

*Cultivate.* RELATIONSHIPS

# REVELATION

A Study in the Prophecy of Prophecies

# **REVELATION**

A STUDY IN THE PROPHECY OF PROPHECIES

# REVELATION

## A STUDY IN THE PROPHECY OF PROPHECIES

REVELATION: A Study in the Prophecy of Prophecies

Copyright © 2022, 2023 by Nathan Steel  
Published by Cultivate Publishing  
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, except as provided by USA copyright law. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (*The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bible, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked NCV are taken from The Holy Bible: New Century Version®, copyright © 2005 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. Scripture quotations marked CJB are taken from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. Copyright © 1998. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Messianic Jewish publishers, 6120 Day Long Lane, Clarksville, MD 21029. [www.messianicjewish.net](http://www.messianicjewish.net). All emphasis within Scripture quotations is the author's own.

*Cultivate* PUBLISHING

Learn more about Cultivate Relationships, LLC at:  
[www.CultivateRelationships.com](http://www.CultivateRelationships.com)

## CONTENTS

<i>Recommended Resources, Hermeneutics, &amp; Introduction: Revelation</i>	1
<b>Part 1: Introduction &amp; The Churches</b>	
<i>Revelation 1-3</i>	7
<b>Part 2: The Throne &amp; The Scroll</b>	
<i>Revelation 4</i>	19
<i>Revelation 5</i>	20
<i>Revelation 6</i>	21
<i>Revelation 7</i>	24
<b>Part 3: The Kingdom &amp; The Trumpets</b>	
<i>Revelation 8</i>	27
<i>Revelation 9</i>	30
<i>Revelation 10</i>	32
<i>Revelation 11</i>	34
<b>Part 4: The Beauty &amp; The Beasts</b>	
<i>Revelation 12</i>	37
<i>Revelation 13</i>	39
<i>Revelation 14</i>	42
<b>Part 5: The Beast &amp; The Bowls</b>	
<i>Revelation 15</i>	45
<i>Revelation 16</i>	46
<i>Revelation 17</i>	48
<i>Revelation 18</i>	50
<b>Part 6: The New Heaven &amp; The New Earth</b>	
<i>Revelation 19</i>	51
<i>Revelation 20</i>	55
<i>Revelation 21</i>	58
<i>Revelation 22</i>	60



## **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES**

**YouTube.com/@GoreBruce**

*Playlist: Apocalypse in Space and Time*

By: Bruce Gore | Last Updated ©2021

**YouTube.com/@InvictaHistory**

*Video: The Siege of Jerusalem (70 AD) – The Great Jewish Revolt*

By: Invicta History | Last Updated ©2019

**Days of Vengeance**

*An Exposition of the Book of Revelation*

By: David Chilton | Dominion Press ©2006

**Victorious Eschatology**

*A Partial Preterist View*

By: Dr. Harold Eberle & Dr. Martin Trench | Worldcast Publishing ©2021

**Four View on the Book of Revelation**

*Counterpoints: Bible and Theology*

By: C. Marvin Pate, Stanley N. Gundry, Kenneth L. Gentry Jr., Sam Hamstra Jr., & Robert L. Thomas | Zondervan Academic ©1998

## HERMENEUTICS

Hermeneutics (Gk. *hermeneuō*) = translate or interpret. It is the study of interpreting a writing. Therefore when it comes to the Bible, it is about how we approach, understand, and interpret the Scriptures. If exegesis is the act of studying a passage critically and interpreting the meaning, then hermeneutics is the study of the principles by which a passage is to be interpreted. Technically speaking, Biblical Hermeneutics began within Scripture. We see the Pharisees and Sadducees using “hermeneutics” to look at how to understand the Old Testament.

There is a plethora of books that break down Biblical hermeneutics. Each one has their own list of “important” principles. Since the subject of Biblical hermeneutics is incredibly vast and complex, for simplicity, I have decided to compile many of them into three categories:

### 1) Scripture Interprets Scripture Principles

*Often Scripture interprets itself. In most instances, another Biblical writer interprets another Biblical passage.*

**Context:** *The surrounding verses, chapter, and book(s) of the Bible provide immediate context to any Bible verse, as does the historical, cultural, literary genre, and linguistic context of a verse. (Psalm 51)*

**Clear vs Obscure:** *No verse of Scripture should be interpreted to contradict the overall message of Scripture. When we are faced with an obscure passage, we find a clearer passage to help interpret it. (Revelation 11.3-6 and Zechariah 3-6 [4.14])*

**Precedence:** *Word usage and context always builds on itself. Therefore, rather than making up a meaning to fit an immediate context, look at how it was used prior – going back to the first mention if possible. (Galatians 6.16-17 and John 1.14)*

**Unity:** *The meaning of a passage should agree with and be consistent with the rest of Scripture. No single passage should be the “proof text” of an idea, doctrine, or belief system. (Jeremiah 17.9 vs Matthew 12.35)*

### 2) Intent Interprets Scripture Principles

*All Scripture has an intended meaning. It is therefore true that a Scripture has one correct interpretation while it may have many correct applications.*

**Definitions:** *Studying Scripture requires knowing what the original word meant to its original audience (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). We must find the plain meaning of a word then continue using that plain meaning. (Romans 5.18-19, “all” and “many”)*

**Word Usage:** *The original authors and audiences used words in unique ways including idioms and metaphors. Therefore, we must look to their cultural understandings, notions, and biases (not our own) when interpreting Scripture. (Revelation 20.3 and Joshua 23.10; 1 Chronicles 16.15; Psalm 50.10; 84.10; Ecclesiastes 6.6; 2 Peter 3.8)*

**History:** *Understanding religious, social, and socioeconomic life of the original authors and audiences will help us interpret passages of the Bible. We must remain aware as to not add our own backgrounds and culture to our reading of Scripture. (Romans 16.15; 1 Corinthians 16.20)*

**Logic:** *This is simply allowing our ability to reason logically and interpret evidence to play a role in understanding Scripture. Scripture should not contradict itself and it should make sense. (Matthew 27.37; Mark 15.26; Luke 23.38; \*John 19.19-20\*)*

**Inference:** *An inference is a fact reasonably implied from another fact. Inferential facts or propositions are sufficiently binding when their truth is established by competent and satisfactory evidence. (Matthew 27.48; Mark 15.36; John 19.29 = bathroom sponge)*

### 3) Christo-Centric Principle

*This one is the most important principle. It is the principle by which:*

- *God reveals His heart and mind.*
- *angels reveal their inspiration.*
- *the enemy reveals their motivation for hatred and deception.*
- *humans’ identity, design, purpose, and empowerment is revealed.*



## **// REVELATION**

For over a century, Revelation has been one of the most perplexing and misunderstood books in Scripture. It draws from imagery, themes, and patterns from nearly every book or prophecy in the Old Testament Scriptures. With some cultural context and simple rules of interpretation, this class will help bring the historical reality and future hope of this book to life.



REVELATION 1-3

# **INTRODUCTION & THE CHURCHES**

## THE PROLOGUE

**01.01** | **“revelation”**: Gk, *apokalypsis* = to make known or clear

**“soon”**: Gk, *tachei* = speed, quickly, shortly (same word as in: Acts 12.7; 22.17-18 and Revelation 22.6)

**“communicated”**: Gk, *esemanen* = to give a sign or to signify — it points to the reality but is not the reality itself. These symbols from the Hebrew Scriptures are filled with meaning — a spiritual perspective on a literal historical event.

John uses the Hebrew Scriptures’ prophetic symbols – a heavenly perspective of Jerusalem’s final judgment and the fulfillment of the coronation of Jesus and inauguration of Jesus’ Kingdom.

### Key Numerical Symbols Found in Revelation:

↳ **3** = *Heavenly*

↳ **4** = *Earthly*

↳ **6** = *Man / Man’s Effort* (Exodus 20.8-11)

↳ **7** = *Fullness / Completeness*

**01.03** | **“is near”**: Gk, *eggus* = to soon or close (same word in Matthew 26.18; Philippians 4.5 (for the parallel passages and same word see: Matthew 24.33; Mark 13.29; Luke 21.31).

**01.04** | **“John”**: Lead Pastor of the Ephesian church.

Similar themes as to his other writings:

↳ **Jesus is Light**

John 1.4-5 // Revelation 21.23-24

↳ **Jesus is the Lamb**

John 1.26-36 (John’s the only one to records this) // Revelation 5.6-13

↳ **John’s use of creation narrative**

John 1.1-5 (cf. Genesis 1.1) // Revelation 6-16 (de-creation); 21-22 (garden paradise)



John is the only gospel that does not have the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem (see Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21).

**“to the seven churches”**: Ephesus (and its six church campuses Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea) along a Roman mail route.



Written to address immediate issue of persecution from the Jewish leadership and Rome → John’s meaning must therefore be **FIRST** anchored in and derived from the time, place, and audience to which he is writing.

**“seven spirits”**: or sevenfold Spirit (see Zechariah 3-4)

**01.05** **“faithful witness”**: Jesus is the perfect Prophet

**“firstborn of the dead”**: Jesus is the perfect Priest

**“ruler of the kings”**: Jesus is the perfect King

**01.07** **“coming with the clouds”**: Jesus is coming to judge and bring in his conquering kingdom (see also 10.1; 14.14; Daniel 7.13-14; Matthew 24.30; 26.64; Mark 13.26; 14:62; Luke 21:27).

↳ The *Son of Man* (Daniel 7.13-14) established the Kingdom but it will take time to fulfill (1 Corinthians 15.20-28).

**“every eye will see”**: it will be known throughout the known world (Roman Kingdom)

**“those who pierced him”**: the Jewish leaders – the judgement is ultimately on the Jewish leaders, its religious system, and unfaithful Israel that rejected Jesus (see Matthew 24.29-35; Mark 13.24-31; Luke 21.20-33). This further confirms the initial draft (intent) of the Revelation.

**“land”**: Gk, *ges* = land or geographically bounded/ inhabited region (same word in Acts 7.3 [country, land]; 7.4 [land, country]; 7.40 [land]. It can also be translated as ground (Acts 9.8); earth (Acts 13.47); soil (James 5.5).

**01.09** | **“partner in the tribulation”**: John identifies himself as a partaker in the tribulation (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)

**“and kingdom”**: a present reality

**“island of Patmos”**: Patmos, a penial colony. Nero’s persecution killed some Christians living in Rome (i.e., Paul, Peter, etc.) and exiled others living outside Rome (i.e., John).

*“I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the preaching of Jesus [into which he was thrown by Nero Caesar].”*

– Revelation 1.9, The Syriac Version – “The P’shitta (c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Century – Oldest New Testament Manuscript

**01.10-13** | v. 10 **“I heard...a trumpet”**

v. 12 **“I turned to see...a son of man”**

Key phrase – **heard** then **saw**. Revelation is a book of symbols.

Other Examples:

↳ **The Lion & The Lamb**  
5.2-5 “*said to me*” / 5.6 “*And I saw*”

↳ **The 144,000 & The Great Multitude**  
7.4-8 “*And I heard*” / 7.9 “*I looked*”

**01.11** | **“write in a book”**: publish, proclaim, preach, or teach NOW (because it will happen soon).

- 01.13 | “*clothed*”: priestly attire (see Psalm 110)
- 01.14-16 | Same description as the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7.9 and the Man in Daniels vision (Daniel 10.5-6 see also Ezekiel 43.2)
- 01.16 | “*sharp two-edged sword*”: God’s Word — His word makes things happen (often in the context of judgement – see Genesis 1-2; Isaiah 49.2; Ephesians 6.17; Hebrews 4.15).
- 01.18 | “*death*”: a result of sin.  
 “*hades*”: the holding place of the dead.  
 ↳ *Sheol* in Hebrew Scriptures  
 ↳ *Hades* in Greek (New Testament)
- 01.20 | “*angel*”: Gk, *aggello* = messenger. Contextually, possibly the pastor of the church.
- Context determines if this messenger is a:
- Human (Matthew 11.10; Mark 1.2; Luke 7.24, 9.52; James 2.25)
  - Spiritual Being (Matthew 1.20; 4.6; Luke 1.18; John 20.12; 1 Corinthians 6.3; Hebrews 1.7; 2.7; Hebrews 13.2; Jude 6)
  - Jesus Himself (Revelation 10)
- “*stars*”: the pastors (messengers) of the churches
- “*lampstands*”: the churches

Revelation 2.1-3.22

## UNIQUE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCHES

**Big Idea:** *Hardship (tribulation) reveals faithfulness or compromise.*  
 (See Matthew 24.29-31; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-5.11; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-3.15; Hebrews 5.11-6.12; James 1.2-4; 1 Peter 4.12-5.11; 2 Peter)

**Author:** (a unique picture of Jesus from the beginning of Revelation): *Ephesus* – 2.1 (cf. 1.12-13, 16); *Smyrna* – 2.8 (cf. 1.8, 17-18; 22.13); *Pergamum* – 2.12 (cf. 1.16); *Thyatira* – 2.18 (cf. 1.14-15); *Sardis* – 3.1 (cf. 1.4, 16); *Philadelphia* – 3.7 (cf. 6.10; 19.11); *Laodicea* – 3.14 (cf. 1.5; 21.6; 22.13)

**Reward:** (promise from the end of Revelation): *Ephesus* – 2.7 (cf. 22.2); *Smyrna* – 2.11 (cf. 21.8); *Pergamum* – 2.17 (cf. 20.11-15; see also John 6.22-51; Acts 26.10); *Thyatira* – 2.26-29 (cf. 20.4-6); *Sardis* – 3.5-6 (cf. 19.6-8); *Philadelphia* – 3.12-13 (cf. 21.9-27 [v22]; see also 1 Peter 2.4-5); *Laodicea* – 3.21-22 (cf. 22.5)

## 02.01-07 | The Church in Ephesus

v. 2: similar warning to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20.28-30

v. 4-5: similar to the teachings of Ephesians 2.11-22; 4.1-6.9

v. 5 **“works”**: fruit of love (see Galatians 5.22-6.10)

v. 6 **“Nicolaitans”**: an early Gnostic sect (possibly started by Nicolas [Acts 6.5]) that believed humanity had a sinful nature and therefore the flesh was inconsequential — they could do whatever they wanted to in the flesh without it affecting their spirit (see similar Gnostic beliefs and behaviors in the churches of Pergamum (v. 2.14-15) and Thyatira (2.20).

## 02.08-11 | The Church in Smyrna

v. 9: a true Jew would believe in Jesus (see John 5.45; 1 John 2.22-23; Romans 2.28; Philippians 3.2-3; Galatians 3.26-29).

v. 9-10 **“synagogue of Satan...devil”**: this may refer to a Jewish persecution by a local Chief Rabbi (see John 8.42-44; similar to the Philadelphia church [see 3.7-13]).

v. 10 **“ten days”**: a length of time that proves faithfulness and overcoming empowerment (see Daniel 1.12-16).

v. 10 **“second death”**: the final forever death (21.8 and Matthew 10.28).

## 02.12-17 | The Church in Pergamum

v. 13 **“I know”**: Jesus sees our familiar struggles.

v. 13 **“Satan’s throne”**: Pergamum was the center of emperor worship in Asia.

v. 13 **“Antipas”**: possibly an early pastor or elder.

v. 13 **“teaching of Balaam”**: a slow drift away from God and His design (see 2 Peter 2.15-16) – slowly becoming open to, accepting, celebrating, and endorsing what culture embraces for so that you won’t lose money (Numbers 25.1-2; 31.16 see also Romans 14.1-23; 1 Corinthians 8.1-13; 5.1-13; Jude 11).

v. 16 **“sword of my mouth”**: God’s Word of conviction and judgement (Hebrews 4.12; John 16.5-14).

v. 17 **“manna”**: Jesus (John 6.22-52)

v. 17 **“stone”**: Gk, *psophos* = small smooth stone used for voting. Only used twice in the New Testament: here and in Acts 26.10, translated as, *“I cast my vote against them.”*

↳ White Stone = Acquit

↳ Black Stone = Guilty

v. 17 **“new name”**: the name of the Victor (Isaiah 56.5; 62.2; 65.15).

## 02.18-29 | The Church in Thyatira

v. 18 **“Son of God”**: used to confront two ideas:

- *Paganism* = the Roman god, Apollo, the “son of God (Jupiter)” and was known as the god healing and diseases (contrast v.22-23).
- *Statism* = the Roman Caesar was also named the “son of God” by minting coins with this title on it beginning in 18 BC with Augustus “Octavian” Caesar.

v. 19 **“deeds of late are greater”**: maturity in doing good.

v. 20 **“woman”**: Gk, *gune* = woman, bride, or wife. Possibly the Pastor’s wife was advocating for cultural compromise. The term “Jezebel” is likely an epithet rather than her name.

v. 22 **“throw her on a bed”**: a vulgar inference to what she is doing and to the consequences of her casual and unnatural sex  
→ Jesus will bring about a quickening of natural diseases and sicknesses (see v.23).

v. 24 **“known the deep things of Satan”**: referring to Gnosticism (“secret knowledge” or “secret teachings”).

v. 27 **“rule them with a rod”**: Gk, *poimaino* = to shepherd (same word as John 21.16 – “shepherd” and 1 Peter 5.2 – “shepherd). The idea behind shepherding with an “iron rod” is that God’s Word (iron rod) is used to care for and feed Jesus’ people while those unwilling to receive it will break themselves on the iron rod (see Isaiah 30.14; Jeremiah 19.11).

v. 28 **“morning star”**: Apollo, in Greek mythology was called Mercury, also often the first planet seen in the morning therefore it was given the name, “the morning star” (contrast 22.16; 2 Peter 1.19).

### 03.01-06 | The Church in Sardis

v. 1 **“seven Spirits of God...seven stars”**: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to the Pastors that lead the churches.

v. 1 **“name”**: Gk, *onoma* = name — the church had the word “Alive” in its name. It was a city (and possibly church) of great wealth and fame — incredibly self-sufficient through a prosperous and thriving textile industry (see v. 4, 5).

v. 3 **“what”**: Gk, *pos* = how — almost exclusively translated as “how” and never as “what”. They received life through faith (Ephesians 2.8-10). They lost their faith and depended upon themselves.

v. 3 **“like a thief”**: Sardis was taken captive in the past:

- By Cyrus the Great of Persians in c.547<sub>BC</sub>
- By the Ionians in c. 499<sub>BC</sub>
- By Alexander the Great of Greece in 334<sub>BC</sub>
- By Seleucus I in 281<sub>BC</sub>
- By Antiochus III of Greece in 215-213<sub>BC</sub>

### 03.07-13 | The Church in Philadelphia

v. 7 **“key of David”**: The Key to the Kingdom of Heaven (see 2 Samuel 7.12-16; Isaiah 22.22; Matthew 16.19)

v. 8 **“open door”**: they freely walk in the Kingdom (see v. 7 about keys to the Kingdom).

v. 9 **“synagogue of Satan”**: see note on 2.9-10

v. 10 **“the hour”**: the judgement (see 9.15; 14.7, 15).

v. 10 **“whole world”**: literally, *inhabited earth*. The time of judgement will have global implications and impact.

v. 12 **“pillar in the temple”**: the body of Christ or the Spiritual temple of God (see 1 Peter 2.4-10; Revelation 21.22)

### 03.14-22 | The Church in Laodicea

Read Ephesians and Colossians to see what this church likely struggled with.

v. 14 **“Amen”**: truly. A thing that is sure or is sure to take place (see Matthew 18.3 and throughout the Gospels).

v. 15-16 **“cold...hot...lukewarm”**: The aqueducts that fed Laodicea were from Colossae (fed by cold springs) and Hierapolis (fed by hot springs). By the time the water came into the city it was lukewarm.

- *cold* = refreshing
- *hot* = soothing
- *lukewarm* = not beneficial or enjoyable

v. 17 **“need of nothing”**: no reason to trust or rely upon God due to their financial security.

v. 17-18 **“wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked”**: repudiates all the things this city was known for, namely: wealth, banking, medical schools (and a famous eye salve), and textiles.

v. 19 **“love...reprove”**: God’s correction and exhortation proves His love for us.

v. 20 **“stand at the door and knock”**: due to the church’s self-sufficiency, Jesus is seen standing outside the church, unwelcome and unnecessary. He wanted to be welcomed into the church and have communion with this church body.

## TIMING OF REVELATION

### Only evidence of John’s c.95 date:

*“Therefore we do not imperil [the churches] by announcing the name of the Antichrist plainly, for if it were safe and wise at the present time to proclaim his name, it would have been done by him who saw the visions of the Apocalypse, for it is not a very long time since he was still to be seen, but almost in our own age near the close of the reign of Domitian.”*

– Against Heresies, Irenaeus (c.175-180)

### Mistakes of Irenaeus:

- ↳ Jesus’ age: Jesus was about 50 when he died (Against Heresies 2.22.4-6; Demonstration of the Apostles 74)
- ↳ Jesus’ born: 41<sup>st</sup> year of Augustus (i.e. 14<sup>AD</sup>) (Against Heresies 3.21.3)
- ↳ Jesus’s death: between 41<sup>AD</sup> and 54<sup>AD</sup> (Demonstration of the Apostles 74)

### Deception of Fake Apostles (2.2)

Most of the real Apostles were still alive and influential. However, most of them would be dead well before c.95.

- Judas (c. 28, suicide)
- James (c. 44, Herod Agrippa)
- Peter (c. 67-68, Nero)
- Paul (c. 67-68, Nero)
- James (c. prior to 70, Pharisees)
- John (c. after 90, natural)

### Influence of Judaizers & Jewish Persecutions (2.9; 3.9)

Judaism did not have influence after the fall of Jerusalem.



## Internal Evidence for 66-68<sup>AD</sup> Writing:

### The Current Ruling Power = Rome (17.9)

*“the seven mountains”*: Rome built on seven hills: Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal, Viminal

### The Current Roman Ruler = Nero (17.9-10)

*“five have fallen”*: Julius (44<sup>BC</sup>), Octavius “Augustus” (31<sup>BC</sup>-14<sup>AD</sup>), Tiberius (14-37), Gaius “Caligula” (37-41), Claudius (41-54)

*“one is”*: Nero (54-68) – Jewish Wars (66-70)

*“the other has not yet come...a little while”*: Galba: 3 December 68 – 15 January 69 (43 days)

↳ Otho: 15 January 69 – 16 April 69

↳ Vitellius: 16 April 69 – 22 December 69

↳ Vespasian: 22 December 69-79

## The Existence of Jerusalem and the Temple (11.1-2)

### Only 7 Churches

Huge spread of Christianity after fall of Jerusalem not before.

*“...for the blessed apostle Paul himself, following the order of his predecessor John, he wrote to only seven churches by name, in the following order...”*

— Muratorian Canon (c. 170)

### Daniel’s Timetable (Daniel 12.4 contrast Revelation 22.10):

- **Daniel** *“...conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of times...”* (483 years to Jesus)
- **Revelation** *“...Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near...”*

## WHY WAS REVELATION WRITTEN

Written to address the imperial Roman persecution of Christians under Nero (the only other Imperial ordered persecution of Christians was under Diocletian in 283) —

therefore, John's meanings must FIRST be anchored in the context (time, place, and audience) of his writing (c. 64-68).

### **REVELATION 1-3 BIG IDEA**

**Jesus is crowned King and will come back to a Kingdom that has filled the earth.**

REVELATION 4-7

# **THE THRONE & THE SCROLL**

Revelation 4.1-11 (cf. Hebrews 8.1-7)

## THE HEAVENLY *(true)* TEMPLE *(tabernacle)*

04.02 | “*throne*”: Ark & Mercy Seat (cf. Exodus 25.17-22)

04.04 | “*twenty-four elders*”: Priests (cf. 1 Chronicles 24-25 [24.7-19]; Chronicles retells the stories of Samuel and Kings from a priestly perspective.)

04.05 | “*lightning...rumblings...thunder*”: Power (cf. Exodus 19.16)

“*seven torches*”: Menorah (cf. Exodus 25.37) = the Holy Spirit

04.06 | “*sea of glass*”: Bronze Laver (cf. Exodus 30.18) = purity through washing.

“*four living creatures*”: God is the God of life (cf. Ezekiel 1; Isaiah 6).

“*full of eyes*”: to see the fullness of God’s uniqueness [i.e. Holiness].

04.08 | “*Holy, holy, holy*”: triple repetition means pay attention or the certainty of what is being said (cf. Isaiah 6.3)

04.10 | The elder (high) priests release their gold crowns — a representation of them releasing their responsibility to mediate (cf. 1 Timothy 2.5; Hebrews 9.15; 12.24; Zechariah 6.9-11 [same word in LXX]).

Revelation 5.1-14

## THE SCROLL & THE LAMB

05.01 | “*right hand*”: authority, the One on the throne (the Father).

“*written inside and on the back*”: No room for change or alterations — it is a fixed document and unavoidable — an ancient “Last Will & Testament” sealed by seven witnesses.

05.02 | “*open the scroll...break its seals*”: only the executor of the will (i.e., Jesus — the one who died [owns the will] and the one

who resurrected [executes the will]). The scroll is God's judgment which ushers in God's Kingdom.

**05.05-06** | "**Lion...Lamb**": fullness of messianic promise (Lion: Genesis 49.8-10; Ezekiel 21.27; Isaiah 11.1, 10; Romans 15.12; Lamb: Isaiah 53.7; John 1.29; Revelation 17.14)

**05.06** | "**seven horns**": All Powerful (Deuteronomy 33.17)

"**seven eyes**": All Knowing (cf. Zechariah 6.8-10)

"**seven spirits**": All Present (cf. Zechariah 3-4)

**05.09-10** | "**every tribe...language...people...nation**": All People (7.4-12; see also Acts 2.17) which incorporates the Gentiles into the Kingship and Priesthood (1 Peter 2)

"**reign upon the earth**": The Kingdom is here (Earth), not an invisible realm (cf. Daniel 2.44; Matthew 3.2; 10.7; 11.12).

Revelation 6.1-14

## THE SEVEN SEALS

**3-Fold Sayings:** In Jewish culture, to establish a pattern of certainty, you would repeat something 3 times (Ezekiel 21.27; Isaiah 6.3; Jeremiah 7.4; 22.29; John 21.15-11; Acts 10.1-23). In the book of Revelation, there are three times God's vengeance is unleashed on the enemy of God's people and three times His Kingdom is established and victorious:

- 1) **5.1-11.19** – After the seals and trumpets (see 11.15-19) — two events that take place in a linear timeline.
- 2) **12.1-10** – After the dragon is thrown out of Heaven (see 12.10) — Heavenly perspective of the enemy's defeat.
- 3) **15.1-19.6** – After the bowls of wrath (i.e., the 4 hallelujahs in 19.1-6) — a detailed retelling of the destruction of Jerusalem with details of timing and key figures.

## Concurrent Events of Revelation

A retelling of the fall of Jerusalem using different analogies (7 seals followed by the 7 trumpets then a new vision of the 7 bowls):

### TRIBULATION

7 Seals	→	7 Trumpets	7 Bowls
Horsemen (Zechariah 1.7-17)		Plagues (Exodus 7.14-12.32)	Plagues (see ←)

### REMNANT

144,000/multitude (7.1-12)	→	2/3 of Mankind (9.15)	A Multitude (19.1)
-------------------------------	---	--------------------------	-----------------------

### THE KINGDOM

Throne (7.9-17)	→	Harvest (14.14-20)	Judgment (17-18)
--------------------	---	-----------------------	---------------------

- 06.01-02** | **Seal 1:** The Lion creature & the white horse (Conquering King)  
↳ Rider had a bow to conquer (Jesus via Roman Army)

- 06.03-04** | **Seal 2:** The Ox creature & the red horse (War & Peace Removed)  
↳ Peace taken away and people *slay* one another with a *sword*

“*slay*”: Gk. *sphazō* = slaughter

“*sword*”: Gk. *machaira* = sacrificial knife. Same word in LXX in Genesis 22.6, 10 for “sacrificial knife”).

- 06.05-06** | **Seal 3:** The Man creature & the black horse (Artificial Scarcity & Inflation)  
↳ Pair of scales inflation of wheat and barley causing scarcity and artificial famine (but don’t harm the wine and oil) — Titus allowed Jewish travelers to come into Jerusalem for the Passover in 70<sub>AD</sub> before he sieged the city. This influx of people along with the Roman siege caused inflation.

**06.07-08** | **Seal 4:** The Eagle creature & the Pale (greenish yellow) horse (Famine, Pestilence, and Death)

↳ Rider's name: Death, followed by Hades – given authority over 1/4 of the land with long swords, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts (Ezekiel 14.21-22)

**06.08-11** | **Seal 5:** Those slain because of their *“witness”* (Gk. = martyrdom).

*“they cried out... ‘how long’*”: The fulfillment of all the martyrs finding justice in Jesus through the destruction of Jerusalem and eradication of the Jewish Temple, its laws, and its legalistic system and religious leaders (Matthew 23.31-36; Luke 11.51).

*“avenging”*: not a personal vendetta but rather seeking a divine promise for justice (Romans 12.19)

*“little longer”*: literally, micro-moment. A call for patience and the purification of the faithful.

*“completed”*: the early Christian martyrs by Jewish leaders beginning with Stephen in Acts 7.54-8.3.

**06.12-17** | **Seal 6:** John uses poetic and common prophetic (apocalyptic) imagery throughout Revelation. De-creation (chaos and disorder) reveals judgment and the loss of power and the fall of a nation or kingdom (Matthew 24.29). General order of the fall: cosmos → land → people (Joel 2.28-32; Acts 2.14-24).

*“It is important to remember that the whole is a vision, and we must therefore guard against expecting a literal interpretation of the language used. Following the manner of the prophets, and the description given by our Lord himself ... St. John portrays the wonder and awe and consternation which will then be prevalent under the figure of falling stars, etc. ... The symbolism, as usual, bears evidence of its Old Testament origin; and the influence of our Lord's description in Matt. 24 is noticeable. The special revelation of God's presence or of his judgments is usually depicted under the figure of terrestrial commotion.*

— Pulpit Commentary, Revelation 6.12

- 06.12-17** | Old Testament cosmology in judgment: Isaiah 2.19; 13.13; 34.4; Ezekiel 32.7-8; Daniel 8.10; Hosea 10.8; Joel 2.28-32; Haggai 2.6-9.
- v.12 **“great earthquake”**: seismic shift in earthly political powers (Haggai 2.6-9; Hebrews 12.18-29)
- v.12 **“sun became black...moon became like blood”**: the fall of a kingdom or political system (Isaiah 13.10; Joel 2.10, 31; 3.15; Matthew 24.29; Mark 13.24)
- v.13 **“stars...fell”**: fall of political leaders (Daniel 8.10; Isaiah 34.4)
- v.13 **“great wind”**: God’s personal involvement sometimes via messengers (Genesis 1.2; 8.1; Exodus 10.13; Psalm 104.4; Isaiah 27.8; 32.27; Jeremiah 4.12; 13.24; 49.36; Ezekiel 37.9)
- v.14 **“sky was split apart”**: de-creation (Isaiah 51.6).
- v.15 **“mountain and islands were moved”**: security and stability removed (Isaiah 54.10; Jeremiah 4:24; Ezekiel 38.20; Nahum 1.5).
- v.15-16 **“fall on us”**: the people would rather die than face the judgement and wrath of the Lamb (Luke 23.28-31).
- 07.01-17** | WAIT! Don’t do this until those who are true Israel (144,000) are sealed (saved) (Luke 21.20-21).
- v.3 **“forehead”**: thoughts/will (Exodus 13.16; Deuteronomy 6.8; 11.18)
- v.4 **“144,000”**: Perfect and true Israel with each “tribe” being equal (Romans 3.22; 1 Corinthians 12.13; Galatians 3.28; Colossians 3.11). NOTE: v.6 – Manasseh (the first born of Joseph) replaces Dan as a tribe due to Dan’s unfaithfulness and idolatry (see Judges 17-18).
- NOTE: In September 66<sub>AD</sub>, General Gaius Cestius Gallus surrounded Jerusalem but within 6 days withdrew due to the loss of siege equipment by ambush and the cutting of supply



lines due to the October rains. The Christians remembered what Jesus had said in Matthew 24 (cf. Mark 13; Luke 21) and fled to Pella where a major center Christianity took root.

*“The whole body, however, of the church at Jerusalem, having been commanded by a divine revelation, given to men of approved piety there before the war, removed from the city, and dwelt at a certain town beyond the Jordan, called Pella.”*

— Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, 3, 5

v.14 **“who come out of the great tribulation”**: they survived the fall of Jerusalem and have become the “priests”. Two ways to see this 144,000 (v.4 “heard”) & Multitude (v.9 “I looked”):

- a. The multitude of true Israel saved (diaspora Jewish believers) during the destruction of Jerusalem.
- b. True Israel saved during the destruction of Jerusalem that lead to the salvation of a multitude from that time on of all cultures throughout history until Jesus physical return.

## **REVELATION 4-7 BIG IDEA**

**True Israel (God’s faithful people) are more than conquerors through Jesus no matter what tribulation may befall them.**



REVELATION 8-11

# **THE KINGDOM & THE TRUMPETS**

## THE SEVENTH SEAL → THE TRUMPETS

08.01 | Silence for about 30 minutes.

08.02 | Only place seven angels are mentioned in the Bible is in Revelation, possibly a reference from the book of Tobit:

*I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels, which present the prayers of the saints, and go in before the glory of the Holy One.*

— Tobit 12.15

08.03 | TEMPLE IN HEAVEN

*“golden senser...incense”*: Prayers of the martyrs (see Luke 1.8-21; cf. Exodus 30.1-21 – takes about a half hour).

Those martyred under Judaism (1 Thessalonians 2.13-16).

08.04 | *“prayer”*: Incense and prayers are synonymous (Exodus 30.7; Psalm 141.2; cf. Romans 8.26).

08.05 | *“angel”*: Jesus (Hebrews 9.24)

NOTE: the appearance of “another angel” in Revelation often refers to Jesus (7.1-3; 10.1; 18.1, 4, 21).

No veil in Heavenly temple (see Ephesians 3.12; Hebrews 4.16; 1 Timothy 2.5).

08.05 | Prayers go up, judgment comes down:

- our prayers are effective to bring justice
- the throne of grace has become the throne of judgment (grace to those who have faith / judgment to those who reject Grace [1 Corinthians 1.18-27; 2.14; 3.18-19]).

*“thunders, sounds, flashes of lightnings, and earthquake”* – Mount Sinai (Exodus 19.16-18).

## THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS

### The 5 Uses of Trumpets in the Hebrew Scriptures:

1. Signal time of worship (Leviticus 23.24; 25.9)
2. Warning of impending attack (Jeremiah 4.5-6)
3. Announce the Ark (Joshua 6.13; 2 Samuel 6.15)
4. Prepare for Holy War (Joshua 6.1-5, notice 7 trumpets)
5. Coronation of new King (1 Kings 1.34)

The trumpets reveal God's judgement through de-creation (chaos and disorder) (see Jeremiah 4.23-31). The first four horns (Revelation 8.6-13) is possibly an expanded vision from Zechariah 1.18-21.

The seven trumpets are an extension of the seven seals.

**08.06-07** | **Trumpet 1: *Hail, Fire, & Blood – Vegetation Destroyed***

1/3 of the land burned (hail, fire, and blood [Genesis 19.24; Exodus 9.23-26; Joel 2.30-32 cf. Revelation 11.8]).

**08.08-09** | **Trumpet 2: *Fire Mountain – 1/3 of Sea Destroyed***

1/3 of the sea destroyed by Great Mountain (Ezekiel 28.13-14; Psalm 18.1-3; 48.1-2; Jeremiah 51.25, 42, 63-64; Daniel 2.35)  
— Jesus is the mountain bringing destruction through Rome.

**08.10-11** | **Trumpet 3: *Wormwood – 1/3 of Fresh Water Destroyed***

1/3 of drinkable water made undrinkable  
A collapse of a political leader (Ezekiel 32.7; Isaiah 14.12-21).  
Wormwood is a plant symbolizing destruction (Deuteronomy 29.18; Jeremiah 9.13-15; 23.15; Lamentations 3.15; Amos 5.7)  
— contrasting bitter water of death vs. living water of Jesus.

**08.12-13** | **Trumpet 4: *1/3 of Sun, Moon, & Stars Darkened***

1/3 of sky darkened & 3 Woes Proclaimed. The fall of these reliable timekeepers is a fall into chaos and disorder.

**08.13** | **“eagle”**: swift speed and certainty (Habakkuk 1.8; Jeremiah 4.13; Deuteronomy 28.49). The Greek word for “eagle” is the same one for “vulture” in Matthew 24.28.

**“in heaven”**: under God's power and direction.

## THE FIFTH TRUMPET & 1<sup>st</sup> WOE

**09.01** | “*star from heaven...fallen*”: (see 12.7-9, Luke 10.18) opens the deep abyss or literally, “the shaft of the abyss” to torment those who are not God’s people.

“*bottomless pit*”: euphemistically the deep watery abyss (Genesis 1.2; Psalm 69.14-15; Luke 8.31)

This falling angel opens the abyss but is later thrown into it in 20.1-3 (see also Jeremiah 6; 25 – Babylon was used to take Israel captive but then later it is judged for doing so).

**09.03** | Locusts with the power of scorpions.

“*locusts*”: destruction and bareness by an army (Nahum 3.15; Joel 2.25). Rome devastated Jerusalem and the hill country surrounding it.



“*scorpions*”: oppression and slavery (2 Chronicles 10.11, 14). Rome enslaved Israelites (see Arch of Titus) — also a Roman siege weapon used to fire javelin ballistics.



09.04-12 | v.4 ***“only the men who do not have the seal”*** (v.4): 2 Timothy 2.19; Ephesians 1.13; 2 Corinthians 1.22 → notice the chaos only affects those who are not trusting in God (Proverbs 28.1).

v.5 ***“five months”***: Locusts with scorpion power to harm (but not kill) those who didn’t have God’s mark on their foreheads for 5 months (same amount of time as the Roman siege on Jerusalem: April to August 70AD).

Appearance or characteristics:

v.7 ***“horses prepared for battle”*** (Joel 2.3-5)

v.7 ***“gold crowns”***: ruling

v.7 ***“faces of men”***: people

v.8 ***“hair of women”***: horse manes / helmet crests

v.8 ***“teeth of lions”***: powerful

v.9 ***“breastplates of iron”***: strong

v.9 ***“sound of chariots / horses rushing into battle”***

v.10 ***“in their tails is their power”***: (see also Job 3.20-21; Jeremiah 8.3; Luke 23.30). Also Roman siege weapon.

v.11 ***“Abaddon...Apollyon”***: “Destruction” & “Destroyer”  
Apollon (Roman God of Archery, disease, sun, and light)

Revelation 9.13-11.14

## THE SIXTH TRUMPET & 2<sup>nd</sup> WOE: ARMY DESTROYS 1/3 OF PEOPLE

[TRUMPET 6 – PART 1 – JUDGMENT]

The continuation of de-creation because of the prayers of the saints (9.13 cf. 6.9-11[also Numbers 10.35; Judges 5.31; Psalm 7; 35; 58; 59; 69; 83; 109; 137; 139; Jeremiah 17.18; 1 Corinthians 16.22; Galatians 1.8-9; 1 Peter 2.23 – these are imprecatory prayers; cries for God to show judgment, vengeance, and vindication.

09.13-21 | Release of God’s four messengers (see 7.1-3) to cross the Euphrates and kill 1/3 of the people.

v.16 ***“four”***: earthly (i.e., directions: north, south, east, and west), an army numbering “myriads upon myriads”.

v.14 *“river Euphrates”*: Roman army crossed the Euphrates to conquer Israel.



Army Characteristics (v.17-19)

- Mounted troops
- Blue, Yellow, and Red breastplates (fire & brimstone)
- Lion heads
- Fire, smoke, and sulfur from mouths killed 1/3 of people
- Dangerous mouth and tail
- Out of their mouths = spoken words (Job 5.15; Psalm 59.7; 149.6; Isaiah 49.2; Hebrews 4.12; Revelation 19.15)

[NOTE: For a great description of the destruction of Jerusalem, get the book “The Essential Works of Josephus” by Paul L. Maier.]

Revelation 10.1-11

## THE ANGEL & LITTLE SCROLL

[TRUMPET 6 – PART 2 – REDEMPTION]

With the protection of God’s people comes purpose – a vision from Zechariah 5.1-4.

**10.01** Jesus himself: see also Psalm 104.1-3; Ezekiel 1.27-28

- *“clothed with a cloud”*: power, glory, conquering (see 1.7; 14.14; Daniel 7.13-14; Matthew 24.30; 26.64; Mark 13.26; 14.16; Luke 21.27)
- *“rainbow was upon his head”*: faithfulness (Genesis 9.13/Revelation 4.3)



- **“face was like the sun”**: deity (Matthew 17.2; 2 Corinthians 4.6)
- **“feet like pillars of fire”**: worship (1 Kings 7; Psalm 132.7)

**10.02-03** | **“little Book”** = Gk. *Biblaridion* – made up Greek word (unique book → unique name → unique message: the Gospel)

One foot on the sea and one foot on the land:

- **“land”**: Israel (Isaiah 1.1-3; Jeremiah 51.24-25)
- **“sea”**: Gentile (Psalm 65.7-8; 144.7; Isaiah 5.30; 8.7-8; 17.12; 60.5; Jeremiah 46.7-8; 47.1-2; 51.55-56; Ezekiel 26.3; Daniel 7; 9.26; 11.10, 40; Nahum 1.8; Revelation 17.15; 21.1 cf. Romans 10.12).
- **“seven peals of thunder”**: God’s Final Word

**10.04** | **“seal up the things”**: Why? Because there is more to come beyond Revelation. This is the only place in Revelation that God tells John to “seal it up” — the words are for the future (i.e., Jesus’ second physical coming) (see Daniel 8.26; 12.4; cf. Revelation 22.10) This phrase refutes two extremes:

- All of Revelation takes place in the future.
- All of Revelation takes place in the past.

**10.05-06** | Creation language = God is the creator of the re-creation.

**10.07** | The mystery of God is the gentiles are now God’s people (Mark 4.11; Romans 11.25; Ephesians 3.6; Colossians 1.26-27).

**10.08-10** | It’s a heavenly book with a heavenly message:  
**“sweet”**: redemptive  
**“bitter”**: judgment  
 (see Ezekiel 2.8; 3.1-3; Jeremiah 15.16).

**10.11** | John had an ongoing ministry beyond his Book of Revelation (The rest of John’s writings occurred well after the fall of Jerusalem, c. 90’s AD.).

Revelation 11.1-14

## THE TWO WITNESSES

The dismantling of the Old Covenant

- 11.01-02** | Measure the “temple” (Ezekiel 40.5; Zechariah 1.19):
- **“measure”**: guard, protect, own
  - Inside only: place of worship (1 Corinthians 6.19)
  - **“altar”**: means of worship (Luke 18.1; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)
  - **“those who worship”**: priests (1 Peter 2.5-9)
  - **“tread under foot”**: everything else destroyed

- 11.04-07** | A vision from Zechariah 2-4 – Two witnesses (Deuteronomy 17.6) qualified to judge Jerusalem:
- Zerubbabel (King): Law / Joshua (Priest): Prophets
  - **“two olive trees”** = Eternal fuel for eternal light (Zechariah 3-4.1)
  - **“fire flows out of their mouth”**: God’s Word (Jeremiah 5.14; 23.29; Hosea 6.5)
  - **“devours their enemies”**: Elijah (2 Kings 1.10-12; Jeremiah 5.14)
  - **“shut up the sky”**: Elijah (1 Kings 17.1-7)
  - water to blood and plagues: Moses (Exodus 7-12)

Moses = Law & Elijah = Prophets (“Law and Prophets” see Malachi 4.4-6; Matthew 7.12; 11.13, 22.40; Luke 16.16; 24.44; John 1.45). The Hebrew Scriptures (Law & Prophets) testifies of the destruction of Jerusalem.

Revelation 11.14-19

## THE 7<sup>th</sup> TRUMPET & THE 3<sup>rd</sup> WOE – GOD’S KINGDOM WINS (THUNDER, LIGHTNING, EARTHQUAKES, & HAILSTORM)

- 11.15** | The dismantling of the Old Covenant. Jesus’ Kingdom takes over the earth — the physical temple replaced by the spiritual temple (Church/ Bride/God’s People [1 Peter 2.1-12]):
- Termination of Old Covenant
  - Inauguration of the New (from John the Baptist – Matthew 11.12) culminating at the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The Kingdom of this World: the authority Adam abdicated to lower creation has now been won back through Jesus, the anointed one (Colossians 2.15; cf. Daniel 2.44; 7.27).

**11.16-17** | NOTICE: He omits *“who is to come”*

- Compare with Revelation 1.4, 8; 4.8

**11.18** | Destroying the destroyers of the land (Leviticus 18.28):

- Judging those who persecuted the saints.
- Rewarding those who died from persecution.

**11.19** | **The Spiritual Temple:** The Church (1 Peter 2.1-12)

Notice the True Ark of the Covenant (Mercy Seat, i.e., Jesus) is seen within the saved portion of the temple (his people) (see 11.1-2) – everything else is destroyed.

- *“hailstorm”* = Roman catapults (see also 16.21).

## REVELATION 8-11 BIG IDEA

God is perceived as safe for those who put their trust, dependence, and faith in Him and dangerous to those who distrust or mistrust Him and live independent of His design.



REVELATION 12-14

# **THE BEAUTY & THE BEASTS**

## THE WOMAN & THE DRAGON

12.01-02 | **“heaven”**: a spiritual sign of a physical reality

**“woman”**: Israel (those who are faithful, see v. 13-14).

**“sun”**: Righteousness (Malachi 4.2; Isaiah 60.1)

**“moon”**: possibly a reference to God’s people reflecting Him (Genesis 1.26; 12.1-3)

**“twelve stars”**: 12 tribes (Genesis 37.9)

**“child”**: Faithful Israel (specifically Mary) is pregnant with the Messiah (Genesis 3.15; Isaiah 7.14; Luke 1.51-55).

**“cried out”**: Longing for the Messiah (Isaiah 26.27; Micah 4.10; John 16.21-22)

12.03 | **“red dragon”**: Satan (accuser/prosecutor), devil, ancient serpent (Genesis 3.1, 15; Job 1.6; 1 Samuel 17.4-7, 54; John 19.17) that looks like Rome (Daniel 7.7-8 see below):

- Kicked out by Michael (Luke 10.17-20; John 12.31; Romans 16.20 see also Luke 8.26-39; John 4.1-42; Daniel 10.10-13)
- Jesus finally disarmed the enemy (Isaiah 27.1; Colossians 2.15; Hebrews 2.14; 1 John 3.8)
- We also play a role in our victory over the enemy:
  - *Blood of the Lamb* = who Jesus is and what he done
  - *Our Story* = what they have been set free from

12.04 | **“a third of the stars”**: Some authority taken but not complete (similar wording in Daniel 8.10 of Antiochus Epiphanes). These are NOT fallen spiritual beings.

12.05 | **“male child”**: shepherd the nations with an iron rod (Psalm 2.7-9; Isaiah 11.4; Revelation 19.15)

**“caught up”**: Jesus returns to heaven (Luke 24.51; Acts 1.2, 9)

**12.06** | **“wilderness”**: on Eagles wings (v. 14 see also Exodus 19.4) = God’s safety and provision:

- Joseph’s family in Egypt (Matthew 2.13-14)
- True Israel saved in the summer of 66<sub>AD</sub> (3½ years or 1260 days) prior to the destruction of Jerusalem in the winter of 70<sub>AD</sub>.

*“All the disciples had settled in Pella after their move from Jerusalem — Christ having told them to abandon Jerusalem and withdraw from it because of the siege it was about to undergo. And they settled in Perea for this reason and, as I said, lived their lives there.”*

— Epiphanius, Panarion 7.7

**12.07-12** | **“war in heaven”**: John sees what Jesus witnessed when his disciples were out on mission (see Luke 10.1-24).

**12.10** | **“kingdom of our God...has come... the accuser... has been thrown down”**: God’s Kingdom is victorious 3 times in Revelation, pointing to a re-telling of an event rather than 3 separate events (see also 11.15; 16.10; see also John 12.31).

**12.13-17** | This passage summarizes Rome’s persecution of the Church after Jesus’ resurrection until the destruction of Jerusalem.

**“persecuted the woman”**: The enemy now pursues faithful Israel (Christians) (see notes on 13.1-14.19).

**“times and time and half a time”**: 3½ years (1260 days – see v. 6 and note.)

Revelation 13.1-10

## THE RED SEA BEAST

**13.01-02** | **“beast...out of the sea”**: Red (17.3) composite of Daniel’s beast (Daniel 7) from gentile kingdoms in its extent and might.

- Leopard (Greece)
- Bear (Persia)
- Lion (Babylon)

The beast is more than Nero but reaches its full expression in him (emperor during the time Revelation is written).

*“And both Nero and the Empire were sunk in degrading, degenerate, bestial activities. Nero, who murdered numerous members of his own family (including his [own mother, Agrippina, and] pregnant wife, whom he kicked to death)...whose favorite aphrodisiac consisted of watching people suffer the most horrifying and disgusting tortures; who dressed up as a wild beast in order to attack and rape male and female prisoners...who used bodies of Christians burning at the stake as the original ‘Roman candles’...who launched the first imperial persecution of Christians...in order to destroy the Church; this animalistic pervert was the ruler of the most powerful empire on land.”*

— Abbreviated from Sentonius, Twelve Caesars

**“seven mountains”**: Rome & 7 Kings

(17.1-18; see also Genesis 3.1; Isaiah 27.1)

↳ 7 “Mountains” of Rome: Aventine, Palatine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Quirinal, Viminal

↳ 7 “Kings” of Rome: Julius – “fallen”, Augustus – “fallen”, Tiberius – “fallen”, Caligula – “fallen”, Claudius – “fallen”, Nero – “is”, Galba – “yet to come”

**“ten horns...ten diadems”**: Power – possibly the 10 providences (10 toes of Daniel 2.42-44) of Rome in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century: Achaia, Africa, Asia, Britain, Egypt, Gaul, Germany, Italy, Spain, Syria

### 13.03-04 **Red Sea Beast Nearly Mortally Wounded:**

Nero’s death nearly destroyed the Roman Empire – the “Time of 4 Caesars” (within 1 year, during the time of the siege on Jerusalem):

- Galba (Dec. 3, 68-Jan. 15, 69) “...*the other has not yet come... a little while...*” (17.10)
- Otho (Jan 15, 69-Apr. 16, 69)
- Vitellius (Apr. 16, 69-Dec. 22, 69)
- Vespasian (Dec. 22, 69-79) – Finally fully destroys the temple and Jerusalem.



**13.05-06** | **42-Month Attack Against Christians:**  
Rome's fire (most likely set by Nero – so he could rebuild and rename it Neropolis). Decree to blame and persecute Christians was in November 64 ending at Nero's death in June 68 (42 months) (see also Daniel 7).

**13.10** | God's vindication for His people (redemption for our suffering) is our hope and it is certain (Deuteronomy 32.35; Psalm 94.1; Romans 12.19; Hebrews 10.13; 1 Thessalonians 4.6; see also Jeremiah 15.1-14) and "...do not pray for the welfare of this people." (Jeremiah 14.10-12).

Revelation 13.11-18

## THE LAND BEAST

**13.11** | **The False Prophet Beast from the Land:**  
**"land":** Israel = Corrupt Jewish religion

- Looks like a lamb
- Sounds like the Red Dragon (20.10)
- Two horns
- Authority of the Red Sea Beast (Rome/Nero) (see John 19.12-16; Acts 7.58; 9.1-2; 22.5; 26.11– Paul given authority from Jerusalem to imprison and kill those in Damascus [a foreign city] by the only ruling authority over both regions [Rome]).

**13.12-13** | **"makes...those who dwell in [the land] to worship the first beast":** Perform Great Signs (fire from heaven) = counterfeit gospel – salvation through submitting to Rome (see ch. 11 – the two witnesses).

**13.14** | **"image of the beast":** Make an idol of Rome – to worship and trust: find comfort, safety, and provision.

**13.15** | **"breath":** an atmosphere or culture of a certain belief system and authority (see John 19.12-16).

**13.16-17** | **"mark of the beast":**  
↳ **"right hand"** = Actions  
↳ **"forehead"** = Thoughts/Beliefs

The Law is said to be a sign on the hand and forehead  
(Exodus 13.9, 16; Deuteronomy 6.8; 11.18).

**13.18** | “**666**” or “**616**”: Lit. the number of man when added = “*Neron Kesar*” or 616 = “*Nero Kesar*” as the number appears in the earliest manuscripts.

Specifically, Nero: “*Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man...*”  
Generally, Rome: Hebrews viewed 666 as the downfall of a kingdom and ruler (see 1 Kings 10.14; 2 Chronicles 9.13).

Revelation 14.1-5

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND GOD’S PEOPLE

**14.01** | “*the Lamb* (contrast vs. 13.11) *was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads*”

- 14.01** |
- “*the lamb*”: Jesus (Genesis 22.8; John 1.29, 36)
  - “*Mount Zion*”: God’s Kingdom (Daniel 2.35, 44; Isaiah 2.2-3; Micah 4.1-2; Hebrews 12)
  - “**144,000**”: God’s people (7.4-8, 12) (i.e., the first fruits: original Jewish believers – Hebrews 12.23; James 1.18)
  - “*foreheads*”: thoughts and beliefs (trust) (Exodus 13.9, 16; Deuteronomy 6.8; 11.18)

**14.03** | “*sang a new song... no one could learn it... except 144,000*”: there is something unique to believers that even the created spirit creatures and elders/priests could not sing – it is connected to those who are uniquely redeemed by the Lamb.

**14.04** | “*not been defiled with women*”: Holiness (i.e., idolatry = adultery to God) (1 Samuel 21.4-5; 2 Kings 19.21; Hosea 3.1)

## THE 6 MESSENGERS

“*angel(s)*”: messenger(s) (Greek *angelos* = messenger – same word in: Matthew 11.10; Luke 7.24; 9.52; 2 Corinthians 12.7; James 2.25).

Therefore, these angels may not necessarily be heavenly spiritual beings. Rather, they may be literal people and armies.

### 14.06 | Messenger 1: *Proclamation of the Gospel*

(Isaiah 40.9; Matthew 24.14; 28.19; Luke 24.47; Acts 1.6-8; Romans 1.5; 1 Peter 2.5)

Only done by the work of God’s people – (i.e., new song) (Isaiah 40.9; Matthew 24.14; 28.19; Luke 24.47; Acts 1.6-8; Romans 1.5; 1 Peter 2.5).

The Gospel = God’s Kingdom reigning:

- Not simply the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1.14-15)
- Not a future event (Acts 28.30-31)

#### Promised by Jesus

Matthew 24.14 – Jesus says, “**And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world [Gk. *oikoumenē* = known inhabited world: 1<sup>st</sup> C. = Rome] as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**”

#### Fulfilled by Paul & Peter

Colossians 1.6 – Paul says, “...[the gospel]...which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world [Gk. *kosmos* = all creation = further than Rome] it is bearing fruit and increase...” (see also Colossians 1.23; Matthew 24.14, 31)

### 14.08 | Messenger 2: *Proclamation Jerusalem’s Destruction*

(Isaiah 21.9; 1 Peter 5.13 [Acts 12.13; 15.22-40])

“*Babylon is fallen*” = Jerusalem = “The great” or “The Great City” (11.8)

- 14.09-12** | **Messenger 3: *Proclamation of God's Wrath***  
 Against those who commit willful rebellion against God (Isaiah 34.9) in the presence of God and His people (Gk. *hagion* = holy or saint – same word in: Matthew 27.52; Luke 1.10; Acts 3.21; 26.10; Romans 8.27; 12.13; 1 Corinthians 14.33; Ephesians 2.19; 1 Thessalonians 3.13; Hebrews 9.3; Revelation 5.8) (see also Ephesians 1.4; 5.27; Colossians 3.12; 1 Peter 1.15-16; Jude 14; Revelation 22.11)
- “...*forever and ever...*” – Figurative language = complete destruction of God’s enemies (Psalm 9.5; Isaiah 34.8-10; 66.1-24 see also Revelation 18.9, 18; 19.3)
- 14.12-13** | NOTICE: not referring to The End but an ongoing end.
- 14.15** | **Messenger 4: *Proclamation of Jesus' Reaping***  
 (Matthew 13.36-43; 24.29-51; John 4.35)
- 14.14-16** | Jesus reaps his harvest (saving the saints — those who flee Jerusalem [Luke 19.41; 21.20])
- “*a white cloud...son of man*”: see note on 1.7
- 14.18** | **Messenger 5: *Proclamation of the Reaping (Vengeance)***  
 (Joel 3.13) same angel as Revelation 8.1-5 (the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal) and 16.8 (the 4<sup>th</sup> bowl) this happened to the generation Jesus was talking to (Matthew 23.36).
- 14.17-19** | **Messenger 6: *The Execution of the Reaping of the Unbelievers***  
 (Zechariah 14.1-2; Joel 3.13; Galatians 4.38; Isaiah 63.3-6)

## REVELATION 12-14 BIG IDEA

No matter what we face, the enemy does not have power or authority in our lives. God works all things out for good for all who trust in Him – He wins every circumstance.

REVELATION 15-18

# **THE BEASTS & THE BOWLS**

## PREAMBLE TO THE 7 BOWLS

- 15.01** | *“another sign”*: while this is “another” sign (Revelation 15.1-22.9) find their meanings and origin in the sign of 12.1-14.20. A new scene (see 12.1, 3). A vision resembling the Israelites standing amidst the sea in the presence of their enemy.
- 15.02-04** | The remnant (God’s Army) standing on a sea of glass & fire
- TEMPLE IN HEAVEN  
*“sea of glass”*: Laver (Revelation 4.6) + Fire = Judgment (see also Exodus 24.10; Ezekiel 1; 1 Kings 7.23)
- 15.05-08** | The throne, which is opened to all, and the mercy seat [see Mark 15.38; 1 John 2.1-2] is wrapped in smoke (see Revelation 4; 11.19 [Exodus 19.18; 40.34; Leviticus 16.20; 1 Kings 8.10; 2 Chronicles 5.13; Isaiah 6.4])
- The enemy is still able to be the Accuser until the REAL sacrifice comes: Hebrews 10.1 (Job 1.6-11; Luke 10.18; Revelation 9.1; 12.10).

## 7 BOWLS OF INCENSE & PLAGUES

- 7 Bowls of Revelation 5.8 (prayers of the martyred saints + plagues [from Leviticus 26.14-39; Deuteronomy 28.15-68]) by 7 priestly “angels” (Revelation 15.6-8; 16.1; 17.1; 21.9)
- Compare with the Trumpets (Revelation 8.3-50) and the Plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7.1-12.30).
- 16.02** | **Bowl 1 | Trumpet 1 (8.6-7) | 6<sup>th</sup> Plague: Land**  
= Sores on Unfaithful Israel
- 16.03** | **Bowl 2 | Trumpet 2 (8.8-9) | 1<sup>st</sup> Plague: Sea**  
= Turned to Blood & Death to Gentiles
- 16.04-07** | **Bowl 3 | Trumpet 3 (8.10-11) | 1<sup>st</sup> Plague: Rivers**  
= Turned to Blood  
(The blood in Bowls 2 & 3 is the blood of the saints)

**16.08-09** | **Bowl 4 | Trumpet 4 (8.12-13) | 9<sup>th</sup> Plague: Sun**  
= Rather than darkness, it is the full power of the “sun” against Jerusalem

**16.10-11** | **Bowl 5 | Trumpet 5 (9.1-12) | 8<sup>th</sup> Plague: Red Dragon’s Kingdom Falls**  
= The Red Sea Beast throne falls (Revelation 13.1-2)

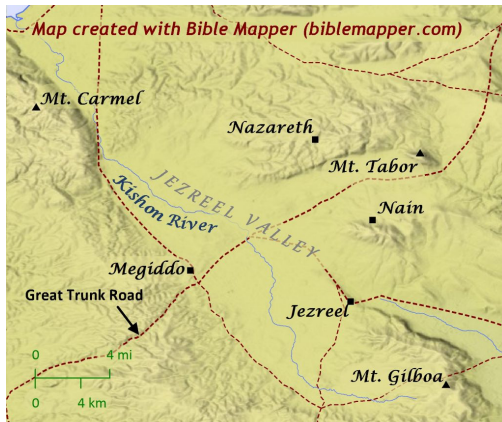
- Nero commits suicide
- Rome thrown into chaos – the “*Year of Four Emperors*”

*“...and the fierce struggle of the Vitellians against Sabinus and Domitian, and the massacre which followed, there occurred the event which sounded so portentously in the ears of every Roman – the burning to the ground of the Temple of the Capitoline Jupiter, on December 19, 69.”*

— Tacitus, *The Histories*, iii.48

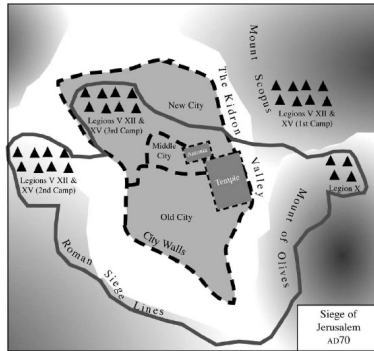
**16.12-16** | **Bowl 6 | Trumpet 6 (9.13-11.14) | 2<sup>nd</sup> Plague: Euphrates & Frogs**  
= Army crosses the Euphrates because frogs invited them to (see 9.13-21)

Armageddon or Har-Magedon = Lit. Mount Magiddo  
Double meaning: Hebrew *Har* = Mount or Mt. Carmel where the Prophets of Ba’al were judged (1 Kings 18). Hebrew *Megiddon* = Israel was judged in a great battle (Judges 5.19; 2 Kings 23.29; 2 Chronicles 35.22; Zechariah 12.11)



**16.17-21** | **Bowl 7 | Trumpet 7 (11.14-19) | 7<sup>th</sup> Plague of Egypt: The Kingdom of God Conquers the Kingdom of the Enemy**  
 = Lightning, thunder, and earthquake.

City split into three parts (Romans defeated Jerusalem in three waves.)



NOTE: (v. 21) Hailstones: **“about 100lbs.”** = Lit. Greek *1 Talent* = 75lbs. Roman projectile

Revelation 17.1-18.24

**THE ADULTERER & THE RED SEA BEAST**  
**(aka, the answer key to the Book of Revelation)**

Any attempts for a later date (c.95) writing of Revelation must reconcile the specificity of this passage.

Israel in general and Jerusalem in particular is the city in view as the beautiful drunk prostitute (Isaiah 1.1, 21; Jeremiah 2.1, 20; 3.1; Ezekiel 16.15, 45; Revelation 11.8; see also v. 5 below).

It was Jewish advisors who told Nero to blame the Christians.

**17.01** | **“waters”**: Gentile nations (see v.15) – the Gentile nations were looking down upon God because of the Jewish people (Romans 2.17-24)

**17.03** | The Seven-Headed, Ten-Horned Red Land Beast – John writes down the interpretation (see also Revelation 12.3, 9).



- “*seven heads...seven mountains...seven kings*”: (defined in 17.9-13) 7 Heads = 7 Mountains = 7 Kings. “*seven mountains*”: Hills of Rome: Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal, Viminal. “*seven kings*”: Caesars up to Jerusalem’s fall: Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba.
- 17.04** | Appears beautiful (Matthew 23.25-28; Mark 7) – a parody of the priest on the day of atonement.
- 17.05** | The Woman’s title:
- “*mystery*” (2 Thessalonians 2.7)
  - “*Babylon the great*” (Revelation 11.8; 14.8; 16.19)
  - “*mother of harlots*” (Ezekiel 16.25-29; Hosea 2.5; 4.12, 13; 15; 5.3; 9.1).
- 17.06** | Blood of the saints (Jeremiah 2.34; Matthew 23.35; Luke 11.51; Revelation 6.9; 8.3, 5; 16.6)
- 17.08** | “*was*”: the might & majesty of Rome  
“*is not*”: the chaos of Rome c.68-70  
“*rise...to destruction.*”: it will be judged.  
“*not written in the book of life... wonder*”: only those who find their comfort, security, and safety outside of God Himself marvel at Rome’s power, expanse, and influence.
- 17.11** | “*an eighth*”: a resurrected Rome (beast) but it will ultimately be destroyed (7 = complete; 8 = resurrection or new).
- 17.12** | “*ten horns...ten kings*”: providences given authority during the year of chaos during four emperors – the 10 providences (regional governors) of Rome in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century: Achaia, Africa, Asia, Britain, Egypt, Gaul, Germany, Italy, Spain, Syria
- 17.13-14** | Empire wide persecution of Christians. In fact, Nero’s persecution overshadows the future (and mostly localized) persecutions of Domitian, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, etc.
- 17.16-17** | *Desolate, naked, and devoured* – the beast (Rome) turns on the Woman (unfaithful Israel) (Leviticus 21.9; Ezekiel 16.37; Daniel 9.26-27; Matthew 23.38; 24.15)

17.18 | **“great city”**: Jerusalem — same city throughout Revelation (see 11.8; 16.19; 18.10-21) — had Spiritual dominion NOT Political (Psalm 2.6; 48.2; Lamentations 2.15; Matthew 5.35)

*“This celebrated place...was esteemed holy by all mankind.”*

— Josephus, *Jewish Wars*

*“Josephus points out repeatedly that the nations had historically recognized the sanctity and centrality of the Temple....In fact, the action of Jewish rebels, the in summer of 66, of halting the daily sacrifices for the Emperor (in violation, Josephus points out, of long standing practice) was the single event which finally precipitated the Roman war against the Jews (Wars, ii.xvii.2-4). Even at the very end, as Titus prepared to raze the city to the ground, he was still pleading with the Jewish priests to offer up the sacrifices, which by now had been entirely discontinued (Wars, vi.ii.1).”*

— David Chilton, *The Days of Vengeance*

18.01-02 | Possessed by demons (ch. 9) and wild birds (Isaiah 13.21-22).

18.04 | **“Come out of her, my people”** (see Luke 21.28)

18.07 | **“she glorified herself...in luxury.”** (see Isaiah 47.8)

18.09-20 | Kings, sea merchants, and land merchants mourn due to their loss of money, power, and transactions with Jerusalem.

18.21-24 | Final eradication of unfaithful Jerusalem = **“Babylon, the Great City”** – making way for the new, free Jerusalem – the reality – to come and reign on the earth (Galatians 4.25-26).

*“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”*

- Revelation 18.20 -

## REVELATION 15-18 BIG IDEA

External beauty and power — the appearance of order, composure, and symmetry — does not correspond to the presence of integrity — the reality of living empowered by the Holy Spirit. One’s faith is the sign of God’s favor and approval — not one’s financial stability and acclaim.

REVELATION 19-22

# **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

## THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB & BRIDE

The destruction of the Unfaithful Woman precedes the wedding of the Faithful Woman.

### Chapter 19 parallels Chapter 11

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>11.15</b> ...loud voices in Heaven...  | <b>19.1</b> ...loud voice of a great multitude in heaven...                                      |
| <b>11.15, 17</b> ...He will reign forever...and have begun to reign.                              | <b>19.1, 6</b> ...power belong to our God...the Almighty, reigns.                                |
| <b>11.16</b> ...twenty-four elders...fell on their faces and worshiped...                         | <b>19.4</b> ...twenty-four elders...fell down and worshiped God...                               |
| <b>11.18</b> ...time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward your bond-servants... | <b>19.2</b> ...He has judged the great harlot...He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants... |
| <b>11.18</b> ...the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and great...                   | <b>19.5</b> ...His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.                     |
| <b>11.19</b> ...sounds and peals of thunder...  | <b>19.6</b> ...the sound of mighty many waters and...might peals of thunder...                   |

**The Four “Hallelujahs”:** Hb. *Halal* = praise or boast; *Yah* = the contraction of God’s name: YHVH

### THE WEDDING PROCESSIONAL

- 19.01-02** | **Hallelujah #1:** Faithful Israel praise God because He judges faithfully and timely.
- 19.03-04** | **Hallelujah #2 & #3:** Faithful Israel praises God’s destruction of unfaithful, religious, and heavy-handed Israel – the spiritual beings around the throne echo in praise agreement.
- 19.05-06** | **Hallelujah #4:** Faithful Israel praises God because Jesus is reigning.

19.07-10

**THE WEDDING CEREMONY**

The brides clothing is our righteousness (right relational living) done in faith (Job 29.14; Romans 3.13.14; Galatians 3.27; Ephesians 4.24; Colossians 3.8-14; 1 Peter 5.5).

We are currently the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5.25-27)

The Marriage Supper = Communion (Jeremiah 31.31; Luke 22.10; 1 Corinthians 10.16-17; 11.23-32)

**Worthy Manner Examples:**

- 1. *“I am righteous because of Jesus.”*
- 2. *“The Holy Spirit re-aligns my mind.”*
- 3. *“My mind and behavior agree and agree with God.”*

**Unworthy Manner Examples:**

- 1. *“I am unrighteous.” or “I am righteous.”*
- 2. *“I need to change.” or “I don’t need to change.”*
- 3. *“Live condemned.” or “I don’t need to repentant.”*

**“...fell at his feet to worship...”**: not idolatry but to bow down in reverence or subjugation.

Angel responds = we are equals, we are all called to be God’s messengers (prophets) (Galatians 3.19; Hebrews 2.5; 1 Corinthians 6.3).

Revelation 19.11-16

**THE RIDER & THE ARMY**

This is NOT Jesus’ second coming. Rather, it is the final expression of his first coming (i.e., the church being sent out).

19.11-16

**THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE**

v.11 **“white horse”**: symbol of rule: a campaign of conquest (Revelation 6.2; 19.19, 21)

v.11 **“in righteousness”**: Right living is how he judges (Psalm 96.13; Isaiah 11.4)

v.12 *“eyes are a flame of fire”*: All seeing (Daniel 10.6; Revelation 1.14)

v.12 *“head are diadems”*: crowns of power (Revelation 6.2)

v.12 *“name no one knows”*: unique to himself (Revelation 2.17; 19.16)

v.13 *“robe dipped in blood”*: judge and redemption (Isaiah 63.1-6)

v.13 *“name is The Word of God”*: Only John uses this title for Jesus (John 1.1)

v.15 *“mouth...sharp sword”*: God’s Spirit (Isaiah 49.1-2; John 16.5-11; Ephesians 6.17; Hebrews 4.12; Revelation 1.16; 19.21) – Jesus conquers with his word (proclamation/preaching)

v.15 *“rule them with a rod of iron”*: Gk. *poimaino* = shepherd. “Rule” or “shepherd” see Matthew 2.6; 9.36; 25.32; 26.31; Luke 2.15; Acts 20.28; Hebrews 13.20; 1 Peter 2.25; 5.2-4; Revelation 2.9, 27; 7.17)

v.15 *“treads the wine”*: judgment (Isaiah 63.1-6; Joel 3.13; Revelation 14.19-20)

#### 19.14 | GOD’S ARMY

*“clothed in fine linen”*: righteous relational living (see 19.7-10)

*“on white horses”*: co-reigning (Romans 8.17; Ephesians 2.6; Revelation 5.10)

Revelation 19.17-20.3

### **BATTLE BETWEEN THE WHITE CAVALRY & THE RED BEAST, FALSE PROPHET, & THEIR FOLLOWERS**

*The Red Sea Beast*: (Revelation 11.7; 13.1-18; 16.10-16; 17.1-18) = Rome

*The False Prophet*: (Revelation 16.13-16) = The Land Beast (Revelation 13.11-13) = Corrupt Jewish Religious Authority

**19.17-18** | A banquet for birds (a vision from Ezekiel 39.17-18) to clean up the already completed battle (Ch. 13. & 17).

**19.20-21** | Spiritual judgment of the Beast, False Prophet, and their followers.

- Beast & False Prophet = Deception is destroyed by The Truth (Isaiah 30.33; Daniel 7.11; Revelation 14.10)
- Those deceived are “slain” by the Sword of the Spirit (Romans 12.1; Ephesians 6.17; Hebrews 4.12)

**20.01** | “*Abyss*”: death/destruction/chaos (Genesis 1.2; 7.11; Psalm 71.20; Isaiah 60.1-3; Ezekiel 26.19; Amos 7.4; Luke 8.31; Romans 10.7; Revelation 9.1-3, 11; 11.7; 17.8)

**20.02-03** | Satan’s authority has been removed and given back to God’s people (Daniel 2.44; John 12.31; Colossians 2.13-15; 1 John 3.8) – it is enforced by the proclamation of the Gospel.

“*sealed*”: the inverse of Jesus burial (Daniel 6.17; Matthew 27.66).

“*thousand*”: a hyperbolic number referring to an indefinite time, innumerable amount, all, or forever (Deuteronomy 1.11; 7.9; Joshua 23.10; Judges 15.16; 1 Chronicles 12.14; 16.15; Job 9.3; Psalm 50.10; 84.10; 90.4; 105.8; Ecclesiastes 6.6; 7.28; Isaiah 30.17; 2 Peter 3.8).

God’s Kingdom will take time to spread and fill the earth (Daniel 2.35b; Matthew 6.10; 12.28; 13.31-32; 1 Corinthians 15.23-25)

Revelation 20.4-6

## THE “THOUSAND-YEAR” REIGN | VISION 1

The Kingdom of King-Priests reigns with Jesus until he returns to a united, one-world governing church.

**20.04** | The rule and authority (Daniel 7.22; Matthew 28.18-20; 1 Corinthians 6.2) of those seated on thrones (Daniel 7.9; Ephesians 1.3-2.10; 1 Peter 2.9) – those loyal and faithful

to Jesus: 1) Those martyred in fact (see John the Baptist as a type – Matthew 14.10) or in principle (Matthew 10.38-39; 16.24-24; Romans 12.1); 2) The souls who did not worship (trust) the beast (Rome or temporal governing authorities); 3) The souls who did not receive the mark (thoughts and behaviors agree with the beast).

They all came to life and reigned with Jesus.

- 20.05** | The rest of the dead (those not reigning with Jesus) will be raised to final judgment (the second resurrection – John 5.28-29; Acts 24.15; Romans 6.8-9; 8.11).

*“This is the first resurrection”*: (connected to v.6 not v.5)

Revelation 20.7-10

## THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF SATAN (AFTER THE “THOUSAND” YEARS)

After an indeterminate amount of time (i.e., “1000 years”), the deceiver, the great serpent, will come to an end.

- 20.05** | The enemy will be released to his final destruction:
- **Purpose**: to deceive; Mission: Failed – nations will be converted but not necessarily every individual (Ezekiel 47.11; Matthew 13.24-30; 25.32; 28.18-20; Luke 24.47; Acts 1.8).
  - **Gog & Magog**: Sons of Japheth (Genesis 10.2) – the general expression of Israel’s enemies (Ezekiel 38-39)
  - *“sands on the seashore”*: overwhelming army –defeated (Joshua 11.4; Judges 7.12).
  - *Camp of the saints/ beloved city*: faithful Israel – God’s people.
  - *Fire came down from heaven* (1Kings 18.20-46; Ezekiel 39.6) = God’s enemies destroyed.
  - The devil joins the beast (Rome) and false prophet (corrupt religious authority) in being supernaturally tormented forever because they are the source of deception.



## THE FINAL JUDGMENT OF HEARTS & MOTIVES (AFTER THE “THOUSAND” YEARS)

Physical creation (the distractions we perceive with our senses) is removed to reveal the spiritual reality of the hearts and minds of those who are dead apart from Jesus (see Revelation 20.5).

**20.12-13** | The second resurrection – justice served to each person (Isaiah 26.19; Romans 2.12)

*Sea:* gentiles (Romans 1.21)

*Death & Hades:* personified as two people who hold onto the antithesis of Jesus (The Author of Life – Acts 3.15) that is death.

- Judged by our standards (Matthew 5.25; 7.1-2; 12.36; Luke 6.36; John 3.17-19; 5.22-29; 7.24; 8.16; 12.48; Romans 2.1-16)
- Each person has a scroll by which they are judged – records of their judgments (works).
  - May become blotted out (Nehemiah 4.5; 13.14; Psalm 51.1; Proverbs 6.33; Jeremiah 18.23; Ezekiel 6.6)
  - Raised to final death
- The Scroll of life trumps individual records.
  - May become blotted out (Exodus 32.32-33; Psalm 69.28; Revelation 3.5)
- Raised to final life.

**20.14** | Death and Hades are destroyed – “the second death” or the final ultimate, forever, death (1 Corinthians 15.26):

- In a lake (Revelation 19.20; 20.10, 14-15)
- In “Gehenna of fire” or “hell” (Matthew 5.22, 29-30; 10.28; 18.9; 23.15 (33); Mark 9.43, 45, 47; Luke 12.5; James 3.6) (NOTE: 2 Peter 2.4 does not have the word “hell” in Greek manuscripts.

**20.15** | Those not in Jesus are destroyed for forever in hell (Matthew 10.28; same word as Matthew 2.13; 1 Peter 1.7)

## THE “THOUSAND” YEAR REIGN | VISION 2

John heavily borrows from Ezekiel:

**Ch. 37:** *preaching to dry bones;*

**Ch. 38-39:** *battle against Gog and Magog, enemies devoured by birds;*

**Ch. 39.25-48:** *new Israel, new Temple, new Earth, new Garden, new City.*

**21.01** | **“a new heaven and a new earth”:** from Isaiah 65.17-25 (see also 66.22; 2 Peter 3.1-18 – see “1000 years” + “last days” [Acts 2.14-36; 3.12-26 [ esp. v.24]]):

- build houses
- plant vineyards
- enjoy their work
- not labor in vain
- bring forth children

All things are being made afresh (Romans 8.19-22) – (see Matthew 9.17; 26.29; Mark 2.21, 22; 14.25; Luke 5.36, 38; John 19.41; Ephesians 2.15; 4.24; 2 Peter 3.13).

**“no longer any sea”:** No national favoritism or distinction (Romans 3.22; 10.12; 1 Corinthians 12.13; Galatians 3.28; Ephesians 2.14-18; Colossians 3.11)

**“New Holy Jerusalem”:** (Hebrews 11.16; 12.22)

**“Bride”:** (Ephesians 5.23-32)

**21.03** | God dwells with man (God’s desire = Leviticus 26.12; God’s promise = Ezekiel 37.26-28; Jeremiah 31.31-33; God’s fulfillment = John 14.23; Romans 8.9; 1 Corinthians 3.16; 6.19; 2 Corinthians 6.14-18; Ephesians 2.21; Hebrews 8.8-10; Revelation 7.15)

**21.04** | **“wipe away every tear...no longer be mourning, or crying, or pain”:** (Isaiah 25.8; 35.10; 1 Thessalonians 4.13; 1 Peter 1.8-9; Revelation 7.17) – Believers are not hopeless or need to despair like unbelievers.

**“no longer be death”:** (John 11.25-26; 1 Corinthians 15.1-58; 2 Timothy 1.10; Hebrews 2.9, 14-15)

**“first things have passed away.”:** (2 Corinthians 5.17; Hebrews 12.25-29)

**21.05** | **“I am making all things new”:** refreshed (see 21.1) – this is not an instantaneous moment but rather it happens over a period of time.  
(Isaiah 60.1-3; Daniel 2.35; Matthew 13.31-33; 28.18-20; John 3.1-8; Romans 6.4; 2 Corinthians 5.17)

**“faithful and true.”:** Encouragement that this is happening (despite seeing darkness [Isaiah 60.1-3], weeds [Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43]; see also Hebrews 12.1-7; James 1.2-4; Revelation 2.3).

**21.06** | **“It is done.”:** Lit. in Gk. “They are done” – All that the law and old covenant required are fulfilled and completed.  
(Matthew 5.17; Luke 24.44; John 19.30)

**“water of life”:** (Jeremiah 2.13; John 4.7-14; 7.37-38; Revelation 7.17)

**21.07** | **“inherit these things... he will be My son.”:** (2 Samuel 7.14; 2 Corinthians 6.16-18; Galatians 4.7; 1 John 5.4-5; Revelation 21.3).

**21.08** | Types of those who experience the final death (Revelation 9.21; 21.27 see also James 1.5-8, 19-20; Galatians 5.16-26; Ephesians 4.17-32)

It's the same description as the Harlot or Unfaithful Israel:

- Cowardly and untrustworthy (1 John 2.18-19)
- Abominable (Revelation 17.4-6)
- Murderers (Revelation 6.9-10; 19.2)
- Sexually Immoral and sorcerers (Revelation 17.16; 18.23; 19.2)
- Liars (1 John 2.22; Revelation 3.9)

“*the second death.*”: forever death. (Matthew 3.12; 13.40; Luke 3.17; John 15.1-11; see note on 20.14-15).

Revelation 21.9-27

## THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCRIBED

The description of Jesus’ bride-city (Ezekiel 40-48) comes *from* Heaven and therefore is *not* Heaven – all these descriptions are found throughout the New Testament for believers.

**21.11** | “*Lights*”: We are the light (“brilliance”) of the world (Philippians 2.15 see also Matthew 5.14, 16; Luke 1.78-79; 8.16; 2 Corinthians 4.6; Ephesians 5.8).

*Costly Stone & gold*: We are costly to Him (Isaiah 54.11-12; Matthew 13.44)

**21.12-14** | “*12 Pearl Gates*”: Facing each direction – 12 tribes & 12 apostles (old and new) Made from pearls - Matthew 14.46).  
NOTE: Pearls are formed through irritation.

**21.15-17** | “*144,000 cubits*”: The fullness of God’s people – a cube the same dimensions of the inner Holy of Holies (Revelation 7.4; 14.1-3).

“*Human measurements*”: NOT heavenly, it is an earthly institution empowered by God.

**21.22-27** | During the “1,000 year” reign of believers because those who practice abomination and lying are still around but not able to enter the “city” (Kingdom) of God (see also Matthew 3.2; 4.17; 10.7; Mark 1.15). The nations will walk in its (Jesus) light (us) – Isaiah 60.1-3, 19-21; Matthew 5.14; John 8.12

Revelation 22.1-5

## RE-CREATED GARDEN PARADISE

| A recreated Spiritual Eden.

**22.01** | “*river*”: The Holy Spirit (Genesis 2.10; Psalm 46.1-4; Ezekiel 47.1-2; John 4.13-14).

22.02 | “*tree*”: Jesus (Genesis 2.9; Ezekiel 47.7-12; John 6.48-58; 15.1-8).

Revelation 22.6-21

## QUICKLY COMING

A repeating of the immediacy of the time that this letter applies with the encouragement “these words are faithful and true”.

22.14-15 | “*Outside are the dogs... sorcerers... immoral... murderers*”: Reveals the reality of this Kingdom “Bride-City” on Earth now not a future heaven (see note on 21.22-27 above).

22.20 | “*Yes, I am coming quickly*”: This completely and thoroughly rejects a future fulfillment or a fulfillment through the course of history (same word in Matthew 5.25; 28.7; 28.8; John 11.29 and also Revelation 2.16; 3.11; 11.14; 22.7)

NOTE: The New Testament teaches a real, physical return of Jesus and a real, physical resurrection of his followers (e.g., Acts 1.4-11; 1 Corinthians 15.50-58; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 [Paul contrasts the real, physical return of Jesus with the “Day of the Lord” for Jerusalem – 5.1-11]). But Revelation is not where it is found or revealed (except 20.11-15)

## REVELATION 19-22 BIG IDEA

We reign, TODAY, with Jesus in freedom and power through the Holy Spirit. This is a current reality for all believers in which we can choose to learn, grow, and participate.



([www.CultivateRelationships.com](http://www.CultivateRelationships.com))