

**STUDIES IN
THE BOOK OF
REVELATION**

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INFORMATION ABOUT REVELATION

Name:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

(Revelation 1:1)

go to page 2

Author:

The Apostle John

(Revelation 1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)

go to page 3

Place Written:

The Island of Patmos

(Revelation 1:9)

go to page 4

To Whom Written:

The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

(Revelation 1:4)

go to page 4

Date:

A.D. 96

go to page 5

NAME

In everyday speech:

REVELATION

(Greek = Apocalypse)

means:

UNVEILING or UNCOVERING

NOT REVELATIONS

It is the **ONE** Revelation of Jesus Christ

In the Authorized Version:

THE REVELATION OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

(St. = Saint as in Revelation 5:8)

(Divine = Theologian)

tells us:

John is the human writer of the book

In the book of Revelation:

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

tells us:

Jesus Christ is the **REVEALER**

Jesus Christ is the **ONE REVEALED**

AUTHOR

JOHN
(Revelation 1:1)
is
THE APOSTLE JOHN

1.

He is identified simply as John
(everyone knew who he was)

2.

The early church knew it was the Apostle John
see page 6

3.

There are many similarities between John's Gospel and Epistles

- a. They are the only books that call Jesus "**the Word**"
(John. 1:1; Revelation 19:13)
- b. They also call Jesus "**the Lamb**"
(John 1:29, Revelation 5:6)
- c: They are the only NT books that use the words:
 "**living water**"
 (John 4:10; Revelation 7:17)
 "**he that overcometh**"
 (I John 21:7; Revelation 2:7)
 "**keep the commandments**"
 (John 14:15; Revelation 12:17)

**The Seven Churches of Asia Minor
&
the Island of Patmos**



DATE

Two Suggested:

NO A.D. 66

(preferred by those who believe that
most of Revelation foretells the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70)
this is the PRETERITE view of Revelation
go to page 6

YES A.D. 96

(preferred by everyone else)

PROOF

John (died A.D. 99)

|
taught
↓

Polycarp (died a martyr A.D. 155)

|
taught
↓

Irenaeus (died a martyr A.D. 202)

who said:

We are not bold enough to speak confidently of the name of Antichrist. For if it were necessary that his name should be declared clearly at the present time, it would have been announced by him who saw the Revelation. For it was seen, not long ago, but almost in our generation, toward the end of the reign of Domitian. *Against Heresies*, Book V, Chapter 30, Part 3.

(other quotes from the earliest church fathers say the same)

↓

- The Emperor Domitian died in A.D. 96 -

INTERPRETING REVELATION

4 Different Views

(these apply especially to chapters 6-19)

1. Preterite - Past

most of Revelation fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem

NO

2. Historic - Present*

all of Revelation being continually fulfilled today

YES

3. Futurist - Future

most of Revelation to be fulfilled in the future

NO

4. Allegorical - No Time Reference

Revelation has no reference to past, present or future

(John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* is an allegory)

NO

*We follow a modified form of the Historical or Continuous Historical View perhaps better called the **Prophetic View** (go to page 12).

- 1) Revelation *does not* reveal specific EVENTS of history.
- 2) It *does* set forth PRINCIPLES seen throughout history.

go to pages 7, 8, 9
for further information about these views

THE FOUR DIFFERENT VIEWS OF REVELATION

1. Problems with the PRETERITE view:

a. Most of the book no longer has any application to Christians today. Yet Revelation 1:3 says, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein."

b. Many things even in the part of the book supposed to have been fulfilled in the past are clearly present or future. According to this view, the beast of Revelation 13 and 17 is supposed to be the Emperor Nero, yet Revelation 13:8 says, "*All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.*"

2. Problems with the FUTURIST view:

a. Again, most of the book has no real application to Christians today. Yet Revelation 1:3 tells us that we are to "*keep the things that are written therein*" - they are not just matters of information about the future.

b. Many things in chapters 6-19 are present or past. For example, the beast of Revelation 13 and 17, who is supposed to represent a future Antichrist, is described in Revelation 17:8 as one who "*was, and is not, and yet is.*"

c. Also, Revelation 1:3 says that things recorded in Revelation "*must shortly come to pass*" and that the book was originally written for the seven churches in Asia Minor.

3. Problems with the ALLEGORICAL view:

a. This view does not take into account the fact that Revelation is prophecy (1:3; 22:18, 19) of "things that must shortly come to pass" i.e., real historical events.

b. There are also many things in Revelation that are not allegorical, e.g., the birth and ascension of Jesus in Revelation 12:5.

4. Reasons for preferring the PROPHETIC view:

a. This view makes the book of Revelation relevant in every age.

b. The book of Revelation itself tells us: that it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ; and that He is the one "*which is, and which was, and which is to come.*"

c. Many things even in chapters 6-19 clearly have both a past and present as well as a future reference.

THE FUTURIST AND PRETERITE VIEWS OF REVELATION

History

1.

The PRETERITE View:

**Developed by the Jesuit, Luis de Alcazar (1554-1613),
of Seville, Spain.**

Held today by most Postmillennialists and Reconstructionists.

2.

The FUTURIST View:

**Developed by the Jesuit, Francisco Ribera (1537-1591),
of Salamanca, Spain.**

**Popularized by Cardinal Bellarmine (1542-1621),
of Italy.**

Held today by Premillennialists and Dispensationalists.

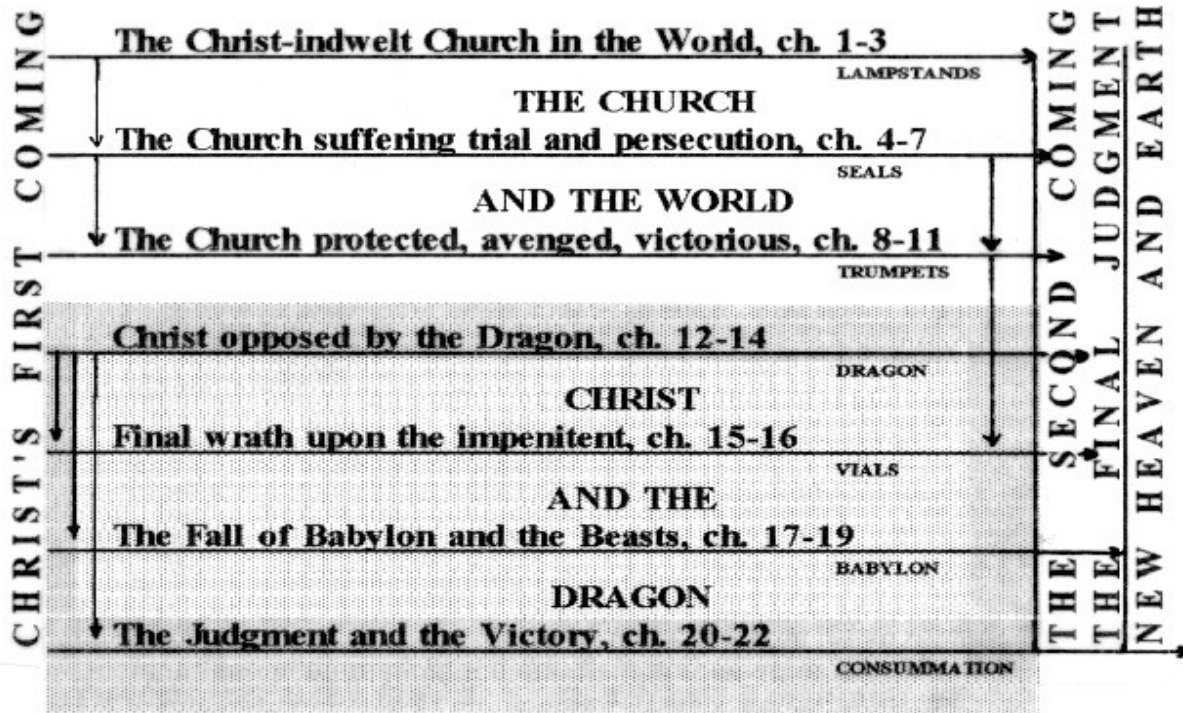
Explanation:

**Both views were developed
to counter the claims of the Protestant Reformation
that identified
the PAPACY and the ANTICHRIST.**

Quote:

"The Futurist School, founded by the Jesuit Ribera in 1591, looks for Antichrist, Babylon, and a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, at the end of the Christian dispensation. The Praeterist School, founded by the Jesuit Alcazar, explain the Revelation by the Fall of Jerusalem [in A.D. 70] or by the fall of Pagan Rome in 410 A.D." G.S. Hitchcock (a Roman Catholic author), *The Beasts and the Little Horn*, 7 (quoted from John Robbins, *The Trinity Review*, Number 116).

THE PROPHETIC-HISTORICAL VIEW OF REVELATION



EXPLANATION

1. Parallelism.

The parallel lines = indicate the seven parallel sections.

2. Progress in intensity of spiritual conflict.

The light and shaded portion represent:

- The battle as we see it, between church and world (light portion).
- The spiritual background to the struggle, the battle between Christ and Satan (shaded portion).

Progress in revelation.

The seals reveal the trumpets which reveal the bowls ↓.

Christ in the church results in persecution, which leads to victory ↓.

War between Christ and the dragon leads to judgment and victory ↓.

Progress in eschatological emphasis.

The arrows ⇒ bring us further into the end.

(adapted from William Henrickson, *More than Conquerors*, p. 48)

THE PARALLELISM

go also to pages 42, 43
for an outline of Revelation

Argument #1

Every section finishes with a vision of the judgment.

JUDGMENT REVEALED

Section I, chapters 1-3 → chapter 3:21, etc.

JUDGMENT ANNOUNCED

Section II, chapters 4-7 → chapter 6:12-17.

Section III, chapters 8-11 → chapter 11:15-18.

JUDGMENT FINISHED

Section IV, chapters 12-14 → chapter 14:14-20.

Section V, chapters 15, 16 → chapter 16:17-21.

Section VI, chapters 17-19 → chapter 19:11-21.

Section VII, chapters 20-22 → chapter 20:11-15.

(the last section goes beyond to describe also the new heavens and earth)

Conclusion:

The sections are parallel,
each covering the entire NT dispensation,
from the first to the second coming of Christ.

Argument #2:

Each division describes the same struggle and outcome.

Division I (Sections I-III, Chapters 1-11)

The struggle: The Church and the World → *Outcome:* the Church victorious.
= the struggle as it is apparent to us.

Division II (Sections IV-VII, Chapters 12-22)

The struggle: Christ and the Dragon → *Outcome:* Christ victorious.
= the spiritual background of the struggle.

Conclusion:

The two divisions of the book are parallel,
describing the same struggle as it takes place throughout the NT dispensation,
and the same victory.

Argument #3

There are many other parallels.

DIFFERENT SECTIONS DESCRIBE THE SAME TIME PERIOD:

Section III → Main period = 42 months = 1260 days (11:2-3).
Section IV → Main period = 1260 days = 3.5 years (12:14-16).

Conclusion:

Sections III & IV describe the same time period.

DIFFERENT SECTIONS DESCRIBE THE SAME EVENTS:

Section III (Chapters 8-11):

First trumpet → affects the EARTH
Second trumpet → affects the SEA
Third trumpet → affects the RIVERS
Fourth trumpet → affects the SUN
Fifth trumpet → affects the BEAST
Sixth trumpet → affects the EUPHRATES
Seventh trumpet → affects the SECOND COMING & JUDGMENT

Section V (Chapters 15-16):

First vial → affects the EARTH
Second vial → affects the SEA
Third vial → affects the RIVERS
Fourth vial → affects the SUN
Fifth vial → affects the BEAST
Sixth vial → affects the EUPHRATES
Seventh vial → affects the SECOND COMING & JUDGMENT

Also Sections V, VI, & VII refer to THE BATTLE (16:12; 19:19; 20:8)

Conclusion:

Sections III & V describe exactly the same events,
so do sections V, VI & VII.

DIFFERENT SECTIONS DESCRIBE THE SAME CHARACTERS:

Section IV → The four enemies of Christ: their rise.
(the dragon, the two beasts, the great whore)
Sections VI, VII → The four enemies of Christ: their downfall.
(the great whore, the two beasts, the dragon)

Conclusion:

Sections IV and VII are parallel; describe the rise and fall of the beast's kingdom.

REVELATION AS PROPHECY

Revelation
is
PROPHECY



Revelation 1:3
&
Revelation 22:18, 19

What is prophecy?

1.

Prophecy is not just prediction of the FUTURE.

2.

Prophecy is God's light shed on all things,
PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.

Proof:

1.

Less than 10% of prophecy in the OT and NT
has to do with the future.

2.

A prophet by definition is simply
One who is filled to overflowing with God's Word,
i.e., a preacher.

SYMBOLISM IN REVELATION

go to pages 15-40

Questions:

Are there figures & symbols in Revelation?

YES

Does everything have to be taken literally?

NO

Proof:

1.

Revelation itself tells us there are figures.

REVELATION 1:1

"He sent and *signified* it by His angel unto His servant."

2.

Many things are not taken literally in Revelation.

EXAMPLES

Revelation 1:20

Revelation 5:6

Revelation 10:3, 4

Revelation 12:9

Revelation 19:8

Revelation 21:9, 10

Revelation 22:16

3.

Many things cannot be taken literally in Revelation.

EXAMPLES

Revelation 1:12-16

Revelation 2:17, 28

Revelation 3:12

etc.

EIGHT RULES FOR INTERPRETING FIGURES

1. Do not interpret something figuratively or symbolically if it can be taken literally.

2. Just because something is figurative does not mean all similar things are also, e.g., because one number is symbolic does not mean they all are, or, because many colors are symbolic, there is no reason to make green symbolic in Revelation 8:7, 9:4.

3. If something is figurative or symbolic you will be able to find other passages that support the fact that it is figurative and that help to explain it.

4. Things that are part of other figures or symbols are usually themselves figurative, e.g., the details of the new Jerusalem.

5. Do not, however, press the details, i.e., every part of a figure or symbol does not have to mean something (the parables of Jesus are a good example of this).

6. Look for the central idea of a figure or group of figures and interpret figuratively only those other details that obviously fit into that central idea.

7. Be careful, be sober, and do not twist the Scriptures (II Corinthians 4:2, II Peter 3:16).

8. Pray.

NUMBERS

***1/4**

1/4 of men killed (6:8)

***1/3**

1/3 of trees destroyed (8:7)

1/3 of the sea made blood (8:8)

1/3 of the sea creatures destroyed (8:9)

1/3 of the waters made wormwood (8:10,11)

1/3 of the heavenly luminaries darkened (8:12)

1/3 of men killed (9:15, 18)

1/3 of the "stars" pulled down by the dragon (12:4)

***2**

2 witnesses (11:2)

2 olive trees and 2 candlesticks (11:4)

2 prophets (11:10)

2 wings of the woman (12:14)

2 horns of the beast (13:11)

***3**

3 unclean spirits (16:13)

3 divisions of the Babylon (16:19)

3 gates on each side of the new Jerusalem (21:13)

3 1/2

3 1/2 days (11:9)

4

4 beasts (4:6ff)

4 angels holding the winds (7:1, 2)

4 corners of the earth (7:1)

4 horns of the altar (9:13)

4 angels bound in Euphrates (9:14, 15)

NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

***5**

5 months (9:5, 10)
5 fallen kings (17:10)

6

6-winged beasts (4:8)

7

7 candlesticks and 7 stars (1:13, 16ff)
7 churches (1:20)
7 spirits of God (4:5)
7 lamps of fire (4:5)
7 seals (5:1, 5)
7 horns and 7 eyes (5:6)
7 trumpets (8:2, 6)
7 speaking thunders (10:3, 4)
7 heads of the beast (12:3; 13:1ff)
7 vials (15:1-7)
7 mountains (17:9)
7 kings serving the beast (17:10)

10

10 days of tribulation (2:10)
10-horned beast (13:1, 3ff)

12

12-starred crown (12:1)
12 gates of 12 pearls of the new Jerusalem (21:12, 21)
12 angel guards (21:12)
12 tribes of Israel (21:12)
12 foundations of the new Jerusalem of 12 precious stones (21:14ff)
12 apostles' names (21:14)
12 kinds of fruit on the tree of life (22:2)

NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

24

24 seats and elders (4:4ff)

42

42 months of trouble for Jerusalem (11:2)

42 months for the beast (13:5)

144

144 cubit walls in the new Jerusalem (21:17)

600

600 furlongs of blood (14:20)

666

666 = the number of the beast (13:18)

1000

1000 years in which Satan is bound (20:2-7)

1260

1260 days of prophecy by the two witnesses (11:3)

1260 days in which the woman is fed (12:6)

7000

7,000 slain in an earthquake (11:13)

12,000

12,000 sealed of each tribe of Israel (7:5-8)

12,000 furlongs, the height, length and width of the new Jerusalem (21:16)

144,000

144,000 sealed (14:1-3)

NUMBERS (CONTINUED)

1,000,000

1,000,000 worshippers around the throne (5:11)

note:

Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense

notes:

1. Many numbers are obviously related: 6 & 600 & 666 / 7 & 7000 / 144 & 144,000 / 10 & 1000 & 1,000,000 / 12 & 12,000.

2. Several number are given in different forms: 3 1/2 years (also referred to as a time, times and half a time) = 42 months = 1260 days.

3. Apparently some numbers are also combinations of others: $3 \frac{1}{2} = 7 \div 2$, $24 = 12 + 12$, $144 = 12 \times 12$, $144,000 = 12 \times 12 \times 1000$.

4. When numbers are multiplied intensification, emphasis, or fullness are usually indicated.

5. It is clear that numbers are important and have meaning in Revelation, but one must be very careful with them - one can make them say anything one wants.

NUMBERS

(CONTINUED)

suggested references:

1. **1/4** - see 1/3.
2. **1/3** - with 1/4 shows an increase or intensification.
3. **2** - does not clearly have any special significance.
4. **3** - does not clearly have any significance in Revelation.
5. **3 1/2** - ($= 7 \div 2$) significant as a shortening of 7 (Matthew 24:22) refers to the whole NT era as a short time.
6. **4** - the creation (Revelation 7:1; cf. also the number 40 in Scripture which seems to refer to the fullness of earthly life).
7. **5** - does not clearly have any significance in Scripture.
8. **6** - man (Revelation 12:18, literally, "the number of man").
9. **7** - perfection and fullness, especially the perfection of God's covenant and or rest therein (Exodus 31:16; Psalm 12:6; Hebrews 4:4).
10. **10** - completeness (Exodus 32:15; Daniel 1:20; Revelation 2:10).
11. **12** - the church (12 tribes in the OT, 12 apostles in the NT - see Revelation 7:5-8; 21:1; 21:12-21).
12. **24** - ($12 + 12$) the complete church of both OT and NT.
13. **42** - used of months = 3 1/2 years.
14. **144** - (12×12) also the complete church of both OT and NT.
15. **600** - ($6 \times 10 \times 10$) a combination of 6 and 10.
16. **666** - a repetition of 6 for emphasis.
17. **1000** - ($10 \times 10 \times 10$) a variation of the number 10 (Psalm 50:10).
18. **1260** - used of days = 3 1/2 years.
19. **7000** - ($7 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$) a combination 7 and 10.
20. **12,000** - ($12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$) a combination of 12 and 10.
21. **144,000** - ($12 \times 12 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10$) a combination of 12 and 10.
22. **1,000,000** - another variation of the number 10.

COLORS

white

White hair (1:14)

White stone (2:17)

White raiment (3:4, 5, 18; 4:4)

White horses (6:2; 19:11, 14)

White robes (6:11; 7:9, 13)

White cloud (14:14)

White linen clothing (15:6; 19:8, 14)

White throne (20:11)

red = fiery red

Red horse (6:4)

Red dragon (12:3)

black

Black horse (6:5)

Black sun (6:12)

pale = pale green

Pale horse (6:8)

green (emerald)

Rainbow (4:3)

Green grass and trees (8:7; 9:4)

scarlet = crimson

Scarlet beast (17:3)

Scarlet clothing (17:4)

Scarlet cloth (18:12, 16)

purple

Purple clothing (17:4)

Purple cloth (18:12, 16)

suggested references:

1. **White** - purity & holiness (Isaiah 1:18, Daniel 12:10).
2. **Red** - war & blood (Nahum 2:3, Isaiah 63:1-6).
3. **Black** - famine & judgment (Jeremiah 4:28, Lamentations 5:10).
4. **Pale** - death & plague (Leviticus 13:49, Jeremiah 30:6).
5. **Green** - life & hope (Psalm 52:8, Luke 23:31).
6. **Scarlet** - sin (Isaiah 1:18).
7. **Purple** - kingly power and glory (Judges 8:26, Mark 15:17-18).

NATIONS & PLACES

Jerusalem

Revelation 3:12; 21:2; 21:10

Euphrates

Revelation 9:14; 16:12

Egypt

Revelation 11:8

Sodom

Revelation 11:8

Mount Sion

Revelation 14:1

Babylon

Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21

Armageddon

Revelation 16:16

Gog and Magog

Revelation 20:8

suggested references:

1. **Jerusalem** - the church (Heb. 12:22-23) or the false church (Rev. 11:8).
2. **Egypt** - the world as a place of bondage in sin (Ex. 20:1; Matt. 2:15; Rev. 11:8).
3. **Sodom** - the world as fulfilling all wickedness (Gen. 13:13; 18:20; Jude, 7; Rev. 11:8)
4. **Mount Sion** - the church (Heb. 12:22).
5. **Babylon** - the world as the enemy of God's people (Ps. 137; Is. 14:4-15; Rev. 17:6).
6. **Armageddon** - battle (II Chron. 35:22, Zech. 12:11).
7. **Gog and Magog** - the heathen nations (Ezek. 1 38, 39).

THE TEMPLE & FURNISHINGS

tabernacle

Revelation 13:6; 15:5; 21:3

temple

Revelation 3:12; 7:15; 11:1, 2, 19; 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8; 16:1, 17; 21:22

pillar

Revelation 3:12; 10:1

ark

Revelation 11:19

candlestick

Revelation 1:12, 13, 20; 2:1, 5; 11:4

altar

Revelation 6:9; 8:3, 5; 9:13; 11:1; 14:18; 16:7

censer

Revelation 8:3, 5

incense

Revelation 8:3, 4

court

Revelation 11:2

suggested references:

1. **Tabernacle** - the church as God's dwelling place with His people (Revelation 21:3, 9).
2. **Temple** - same as **tabernacle** (Revelation 15:5) - added emphasis on God's holy presence (Psalm 11:4; Isaiah 6:1).
3. **Pillar** - strength and permanence (I Kings 7:21).
4. **Ark** - God's presence (Numbers 10:35, 36; Psalm 80:1).
5. **Candlestick** - the church as a light in the world (Matthew 5:14, 15; Revelation 1:20).
6. **Altar** - sacrifice.
7. **Censer** - with incense = prayer (Psalm 141:2; Revelation 8:3-5).
8. **Incense** - same as **censer**.
9. **Court** - the Gentiles (Revelation 11:2).

PEOPLE

***John**

Revelation 1:1, 4, 9, 21:2, 22:8

***Antipas**

Revelation 2:13

***Balaam**

Revelation 2:14

***Balak**

Revelation 2:14

Jezebel

Revelation 2:20

***David**

Revelation 3:7; 5:5

***Moses**

Revelation 15:3

suggested references:

1. **Balaam** - false prophecy or teaching (Numbers 22-24; II Peter 2:15; Jude, 11).
2. **Balak** - enmity against God's people (Numbers 22-24; Micah 6:5).
3. **Jezebel** - idolatry & fornication (I Kings 16:31-33; II Kings 9:22f).
4. **David** - kingly power & glory in God's service (I Samuel 13:14; Psalm 89:19-29).
5. **Moses** - the OT, particularly the law (Matthew 17:3; Luke 16:29-31; Hebrews 3:3-5).

note:

Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense.

BEASTS

lion

Rev. 4:7, 5:5, 9:8, 17, 10:3, 13:2

calf

Revelation 4:7

eagle

Revelation 4:7, 12:14

lamb

Revelation 5:6, 8, 12, 13, 6:1, 16, 7:9, 10, 14, 17, 12:11, 13:8, 11,
14:1, 4, 10, 15:3, 17:14, 19:7, 9, 21:9, 14, 22, 23, 27, 22:1, 3

horse

Revelation 6:2, 4, 5, 8, 9:7, 9, 17, 14:20, 18:13, 19:11, 14, 18, 19, 21

locust

Revelation 9:3, 7

scorpion

Revelation 9:3, 5, 10

serpent

Revelation 9:19, 12:9, 14, 15, 20:2

dragon

Revelation 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17, 13:2, 4, 11, 16:13, 20:2

bear

Revelation 13:2

leopard

Revelation 13:2

BEASTS (CONTINUED)

frog

Revelation 16:13

***sheep**

Revelation 18:13

suggested references:

1. **Lion** - kingly power & strength (Genesis 49:9-10, Proverbs 20:2, 30:30). In Revelation 4:7 probably a representative of all the wild beasts.
2. **Calf** - Only in Revelation 4:7, probably there a representative of all the domestic beasts.
3. **Eagle** - swiftness, strength & safety (Exodus 19:4, Isaiah 40:31, II Samuel 1:23). In Revelation 4:7 probably a representative of all the birds.
4. **Lamb** - purity & sacrifice (John 1:29, I Peter 1:19, Revelation 5:6).
5. **Horse** - swiftness & strength in battle (Job 39:19-25, Jeremiah 4:13, Revelation 9:7).
6. **Locust** - plague, destruction, judgment (Exodus 10:14-15, Deuteronomy 28:42).
7. **Scorpion** - torment (I Kings 12:14, Revelation 9:5).
8. **Serpent** - deceit & death (Genesis 3:1, II Corinthians 10:9, 11:3).
9. **Dragon** - monstrous power (Jeremiah 51:34, Revelation 12:3).
10. **Bear** - fierceness & strength (II Samuel 17:8, Proverbs 17:12).
11. **Leopard** - speed (Habakkuk 1:8).
12. **Frog** - uncleanness (Leviticus 11:9-12, Revelation 16:13).
13. **Sheep** - not symbolic in the one reference in Revelation.

BODY PARTS

blood

Revelation 1:5, 5:9, 6:10, 12, 7:14, 8:7, 8, 11:6, 12:11, 14:20, 16:3, 4, 6, 17:6, 18:24, 19:2, 13

eye

Revelation 1:7, 14, 2:18, 3:18, 4:6, 8, 5:6, 7:17, 19:12, 21:4

***foot**

Revelation 1:13, 10:2

head

Revelation 1:14, 4:4, 9:7, 17, 19, 10:1, 12:1, 3, 13:1, 3, 14:14, 17:3, 7, 9, 18:19, 19:12

***hair**

Revelation 1:14, 6:12, 9:18

***mouth**

Revelation 1:16, 2:16, 3:16, 9:17, 18, 19, 10:9, 10, 11:5, 12:15, 16, 13:2, 5, 6, 14:5, 16:13, 19:15, 19:21

right hand

Revelation 1:16, 17, 20, 2:1, 5:1, 7, 10:2, 13:16

***ear**

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9

***face**

Revelation 4:7, 6:16, 7:11, 9:7, 10:1, 11:16, 12:14, 20:11, 22:4

wing

Revelation 4:8, 9:9, 12:14

BODY PARTS

(CONTINUED)

horn

Revelation 5:6, 9:13, 12:3, 13:1, 11, 17:3, 7, 12, 16

***forehead**

Revelation 7:3, 9:4, 13:16, 14:1, 9, 17:5, 20:4, 22:4

***teeth**

Revelation 9:8

***tail**

Revelation 9:10, 19, 12:4

***belly**

Revelation 10:9, 10

***breast**

Revelation 15:6

suggested references:

1. **Blood** - judgment and death (Psalm 9:12, Isaiah 34:1-6 - NOT symbolic in the passages which speak of the blood of Christ).
2. **Eye** - knowledge (Ephesians 1:18).
3. **Head** - in a few passages a ruler or king (Revelation 17:9, 10).
4. **Right hand** - authority, power and glory (Mark 14:62, Acts 2:33, 34).
5. **Wing** - swiftness in flight (Exodus 19:4).
6. **Horn** - power (Deuteronomy 33:17, Psalm 89:17- in some passages a powerful person, i.e., Revelation 17:12).

notes:

Many of these things are only parts of other symbols
and have no special significance in themselves.
Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense.

PLANTS

tree of life

Revelation 2:7, 22:2, 14

root

Revelation 5:5, 22:16

wheat

Revelation 6:6, 18:13

barley

Revelation 6:6

***fig**

Revelation 6:13

***tree**

Revelation 7:1, 3, 8:7, 9:4

palm (branch)

Revelation 7:9

***grass**

Revelation 8:7, 9:4

***reed**

Revelation 11:1, 21:15, 16

olive tree

Revelation 11:4

grape

Revelation 14:18

suggested references:

1. **Tree of Life** - everlasting life (Revelation 2:7, 22:2).
2. **Root** - source of life (Matthew 13:6, 21, Romans 11:16-18).
3. **Wheat and barley** - daily sustenance (Psalm 81:16, Joel 1:11).
4. **Palm** - deliverance and blessing (Leviticus 23:39-44, Psalm 92:12).
5. **Olive Tree** - fruitfulness (Deuteronomy 8:8, Psalm 52:8, 128:3).
6. **Grape** - wrath (Revelation 14:18).

note: Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense.

THE CREATION

cloud

Revelation 1:7, 10:1, 11:12, 14:14-16

***snow**

Revelation 1:14

fire

Revelation 1:14, 2:18, 3:18, 4:5, 8:5, 7, 8, 9:17, 18, 10:1, 11:5, 13:13, 14:10, 18, 15:2, 16:8, 17:16, 18:8, 19:12, 20, 20:9, 10, 14, 15, 21:8

water

Revelation 1:15, 7:17, 8:10, 11, 11:6, 12:15, 14:2, 7, 16:4, 5, 12, 17:1, 15, 19:6, 21:6, 22:1, 17

star

Revelation 1:16, 20, 2:1, 3:1, 6:13, 8:10, 11, 12, 9:1, 12:1, 4

sun

Revelation 1:16, 6:12, 7:16, 8:12, 9:2, 10:1, 12:1, 16:8, 19:17, 21:23, 22:5

morning star

Revelation 2:28, 22:16

rainbow

Revelation 4:3, 10:1

lightning

Revelation 4:5, 8:5, 11:19, 16:18

thunder

Revelation 4:5, 6:1, 8:5, 10:3, 4, 11:19, 14:2, 16:18, 19:6

sea

Revelation 4:6, 5:13, 7:1, 2, 3, 8:8, 9, 10:2, 5, 6, 8, 12:12, 13:1, 14:7, 15:2, 16:3, 18:17, 19, 21, 20:8, 13, 21:1

***earthquake**

Revelation 6:12, 8:5, 11:13, 19, 16:18

***moon**

Revelation 6:12, 8:12, 12:1, 21:23

wind

Revelation 6:13, 7:1

THE CREATION

(CONTINUED)

mountain

Revelation 6:14, 15, 16, 8:8, 16:20, 17:9, 21:10

smoke

Revelation 8:4, 9:2, 3, 17, 18, 14:11, 15:8, 18:9, 18, 19:3

***hail**

Revelation 8:7, 11:19, 16:21

***river**

Revelation 8:10, 9:14, 16:4, 12, 22:1, 2

***air**

Revelation 9:12, 16:17

brimstone (burning sulphur)

Revelation 9:17, 18, 14:10, 19:20, 20:10, 21:8

***rain**

Revelation 11:6

wilderness

Revelation 12:6, 14, 17:3

***sand**

Revelation 13:1, 20:8

lake

Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 14, 15, 21:8

THE CREATION

(CONTINUED)

suggested references:

1. **Cloud** - judgment (Psalm 18:7-15).
2. **Fire (smoke, brimstone)** - judgment (Genesis 19:24, 28, Psalm 11:6, 18:8, Matthew 3:12, 18:8, Jude, 7) - purification (Malachi 3:2, I Peter 1:7).
3. **Water** - salvation (Isaiah 12:3, John 4:10-14, 7:37, 38) - suffering and affliction (Psalm 69:1, 2, 14) - the nations (Isaiah 57:20, Revelation 17:15).
4. **Star** - an angel or perhaps a minister (Job 38:7, Revelation 1:20).
5. **Sun** - the glory of Christ as the light of the world (Malachi 4:2).
6. **Morning Star** - Christ (Revelation 22:16).
7. **Rainbow** - God's covenant (Genesis 9:13).
8. **Lightning and thunder** - judgment (Psalm 18:7-14, Luke 10:18).
9. **Sea** - the nations (Revelation 17:15).
10. **Earthquake** - judgment (Hebrews 12:25-29).
11. **Wind** - judgment (Psalm 1:4, 18:10).
12. **Mountain** - a king or kingdom (Isaiah 2:2, Revelation 17:9, 10).
13. **Wilderness** - this world or separation (Psalm 63:1, Isaiah 14:17).
14. **Lake (of fire)** - hell.

METALS, MATERIALS & GEMS

gold

Revelation 1:12, 13, 20, 2:1, 3:18, 4:4, 5:8, 8:3, 9:7, 13, 20, 14:14, 15:6, 7, 17:4, 18:12, 16, 21:15, 18, 21

silver

Revelation 9:20, 18:12

brass

Revelation 1:15, 2:18, 9:20, 18:12

iron

Revelation 2:27, 9:9, 12:5, 19:15

***wood**

Revelation 9:20, 18:12

wool

Revelation 1:14

linen

Revelation 15:6, 18:12, 14, 19:8, 14

silk

Revelation 18:12

glass

Revelation 4:6, 15:2, 21:18, 21

stone

Revelation 1:17

METALS, MATERIALS & GEMS

(CONTINUED)

***ivory**

Revelation 18:12

pearl

Revelation 17:4, 18:12, 16, 21

marble

Revelation 18:12

crystal

Revelation 4:6, 21:11, 22:1

jasper

Revelation 4:3, 21:11, 18, 19

sapphire

Revelation 21:19

chalcedony

Revelation 1:19

emerald

Revelation 4:3, 21:19

sardonyx

Revelation 21:20

sardius

Revelation 4:3, 21:20

chrysolite

Revelation 21:20

METALS, MATERIALS & GEMS

(CONTINUED)

beryl

Revelation 21:20

topaz

Revelation 21:20

chrysoprasus

Revelation 21:20

jacinth

Revelation 9:17, 21:20

amethyst

Revelation 21:20

METALS, MATERIALS & GEMS (CONTINUED)

suggested references:

1. **Gold** - wealth and glory (Job 28:5-19, Psalm 19:10, I Peter 1:18).
2. **Silver** - wealth and glory less than gold (I Kings 10:21, II Timothy 2:20, I Peter 1:18).
3. **Brass** - strength & brightness (Job 6:12, II Chronicles 4:16).
4. **Iron** - strength (Daniel 2:40).
5. **Wool** - whiteness & purity / holiness (Isaiah 1:18)
6. **Linen** - whiteness & cleanness / righteousness (Revelation 19:8).
7. **Silk** - luxury (Ezekiel 16:10, 13).
8. **Glass** - clarity or reflecting power (Revelation 21:18, 21, James 1:23).
9. **Stone** - permanence (Exodus 24:12, Job 19:24)
10. **Ivory** - luxury (Amos 6:4).
11. **Pearl** - wealth & great value (Job 28:18, Matthew 13:45-46).
12. **Marble** - luxury (Esther 1:6).
13. **Crystal** - clarity (Revelation 21:11, 22:1).
14. **Emerald** - either preciousness & beauty (the gem - Revelation 21:19) or life & hope (the colour - Psalm 52:8, Luke 23:31).
15. **Jasper** \
16. **Sapphire** |
17. **Chalcedony** |
18. **Sardonyx** |
19. **Sardius** /
20. **Chrysolite** > preciousness & beauty (Rev. 21:19)
21. **Beryl** \
22. **Topaz** |
23. **Chrysoprasus** |
24. **Jacinth** |
25. **Amethyst** /

note:

Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense.

OTHER THINGS

throne

Revelation 1:4, 3:21, 4:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 5:1, 6, 7, 13, 6:16, 7:9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 8:3, 12:5, 14:3, 5, 16:17, 19:4, 20:4, 11, 21:5, 22:1, 3

trumpet

Revelation 1:10, 4:1, 8:2, 6, 13, 14

book

Revelation 1:11, 3:5, 5:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10:2, 8, 9, 10, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27, 22:7, 9, 10, 18, 19

girdle (belt)

Revelation 1:13, 15:6

furnace

Revelation 1:15, 9:2

two-edged sword

Revelation 1:16, 2:12, 16, 19:15

key

Revelation 1:18, 3:7, 9:1, 20:1

crown

Revelation 2:10, 3:11, 4:4, 10, 6:2, 9:7, 12:1, 14:14

manna

Revelation 2:17

iron rod

Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15

***pottery**

Revelation 2:27

white clothing (robes)

Revelation 3:4, 18, 4:4, 6:11, 7:9, 13, 14, 19:14

door

Revelation 3:8, 20, 4:1

eyesalve

Revelation 3:18

lamp

Revelation 4:5, 8:10

OTHER THINGS (CONTINUED)

seal

Revelation 5:1, 2, 5, 9, 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 7:2, 8:1, 9:4, 20:3

harp

Revelation 5:8, 14:2, 15:2

vial

Revelation 5:8, 15:7, 16:1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17, 17:1, 21:9

bow

Revelation 6:2

sword

Revelation 6:4, 8, 13:10, 14, 19:21

balances (scale)

Revelation 6:5

oil

Revelation 6:6, 18:13

wine

Revelation 6:6, 14:8, 10, 16:19, 17:2, 18:3, 13, 19:15

penny

Revelation 6:6

***scroll**

Revelation 6:14

***fountain**

Revelation 7:17, 8:10, 14:7, 16:4, 21:6

***ship**

Revelation 8:9, 18:17, 19

pit

Revelation 9:1, 2, 11, 11:7, 17:8, 20:1, 3

breastplate

Revelation 9:9, 17

***chariot**

Revelation 9:9, 18:13

OTHER THINGS

(CONTINUED)

***honey**

Revelation 10:9, 10

street

Revelation 11:8, 21;21, 22:2

cup

Revelation 14:10, 16:19, 17:4, 18:6

sickle

Revelation 14:14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

winepress

Revelation 14:19, 20, 19:15

cinnamon

Revelation 18:13

perfume (odours)

Revelation 18:13

ointment

Revelation 18:13

***flour**

Revelation 18:13

***millstone**

Revelation 18:21. 22

***candle**

Revelation 18:23, 22:5

chain

Revelation 20:1

wall

Revelation 21:12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19

gate

Revelation 21:12, 13, 15, 21, 25, 22:14

foundation

Revelation 21:14, 19

OTHER THINGS

(CONTINUED)

note:

Items with a star (*) are probably not symbolic in any sense.

suggested references:

1. **Throne** - royal power or judgment (Revelation 3:21, 20:11, 12).
2. **Trumpet** - judgment (Isaiah 58:1, Matthew 24:21).
3. **Book** - God's Word (Revelation 1:11, 22:18, 19) - God's decrees (Psalm 40:7, Philippians 4:3) - God's remembrance of all things (Psalm 56:8, Malachi 3:16).
4. **Girdle** - official position & duty (Exodus 29:9, Isaiah 22:21).
5. **Furnace** - judgment (Genesis 19:28, Matthew 13:42).
6. **Two-edged sword** - judgment (Proverbs 5:4, Psalm 149:6).
7. **Key** - authority (Isaiah 22:22, Matthew 16:19).
8. **Crown** - royal glory (Hebrews 2:7-9).
9. **Manna** - Jesus, the bread of life (John 6:32-65).
10. **Iron rod** - judgment (Psalm 2:9).
11. **White clothing** - righteousness (Revelation 19:8).
12. **Door** - entrance (Note: the door in Revelation 3:20, is not the door of a sinner's heart but of the church of Laodicea).
13. **Eye-salve** - spiritual healing and salvation (Jeremiah 8:22, 51:8).
14. **Lamp** - the Spirit, spiritual light (Revelation 4:5).
15. **Harp** - joy and praise (Psalm 33:2, 43:4).
16. **Seal** - security (Matthew 27:66, II Timothy 2:19).
17. **Vial** - judgment (Revelation 15:1, 16:1).
18. **Bow** - warfare, judgment (Psalm 7:12, Isaiah 41:2).
19. **Sword** - death and judgment (Deuteronomy 32:41, 42).
20. **Balances** - careful measurement (Leviticus 19:36).
21. **Oil (wine)** - luxury (Deuteronomy 8:8, 32:13).
22. **Penny** - daily wage (Matthew 20:1-13).
23. **Pit** - hell (Isaiah 14:15).
24. **Breastplate** - indestructible power (Isaiah 59:17, Ephesians 6:14).
25. **Street** - an open place or place for gathering (Zechariah 8:4, 5, Matthew 6:5).
26. **Cup** - usually part of other figures.

OTHER THINGS

(CONTINUED)

27. **Sickle** - salvation or judgment (Joel 3:13, Revelation 14:14-20).
28. **Winepress** - judgment (Isaiah 63:1-6, Revelation 14:19).
29. **Cinnamon** - luxury (Song of Solomon 4:14).
30. **Ointment** - luxury (Psalm 133:2, Matthew 26:7).
31. **Perfume** - luxury (Proverbs 27:9, Isaiah 57:9).
32. **Chain** - restraint (Psalm 149:8, Mark 5:3, 4, Jude, 6).
33. **Wall** - safety and preservation of the church (Isaiah 26:1, 60:18).
34. **Gate** - salvation of the church (Matthew 7:13, Revelation 22:14).
35. **Foundation** - Biblical truth (Matthew 7:24-27, 16:16-19).

CHRIST IN REVELATION

In Symbolism

1. The most important symbols in the book point to Christ:

The Lamb
The Temple (Revelation 21:22)
The colour, white

In His Names

2. His many Names also reveal Him to us:

Jesus - Jesus Christ - Lord Jesus
The Lord - Our Lord
Christ - His Christ
The Faithful Witness
The First-begotten of the Dead
The Prince of the Kings of the Earth
Alpha & Omega
The Beginning and the Ending
The Lord Which Is and Which Was and Which Is to Come
The Almighty
The First and the Last
The Son of Man
The One Who Lives, Was Dead, and Lives Forevermore
The Amen
The Beginning of the Creation of God
The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
The Root of David
The Lamb
The Man Child
The Lamb Slain from the Foundation of the World
Faithful and True
The Word of God
King of kings and Lord of lords
The Root and Offspring of David
The Bright and Morning Star

Truly this book is THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

OUTLINE

- I. **DIVISION I: the Church and the World (chapters 1-11).**
 - A. **Section I: the Church and Christ (ch. 1-3):**
 1. Introduction and Apostolic blessing (1:1-8).
 2. A vision of the glorified Christ among the candlesticks (1:9-20).
 3. The seven letters to the seven churches (ch. 2, 3):
 - a. Ephesus.
 - b. Smyrna.
 - c. Pergamos.
 - d. Thyatira.
 - e. Sardis.
 - f. Philadelphia.
 - g. Laodicea.
 - B. **Section II: the World in which the Church lives (ch. 4-7).**
 1. A vision of God's throne and of the book with seven seals (ch. 4, 5).
 2. The seven seals opened (ch. 6):
 - a. The white horse.
 - b. The red horse.
 - c. The black horse.
 - d. The pale horse.
 - e. The souls under the altar.
 - f. The great day of God's wrath.
 - g. (The seventh seal becomes the seven trumpets - 8:1, 2).
 3. A vision of the sealing of the 144,000 (ch. 7).
 - C. **Section III: the Church protected and victorious (ch. 8-11).**
 1. A vision of the offering of the prayers of saints (8:1-5).
 2. The seven trumpets (8:6-13, 9:1-21):
 - a. Hail, fire and blood.
 - b. The burning mountain.
 - c. The star Wormwood.
 - d. The heavenly luminaries smitten.
 - e. The locusts out of the abyss.
 - f. The four angels loosed.
 - g. (The seventh trumpet becomes the seven vials - 11:15-19).
 3. A vision of the little book (ch. 10).
 4. A vision of the measuring of the temple and the two witnesses (ch. 11).

II. **DIVISION II:** Christ and the Satan (chapters 12-22).

- A. **Section IV:** the war between Christ and Satan (ch. 12-14).
 - 1. A vision of the woman and the man child (ch. 12).
 - 2. A vision of the two beasts (ch. 13).
 - 3. A vision of the Lamb on Mt. Zion (14:1-5).
 - 4. A vision of three messenger angels (14:6-13).
 - 5. A vision of the harvest (14:14-20).

- B. **Section V:** final wrath upon the impenitent (ch. 15, 16).
 - 1. Introductory vision: the saints in glory (ch. 15).
 - 2. The seven vials (ch. 16):
 - a. The earth.
 - b. The sea.
 - c. The waters.
 - d. The sun.
 - e. The seat of the beast.
 - f. The Euphrates.
 - g. The air.

- C. **Section VI:** the overthrow of Babylon and the Beasts (ch. 17-19).
 - 1. A vision of Mystery Babylon (ch. 17).
 - 2. A vision of the fall of Babylon (ch. 18).
 - 3. A vision of the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:1-10).
 - 4. A vision of the coming of Christ for judgment (19:11-21).

- D. **Section VII:** the judgment and the victory (ch. 20-22).
 - 1. A vision of the binding and loosing of Satan (20:1-10).
 - 2. A vision of the great white throne (20:11-15).
 - 3. A vision of the new Jerusalem (ch. 21, 22).

Note the emphasis on the number 7!

there are:

7 letters

7 seals

7 trumpets

7 vials

all included in:

7 main sections

which conclude with:

7 final visions

Go to page 15-18 for more information about the number 7.

STUDY OUTLINES
on the
Book
of
REVELATION

PART I

CHAPTERS 1-11

THEME: The Church and the World

The Church and Christ (chapters 1-3).

The Throne and Purpose of God (chapters 4, 5).

The Church in the World (chapters 6-11).

OUTLINE:

Chapter 1 - The Glorified Christ

Christ as the Head and Saviour of the Church.

Chapters 2, 3 - The Seven Churches of Asia Minor

The Church throughout history.

Chapter 4 - The Throne of God

A reassuring message to the Church of God's sovereign purpose.

Chapter 5 - The Book with Seven Seals

Another reassuring message concerning Christ's sovereign rule.

Chapters 6 - The Opening of the Seven Seals

The World under God's Judgment.

Chapter 7 - The Sealing of the 144,000

The Safety of the Church in the World.

Chapters 8, 9 - The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets

The World *increasingly* under the Judgment of God.

Chapter 10 - The Mighty Angel

A message to the Church concerning God's revelations.

Chapter 11 - The Temple and the Two Witnesses

The History, Work and victory of the Church in the World.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction and Blessing (vss. 1-11)

1. The NAME of the book (go to page 2):
the Revelation of Jesus Christ (vs. 1).
2. The ORIGIN of the book (the Triune God, vss. 4-7).
 - a. Him which is, which was, and which is to come,
 - b. The seven Spirits which are before the throne,
 - c. Jesus Christ, who is, according to a SEVEN-fold identification:
 - 1) The faithful witness,
 - 2) The first begotten of the dead,
 - 3) The Prince of the Kings of the earth,
 - 4) The One who loved us and washed us from our sins,
 - 5) The One who has made us kings and priests unto God,
 - 6) The One to whom belongs glory and dominion forever,
 - 7) The One who is coming with clouds.
3. The HUMAN AUTHOR of the book (go to page 3):
 - a. John (vss. 1, 4, 9),
 - b. A brother and companion in tribulation (vs. 9).
4. The CONTENTS of the book (go to page 2):
 - a. **Jesus Christ** (vs. 1),
 - b. Things which must shortly come to pass (vs. 1),
 - c. The Word of God (vs. 2),
 - d. The Testimony of Jesus Christ (vs. 2),
 - e. The things John saw (vs. 2).
5. The PURPOSE of the the book:
to bless those who read and keep it (vs. 3)
6. The URGENCY of the book: the time is at hand (vs. 3).
7. The RECIPIENTS of the book (go to page 4):
the seven churches of Asia Minor (vs. 4).
8. The MESSAGE of the book: Behold, He Cometh (vs. 7)!
9. The PLACE the book was written: the isle of Patmos (vs. 9).
10. The CIRCUMSTANCES in which the book was written:
tribulation for the Word and testimony of Jesus (vs. 9).
11. The DAY John saw the book's visions: the Lord's Day (vs. 10).

CHAPTER 1

Christ Among the Candlesticks (vss. 8-20)

1. Elements of the vision identified in the chapter:
 - a. The PERSON: Jesus Christ (vss. 1, 8, 17, 18).
 - b. The SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS:
the Seven Churches of Asia (vs. 20) - go to page 22.
 - c. The SEVEN STARS: the Angels of the Churches (vs. 20)
Note: these angels are variously identified:
 - 1) As real angels (In favour of this view; angels = angels throughout the rest of Revelation).
 - 2) As the ministers of the churches (in favour of this view; angel means "messenger" and is used 6 times in the NT to refer to human messengers - cf. Mk. 1:2, Lk. 7:24).
2. Christ as the central figure in the vision:
 - a. His NAMES:
 - 1) Alpha & Omega, the Beginning and the End,
 - 2) The Lord which is, was, and is to come,
 - 3) The Almighty,
 - 4) The Son of Man,
 - 5) The First and the Last,
 - 6) He that liveth, was dead, and is alive forever,
 - 7) He who has the keys of Hell and Death.
 - b. His APPEARANCE (compare Daniel 7:13, 14):
 - 1) A man (cf. the name, Son of Man),
 - 2) God (in Dan. 7 the white hair belongs to God),
 - 3) A glorified and heavenly King (Dan. 7:14),
 - 4) A Priest (cf. Ex. 28, especially verse 40),
 - 5) A Prophet (cf. Heb. 4:12),
 - 6) A Saviour (cf. His Names),
 - 7) A Judge (eyes, feet, voice, and mouth - pages 15-40).
 - c. His PRESENCE among the candlesticks:
 - 1) As Judge of all evil,
 - 2) As Saviour and Rewarder of His people.

CHAPTER 2

Letters to the Seven Churches

1. Ephesus: the Church beginning to decline.
 - a. Characteristics:
 - 1) Strengths - doctrinal orthodoxy and faithful discipline.
 - 2) Weakness - loss of first love.
 - b. Christ and the Church of Ephesus:
 - 1) Speaks as the One who walks among the candlesticks.
 - 2) Exhorts them to remember, repent and do the first works.
 - 3) Threatens the removal of the Church's candlestick.
 - 4) Promises the faithful the fruit of the tree of life in Paradise.
2. Smyrna: the persecuted Church.
 - a. Characteristics:
 - 1) Strength - constancy under continuing persecution and trial.
 - 2) Weakness - none mentioned.
 - b. Christ and the Church of Smyrna:
 - 1) Speaks as First and Last, the One who was dead and lives.
 - 2) Exhorts to faithfulness.
 - 3) Promises a crown and deliverance from the second death.
3. Pergamos: the Church troubled by false teaching.
 - a. Characteristics:
 - 1) Strength - a good profession of Christ's Name in persecution.
 - 2) Weakness - toleration of false teaching.
 - b. Christ and the Church of Pergamos:
 - 1) Speaks as the One with a sharp sword.
 - 2) Exhorts to repentance and threatens to fight against the Church.
 - 3) Promises the faithful the hidden manna and a white stone.
4. Thyatira: the Church without discipline.
 - a. Characteristics:
 - 1) Strength - faithfulness in Christian living.
 - 2) Weakness - no discipline of those who lived wickedly.
 - b. Christ and the Church of Thyatira:
 - 1) Speaks as Judge (His eyes and feet) and Searcher of Hearts.
 - 2) Exhorts them to hold fast what remained.
 - 3) Threatens to give them according to their works.
 - 4) Promises the faithful power, dominion, and the morning star.

CHAPTER 3

Letters to the Seven Churches (continued)

5. Sardis: the secularized Church.

a. Characteristics:

- 1) Strengths - a few faithful and undefiled.
- 2) Weaknesses - spiritual deadness, ready to die, few faithful.
- 3) Other - had an undeserved reputation for being alive.

b. Christ and the Church of Sardis:

- 1) Speaks as the One who has the seven Spirits of God.
- 2) Exhorts to watch and strengthen what remains.
- 3) Threatens to come as thief.
- 4) Promises the faithful few heavenly glory.

6. Philadelphia: the faithful Church.

a. Characteristics:

- 1) Strength - faithfulness in all things to the Word.
- 2) Weakness - none.

b. Christ and the Church of Philadelphia:

- 1) Speaks as Holy and True, the One who has the key of David.
- 2) Exhorts to hold fast and let none take their crown.
- 3) Promises for the present an open door and deliverance from temptation; for eternity, a permanent place in the house of God, and a new name.

7. Laodicea: the Church needing reformation.

a. Characteristics:

- 1) Strengths - none.
- 2) Weakness - almost total apostasy from the truth.
- 3) Other - Christ is OUTSIDE the door of this Church.

b. Christ and the Church of Laodicea:

- 1) Speaks as the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, etc.
- 2) Exhorts to repentance and reformation.
- 3) Threatens to spit them out of His mouth.
- 4) Promises the faithful a place on His own throne.

CONCLUSION

These 7 Churches represent the whole NT Church in all ages, in all its weaknesses and strengths and in all its experiences. They are 7 to represent the COMPLETE Church.

CHAPTER 4

The Throne of God

1. The **elements** of the vision:
 - a. The **THRONE** and the One seated on it: God (Ezekiel 1:26-28).
 - ▶ Jasper (a red stone?) = the fire of God's judgments.
 - ▶ Sardine (a clear stone?) = the purity of God's holiness.
 - b. The green **RAINBOW**: God's Covenant (Genesis 9:12-16).
 - ▶ Green represents new life and hope - go to page 20.
 - c. The 24 **ELDERS**: the complete Church (Revelation 21:12-14).
 - go to pages 15-19.
 - d. The 7 **LAMPS** of fire: the Holy Spirit (verse 5).
 - Described as 7 Spirits because He dwells in the 7 churches.
 - go to page 15-19..
 - e. The **SEA OF GLASS**: the Glory of God (I Corinthians 13:12).
 - Probably should think here of a mirror & its reflecting power.
 - f. The 4 **BEASTS**: Cherubim (Ezekiel 1:5-25, 10:20).
 - The Cherubim appear in the likeness of various creatures:
 - 1) Either they represent all living creatures.
 - 2) Or they are kingly, strong, wise, and swift like these creatures.
2. The over-all **picture**: the **PURPOSE** of God revealed.
 - a. We find that purpose:
 - 1) Pointed out in Ephesians 1:10-12.
 - 2) Pictured here in Revelation 4:1-7.
 - 3) Praised in the song of Revelation 4:8-11.
 - b. That purpose is:
 - 1) To gather all things into heavenly glory (this is in heaven).
 - 2) To unite them in one, that is, in covenant fellowship - thus the rainbow and the reference to Genesis 9.
 - 3) To do this through His indwelling Spirit.
 - 4) Thus, to cause all things to reflect His glory - thus the sea of glass.
 - c. The **MESSAGE** of the vision, therefore is to show the purpose of God in all that happens as:
 - 1) The reason for the coming of Christ.
 - 2) The hope of God's people in the world.
 - 3) The assurance that Satan will not win.

CHAPTER 5

The Lamb and the Book with Seven Seals

1. The **elements** of the vision:
 - a. The **BOOK** sealed with seven seals.
 - 1) The Book identified: God's Decrees (Plan).
Proof:
 - a) Other passages - Philippians 4:3.
 - b) What happens when the book is opened - chapter 6.
 - 2) The Book described:
 - a) **WRITTEN ON BOTH SIDES**
(God's decrees complete - Isaiah 46:10).
 - b) **SEALED WITH SEVEN SEALS**
(God's decrees secret - Deuteronomy 29:29).
 - c) **CLOSED TO EVERY CREATURE**
(God's decrees *unrevealed* and *unexecuted*).
 - d) **OPENED BY THE LAMB**
(God's decrees revealed and executed by Christ - Matthew 28:19).
 - b. The **LAMB** with 7 horns and 7 eyes.
 - 1) The Lamb identified: **Christ**.
Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29, Daniel 7:13, 14
 - 2) The Lamb described:
The seven horns & eyes = the Spirit (verse 6).*
2. The **theme** and **message** of the vision
 - a. The **THEME**: All that is in the decrees of God concerning His purpose and kingdom is brought to pass by Christ alone:
 - 1) As the **LAMB WHO DIED** for the sins of His people.
 - 2) As the **ONE WHO IS COMING** soon.
 - b. The **MESSAGE**:
 - 1) All the efforts of men to establish the kingdom are in vain
- no creature is worthy.
 - 2) The coming Kingdom is the Kingdom of Christ
- He alone is worthy.

*Note how the Spirit is identified here with Christ (cf. Acts 2:33).
He is the One by Whom and through Whom Christ works.

NOTES

on

The Seals, Trumpets, and Vials

1. They represent:

The Judgments of God Throughout History

- a. The Seals REVEAL the judgments of God.
- b. The Trumpets ANNOUNCE the judgments of God.
- c. The Vials pour out and FINISH the judgments of God.

2. How they are related:

- a. The 7th seal becomes the 7 trumpets (Revelation 8:1, 2) and the 7th trumpet brings in the 7 vials (Revelation 10:7, 16:1).

but:

- b. They all represent the SAME JUDGMENTS - go to page 11.
- c. They all bring us to THE END

Revelation 6:12-17, 11:15-19, 16:17-21.

⇒ Here is *Parallelism* - go to pages 9-11

- d. The difference between them is that they show an increase or

INTENSIFICATION:

- 1) The seals destroy **1/4** - Revelation 6:8;
- 2) The trumpets destroy **1/3** - Revelation 8:7-12, 9:18;
- 3) The vials destroy **completely** - Revelation 16:3, 17.

⇒ Here is *Progress* - go to pages 9-11

3. The number 7 - there are 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 vials:

- a. To show that they are a COMPLETE revelation of God's judgments.
- b. To show that these judgments have to do with God's COVENANT and its fulfilment and realization in history.

- go to pages 15-19

CONCLUSIONS:

1. These judgments do touch the lives of believers but cannot really hurt them - chapter 7
2. This is true because of God's purpose - ch. 4, and Christ's sovereign rule - ch. 5.

"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

CHAPTER 6

The Opening of the Seven Seals

1. The FIRST 4 SEALS reveal the 4 HORSES AND THEIR RIDERS:
 - a. The White Horse and Rider
Represents the VICTORIOUS PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.
 - 1) White *always* symbolizes righteousness - go to page 20.
 - 2) In Revelation 19:13 the rider is called The Word of God.
 - 3) His crown is symbolic of kingly power - Revelation 19:16.
 - 4) He is both conquering and to conquer - Revelation 17:14.
 - b. The Red Horse and Rider
Represents WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.
 - 1) Red is the colour of blood - go to page 20.
 - 2) The sword is often the instrument of war - Isaiah 2:4.
 - c. The Black Horse and Rider
Represents SOCIAL INEQUALITY, FAMINE AND DISEASE.
 - 1) The colour black is associated with famine - go to page 20.
 - 2) Scales are even today a symbol of commerce and social life.
 - 3) A penny (denarius) was a day's wages (Matt. 20:2), here only enough for food for 1 person for 1 day (a measure~quart).
 - 4) The luxuries of the rich are *not touched*.
 - d. The Pale Horse and Rider
Represents DEATH IN ALL ITS FORMS (Ezekiel 14:21).
 - 1) This colour is associated with death - go to page 20.
 - 2) Hell (Hades) follows to gather those whom death takes.
2. The 5TH, 6TH and 7TH SEALS:
 - a. The 5th Seal reveals **the souls of the martyrs under the altar**.
 - 1) The altar is IN HEAVEN (Revelation 4:1, 8:1-3, 9:13) - these souls are GLORIFIED.
 - 2) They are UNDER THE ALTAR as a picture of the fact that they have given their lives as a SACRIFICE.
 - b. The 6th Seal reveals CHRIST'S COMING and the END.
 - c. The 7th Seal becomes the 7 Trumpets - chapter 8:1, 2.

CONCLUSION:

The 4 Horsemen represent 4 great forces which *run* through all history by which the purpose of God is realized.

The Souls and the End are reason for the running of the 4 horsemen.

CHAPTER 7

The Sealing of the 144,000

1. The **elements** of the vision:

- a. The NUMBER, 144,000 - go to pages 15-19.

Here a limited number because it refers to the Church *on earth*.

- b. The 12 TRIBES of ISRAEL: The Church on earth.

Proof that the 144,000 are the Church:

- 1) Revelation 21:9-17 where we have:

- a) the number 144/144,000 - verses 16 & 17.

the combination of 12 - verses 12 & 14.

the combination of 12 representing the OT & NT, the 12 tribes and the 12 apostles.

- b) all part of the city which is "the bride, the Lamb's wife" = the CHURCH (Ephesians 5:22-32).

- 2) Sealing in II Corinthians 1:22 & Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, is the SEALING of the CHURCH.

- 3) The seal = the Father's Name (Revelation 14:1) which is promised to the CHURCH in Revelation 3:12.

- 4) Mt. Zion is a name for the CHURCH in Hebrews 12:22, 23.

- c. The SEALING:

Identified in II Timothy 2:19 as election and calling.

- d. The innumerable MULTITUDE: The Church glorified.

The evidences of their glory:

- 1) The palms which symbolize victory - go to page 28.

- 2) That they are before the throne, i.e., in heaven (the throne is always in heaven in Revelation).

- 3) The words of the elder (vss. 14-17) compared with Revelation 21:3, 4.

- 4) Their white robes - Revelation 3:4, 5, 4:4, 6:11.

Note: the CHURCH passes through the great tribulation, not just the Jews (Matthew 24:21, 22 - elect *never* means Jews).

2. The **message** of the vision:

- a. That the Church on earth cannot be hurt by the judgments revealed in the preceding vision and in those visions that follow.

- b. That the sealing will obtain heavenly glory for the Church.

CHAPTER 8:1-6

The Offering of the Prayers of the Saints

1. The **purpose** of the vision:
 - a. INTRODUCES a new series of visions including the 7 Trumpets.
 - b. PARALLELS the vision of God's throne in Chapter 4.
 - 1) The visions of chapters 4-7:
 - Show the world in which the Church lives (ch. 6).
 - Show the world under judgment (ch. 6).
 - Show the church safe in the world (ch. 7).
 - ALL IN RELATION TO GOD'S THRONE (ch. 4, 5).
 - 2) The visions of chapters 8-11:
 - Show the world under judgment (ch. 8 & 9).
 - Show the condition of the Church in the world (ch. 11).
 - Show the Church victorious over the world (ch. 11).
 - ALL IN RELATION TO THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS (ch. 8:1-6).
2. The **meaning** of the vision:
 - a. Elements:
 - 1) The half-hour of silence = A TIME OF PRAYER.
 - 1) Incense and golden censer = PRAYER.
 - 2) Offering and golden altar = PRAYER MADE.
 - 3) Smoke ascending = PRAYER COMING BEFORE GOD.
 - 4) Censer filled and thrown into the earth = PRAYER ANSWERED.
 - b. Interpretation:
 - 1) The content of these prayers: THE COMING OF CHRIST (Rev. 6:10, 22:20).
 - 2) The answer to these prayers: THE JUDGMENT OF GOD
 - as pictured by the thunders, lightnings and voices.
 - as pictured by the seven trumpets.**These are signs of Christ's coming.**
3. The **message** of the vision:
 - a. That God hears and answers the prayers of saints in the world.
 - b. That the events of history are God's answer to the prayers of His saints inasmuch as they are part of the coming of Christ.

CHAPTER 8:7-9:21

The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets

1. REMEMBER:

- a. The seven trumpets are included in the seventh seal (chapter 8:1, 2).
- b. The seven trumpets are **parallel** to the seven vials (go to page 11).
- c. There is an **increase** from 1/4 to 1/3 to All in the progression of seals, trumpets and vials (go to page 52).

* * * * *

Seals, trumpets, vials = the SAME judgments
INCREASING IN INTENSITY throughout history.

2. THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS = *God's judgments on the creation.*

a. Description:

1st Trumpet: 1/3 of all green things destroyed.

Represents JUDGMENT ON THE EARTH.

2nd Trumpet: 1/3 of the sea destroyed.

Represents JUDGMENT ON THE SEA.

3rd Trumpet: 1/3 of the rivers destroyed.

Represents JUDGMENT ON THE WATERS.

4th Trumpet: 1/3 of the heavenly lights destroyed.

Represents JUDGMENT ON THE HEAVENS.

b. Possible fulfilment (???):

Exploitation of natural resources, pollution, "natural" disasters.

c. Message: God's judgments affect the earth itself.

2. THE LAST THREE TRUMPETS = *God's judgments on men.*

a. Description:

5th Trumpet: The Locusts out of the Abyss.

Represents SPIRITUAL JUDGMENTS ON MEN.*

6th Trumpet: The 200,000,000 Horses and Riders.

Represents PHYSICAL JUDGMENTS ON MEN.*

7th Trumpet: comes at the end of chapter 11 (verses 15-19).

Introduces the 2nd section of Revelation.

Reveals and becomes the 7 vials of Revelation 16.

b. Message: God's judgments are upon all things.

* For further information regarding the symbolism and details introduced by the 6th and 7th trumpets go to page 57.

CHAPTER 8:7-9:21 (Continued)

The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets

1. The 5th Trumpet: The Locusts out of the Abyss.

Represent: AN ARMY OF DEMONS.

Symbolism:

a. FALLING STAR = SATAN (Lk. 10:18).

Note: He is *given* the power to release and send out the locusts.

b. LOCUSTS = DEMONS.

1) They have their origin in the bottomless Pit (Hell).

2) The Devil is their King and the one who sends them to do their work (cf. Matt. 12:24, Eph. 2:2).

3) They have no power over God's people nor over the earth.

4) They cannot kill, only torment (II Cor. 4:3, 4, II Tim. 2:26).

c. DETAILS - HORSES, CROWNS, FACES, HAIR, TEETH
= POWER, WEALTH, WISDOM, BEAUTY.

(the lusts of the flesh, the pride of life - I Jn. 2:16)

= the means by which these demons tempt men.

d. STINGING TAILS = DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF SIN.

(Rom. 6:21, 23, I Cor. 15:56, I Pet. 2:18, 19)

2. 6th Trumpet: The 200,000,000 Horses and Riders.

a. Represents: AN ARMY OF PLAGUES, i.e., physical sufferings.

a. Note the similarities to the judgments of the 2nd, 3rd & 4th seals in Revelation 6:3-8:

1) They are similar as "PLAGUES."

2) They are similar as represented by HORSES AND RIDERS.

3) They are similar in that they are THREE "plagues."

4) They are similar in COLOR:

fire is Red - smoke is Black - brimstone is Pale-greenish.

b. Conclusion:

1) These horses and riders represent the SAME JUDGMENTS as Revelation 6:3-8, war, social inequality, and death.

2) They show God's judgments in INCREASING INTENSITY:
note the increase from 1/4 in ch. 6:8 to 1/3 in ch. 9:18.

Note: Neither of these armies represents an army of MEN!

a. The locusts are out of the abyss, they do not kill, and are not able to harm God's people.

b. The horses and riders are called "plagues" in Revelation 9:20.

CHAPTER 10

The Mighty Angel

1. WHO HE IS:

- a. **Christ Himself** - the appearance of the angel suggests this in connection with Revelation 1:7, 15, 16, 4:3.
- b. **Or an Angel closely associated with Christ** - since Christ is not described as an angel anywhere else in Revelation or the NT.

2. HIS APPEARANCE:

- a. The shining face = God's Holiness.
- b. The burning feet and the clouds = God's judgments.
- c. The rainbow crown = God's mercy and covenant faithfulness.

3. HIS ACTIONS:

- a. Making an announcement echoed by the 7 thunders, the contents of which are not made known.
- b. Swearing an oath that there would be no more delay (time) and that the mystery of God would be finished.
- c. Giving the little book to John with the command to eat it.

4. HIS SIGNIFICANCE:

TO TEACH CONCERNING THESE VISIONS.

- a. The ANNOUNCEMENT reminds
⇒ *that there is much sealed up and hidden from us.*
- b. The OATH assures
⇒ *that the end will come and will come quickly.*
- c. The GIFT makes clear
⇒ *that what is revealed is revealed in Scripture.*
⇒ *that what is revealed is both sweet and bitter.*

4. HIS COMMAND concerning the little book:

The symbolism:

- a. The little book = the Word of God especially in Revelation.
 - ▶ it is *open* to symbolize revelation.
 - ▶ it is *prophecy* (22:18, 19) - go to page 12.
- b. Its bitterness and sweetness =
 - ▶ the sweetness of the promises.
 - ▶ the bitter suffering they bring for the church in the world.
- c. John's eating it = the giving of these prophecies to John that he might give them to the church (Revelation 1:1-3).

CHAPTER 11

The Measuring of the Temple and the Two Witnesses

1. The **elements** of the vision.
 - a. The TEMPLE (Sanctuary): the True Church
(I Cor. 3:16, 17, II Cor. 6:16, 17, Eph. 2:21, Heb. 13:22, 23).
 - ▶ This is the part measured, the part where God is worshipped, the part the Gentiles do not trample.
 - b. The COURT: the False Church.
 - ▶ This is the part trampled by the Gentiles (Unbelievers), yet connected with the sanctuary.
 - c. The HOLY CITY: Nominal Christendom.
 - ▶ This is the part called Sodom and Egypt in verse 8 - thus is called "holy" only because it *used to be* holy.
 - d. The GENTILES: the Unbelieving (Ps. 79:1-3, II Cor. 6:14-16).
 - e. The 42 MONTHS: the Whole NT as a short time.
 - = 3 1/2 years (a time, times and a half a time) or 1260 days.
 - = the time the two witnesses prophesy (verse 3).
 - the time the two witnesses are slain (verse 9).
 - the time given to the beast (13:5).
 - = the time the church is in the "wilderness" = **the whole time between Christ's exaltation and return (12:14)**.
 - f. The MEASURING: the Protection of the true church.
 - ▶ Is the same as the numbering and sealing in chapter 7.
 - g. The 2 WITNESSES: the Preaching Ministry of the church
(Zech. 4, Matt. 5:14-candlesticks, Lk. 10:1, Acts 1:8, Jer. 5:14).
 - h. The POWERS of the 2 witnesses: the Judgments of God that come through and because of their ministry
(Jer. 5:14, I Kings 17:1, Ex. 7:20, Rev. 8:1-5).
 - i. The DEATH of the 2 witnesses: the Silencing of the church's witness at the end (Matt. 24:14-22).
 - j. The RESURRECTION of the 2 witnesses: the Final Glorification of the church (I Thess. 4:17).
2. The over-all **picture**:
 - a. The HISTORY of the CHURCH IN THE WORLD.
 - b. The SAFETY and VICTORY of the CHURCH.

PART II

CHAPTERS 12-21

THEME: Christ and the Dragon

The Four Enemies of Christ: Their Rise (chapters 12-17).

The Four Enemies of Christ: Their Downfall (chapters 18-20).

The Final Glory of Christ and His Church (chapters 21, 22).

OUTLINE:

Chapter 12 - The Great Dragon

The Dragon = Satan (the First Enemy)

Chapter 13 - The Two Beasts

The Two Beasts = Antichrist (The 2nd and 3rd Enemies)

Chapters 14 - The Lamb on Mount Zion and the Harvest

The Lamb on Mt. Zion = Christ and His Church

The Harvest = the World under the Wrath of God

Chapters 15, 16 - The Seven Vials

The 7 Vials = the Final Judgments of God on the Wicked
(a general picture of the Judgment of Christ's Enemies)

Chapter 17 - The Great Whore

The Great Whore = the False Church (the 4th Enemy)

Chapter 18 - The Fall of Babylon (the Great Whore)

The Judgment of the False Church, the 4th Enemy.

Chapter 19 - The Victory of the Lamb Over the 2 Beasts

The Judgment of the Antichristian Power, the 2nd and 3rd Enemies.

Chapter 20 - The Binding, Loosing and Judgment of Satan

The Judgment of Satan the 1st Enemy and how it comes about.

Chapters 21, 22 - The Final Glory of Christ and the Church

CHAPTER 12

The Woman and the Dragon

1. The **characters**:
 - a. The WOMAN: the Church (Song of Solomon 6:10, Rev. 12:17).
Parallels the woman (whore) of Revelation 17, the false church.
 - b. The GREAT DRAGON: Satan (verse 9).
Appears here as the **first great enemy** of Christ and the church.
 - c. The MAN CHILD: Christ (verse 5 & Revelation 19:13-15).
2. The **story**:
 - a. The birth of the Man Child = the first coming of Christ.
 - b. The attempt of the Dragon to devour the child = all Satan's efforts to prevent Christ's coming and to destroy Him after He came.
 - c. The catching up of the Child to heaven = the resurrection, ascension and exaltation of Christ.
 - d. The war in heaven and the casting out of Satan = the end of Satan's power to accuse (verse 10) God's people (Job 1, 2, Zech. 3:1ff) by virtue of Christ's finished work (Rom. 8:33, 34).
 - e. The Dragon's efforts to destroy the woman = the persecution of the church for Christ's sake (Jn. 15:20).
 - f. The woman's flight into the wilderness = God's care for and preservation of His church (Ex. 19:4). The wilderness may be a picture of the church's spiritual separation, which is her safety.
 - g. The 1260 days (a time, times, and half a time or 3 1/2 years = the whole NT from Christ's exaltation to His return in glory (verses 6, 14).
3. The overall **picture** shows:
 - a. The opposition between Christ and the Dragon.
This is theme of the following chapters (13-20) which show in more detail the struggle and those who are involved in it.
 - b. The Church representing Christ in the struggle with the Dragon.
 - c. Christ already victorious in this struggle.
4. The **following chapters** reveal:
 - a. Those who are on the Dragon's side (the other 3 enemies of Christ).
 - ▶ The two beasts - chapter 13.
 - ▶ The great whore - chapter 17.
 - b. Their efforts to destroy the church as representing Christ.
 - c. Christ's victory over them and over Satan - chapters 18-20.

CHAPTER 13

The Two Beasts

1. The BEAST OUT OF THE SEA (cf. also Revelation 17):

Antichrist as a political power.

a. The SEA = nations and governments (Is. 17:12, Rev. 17:15).

b. The 7 HEADS = different kingdoms that were part of the rise of the Antichristian world-power (probably Babel, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Antiochan Syria, Rome- Daniel 7, 8).

c. The LEOPARD, BEAR and LION FEATURES = different world kingdoms that are part of the rise of Antichrist (Daniel 7, 8).

d. The WOUNDED HEAD = Babel and the confusion of tongues (it prevents the premature development of the Antichristian kingdom).

e. The HORNS and CROWNS = power and authority (go to pp. 28 & 38).

f. The NAME OF BLASPHEMY = Antichrist (II Thess. 2:4):

▶ He is worshipped *instead of* Christ (II Thess. 2:4).

▶ He makes war *against* Christ and His church.

g. The 42 MONTHS = the NT age during which He is always present (I Jn. 2:18-22).

2. The BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH:

Antichrist as a religious power.

a. The EARTH = earthly religion (James 3:15).

b. His LAMB-LIKE HORNS = his imitation of Christ as Antichrist.

c. His SPEAKING, MIRACLES, and IMAGE = his false religion.

▶ He causes the first beast to be worshipped

▶ He persecutes true believers.

▶ He is identified as a prophet (16:13, 19:20).

3. The TWO BEASTS TOGETHER:

The Antichristian Kingdom throughout history.

* * * * *

4. The CHURCH'S COMFORT:

a. As far as the Beast's power is concerned - **verse 10**:

He will perish through his own power, (Ps. 7:15, 16, Matt. 26:52).

b. As far as His false religion is concerned - **verse 18**:

His number is the number of MAN (*not a man*), i.e.,

⇒ his religion is the religion of man.

⇒ and as men perish so will it and he (go to page 73).

CHAPTER 14:1-5

The Lamb and the 144,000 on Mount Zion

1. The Vision.

- a. A **parallel** to the vision of **chapter 7:1-8**.
 - 1) The 144,000 = the Church in the world.*
 - 2) The Father's name written in their foreheads = the seal of ch. 7.
Go to page 56 for further information on the details of this vision.
- b. A **development** of the vision of **chapter 7:1-8**.
 - 1) There the sealing, here the result of the sealing.
 - 2) There the 144,000 living in the midst of God's judgments, here the 144,000 safe in the midst of those judgments.
- c. A **continuation** of the vision of **chapter 13**.
 - 1) The CONTRAST in chapters 13 and 14 is between:
 - the sea (= the world) and Mount Zion (= the Church),
 - the beast and the Lamb,
 - the blasphemy of God and the worship of God,
 - the war on the saints and their redemption,
 - those who are deceived and those in whom is no guile,
 - the mark of the beast and the seal of God, which are
 - the number of man and the Father's Name.
 - 2) The MESSAGE of chapter 14:1-5:

The Church, sealed by God, is preserved in the world.
⇒ Learning the song of Moses and the Lamb.
⇒ Preserved pure and holy as a virgin.
⇒ Faultless (justified) before God.
⇒ Following the Lamb.

2. Its Place in the book.

- a. The vision **follows** chapter 13 (see above) to show:

The Church's *sanctity* in contrast to the wicked.
- a. The vision **precedes** the pouring of the vials (ch. 15, 16) to show:

The Church's *safety* amidst God's judgments.
- b. The vision **precedes** the the fall of Christ's enemies to show:

The Church's *salvation* in contrast to their fall.

*Note: the fact that the 144,000 are described as those redeemed from the earth is further proof that they are the Church (see also page 54).

CHAPTER 14:6-20

The Three Messenger Angels and the Harvest

1. The Vision.

a. The three angel messengers tell of the judgment:

- 1) The **first** preaches the everlasting Gospel as the REASON for judgment in the fall of Babylon and the harvest.
 - ▶ This Gospel is not the good news of salvation, but the demand of God that men glorify Him.
 - ▶ The preaching of this Gospel is not to save the nations, but the REASON for the fall of Babylon, and the judgment pictured in the harvest.
- 2) The **second** announces the COMING of judgment, in the fall of Babylon.
 - ▶ Babylon = the wicked world as the great enemy of the Church (go to page 21 and pages 68 and 69).
- 3) The **third** describes the NATURE of the judgment, eternal torment (one of the clearest proofs of *eternal* punishment).

b. The harvest = **the execution of judgment at God's appointed time, when the wicked have filled the cup of iniquity (Matt. 23:32), and are ripe for judgment.***

1) The symbolism (go to pages 30-31, 36-40):

- ▶ Clouds = judgment (Revelation 1:7).
- ▶ Sickle = judgment (Joel 3:13).
- ▶ Winepress = judgment (Joel 3:13, Isaiah 63:1-3).

2) Note the following:

Christ executes judgment (John 5:26, 27).

He does so as the **Son of Man** (the One crucified - 1:7).

He executes judgment through **angels** (II Thess. 1:7, 8).

He does so at **the time appointed** (Acts 17:31).

2. The Message = in spite of appearances (chapter 13),

THE CHURCH IS SAFE IN THE WORLD (vss. 1-5), and

THE WORLD IS UNDER THE JUDGMENT OF GOD (vss. 6-20).

*Note: In God's purpose the wicked must develop in wickedness and become "ripe" for judgment. They do this through crucifying Christ and persecuting the Church. Thus they become ripe for judgment at the exact moment when God's purpose with His church is finished and His people are "ripe" for glory.

CHAPTERS 15 & 16

The Seven Vials

1. REMEMBER:
 - a. The seven vials are **parallel** to the seven trumpets (go to page 11).
 - b. There is an increase from 1/4 to 1/3 to ALL in seals, trumpets and vials.
 - c. Seals, trumpets, vials = the SAME judgments INCREASING IN INTENSITY throughout history (go to page 54).
 - d. The vials, therefore, finish the judgments of the seals and trumpets.
2. Chapter 15 = an INTRODUCTION to the vials.
 - a. A **flashback** to chapter 4, God's throne and the sea of glass.
= a *revelation* of what will come as a result of these judgments.
 - b. A **flashback** to chapter 14, the song of Moses and the Lamb.
= a *reassurance* that the Church rejoices in God's judgments.
 - c. A **flashback** to chapter 8:1-6, the temple of God.
= a *reminder* that these are the same judgments as the trumpets.
3. THE FIRST FOUR VIALS = *God's judgments on the creation.*
 - a. Description:
 - 1st Vial: A plague on men, out of the *earth*.
Represents JUDGMENT ON THE EARTH.
 - 2nd Vial: ALL of the sea destroyed.
Represents JUDGMENT ON THE SEA.
 - 3rd Vial: All of the rivers destroyed.
Represents JUDGMENT ON THE WATERS.
 - 4th Vial: Men scorched by the sun.
Represents JUDGMENT ON THE HEAVENS.
 - b. Message: II Peter 3:10-13.
4. THE LAST THREE VIALS = *God's judgments on men.*
 - a. Description:
 - 5th Vial: The Throne of the Beast darkened.
Represents THE WANING OF THE BEAST'S POWER.
⇒ further described in chapter 17:16, 17.
 - 6th Vial: The River Euphrates dried.
Represents PREPARATIONS FOR ARMAGEDDON.
⇒ further described in chapters 9:19, 20 and 20:7-9.
 - 7th Vial: The End of All Things.
 - b. Message: Jude, 14, 15.

CHAPTER 17

The Beast and the Great Whore

1. The PURPOSE of the Vision:

A portrayal of the Fourth Great Enemy of the Lamb.

- a. The other three have been revealed (the Dragon and the 2 Beasts).
- b. Now the great Whore (= Babylon) is revealed.

2. The SCARLET COLOURED BEAST:

a. **Who?** The Antichristian World-power.

The *same* as the first beast of Revelation 13 (go to page 63).

b. **What about him?**

- 1) Waters = the beast (?) = peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues
= the nations which make up the antichristian kingdom.
- 2) Red colour = sin (go to page 20).
- 3) Seven heads = seven mountains = seven *king(dom)s* - p. 62.
Not the seven hills on which Rome is built.
- 4) The Beast = the eighth and final king(dom) = The Antichrist.
- 5) Ten horns = future king(dom)s first associated with and later
rebellious against the Beast and the Whore.

c. **When?** Past (He was), No longer present in that past form (He is not)
yet always present (He is) - verse 8.

d. **What Message?** The Whore is associated with and has her power
from the Beast (the Bride of Antichrist).

3. The GREAT WHORE:

a. **Who?** the False Church (not the Roman Empire). Proof:

- 1) As the Woman = the Church (ch. 12, Ephesians 5:22-33), so the
false woman = the false church.
- 2) She is a whore - the false worship of the false church is always
described as fornication in Scripture (Ez. 16:15ff).
- 3) She is a city, Babylon, the opposite of Jerusalem (Heb.12:22).
- 4) She persecutes the saints - always true of the false church.

b. **What about her?**

- 1) As RIDER she is the power in the Beast's kingdom (vs. 18).
- 2) As one DRUNK WITH BLOOD she is the enemy of saints.
- 3) As a CITY, Babylon, she is the antithesis of God's kingdom.

c. **What Message?**

- 1) Recognize her for what she is!
- 2) "Come out of her, my people!" - Revelation 18:4.

CHAPTER 18

The Fall of Babylon

1. Points to **remember**:

- a. Part II of Revelation (chapters 11-22) show us the spiritual battle, the struggle between CHRIST AND THE DRAGON.
- b. Chapters 12, 13 and 17 show us the FOUR GREAT ENEMIES, Now chapters 18, 19 and 20 show us their destruction, *in reverse order*.
- c. Babylon = the GREAT WHORE of chapter 17, the False Church. She is the first to fall in Revelation.

2. Points to **ponder**:

- a. Her destruction is complete (verses 11-23).
- b. Her destruction is sudden (verse 10).
- c. Her destruction is violent (verse 21).
- d. Her destruction is final (chapter 16:17-20).
- e. Her destruction is eternal (chapter 14:8-11).
- f. Her destruction is with fire (verses 8, 9 & 18).
- g. Her destruction is just:
 - 1) *In relation to God* (verses 3, 5, 7 & 9) - she is guilty of spiritual fornication (idolatry and false worship).
 - 2) *In relation to God's people* (verses 6, 20 & 24) - she is their great persecutor.

3. Points to **heed**:

- a. God's Word of admonition to His Church is found in verses 4-6:

"Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues, for her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 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."

 - ▶ This is the calling of God's people NOW.
 - ▶ Not their calling THEN (then it will be too late).
- b. God's Word of comfort to His Church is found in verse 20:

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

 - ▶ An ANSWER to the prayer of chapter 6:10.
 - ▶ A REVENGE for the suffering of chapter 17:6.

CHAPTER 19

The Marriage and Victory of the Lamb

1. The **Main Points** of the chapter:
 - a. To show the *blessedness* of the Church as the BRIDE OF CHRIST in contrast to the *destruction* of the GREAT WHORE (chap. 18).
 - b. To show the MARRIAGE SUPPER of the Lamb (vss. 1-10), in contrast to the JUDGMENT SUPPER of God (vss. 11-21).
 - c. To show the defeat of two more enemies of Christ, the BEAST and the FALSE PROPHET.
2. The **Marriage Supper** of the LAMB.
 - a. The BRIDEGROOM (the LAMB) = Christ.
 - 1) A Lamb in contrast to His appearance in verses 11-16, as KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS.
 - 2) A Lamb also because He is SAVIOR of the Church.
 - b. The BRIDE = the Church (Ephesians 5:22-32).
The clothing identifies them as the MULTITUDE of chapter 7:9.
 - c. The WEDDING (Matthew 25:31) = Heavenly Blessedness.
At the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST and the end.
3. The **Final Victory** of the KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS.
 - a. The Captain (Hebrews 2:10) = Christ:
 - 1) The white horse identifies Him with the Rider of chapter 6:2.
 - 2) His description shows us that He comes for judgment:
 - His eyes like fire (verse 12).
 - His vesture dipped in blood (verse 13).
 - His mouth like a sword (verse 15).
 - His ruling with an iron rod (verse 15)
 - His treading the winepress of God's wrath (verse 15).
 - 3) His Names remind us of His power and glory:
 - ▶Faithful and True (verse 11).
 - ▶The Word of God (verse 13).
 - ▶The King of Kings and Lord of Lords (verse 16).
 - b. The Enemies = The Beast, the False Prophet and followers (p. 55).
 - c. The Battle = The Battle of Armageddon (go to page 74).
 - d. The Victory = The Final Destruction of the Antichrist.
 - 1) The Beast and False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire.
 - 2) Their followers are all slain.

CHAPTER 20

The Binding, Loosing and Judgment of Satan

1. The **MAIN POINT** of the chapter:
 - a. The defeat and destruction of the **FOURTH ENEMY** of Christ.
 - b. How this great defeat comes about.
2. The **Millennium** / 1000 years (go to page 75):
 - a. Is the whole NT period from the 1st to the 2nd coming of Christ.
 - b. Is, therefore, a symbolic number.
3. The **Binding of Satan** (go to page 76):
 - a: Is *only* in respect to his power to deceive the nations in order to gather them all to battle against the holy city (vss. 2, 3, 7, 8).
 - b. Takes place at the first coming of Christ (Matthew 12:29).
4. The **Reign of the Souls** with Christ (go to page 77):
 - a. Is in reference to literal disembodied souls.
 - b. Is heavenly (thrones are always heavenly in Revelation).
 - c. Refers to the glory believers have from death until the resurrection.
5. The **First Resurrection** (go to page 75):
 - a. Is the ascent of the souls of believers to glory at death.
 - b. Precedes an implied second resurrection which is the resurrection of the body and final glorification of believers.
6. The **Second Death**:
 - a. Is preceded by an implied first death, which is physical death.
 - b. Is itself the torment of body and soul in hell (Revelation 20:14) and corresponds to the second resurrection.
7. The **Loosing of Satan**:
 - a. Takes place near the end of all things (Rev. 20:7-15).
 - b. Allows him to deceive the nations, set up the Antichristian kingdom and make his final great assault on the church (Armageddon).
8. **Gog and Magog**:
 - a. Are the nations living at the four corners of the earth - all nations (four corners = all the earth - Is. 11:12, Ez. 7:2, Rev. 7:1).
 - b. Are *not* Russia and the other Soviet Bloc countries.
9. The **Holy City**:
 - a. Is the Church (Hebrew 12:22, 23, Revelation 21:2, 9, 10).
 - b. Is *not* the present city of Jerusalem.
10. The **Great White Throne** judgment is the *only* and *final* judgment (Matt. 5:21-22, 12:41-42, Jn. 5:28, 29, 6:39-40, 44, 54) at the last day (Acts 17:31).

CHAPTERS 21, 22

The Final Glory of Christ and His Church

1. Important Points:
 - a. The New Jerusalem = THE GLORIFIED CHURCH (21:1, 9, 10).
Not a literal city, i.e., the earthly city of Jerusalem in Palestine.
 - b. The Description of the City = the GLORY OF THE CHURCH.
Not literal streets, walls, foundations, gold jewels, etc.
 - c. The Glory of the Church =
 - 1) An end of suffering and sorrow (21:4).
 - 2) Satisfaction of all desires (21:6, 22:1, 2, 17)
 - 3) An end of wicked men (21:8, 27, 22:11, 15).
 - 4) An end of sin and the curse (22:3).
 - 5) ABOVE ALL: Being **with God and with Christ**.
2. The GLORY OF THE CHURCH is with God and Christ.
 - a. She is **Christ's Bride** (21:1, 9) united to Him forever.
 - b. She shines with **God's glory** (21:11).
 - c. God and the Lamb are her **temple** (21:22).
 - d. God and the Lamb are her **light** (21:23, 24, 22:5).
 - e. Believers will **dwell with God** (21:3).
 - f. God will be their God and they will be **His people** (21:3, 7).
 - g. God will be their **Comforter** (wipe away their tears) (21:4).
 - h. They will be **children of God** (21:7).
 - i. They will see **God's face** (22:4).
 - j. **God's Name** will be in their foreheads (22:4).
3. Other details of the heavenly glory of the Church:
 - a. **No more sea** (21:1) = nothing to separate believers from each other.
 - b. The new Jerusalem **coming down from heaven** = the union of the new heavens and earth (?).
 - c. The **walls** of the city = her safety/salvation (Is. 26:1, 60:18).
 - d. The **foundations** = apostolic and prophetic doctrine (Eph. 2:20).
 - e. The huge **size** of the city = the Church's greatness and glory.
 - f. The **equal length, breadth and height** = the Church's perfection.
12,000 x 12,000 x 12,000 furlongs (1,400 miles).
 - g. The **pure gold** walls and streets = her holiness (Rev. 4:6, 15:2).
 - h. The **12 foundations** and **12 gates** = the OT and the NT Church.
 - i. The **jewels** = the Church's beauty.
 - j. The **River of Life** and **Tree of Life** = Christ (Jn. 7:37, 38).

The Number of the Beast

1. Different interpretations:

- a. According to interpretations based on adding the numerical value of letters in names (numbers in Greek are often represented by letters of the alphabet), 666 =
 - 1) "Lateinos" (Latin), the Roman Empire or the Pope.
 - 2) "Caesar Neron," the Roman Emperor Nero.
 - 3) "Teitan," another Roman Empire, Titus.
 - 4) The "Pope" (according to many Protestants).
 - 5) "Vicarius filii dei" = Vicar of the Son of God, the Pope.
 - 6) John Calvin or Martin Luther (according to many Romanists).
 - 7) Archbishop Laud (an enemy of the English Reformation).
 - 8) Oliver Cromwell, Napoleon, John Wesley, etc.
 - 9) And as many as 100 other possibilities.
- b. According to other interpretations (with no Biblical basis), 666 =
 - 1) The symbol of Freemasonry.
 - 2) The faces on an American Dime.
 - 3) The N.R.A., National Rifle Association (American).
 - 4) The observance of the Sabbath on the 1st day of the week.
 - 5) The EEC (European Economic Community) master computer.
 - 6) Credit card or identity card numbers.

2. Critique:

- a. Of those interpretations based on replacing numbers with letters:
 - 1) We agree with the commentator (Hendriksen) who says:
The attempts to arrive at an interpretation by adding the numerical values of the letters in (a) name...lead to nothing just because they lead to everything! More Than Conquerors, p. 273.
 - 2) Nor does Scripture say, "Here is a riddle, let him who is bright solve it!" but, "Here is wisdom, let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast" (13:18).
- b. Of the other interpretations: they, too, are purely arbitrary.

3. The Meaning:

- a. A number simply to be **counted**, 666.
- b. That number, according to Scripture itself, is the number of MAN.
Not literally the number of *a* man.
- c. Thus: is a number that refers to Antichrist as "the MAN of sin," MAN exalting himself over against God and establishing a kingdom in which MAN is worshipped as God (I Thess. 2:3-4).

The Battle of Armageddon

1. Armageddon:
 - a. Means: "The hill of Megiddo," a valley in central Palestine.
 - b. Many battles fought there in OT times:
 - 1) Judges 5:19 - Barak & Israel against the Canaanites.
 - 2) II Kings 23:29, 30 - Josiah & Israel against the Egyptians.
2. Note the following concerning the Battle:
 - a. 16:14, 19:19, and 20:8 all refer *literally* to THE Battle.
They all refer, therefore, to the same battle.
 - b. 16:16 identifies it as the battle of ARMAGEDDON.
3. The Battle of Armageddon *is not*:
 - a. **The early struggle between Paganism and the Gospel.**
= the PRETERITE view (go to pages 6-8).
Objections:
 - 1) The sword is used for destruction, not conversion.
Proof: Revelation 2:16, 19:15.
 - 2) The battle takes place at the End not early in NT history.
Proof: Revelation 16:17-21, 19:19, 20.
 - b. **An attack of the wicked nations on Jerusalem and the Jews after the tribulation and before the millennium.**
= the FUTURIST view (go to pages 6-8).
Objections:
 - 1) The holy city (20:9) is identified in 21:9-10 as the Church, not the present city of Jerusalem.
 - 2) The battle does not take place 1000 years before the END but just prior to the final judgment (16:17-21, 20:9-15).
4. The Battle of Armageddon *is*:
 - a. **The final attack of the Antichristian kingdom on the Church.**
 - b. **An attack just prior to the second coming of Christ.**
 - c. **An attack which results in the complete overthrow of the Antichristian power through the coming of Christ.**
5. Confirmed by the OT references which show us battles:
 - a. Where the Lord defeats and overthrows the enemies of His church.
Compare with Judges 4:15, 5:19-21, and 5:31.
 - b. Or, where the Lord executes judgment on the apostate Church.

The Battle of Armageddon is followed by the Judgment Day in Revelation 16:17-21, 19:20, 21 and 20:9-15.

The Millennium

1. Millennium:

- a. Means = "1000 YEARS."
- b. Referred to only in Revelation 20 (6 times in verses 1-7).

2. The Millennium in Revelation 20 includes four events:

- a. Satan is bound during this time (vss. 1-3).
- b. The souls of the saints reign with Christ during this time (vss. 4).
- c. The "first resurrection" takes place during this period (vs. 5, 6).
- d. At the end of it Satan is loosed and deceives the nations gathering them to battle (vss. 7-9).

3. The Different Views:

a. PREMILLENNIALISM teaches:

- ▶ That the 1000 years is *literal* and is *future*.
- ▶ That the millennial kingdom of Christ is an *earthly* kingdom.

b. DISPENSATIONALISM teaches:

- ▶ That the 1000 years is *literal* and is *future*.
- ▶ That the millennial kingdom of Christ is an *earthly* and *Jewish* kingdom.

c. POSTMILLENNIALISM teaches:

- ▶ That the millennium is *not necessarily* a literal 1000 years.
- ▶ That the millennium is a *future* golden *Church* age.
- ▶ That the millennial kingdom of Christ is an earthly kingdom.

d. AMILLENNIALISM teaches:

- ▶ No *literal* millennium - the name means "no millennium and is not accurate since amillennialists do believe in a millennium.
- ▶ That the number 1000 is *symbolic*.
- ▶ That the millennium is the whole NT era.

4. Information:

- a. The kingdom of Christ is *not* an earthly kingdom (Jn. 18:36, Lk. 11:20, 17:20, 21, Jn. 3:3, 5, I Cor. 15:50).
- b. The number, 1000, is *not necessarily literal* (Ps. 50:10) and is almost certainly not in Revelation.
- c. The millennium *begins with the binding of Satan* which takes place at the time of Christ's first coming (Matt. 12:29 - see below).

* * * * *

5. Conclusion:

The millennium begins with Christ's first coming and is a symbolic description of the whole New Testament.

The Binding of Satan

1. The Different Views:

- a. PREMILLENNIALISM and DISPENSATIONALISM teach:
 - ▶ That the binding of Satan is *future* (at the beginning of the future millennium) and *complete*.
 - ▶ That this is what makes an *earthly* millennial kingdom possible.
- b. POSTMILLENNIALISM teaches:
 - ▶ That the binding of Satan may have already happened but *its results are yet to be seen*.
 - ▶ That Satan is *completely* bound.
- c. AMILLENNIALISM teaches:
 - ▶ That Satan is only *partially* bound.
 - ▶ That he is bound *now*.

2. Information:

- a. Satan was bound by Christ at the time of His first coming (Matthew 12:29 - the word "bind" is the same word as in Revelation 20).
- b. Satan is bound *only* in this respect that he cannot deceive the nations to gather them to the last battle.

3. Conclusion:

Satan is bound now and only partially bound.

The Reign of Souls With Christ

1. The different views:

- a. DISPENSATIONALISM and PREMILLENNIALISM teach:
 - ▶ Souls simply means *persons* - a figure of speech (Gen. 46:27).
 - ▶ The reign of souls with Christ is *on earth* (Postmil. also).
- b. AMILLENNIALISM teaches:
 - ▶ That these are *disembodied souls* (i.e. the souls of God's people in heaven before the resurrection of the body).
 - ▶ That their reign with Christ is *in heaven*.

2. Information:

- a. Thrones are *always* heavenly in Revelation (31 times).
- b. The figure of speech that refers to persons as "souls" is always used with a number and there is no number here.
- c. In Revelation 6:9-11 the souls are in heaven (the altar is there).

3. Conclusion: These are literal souls reigning in heaven now.

The First Resurrection

1. Different views:

- a. PREMILLENNIALISM and DISPENSATIONALISM teach:
 - ▶ That this is a *bodily* resurrection of the righteous dead.
 - ▶ That it takes place *before* the millennium.
 - ▶ That there are, therefore, at least *two* bodily resurrections.
- b. POSTMILLENNIALISM teaches:
 - ▶ That this resurrection is the same as *regeneration*.
 - ▶ That it is not a *bodily* resurrection - there is only one bodily resurrection at the end of the world.
- c. AMILLENNIALISM teaches:
 - ▶ That this is not a bodily resurrection, but the glorification of the souls of God's people after death.
 - ▶ That it takes place throughout the present age.
 - ▶ That there is *only one* resurrection of the body at the end of the world and that it is immediately followed by the judgment.

2. Information:

- a. These are *disembodied* souls *in heaven* (go to page 76).
- b. Verses 4 and 5 say that *the reign of the souls with Christ is the first resurrection*.
- c. Verse 5 neither says nor implies that the rest of the dead will live again as these "souls" do, when the 1000 years are finished. It is probably better understood to mean that they will *never* live or be raised like these souls!
- d. The second resurrection is the resurrection *of the body*.
- e. There is only one resurrection of the body at the end of the world (I Cor. 15:51, 52 - at the last trump).

3. Conclusion:

The reign of these souls is *heavenly* and precedes the resurrection of the body.

STUDY QUESTIONS
on the
Book
of
REVELATION

Lesson 1

(Background)

Study pages 1-5

1. Why is it important to remember that the name of the book is Revelation, not Revelations?
2. What does the name, Revelation, mean?
3. Does the name of the book indicate that the book is hard to understand?
4. Respond to the following quote from Luther as an analysis of Revelation: "It befits the apostolic office to speak of Christ and his deeds without figures or visions And so I . . . can nohow detect that the Holy Spirit produced it."
5. What do you think of Luther's first response to the book: "My spirit cannot adjust itself to the book?"
6. What is revealed in Revelation? Quote the verse from chapter 1 that proves your answer.
7. What is the clearest proof that the Apostle John was the author of Revelation?
8. What other Johns are mentioned in Scripture?
9. Try to find information from a Bible Dictionary or Encyclopedia explaining why John was on the Island of Patmos.
10. Why is the dating of Revelation important?

Lesson 2

(Different Views)

Study pages 6-12

1. What is the preterite view of Revelation?
2. Who hold the preterite view of Revelation (pre-, post-, or amillennialists) and why ?
3. What is the futurist view of Revelation?
4. Who hold the futurist view of Revelation and why?
5. What is the continuous-historical view of Revelation?
6. Who hold the continuous-historical view of Revelation?
7. Which view do you prefer and why?
8. Where does the Westminster Confession of Faith refer to the pope as Antichrist?
9. Can the statements of the Westminster Confession of Faith about the Antichrist be reconciled with either the preterite or futurist view of Revelation? Explain.
10. What does it mean that there is parallelism in Revelation?
11. Give some examples of parallelism from Revelation.
12. Find an example from OT prophecy to show that prophecy is not just concerned with the future.

Lesson 3

(Symbolism)

Study pages 13-40

1. Prove from Revelation itself that there is symbolism in the book.
2. Find a verse from the Bible that might be used to prove that it is not wrong to "spiritualize" some things in Revelation and in the rest of Scripture.
3. Find examples of things that cannot be taken literally in Revelation other than those given on page 13.
4. Find examples of things that Revelation itself tells us are symbolic.
5. Concerning what one thing in Revelation is there the most disagreement as to whether or not it is symbolic (cf. chapter 20)?
6. Find other things about which there might be disagreement as to whether or not they are symbolic.
7. What is the most important rule for interpreting symbolism?
8. Why do think the Holy Spirit uses symbols in Revelation?
9. Pick any symbol and try to interpret it in its context using the rules given on page 14.

Lesson 4

(Symbols)

Study pages 15-40

1. From the lists of symbols answer the following questions:
 - a. Which is the most important color in Revelation? Why?
 - b. Which is the most important animal? Why?
 - c. Which is the most important metal? Why?
 - d. In the list of "Other Items" which thing is most important? Why?
2. From the list of numbers on pages 15-19 answer the following questions:
 - a. Which is the most important number in Revelation?
 - b. Why is it so important?
 - c. Find other Scripture passages which use this number symbolically.
 - d. Explain the meaning of this number.
 - e. Another important number is the number 1000. Are there other Scripture passages which use it symbolically?
3. How many different symbols can you find in the lists that suggest the idea of judgment?
4. Why is the idea of judgment so prominent in Revelation?
5. Who is the most important person in Revelation (be careful in answering)? How does Revelation indicate his importance?

Lesson 5

(Outline)

Study pages 41-43 (cf. also pages 9-12)

1. What are two main parts of Revelation?
2. What is the main subject of each of these parts?
 - a. The first part:
 - b. The second part:
3. List the seven sections of the books and briefly state the theme of each section:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
4. Show that the things revealed in these seven sections do not follow each other in time but all cover essentially the same history.
5. Though the seals, trumpets and vials are parallel there is an important difference between them. Can you find it (it has to do with numbers)?

Lesson 6

(Chapter 1 - Introduction and Blessing)

Study page 46

1. How many times is the Lord referred to in Revelation as the One who is, was and is to come and why is this designation so important in the book of Revelation (cf. pages 7, 12)?
2. Why do most commentators believe that the "seven spirits which are before his throne" is a reference to the Holy Spirit?
3. Why might the Holy Spirit be referred to as seven spirits?
4. Pick out one of the designation of Christ in verses 5 and 6 and, explain what it means and show how it is important elsewhere in Revelation.
5. Why does John identify himself to us as a brother and companion in tribulation?
6. The beatitude of verse 3 is the first of seven in Revelation. Can you find the other six?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
7. Find passages in Revelation that show how we KEEP the things that are written in the book.
8. What day is the Lord's Day, and is it important that the visions John saw were given him on the Lord's Day?

Lesson 7

(Christ among the Candlesticks)

Study page 47

1. Why are the churches in Revelation represented by candlesticks (go to page 22)?
2. Do you think the angels of the churches are real angels or the ministers of the churches? Why?
3. Christ refers to parts of this vision in His letters to the seven churches. List the churches and the parts of the vision referred to in each letter.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
4. What are Alpha and Omega, and why does Christ use them as Names?
5. Why is it so important that Christ is the One who lives, was dead, and is alive forevermore?
6. What does it mean that Christ has the keys of Hell and Death and why does He tell this to the churches?
7. Find details of the vision that emphasize that Christ is:
 - a. God
 - b. Man
 - c. King
 - d. Priest
 - e. Prophet
 - f. Savior
 - g. Judge

Lesson 8

(Letters to the Seven Churches)

Study Pages 48, 49

1. Why when there were other churches nearby (Colosse and Heirapolis - Col. 1:2, 4:15) was Revelation written to only seven of all the churches in Asia?
2. Concerning which church(es) does Christ have nothing good to say?
3. Concerning which church(es) does Christ have nothing bad to say?
4. Study the different ways in which Christ identifies Himself to each church and explain why He does so.
 - a. Ephesus
 - b. Smyrna
 - c. Pergamos
 - d. Thyatira
 - e. Sardis
 - f. Philadelphia
 - g. Laodicea
5. Give examples of how the promise Christ gives to the faithful in each church fits the situation of that church.
6. If these churches are representative of the whole NT church, what are some things we can learn about the NT church from these letters?

Lesson 9

(Letters to the Seven Churches - continued)

Study pages 48, 49

1. Ephesus:

- a. Compare the condition of the Ephesian church in Revelation with its condition in Ephesians.
- b. About how many years after Ephesians was Revelation written?
- c. What does it mean that a church's candlestick is removed?
- d. How serious was the situation in Ephesus?

2. Smyrna:

- a. Are the 10 days of tribulation literal? To what do they refer?
- b. Who were those who claimed to be Jews but were not, who were a synagogue of Satan (Rom. 2:28, 29, 9:6-8)?

3. Pergamos:

- a. What was Satan's seat?
- b. Do we know who Antipas was? Why is he mentioned?
- c. What was the doctrine of Balaam and what part of OT history is referred to here?
- d. Who were the Nicolaitans and what did they teach?
- e. What are the hidden manna and the white stone?

4. Thyatira:

- a. Can we tell if the woman in verse 20 was really named Jezebel?

Why is this name appropriate for her?

b. What does it mean to know the depths of Satan?

5. Sardis:

a. What does it mean that the church had a name that she lived?

b. What might a church today be like that was like Sardis?

6. Philadelphia:

a. What is the key of David (Is. 22:22, Matt. 16:19, Lk. 11:52), and why is it referred to here?

b. What is the open door Christ talks about (I Cor. 16:9, II Cor. 2:12)?

c. What is the hour of temptation that shall come up all the earth?

d. Can anyone take our crown?

e. What does it mean to be a pillar in the temple of God (I Ki. 7:21)?

7. Laodicea:

a. Why does Christ describe this church as lukewarm?

b. What was the problem with the church of Laodicea?

c. Does verse 20 represent Christ as knocking at the door of sinner's hearts?

d. Why is it important that Laodicea is still called a church and is counted among the candlesticks?

8. Which of these churches does your congregation most resemble? Explain.

Lesson 10

(God's Throne)

Study page 50

1. Using a concordance, look up all the references to the word "throne" in Revelation.
 - a. How many times is the word used in Revelation?
 - b. Are thrones in Revelation ever earthly thrones?
 - c. Read Revelation 20:4. Are the thrones there earthly thrones?
 - d. Why is it so important to determine whether these thrones are earthly or heavenly?
2. Look up I Timothy 6:16 and explain why is God not more fully described in Revelation 4:2, 3.
3. Read Genesis 9:12-17. Why is the rainbow a symbol of God's covenant, especially of that covenant as it was revealed to Noah after the flood?
4. Why does the number 24 represent the complete church?
5. Which explanation of the four beasts do you prefer and why? Can you find proof from Scripture to prove which is preferable?
6. Why is the Spirit symbolized by lamps of fire?
7. Are there other Scripture references which connect the Spirit with fire?
8. In your own words, what is the PURPOSE of God?
9. Why is the purpose of God one of the first things revealed in Revelation?

Lesson 11

(The Lamb and the Book with Seven Seals)

Study page 51

1. Find other passages which describe God's decrees or plan as a book.
2. Find other passages of Scripture that show that God's book contains such things as war, social unrest, famine and death, as the next chapter indicates.
3. Why does God's book or plan contain such things?
4. Why is the Spirit represented here by horns and eyes?
 - a. Horns:
 - b. Eyes:
5. Are there other passages of Scripture which suggest the same ideas?
6. Why do these horns and eyes, if they represent the Spirit, belong to the Lamb?
7. Give examples from history of how men have been found unworthy and have failed to "open the book and loose the seven seals thereof."
8. Does the chapter suggest a reason why Christ alone is worthy to open the book? Explain your answer.
9. What comfort is there for believers in the fact that the Lamb is the One who opens the book and looses the seals?

Lesson 12

(The Seals, Trumpets, and Vials)

Study page 52

1. Of what do the following symbols make you think:
 - a. Seals?
 - b. Trumpets?
 - c. Vials?
2. How do we know that the seals, trumpets and vials do not follow each other chronologically?
3. In what way do they follow each other?
4. In the light of what you have learned so far from the book of Revelation explain what the following terms mean:
 - a. Parallelism:
 - b. Progress:
5. In what ways are both parallelism and progress evident in the opening of the seven seals?
 - a. Parallelism:
 - b. Progress:
6. Read Revelation 6, 8, 9, and 16. Without being able to explain every detail of these visions, do you believe that we are living in the days of the fulfillments of these things? Why or why not?

Lesson 13

(The Opening of the Seven Seals)

Study page 53

1. What is the most important element in the symbolism of the four horsemen?
2. Why are these forces of history pictured here as horses with their riders?
Find texts to prove your answer.
3. Who is the rider on the white horse?
 - a. What does Revelation 19:11-16 say?
 - b. Is the colour white in Revelation ever used in reference to the kingdom or power of evil (use a concordance)?
 - c. What are some of the similarities between this horse and rider and the person described in Psalm 45:1-6? Who is Psalm 45 describing?
 - d. Can the rider on the white horse possibly be Antichrist as some believe?
4. Are the souls under the altar disembodied souls or is this just a figure of speech for real living people, body and soul (cf. Genesis 46:27)?
5. In what way are these souls under the altar connected with the running of the four horses?
6. Is it right for us, as these souls do, to pray to God for vengeance?
7. What indications are there in verses 12-17 that these verses do describe the end of all things?

Lesson 14

(The Sealing of the 144,000)

Study page 54

1. With reference to the sealing:
 - a. How are these people sealed?
 - b. What is the result of their sealing?
2. With reference to the number 144,000:
 - a. Are there other passages that suggest that this number is symbolic?
 - b. Of what other numbers is this number a combination?
 - c. What do the numbers that combine to make 144,000 symbolize?
3. Who teach that the 144,000 are not the church, but fleshly Israel?
4. Where is Mount Zion, according to this same teaching?
5. Who teach that the church will *not* go through the great tribulation?
6. Prove that both the 144,000 and the innumerable multitude are the Church.
7. Which tribes are missing from the list of tribes in verses 5-8? Is there anything to be learned from this?
8. How is this vision connected (verses 9-12) with the visions of chapters 4-6?

Lesson 15

(The Prayers of Saints Offered)

Study page 55

1. Why does this vision of the offering of the prayers of saints precede the sounding of the seven trumpets?
2. What does this passage say about the importance of prayer?
3. Why is prayer so important?
 - a. Does prayer influence God or change events?
 - b. What does James 5:16 mean, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much?"
4. Does this passage teach us to pray for judgment on the wicked world?
5. May we pray for judgment on specific persons?
6. Which petition of the Lord's Prayer especially would bring judgment as described here?
7. Is there any Biblical basis for the idea that the incense in the vision represents Christ's intercession?
8. To what in the Old Testament is the golden altar a reference?
9. What is the message of this vision for us and for the church?

Lesson 16

(The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets)

Study pages 56, 57

1. What do trumpets represent in Scripture (use reference to prove your answer)?
2. What evidence is there that the trumpets and seals are parallel?
3. In connection with such passages as Isaiah 37:24-28, 57:20, and Job 38:7, why or why not might the plants and trees represent different classes of people, the sea and waters, governments, and the sun, moon, and stars spiritual beings?
4. In what ways are the first four trumpets similar to the plagues of Egypt?
5. If the first trumpets represent judgments on the earth itself can you think of different way they might be fulfilled today?
6. Why are the last three trumpets called "woes?"
7. Who or what is the fallen star of chapter 9:1 and does Isaiah 14:12 help answer this question?
8. Regarding the king mentioned in chapter 9, verse 11:
 - a. What do the names Abaddon and Apollyon mean?
 - b. How do we know to whom are these names given?
9. How are the horses and riders of the 6th Trumpet similar to those of Revelation 6:3-8?

Lesson 17

(The Mighty Angel)

Study page 58

1. Concerning the Mighty Angel:
 - a. Who do you believe this angel represents?
 - b. Defend your answer.
 - c. Does the identity of this angel make a difference as far as the interpretation of the vision is concerned?
2. What are some of the things concerning which the thunders may have spoken that are sealed up and hidden from us?
3. What is the "mystery of God" in passages like Ephesians 3:1-7 and Colossians 1:24-29? Is it the same here?
4. Look up the word "time" in a concordance and see if you can determine whether "delay" is a proper interpretation or translation of the word in Revelation 10:6?
5. Does Christ delay His coming or does He come quickly as He promised?
6. Is the little book of Revelation 10 the same as the book with seven seals in Revelation 5 and 6?
7. What is the message of this vision for the church?

Lesson 18

(The Measuring of the Temple and the Two Witnesses)

Study page 59

1. This chapter is often considered the most difficult in Revelation - Why?
2. What is the Dispensational interpretation of this passage?
3. Can you prove that the city is not the earthly city of Jerusalem and the temple not the rebuilt earthly temple?
4. How is Revelation 12:14 proof that the 42 months is the whole New Testament era?
5. What does the measuring of the temple represent and why is only part of it measured?
6. Why is the holy city also called "Sodom" and "Egypt?"
7. Why are there *two* witnesses?
8. How in connection with the work of these two witnesses are those that oppose them killed by fire?
9. Have the witnesses ever been completely silenced and will they ever be?
10. Why cannot verse 12 be used to prove a secret, pre-tribulation rapture?
11. What does the ark represent in verse 19?

Lesson 19

(The Woman and the Dragon)

Study page 60

1. In light of the fact that the woman is called a sign in Revelation 12:1, is it possible that she represents a real woman, either Eve or Mary?
2. What do the sun, moon, and stars represent as part of the woman's dress?
3. Give examples from New Testament history of how the Dragon tried to devour the man child as soon as He was born.
4. How do we know the man child is Christ?
5. What might the pulling down of stars by the Dragon's tail represent?
6. In connection with verse 10:
 - a. Give examples of Satan's role as the accuser of the brethren.
 - b. How does Christ's exaltation finish Satan's power to accuse (Hebrews 9:24)?
7. What do the names "Devil" and "Satan" mean?
8. Regarding Michael:
 - a. Where else in Scripture does Michael appear and in what role?
 - b. Who is he?
9. When did the casting out of Satan occur?
10. Is the Dragon identical to the first beast of the chapter 13?

Lesson 20

(The Two Beasts)

Study page 61

1. How do Daniel 7 and 8 prove that the first beast represents various world powers?
2. What world powers are named in Daniel 7 and 8?
3. Is the first beast in any way to be identified with the "little horn" of Daniel 7:8, 20? Why or why not?
4. How do we know from Scripture that the beast is Antichrist?
5. Are there other possible fulfillments of the great wound which the beast receives in one of its heads than that given in the outlines?
6. Does this passage in any way indicate whether Antichrist is a single man, a group of men, or just a force or power? Does the Bible answer that question at all?
7. What does the second beast look like and why?
8. Regarding the number 666:
 - a. This number is often considered a kind of code name for a single person - are there other numbers in Scripture that are symbolic in that manner?
 - b. Who are some of the men to who this number is supposed to refer?
 - c. Does the passage indicate that the number is difficult to understand?
 - d. Does the passage give any clue as to how we are to understand it?

Lesson 21

(The 144,000 on Mount Zion)

Study page 62

1. Who are the 144,000?
2. Where is Mount Zion in this vision - on earth or in heaven, and what is it - a literal mountain or a symbol of something?
3. What are some of the differences between the vision of the 144,000 in Revelation 7 and this vision?
4. Why are there these differences?
5. What does it mean that these people have the Father's Name written on their foreheads? Can this be taken literally?
6. According to chapter 13, those who serve the Beast have his mark. What is the difference between a seal and a mark?
7. How does the reference to this seal help explain what the mark of the Beast is in the previous chapter?
8. What is the Song of Moses and the Lamb and do we know it?
9. Whose voice is it that John hears from heaven singing this song?

Lesson 22

(The Three Angels and the Harvest)

Study page 63

1. What do the three great Messenger Angels announce?
 - a. The first
 - b. The second
 - c. The third
2. What is the purpose of their announcements?
3. Do you believe that the "everlasting gospel" (Revelation 14:6) is or *is not* the Good News of salvation? Give reasons.
4. What or who is Babylon?
5. How and by whom is the doctrine of eternal punishment being denied today?
How does Revelation 14:11 prove this important doctrine?
6. Why are there two harvesters in this vision and who are they?
7. Are there two harvests or two parts to the one harvest?
8. How is reaping a fitting picture of Christ's work at the end of the world?
9. Where else in Scripture is the winepress used a symbol of judgment?

Lesson 23

(The Seven Vials)

Study page 64

1. In what ways are the vials *parallel* to the seals and trumpets?
2. In what ways is there *progress* from the trumpets to the vials?
3. How are the angels with the vials a sign (Revelation 15:1)?
4. Why is the clothing of these angels described in the vision?
5. Can you think of a reason why the angels receive their vials from one of the four beasts?
6. Why is no one able to enter the temple in the vision until the angels have poured out their vials?
7. What could the plague be that comes on those who worship the Beast when the first vial is poured out?
8. What is the seat of the Beast?
9. In connection with the sixth vial:
 - a. What is the way of the Kings of the east?
 - b. What are the three unclean spirits like frogs and what do they do?
10. Where and what is Armageddon?
11. What does the seventh vial accomplish?

Lesson 24

(The Beast and the Great Whore)

Study page 65

1. What is the main point of this vision?
2. How do we know that the Beast here is the same as the first Beast of Revelation 13?
3. Why is it significant that there is a woman in chapter 12 and a woman here?
4. What are the fornications of the woman in this vision?
5. What does her name, Mystery, Babylon the Great, mean? What is the mystery?
6. Why is the Beast described as the one that was, is not, and yet is?
7. Why on the basis of verse 9 do many believe that the woman represents either the Roman Empire or the Roman Papacy?
8. What do you think of the view that identifies the whore with the Papacy?
9. What do the seven heads and ten horns of the Beast represent?
10. Why is the whore pictured riding on the Beast?

Lesson 25

(The Fall of Babylon)

Study page 66

1. How do we know that Babylon and the great whore of chapter 17 are the same?
2. Why is she identified as Babylon?
3. What is the main point of this vision?
4. In what way do the people of God come out of her as they are called to do?
5. How would they be partakers of her sins if they did not?
6. Does that calling to come out have anything to do with church reformation?
7. How is Babylon "rewarded" double and how do God's people give her that double reward?
8. Why is the commerce, life, and wealth of Babylon spoken of in such detail?
9. How is the fall of Babylon like the casting of a great millstone into the sea (verse 21)?

Lesson 26

(The Marriage and Victory of the Lamb)

Study page 67

1. What two suppers are described in this vision and what do they represent?
 - a.
 - b.
2. When does the wedding of the Lamb take place?
3. What is the wedding of the Lamb?
4. What is the righteousness of saints (verse 8)?
5. Who is it that tells John not to worship him in verse 10?
6. Why are so many different Names of Christ used in the verses 11-16?
7. How do we know that the battle described is the battle of Armageddon?
8. When does this battle take place?
9. What does it mean that Beast and the False prophet are cast *alive* into the lake of fire?
10. What is the main point of this vision?

Lesson 27

(The Fall of Satan)

Study page 68 and pages 72-75

1. What is the millennium?
2. Describe some of the different views of the millennium?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. What things, according to Revelation 20, happen during the millennium?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. When was Satan bound? Give proof.
5. Are the thrones of verse 4 on earth or in heaven? Give proof.
6. What are and who are part of:
 - a. The first death?
 - b. The second death?
 - a. The first resurrection?
 - b. The second resurrection?
7. What happens when Satan is loosed?
8. Who are Gog and Magog?
9. Prove that the Great White Throne Judgment is the only judgment.

Lesson 28

(The Final Glory of the Church)

Study page 69

1. Who or what is the new Jerusalem? Give proof.
2. Is the new Jerusalem the same as the holy city of chapter 20?
3. Why does the new Jerusalem come down from God out of heaven?
4. What does it mean that there will be no more sea?
5. What is the real glory of the church in heaven?
6. How are God and the Lamb the temple of it (21:22)?
7. Why are the gates of the city never shut (21:25)?
8. Is the tree of life in chapter 22:1, 2, literal or symbolic?
9. Why is there a tree of life in the new Jerusalem?
10. What tree is not in the new Jerusalem and why?
11. What is verbal inspiration and how does Revelation 22:18, 19 prove it?
12. Do you believe that Jesus comes quickly?