev19:11** 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.

**Commentary:** Immediately after the marriage supper of the Lamb, Jesus, and the armies of heaven (the saints – Jude1:14), mount up on white horses to return to earth for the battle of Armageddon, to cut short those days of trouble (Matt24:22), and to save the remnant of Israel (Rom9:26-29), and to defeat the Antichrist and bind and cast Satan into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. (Rev20:1-3)

**Rev19:12** 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.

**Rev19:13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

**Rev19:14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

**Commentary:** The armies of heaven referred to here are dressed in fine linen. These are not angels, because angels don't ride horses – they fly. Furthermore, Jude1:14 tells us that Jesus returns with his saints to execute judgment upon the ungodly. Therefore, the armies of heaven who return with Jesus to the battle of Armageddon are the saints.

**Rev19:15** 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.

**Rev19:16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

**Rev19:17** 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;

**Rev19:18** 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.

**Commentary:** Rev19:17-18 corresponds with or reflects Ezk39:17-20.

A closer examination of Ezekiel Chapter 39 reveals that the prophecy is mostly speaking in terms of the battle of Armageddon, and what follows during the seven months and seven years that follow. (Ezk39:12-14)

To a lesser extent, the Ezekiel 39 prophecy also speaks about the battle of Gog and Magog and the demise of Gog and Magog that happens at the end of the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. (Ezk39:6 Rev20:7-9)

**Rev19:19** 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.

**Rev19:20** 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.

**Commentary:** Here we learn that two-thirds of the unholy trinity (the beast and the false prophet) are cast into the lake of fire. This presents a mystery, because Satan, who is the Antichrist, and who is also referred to as the beast, is cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years and does not rise out of the bottomless pit until after the thousand years. Therefore, how can the beast be in the lake of fire and the bottomless pit at the same time – during the thousand years? Perhaps the answer is found in a three-fold chord. Take away two pieces of a threefold cord, and what remains is still a chord! (Ecc4:12) Cast two-thirds of the beast into the lake of fire, and what remains is still the beast!

**Rev19:21** 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.

**Commentary:** This “remnant” is not referring to the remnant of Israel – the “blessed”, “saved flesh”, 144,000 who are saved at the battle of Armageddon. (Rom9:26-29 Dan12:12 Matt24:22 Rev14:1-5) Rather, this remnant mentioned in Rev19:21 is the remainder of the wicked – those who had worshipped the image of the beast and had received his mark, but who had not been killed during the great tribulation, nor during the outpouring of the vials of God’s wrath, nor were this remnant killed at the battle of Armageddon. This remnant is then finally slain by the Word of God. (Rev19:15 Heb4:12)

Scripture seems to indicate that the only humans left alive on earth are those who did not worship the image of the beast nor receive his mark but were not saved, born again believers at the time of the Rapture when Jesus appeared in the clouds. (Lk18:8 Jn6:39,40,44,54 Rev1:7 Matt24:29-31 Jn20:29)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 20

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 20 opens with John explaining the vision in which he sees Satan bound in chains and cast into the bottomless pit, which happens at the time of the battle of Armageddon, before Christ's thousand-year reign on earth begins.

Next, John sees a vision of the martyrs who were beheaded for Christ during the great tribulation, but who are then ruling with Christ during his reign on earth. Of course, those who rule with Jesus during his kingdom on earth are not limited to these martyrs alone. Jesus promised that those who have forsaken all to serve him will also rule with him in his millennial kingdom. (Matt19:28-29)

Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he spoke of "the prize of the high calling of God" – a reward beyond the gift of salvation. It doesn't seem that every born-again believer will need to be on earth ruling with Jesus during his kingdom on earth. (Matt6:10 Lk19:17) More likely, the greater number of God's people will be in heaven.

After this vision, John was shown a series of visions that reveal events to happen at the end of Christ's thousand-year reign on earth – from the time Satan is released, through to the great white throne judgment seat of God – and beyond to Eternity.



**Rev20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**Commentary:** This angel seems to be the same “star” angel who was given the key of the bottomless pit in Rev9:1. Now, in Rev20:1 this angel already has the key – meaning, he has authority over the bottomless pit.

**Rev20:2** And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

**Commentary:** This angel can be identified as Apollyon in Rev9:1,11. Therefore, contrary to tradition and folklore, Apollyon is an angel of heaven who serves Jesus – not a fallen angel, nor the devil himself, as some would surmise.

**Rev20:3** 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.

**Commentary:** The bottomless pit is the second-last place Satan wants to be, and the last place Satan wants to be is in the lake of fire where he will end up at the end of the thousand years.

It is a misunderstanding to think that Satan resides in “hell”. Scripture declares he roams “to and fro in the earth, walking up and down it”. Currently, Satan also has access to the courts of heaven where he accuses Christians on earth day and night before God. (Job2:1-2 Rev12:10) Furthermore, where scripture mentions “the beast that ascendeth ...” or “the beast that shall ascend out of the bottomless pit”, it is a term or title attributed to Satan, but the actual event won’t happen until the end of the thousand years. (Rev11:7 Rev17:8)

**Rev20:4** 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.

**Commentary:** This is a vision of Christian martyrs who were beheaded or died for their faith in Jesus during the great tribulation. However, those who reign with Christ are not limited to these alone. Many have been and will be martyred in other ways for their faith. (Dan11:32-35) Their reward is to rule with Christ during his reign on earth, along with all those who have forsaken all to follow and serve Jesus during their life on earth. (Matt19:28-29)

**Rev20:5** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

**Commentary:** This verse does not imply that the first resurrection happens at the end of the thousand years. John is simply making a statement before he goes on to explain the difference between the first and second resurrection.

**Rev20:6** 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.

**Commentary:** Those who take part in the first resurrection are not subject to the great white throne judgment of God that happens after the millennial reign of Christ on earth. (Rev20:5)

Those who take part in the first resurrection are the saved, born-again believers in Christ, and they take part in the judgment seat of Christ that happens after the Rapture. (2Cor5:10) That is when the saints are rewarded!

However, because death is the last enemy to be conquered, there will still be death during the reign of Christ on earth, and therefore there will be a second resurrection at the end of the millennium. (1Cor15:26 Isa65:20)

The second resurrection shall include the unsaved, unbelievers of all time, plus all those who have died during the thousand years – both believers and unbelievers. (Rev20:13 Isa65:20) The believer shall be resurrected to everlasting life, but the unbelieving sinner shall be resurrected to stand before God at the great white throne judgment seat of God, to be judged according to their works – and that shall determine their final fate. (Isa65:20 Dan12:2 Rev20:11-15)

This is when the harvest happens at the end of the world when the “tares” (the wicked) are gathered to be burned, but the “good seed” (the wheat) is gathered into the barn – heaven. (Matt13:39,30)

**Rev20:7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

**Rev20:8** 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.

**Commentary:** Even after experiencing the personal reign of Christ for a thousand years, Satan is still able to deceive the multitudes and nations.

Many of those who have repopulated the earth during Christ's millennial kingdom will be deceived and band together with Satan (Gog) and they (Magog) will rebel against Jesus and his faithful.

**Rev20:9** 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.

**Commentary:** It is possible that the battle of Gog and Magog will be a “non-event”, because as they gather to do battle, God simply sends fire on Gog and Magog and devours them!

As a separate point of interest, Rev20:9 informs us that during the thousand-year reign of Christ, Jerusalem shall be known as “the camp of the saints”. Although heaven is our home, Jerusalem will be the saints’ “base camp” – our capital on earth until new Jerusalem comes down through the new heaven (atmosphere) and lands on the new earth. (Rev21:1-3)

During Christ's millennial reign, many of the saints will be ruling and reigning over numerous cities as the earth's population grows, but Jerusalem will be their headquarters on earth. (Lk19:17 Rev20:9) This does not mean we cannot visit heaven. At that time, visiting heaven will be easy, because our means of transport on earth, and between earth and heaven, shall be the same as it was for Jesus after he was resurrected – we'll fly! (Acts1:9-11 1Jn3:2) This should not be difficult for any Christian to understand and believe. (1Cor2:9-10 Matt16:17 Jn14:26)

**Rev20:10** 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.

**Commentary:** Satan is finally cast into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet have been for a thousand years, and where death and hell will also be cast. (1Cor15:26 Rev20:13-14)

**Rev20:11** 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.

**Commentary:** The term “from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them” is referring to the time when the seventh vial shall be poured out into the air, at the time when the earth shall be judged with fire, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the oceans shall evaporate, forming a new heaven (atmosphere) and a new earth out of the same elements, ready to receive new Jerusalem. (Rev16:20 2Pet3:7,10 Rev20:1-3)

**Rev20:12** 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.

**Commentary:** Those who are resurrected “on the last day” of the great tribulation take part in the first resurrection. (Jn6:39,40,44,54 Rev20:5 1Cor15:23)

However, for those who die past the time of the Rapture, they shall all be physically resurrected and take part in the second resurrection at the end of the thousand years.

If they “died in Christ” as a believer during the millennium, they shall be resurrected unto everlasting life at the end of the thousand years; but if they died as an unsaved sinner during the thousand years, they will be resurrected with all the unsaved sinners of all time, and together they shall stand before the great white throne judgment seat of God to be judged by their works.

(Isa65:20 Dan12:2 Rev20:13)

**Rev20:13** 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.

**Commentary:** There are opposing points of view and much controversy concerning whether or not there may be some level of salvation or redemption after death. There is a plausible argument in scripture to support both points of view.

Certainly, there seems to be some evidence in scripture that works play a role in the final judgment of the unbeliever. Otherwise, what is the purpose of the various books being opened at the great white throne judgment seat of God, if those not saved by grace don't have some hope of redemption? Why would the unsaved not pass from life directly into the lake of fire if there was not a redeeming purpose for “hell” – the spiritual dimension where Jesus visited and preached to the spirits “in prison” in those days and nights between the cross and his resurrection (1Pet3:18-19) – so that he might lead captivity captive to

heaven. (Eph4:7-9) Nevertheless, it is a far greater blessing to believe without seeing, than to need to see before believing. (Jn20:29)

**Rev20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

**Rev20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 21

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** In Revelation Chapter 21, John explains what happens after the great white throne judgment seat of God (Rev20:11-15), and after the earth has been judged with fire and the elements melt with fervent heat, creating a new heaven (atmosphere) and a new earth. (2Pet3:7,10)

John sees the heavenly city, mount Sion, the new Jerusalem, coming down to rest upon the new earth. Then, John hears a great voice from heaven say that God has come to dwell with his creation on earth. Think of that – eventually, the Creator of the universe shall dwell with his people on the new earth!

After seeing this vision, one of the angels that had one of the seven last plagues of God takes John on a guided tour of the heavenly mount Sion – the new Jerusalem.

**Rev21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

**Commentary:** After the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, the seventh vial of God's wrath is poured out into the air, at the time when the earth is judged with fire, which results in the elements dissolving with fervent heat, and the mountains melt, and the seas evaporate and are no more. This is when God makes all things new – a new heaven (atmosphere) and a new earth.



**Rev21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Commentary:** Then John sees the glorious holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down and resting on the newly formed earth.

**Rev21:3** And 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.

**Commentary:** In the whole of the universe, God the Creator of everything in the universe is going to dwell here on earth, on this little planet!

**Rev21:4** And 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.

**Commentary:** Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal! Even though we now see through a glass darkly, one day we shall have the answers to all our questions, and we shall know and understand the wisdom of God in allowing this present time to happen. (Isa55:8-9)

We truly cannot appreciate the light until we have known darkness! We truly cannot appreciate God's love and righteousness without having experienced the hate and unrighteousness of Satan! (Isa55:10-13)

**Rev21:5** And 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.

**Rev21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Rev21:7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

**Rev21:8** But 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.

**Rev21:9** And 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.

**Commentary:** Here, an angel takes John on a “spirit trip” higher into the spirit realm where he is given a guided tour of the heavenly city. This is no longer simply a vision – this is a spiritual experience in which everything is as tangible to John as it is in this physical realm.

**Rev21:10** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

**Commentary:** Notice here that John is taken to what he calls “a great high mountain”. John is not viewing the heavenly city from a great high mountain, but rather John is speaking of the heavenly mount Sion, which he describes as a great high mountain.

**Rev21:11** Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

**Rev21:12** And 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:

**Rev21:13** On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

**Rev21:14** And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**Rev21:15** And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.

**Rev21:16** And 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.

**Commentary:** From this description, many have assumed that the heavenly city must be a cube shape. However, there is another possibility.

We understand from balanced scripture that heaven is referred to as a mountain shape. (Heb12:22 Dan2:45 Rev21:10) Therefore, it is possible that the heavenly mount Sion is a pyramid shape, square at the base, with the length and the breadth and the height being equal, with the height being measured from any of the four base corners, up to the apex. Maybe the Egyptians were merely imitating the shape of things to come. (Rev21:2)

The Word says that the things of the spirit world that we cannot yet see can be understood by the things that we can already see in this physical world.

(Rom1:20)

Furthermore, the description of the heavenly city leads some to believe that the length of the city is 12,000 furlongs (1,500 miles) and the breadth is 12,000 furlongs, while others read the verse to mean that the total length of the city is 12,000 furlongs (375 miles x 375 miles).

Some will say that if the latter is true, then that would greatly reduce the interior area of the city, which is true. By the same token, some will say that if the heavenly city is a pyramid shape, then there would be less space than if it were a cube shape.

One thing that we all need to remember is that heaven is a place like no other place, existing in a universe without a boundary. Therefore, it is possible that within the heavenly city there may exist dimensions within dimensions – portals leading to other limitless dimensions – for with God, nothing shall be impossible. (Matt19:26)

**Rev21:17** And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.

**Rev21:18** And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

**Rev21:19** And 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;

**Rev21:20** The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

**Rev21:21** And 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.

**Rev21:22** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

**Rev21:23** And 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.

**Commentary:** This does not mean that the sun and the moon will not continue to exist. This verse simply informs us as to what lights the heavenly city.

**Rev21:24** And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

**Commentary:** This informs us that on the new earth there shall be nations and kingdoms.

**Rev21:25** And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

**Rev21:26** And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

**Rev21:27** And 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.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER 22

### With Commentary

(All Scripture references are KJV)

**Opening Commentary:** Revelation Chapter 22 is a continuation of Chapter 21.

We need to note that the book of Revelation was originally penned as one continual passage of the written Word, with no chapter and verse numbers.

John's whole experience is a continual series of visions, and sometimes only things which John heard, and sometimes John tells of spiritual experiences where his spirit was transported to a different time and place.

Most of this chapter is self-explanatory, although mysterious, so comments shall be kept to a minimum.

**Rev22:1** 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.

**Rev22:2** In 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.

**Commentary:** Here is an interesting verse that tells us that the nations shall need healing in the future. Perhaps this is only referring to the nations that shall be on earth during the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. We shall need to wait and see exactly what this refers to. (1Cor13:12)

**Rev22:3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

**Rev22:4** And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

**Rev22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

**Rev22:6** And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

**Commentary:** Again, “the things which must shortly be done” does not mean that everything written about throughout the book of Revelation needs to happen shortly after Revelation was written. Obviously, the things that are written about span from John’s day through to Eternity. However, most of the things written about in Revelation shall happen within a short period of time, during the seven years of Daniel’s seventieth week – the last seven years before Jesus returns. (Dan9:27)

**Rev22:7** Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

**Rev22:8** And 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.

**Rev22:9** Then 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.

**Commentary:** This is the second time John thinks he is talking with an angel. However, he corrects John again, saying, “I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book”. In other words, John was speaking with the soul of a fellow Christian.

In each instance, John probably saw their glowing, celestial appearance and mistook this Christian soul to be an angel. (Rev19:10 Dan12:3 Mk9:2-4)

Elsewhere, John confirms that the “angel” in Rev19:10 is a man, saying, “the measure of a man, that is, of the angel”. (Rev21:17)

But most revealing is that this “angel” is identified as “one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues”. (Rev21:9)

God is not the author of confusion (1Cor14:33), but he certainly is the master of mystery and intrigue. (Prov25:2)

**Rev22:10** And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

**Commentary:** Compare this statement with the instruction given to the prophet Daniel when he was told to seal up the book of prophecy until the time of the end. Such a comparison helps us to understand the relationship between the prophecies of Daniel and the prophecy of the book of Revelation – they complement each other so that we can begin to better understand events to happen in the time of the end. (Dan12:4 Rev22:10)



**Rev22:11** He 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.

**Rev22:12** And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

**Commentary:** It is a misunderstanding to think that Jesus meant that he was coming soon after this prophecy was given. (Lk7:35) It simply means that Jesus is going to suddenly appear, like lightning that shines from the east to the west. That's how Jesus shall appear in the clouds on the day of resurrection – at the time of the Rapture. (Matt24:27 Jn6:39,40,44,54)

**Rev22:13** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

**Rev22:14** Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

**Rev22:15** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

**Rev22:16** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

**Rev22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

**Rev22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

**Rev22:19** And 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.

**Commentary:** Rev22:18-19 is referring to the “prophecy of this book” – the book of Revelation, and not the Bible per se. The Bible, as we have it today, is a compilation of many books of scripture. Therefore, it seems unwise to claim that God finished speaking at the end of the book of Revelation.

Acts2:17-18 promised, “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy”.

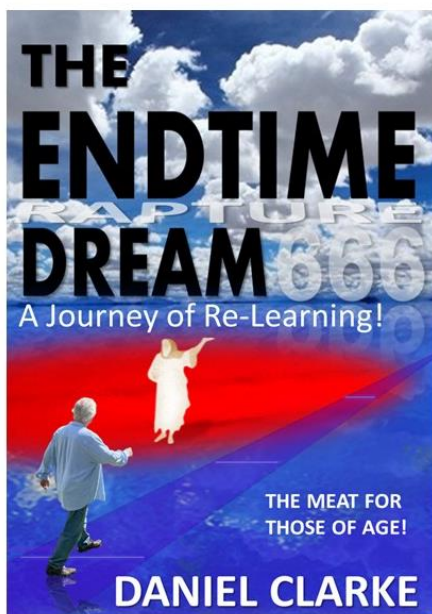
Christians should not despise prophesying (1Thess5:20), but rather we should embrace the correct use of this valuable gift of the Spirit, and we need to learn how to discern the difference between that which is inspired by the Lord, and that which is not. (1Jn4:1-4) In these last days, prophecy is a gift to be sought after and thoughtfully and responsibly used for the glory of God. (Eph4:11-12)

**Rev22:20** He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**Rev22:20** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

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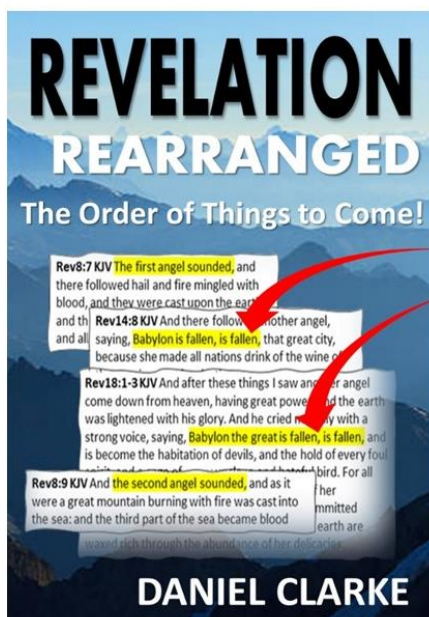
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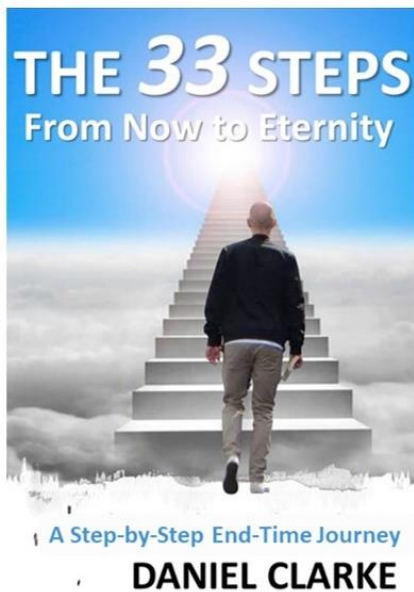
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