

A Study of the Book of Revelation

[One Revelation, Seven Visions]

Background—The Apocalypse of St. John

The book of Revelation is unique within the New Testament. Although features of Revelation are comparable to other New Testament Epistles, on the whole the Book has a markedly different style, which requires special reflection and interpretation.

At first, the Book of Revelation startled and repulsed the people who read it. The Gospels were universally accepted as genuine portraits of Jesus, but it took longer for Christians to see the value of Revelation. Yet, in time, Christians embraced this intense and dramatic portrait—a personal revelation—of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the greatest reason people questioned the value and authenticity of Revelation came from its style, summarized by the Greek word **apokalypsis**, "to uncover or reveal." Authors like Ezekiel, Daniel, and Zechariah wrote in this way, rapidly recording what God revealed to them through heavenly visions. But Revelation speaks with a new intensity. It contrasts with the Apostle John's other reflective works in the New Testament. Like an excited artist capturing his subject through bold strokes and daubs, John moves the reader from vision to vision, describing heaven's brilliant colors and the devil's dark deeds. Revelation describes life not as **we** see it with physical eyes but as **God** sees it and shows it to His trembling disciple.

As you study Revelation, do not let the drama or colorful descriptions distract you from the artist's real subject: Jesus. John knew Jesus of Nazareth in weakness, when He walked the dusty roads of Galilee and suffered betrayal and crucifixion. That is what John describes in his Gospel. In Revelation, John shows how Jesus now reigns in eternal splendor. He shows that even though Jesus now enjoys the full restoration of His glory, His thoughts and plans focus here on earth with you.

John was the last living disciple (of the original 12) and he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea (see map). When he looked toward Rome he was looking out to sea (the **first beast** that came out of the **water** represents

anti-Christian power, Rome in this case.) When he looked toward the **land**, he was viewing parts of the Roman Empire that were carrying out the orders of Rome. (The **second beast** that came out of the **land** represents **anti-Christian propaganda**.) We will talk more about that later. John was exiled onto the island of Patmos because of his Christian faith. People under the control of the Roman Empire had to acknowledge that "Caesar was Lord" even before worshipping their various "gods." Even Christians were required to burn a pinch of incense and declare "Caesar is Lord" before they were allowed to worship. John refused to do so, and it landed him on Patmos.

The Book of Revelation is addressed to the Seven Churches (see map) in Asia Minor, but really those seven churches represent the whole Christian Church on earth. See if you can apply any of those descriptions to your church. The Apostle John seemed to love the number seven. That number is a number that represents completeness. In his Gospel, John records seven predicate nominative "I AM" statements of Jesus: I AM the Good Shepherd, I AM the bread of life, I AM the light of the world, I AM the door, I AM the resurrection and the life, I AM the way, the truth, and the life, I AM the vine. There are also seven absolute I AM statements of the Jesus, the most well-known and the only one translated into English as I AM is in John 8:58. In the Book of Revelation there are seven visions that all cover the same period of time: from the ascension of Christ to His return. An analogy for the seven visions and yet only one Revelation is this: climbing a mountain seven times but each time from a different side. You always start at the bottom and end at the top, but each trip up gives you a different view. And in the Book of Revelation, each view becomes more intense.

Some churches view Revelation as a **linear timeline** (see chart). The **linear timeline view** is a misinterpretation of Scripture [Matt. 24:40-41] and especially apocalyptic literature. It is commonly assumed by premillennialists [Jesus comes back and rules on earth for 1000 years] that the early church was premillennialist, but is that true? Let's look at some of the evidence.

1. When Pontius Pilate asked Jesus if He was a king, how did Jesus respond?
"I AM but my kingdom is not of this world."
2. In the Apostles' Creed we confess that Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to

rule on earth for 1000 years? No! From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. If Jesus was coming to rule on earth for 1000 years, that would have been important enough to be mentioned in the creeds.

3. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus will rule on earth for 1000 years. This is a misinterpretation of Revelation chapter 20.

Premillennialists take that number literally in a book of symbolic numbers.

4. In the late first century some of Jesus' earthly relatives are recorded by Eusebius. "The Emperor, Domitian, had ordered the execution of all who were of David's line, and an old tradition alleges that some heretics accused the descendants of Jude—the brother of the Savior, humanly speaking—claiming that they were of David's family and related to Christ Himself. Hegesippus reports this as follows: 'Still surviving of the Lord's family were the grandsons of Jude who was said to be his brother according to the flesh, and they were informed on (tattled on) as being descendants of David. The evocatus (trusted Roman soldiers) brought them before Domitian Caesar, who, like Herod, was afraid of the coming of Christ. Domitian asked them if they were descended from David, and they admitted it. They were asked about Christ and his kingdom—its nature, origin, and time of appearance. They replied that it was not of this world or earthly but angelic and heavenly, and that it would be established at the end of the world when He would come in glory to judge the living and the dead and reward everyone according to his deeds.'" [Eusebius, by Paul Maier pages 108-109]

In the book of Daniel (which is apocalyptic in nature) there are numerous visions that describe **the same time periods or events**. For example, Daniel's vision in Daniel chapter two is of a huge man with a gold head, silver chest, belly and thighs of brass, and legs of iron. Those parts of the man represent four empires: **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**. Daniel then has another vision in chapter seven of a **Lion, a Bear, a Leopard, and a Beast**. They represent the same four empires: **Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome**. All four of these "anti-Christian" powers came out of the sea. And again in Daniel chapter 8 Daniel's vision is of a **Ram and a Goat** which represent the **Medo-Persian Empire and the Greek Empire**. (see chart on Parallelism of Nations)

Numbers are also symbolic in the Book of Revelation (see chart). If those numbers are literal, then it means that only 144,000 Jewish males will be in heaven. Of course, we know that that is false even though Jehovah's Witnesses believe the number, at least, to be true. Based on Revelation chapter 20, a small but vocal section of the Christian Church believes that Jesus will come back to earth on rule on it for a literal 1000 years. Again, this is a misinterpretation of apocalyptic literature.

Revelation chapter 1

Verses 1-3 Whose revelation is this? What was the purpose of the revelation? When did the "last days" begin? [2 Timothy 3:1-5; Acts 2:17]

Verses 4-8 Look at the chart of the seven churches-name them. The Holy Spirit is in all seven churches and is referred to as "the seven spirits." Who is the One who was and who is and who is to come? How is each Person of the Holy Trinity mentioned in verses 4-5? Jesus is no longer in His state of humiliation. What was His state of humiliation? He is the Firstborn of all creation. Look at Colossians 1:15-16. How do Jehovah's Witnesses interpret "Firstborn"? How do they change verse 16? What does God the Father call Himself? (8)

Verses 9-20 Why was John on the island of Patmos? (9) John writes that he is a **partner** in tribulation. What does that tell you about the churches that he is writing to? On what day did John receive his revelation from Jesus? The lampstands are the seven churches. The seven stars are the seven angels [pastors] of the seven churches. Describe this awesome but rather scary vision of Jesus. (12-16) How is God's word like a two-edged sword? What does God the Father call Himself in Isaiah 44:6? What does Jesus call Himself in verse 17? How do we know this is Jesus speaking and not God the Father? (18) see also John 1:18

Revelation chapters 2-3

In Revelation chapters two and three Jesus addresses the pastor (angel) of each church mentioned in chapter one. As we take a look at each of these churches, look at Christ's title, His commendation, His reprimand, His admonition and

warning, and His assurance. Is the Church today an amalgamation of these seven churches?

Chapter 2 Verses 1-7 Ephesus The seven angels and seven stars (pastors), and the seven lampstands (the individual churches) are addressed. **Ephesus** was the major city of the province of Asia Minor, a religious and commercial center. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Temple of Diana, was located here. This impressive structure was approximately 418' by 239' with 56' high marble columns. Diana was the goddess of fertility. John had made Ephesus his headquarters for 25 years.

Look at the chart of cities and comment. The early church fathers suggest that the Nicolaitans indulged in meat offered to pagan gods and engaged in sexual immorality. (See Acts 6:5)

Chapter 2: 8-11 Smyrna Smyrna was a rival city of Ephesus. It was a glamorous community of fine buildings and schools of science and medicine. The temples of Cybele and Dionysius were located here. The church was founded by Paul during his third missionary journey.

What does Jesus mean when He says that these Christians were in poverty but they were rich? What does "ten days" mean? What is the second death? The first death? The first resurrection? The second resurrection? Look at the chart of cities and comment.

Chapter 2: 12-17 Pergamum Pergamum was a city of high rank in Asia Minor and was recognized as a city of splendor. Its library contained 200,000 volumes. There were impressive temples to false gods there. Also, worship of the emperor (Domitian) flourished there. This detail is important, since Christians' refusal to offer Caesar divine honors was the root cause of so much persecution. Antipas apparently had been martyred, the only martyr mentioned by name in Revelation. The white stone—in the ancient world, special pebbles were sometimes used as admission tickets to banquets. A new name—child of God. Look at the chart of cities and comment.

Chapter 2:18-29 Thyatira Thyatira was a prosperous community and became headquarters for trade guilds, such as, garment makers, potters, weavers and

dyers. Lydia, the seller of fabrics, came from Thyatira (Acts 16:4). Christians were under extreme pressure because each guild had its own god as patron.

Look at the chart of cities and comment.

Chapter 3:1-6 Sardis Sardis was an important commercial center located in an extremely fertile region. It is believed that the art of dyeing wool originated here. A massive temple of Cybele, "the mother of the gods," testifies to the wealth and architectural ingenuity of the people. Those who worshipped Cybele participated in riotous orgies. What is the difference between the Book and the books in Revelation 20:11-15?

Look at the chart of cities and comment.

Chapter 3:7-13 Philadelphia Philadelphia means the city of brotherly love. [The Quakers' leader, William Penn, chose the name—Philadelphia-- for the chief city in his colony of Pennsylvania.] The biblical city was surrounded by vineyards and was known for its superb wine. A column of the Greek church of Philadelphia remains today.

Look at the chart of cities and comment.

Chapter 3:14-14-22 Laodicea This community was very wealthy, as verses 17 and 18 suggest. Zeus was its deity. A noted medical school was situated there.

Cold is good if you're talking about iced tea and hot is good if you're talking about coffee. What about lukewarm iced tea or lukewarm coffee? Could the Christian Church in the United States generally be regarded as lukewarm today? For a rich country or a rich person, what is a spiritual temptation?

Look at the chart of cities and comment.

CHAPTER 4: A glimpse into heaven after the first vision (first trip up the mountain.) Who is on the throne in this picture? Who are the 24 elders—how many tribes in the Old Testament—how many disciples in the New Testament? What do they represent? What do the white garments represent? Golden crowns? Would this picture be an encouragement to churches under persecution? The six-winged beings are probably Seraphim (Isaiah 6:2-3). They appeared as a lion, an ox, the face of a man and a flying eagle respectively. A lion denotes

sovereignty; and ox, strength; the face of a man, intelligence; and an eagle, majesty. The hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy—had a verse that contains the words “casting down their golden crowns.” What does that mean?

VISION 2—SECOND CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN (Rev. 5—8:1)

Revelation 5---The second of the parallel visions starts in heaven and ends in heaven. The imagery in this section is highly symbolic and abstract. We should not read more into the text than was originally intended. The Lord has given the Apocalypse to His people to encourage them in their struggle against Satan and his evil forces. The final and positive truth is that Jesus Christ has the upper hand, calls the shots and will triumph, despite the powerful hosts of evil.

1-5 Who is the One seated on the throne? The scroll symbolizes God's plan of salvation. How many seals did it have one it? What does seven represent? Who is the only One who could open those seals? What names for Jesus are given here?

6-14 This is a picture of the Triumphant Christ in His state of exaltation. Handel's Messiah took its inspiration from these verses. Who is the One seated on the throne? (13) The Lamb?

Revelation 6---Instead of expected victories for Christ, what does the opening of the seals in chapter 6 reveal?

Seal #1 White horse—Man's insatiable **hunger for power** and its penchant for aggression.

Seal #2 Red horse---This rider represents the **toll of violence**, especially which is undertaken in **the name of conquest**.

Seal #3 Black horse---Because of **famine**, the cost given here for grain is quite high, since a denarius represented a full day's wage. The prices of the oil and wine are comparatively less affected by the famine. At first this seems strange because wine and olive oil are typically more valuable than grain. Yet, it makes sense when you realize that wine and olive oil were produced throughout the Roman Empire but grain had to be imported.

Seal #4 Pale horse---The fourth rider personifies **Death**. What fraction of the earth is affected? (this will increase and intensify in following visions)

Seal #5 -----Under the altar were the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they bore. When we die, do we go out of existence? Explain. How long will this persecution last?

Seal #6---The Last Day—How is it described for those who have rejected Jesus?

Revelation 7---The Last Day is totally different for believers in Christ.

What does the number 144,000 represent? Is this number literal? Who is the "New Israel" today?(Romans 9:6-8; 11:25-26a) Comment on the diversity of the inhabitants of heaven. What is the significance of the white robes in verses 13-14? Why do infants wear them at baptism? Pastors in church? What picture of heaven do we have in verses 15-17?

Revelation 8:2—11:19 THIRD CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN---7 Trumpets

This trip up the mountain looks at the same history (from Christ's ascension to His return) from the standpoint of the judgment of God upon the world. Again, the world is seen to be falling apart. This time, however, God's hand is seen bringing judgment upon the world because of human sin. Seven angels are handed seven trumpets to announce the seven aspects of the judgment of God which make up God's complete judgment upon the world.

(The Church avenged, protected, victorious)

Seal #7---Silence in heaven for a half an hour—getting ready for next vision

This vision of the **7 trumpets** mirrors the vision of the **7 bowls** (chapter 16)

TRUMPETS-----THE TARGET-----BOWLS

8:7-----EARTH-----16:2

8:8 (blood)-----SEA----- (blood)----- 16:3

8:10 (springs of water)-----RIVERS----- (springs of water) 16:4

8:12-----SUN-----16:8

9:1,11---(SATAN'S)-----THRONE----- (BEAST'S)-----16:10

ABYSS

9:14-----EUPHRATES-----16:12

11:15,19-----"HE WILL REIGN, IT IS DONE" -----16:17-18

When the first six trumpets are sounded, various types of problems result, but when the seventh trumpet is sounded, victory for God's kingdom is proclaimed.

The parallels between the events following the trumpet blasts and the plagues which God visited upon Egypt indicate that through these events God is preparing to free His people from their bondage in this world and lead them out of the world and into the home He has promised.

Compare 8:7 with Rev. 6:8. What is happening to the intensity of the judgment on this trip up the mountain? And yet, it's still not the FINAL judgment.

Compare chapter 9:1-11 with 20:7-10. Shortly before Jesus returns on the Last Day, Satan will be released from his prison. Up until that time "he's a dog on a chain." But even during that time, who are the ones who will not be eternally damaged spiritually? (4) Locusts had been a sign of God's judgment upon Egypt at the time of Moses and by the prophets Amos and Joel. They are allowed to plague humanity for five months, a period of time suggested by the life cycle of the locust.

How does this vision fit into the theme of the entire Revelation: Jesus Christ is the Triumphant Lord?

Recall the various signs and symbols in Chapter 8 that indicate the instability and insecurity of man's secular environment. Are any of these noticeable today?

Someone has said, "The devil always remains God's devil—meaning, the devil is always limited by God. Illustrate the truth of this from the vision, especially Chapter 9.

Find evidence in Chapter 9 of the exactness of God's concern and control at all times.

Chapter 9:12-21 The Sixth Trumpet brings the second woe. Now four angels who are in charge of a vast army are released to kill one third of humanity. God allows the demonic hordes to do their work, even to bring about death, but for His own purposes. His purposes include not only judgment, but also repentance. Nevertheless, even in the face of destruction, people will of their own accord remain attached to the very things that have brought destruction upon them.

[Chapters 10 and 11 are a parenthesis]

How many words and instances of comfort can you find in Chapter 10? What about the position the angel took on land and sea?

What pertinent comfort can be drawn for the church today from the following in Chapter 11: measuring of the temple of God; kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; song of the 24 elders?

How can this vision help Christians today to live with a spirit of victorious certainty and gratitude?

10:1-11 The Little Scroll---God is in charge, but no one knows when the Last Day will be. God's word, law and gospel, is sweet although some words can be bitter.

11: 1-14 The Two Witnesses---While the events which follow (JUDGMENT) take place, the true Church rests under God's protection. The outer court, however, has been handed over to the Gentiles, in this case to those who claim to be people of God but in reality are not.

The Two Witnesses (The Law and the Gospel—Moses and Elijah) are witnessing throughout the New Testament period. At the end of this time, they appear to be dead and defeated. But . . . they came back to life!

THE SEVENTH SEAL (Revelation 11:15-19) JUDGMENT DAY

On judgment day, who are the DEAD? (18) See Rev. 20:11-15.

Who will be rewarded? (18) On what basis?

VISION #4—THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON (4TH TRIP UP MOUNTAIN)

REVELATION 12—14:20

This is a hideous scene. A woman (The Church) is about to give birth. But in the birthing room at the foot of the bed, a dragon awaits. He has three goals:

1. Kill the Child (Jesus)
2. Kill the Woman (Church)
3. Go after the children of the Woman (Individual members of the Church)

How is the Woman described? What is the significance of the number 12? Who is the Dragon? How is he an impersonator of God? Jesus called Satan "the Father of Lies." When the Devil lies, he's speaking his native language.

1260 days=42 months=3.5 years= a period of persecution and evil [half of 7]

12: 7-12 "A FLASHBACK" How many angels rebelled against God? To which place were they thrown down? Which place is their final destiny? (Matthew 25:41) Was hell ever meant to be the final home for people?

12:13-16 When the Devil failed in his attempt to stop Jesus, who did he go after next? Was he successful?

12: 17 After failing at missions 1 and 2, what is Satan's final mission? Are he and his numerous angels still working at that goal today? In the next chapter we will take a look at Satan's two helpers who along with him make an unholy trinity 666.

REVELATION 13—The First Beast that came out of the Water.

On the island of Patmos, as John looked out over the Aegean Sea toward Rome, he saw a beast coming out of the water (**Anti-Christian Power.**) In the book of Daniel, all of the Empires opposing the Church also came out of the water.

How is **The First Beast**, like Satan, an impersonator of God? (1)

Take a look at Daniel 7: 1-6. These were the anti-Christian powers back then. Do you see any similarities to Revelation 13:2? For whom is the First Beast working?

(2) The First Beast had a mortal wound but it was miraculously healed. Which Person of the Trinity does this remind you of? Which two characters were worshipped? At the time John wrote this, Christians would have understood that the First Beast was Rome. Looking at all of Scripture (including Daniel), we know that the First Beast is ALL anti-Christian power. **Satan is the anti-Father.**

The First Beast is the anti-Son.

For how long does The First Beast have power? (5) Who suffers under the influence of The First Beast? (7) Who are the only ones who do NOT worship the Beast? (8)

Satan is the anti-Father, the First Beast that came out of the water is the anti-Son. Now we will look at the Second Beast that came out of the Land. As John faced Asia Minor he was viewing the lackies of Rome, the ones who carried out Rome's orders. The Second Beast is anti-Christian propaganda, or the anti-Holy Spirit.

Revelation 13:18 The job of the Holy Spirit is to connect people to Jesus. What was the job of the Second Beast? In the Old Testament people would wear phylacteries. A phylactery was a cube shaped receptacle that would be worn on the forehead, held on by a leather headband. The cube contained a Bible verse. A leather strap ran from the headband to the pointer finger of the right hand. This signified that God's word should not only be on our minds but also carried out by our actions.

The Holy Trinity is the perfect 777. The fake anti-trinity is 666.

REVELATION 14

1-5 This is a picture of heaven. What does the number 144,000 represent? How do you know that you can't take these words literally?

6-13 The first angel calls the world to repent and turn to the true God. As long as this world endures, the Gospel will not be silenced, and God will continue to call people out of the world to Himself.

The second angel calls out, "Fallen is Babylon the Great!" The anti-Christian powers of the world will meet their doom. That includes Babylon in the Old Testament, Rome, and all succeeding anti-Christian powers.

The third angel speaks to those who listen to the message of Babylon (anti-Christian propaganda) proclaiming the very real and terrifying consequences of aligning with the dark side. The admonition is to remain faithful unto death.

14-20--JUDGMENT DAY—A TERRIBLE DAY FOR THOSE OUTSIDE CHRIST

The visions are getting more intense—blood as high as a horse's bridle. Literal or a picture to show the horrors of hell?

Battle Hymn of the Republic—Verse 1

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;

His truth is marching on.

VISION #5 THE SEVEN BOWLS—FIFTH TRIP UP THE MOUNTAIN—It's getting more intense—complete judgment.

[Look back at the chart of the Seven Trumpets]

REVELATION 15

As with the visions of the seals and trumpets, this scene begins in heaven as preparations are made for the pouring out of the seven last plagues, which complete the wrath of God. Once again, the people of God who have come through the great tribulation, are described as "victorious over the beast." They stand at the sea of glass. Their victory over the beast looks to the world like defeat, for they won that victory by dying. Thus, they followed the example of the Lamb, whose death is the source of their victory, and whose resurrection made that victory apparent.

Why would chapter 15 be an encouragement to those who are dying because of their loyalty to, and faith in, Jesus?

REVELATION 16

Bowl #1 (1-2) **Earth**—Who is being affected?

Bowl #2 (3) **Sea**—What is being affected? Could this be literal? [EVERY living thing in the sea died]

Bowl #3 (4-7) **Rivers and Springs** Why were these turned to blood? Does this remind you of the judgment that took place in Egypt during the time of Moses?

Bowl #4 (8-9) **Sun**—Who is affected? Does it cause them to repent? Did the plagues of Egypt cause Pharaoh to repent?

Bowl #5 (10-11) **The Beast**—Did these plagues cause the anti-Christian powers to repent?

Bowl #6 (12-16) **Euphrates**—The anti-trinity gets ready to fight the final battle [this is a **spiritual battle** between God and the forces of evil. It takes place when Satan is released from his chain right before Judgement Day)

Armageddon—a place in northern Israel where numerous battles took place. Megiddo is where King Solomon kept his stables of horses for battle. Har Megiddo (Hebrew) means the mountain of Megiddo.

Will there be a literal physical battle in Israel OR is this symbolic of the final SPIRITUAL battle?

Bowl #7 (17-21) Who wins that battle? What is the punishment for being on the losing side? 100 pound hailstones—literal or symbolic of the final judgment?

VISION #6 THE SIXTH CLIMB UP THE MOUNTAIN—The first two persons of the anti-trinity are judged---Revelation 17—19:21

What represents the Church in Revelation chapter 12?

What represents the anti-church in Revelation 17:3-6? How is she a fake? Describe her. [The Christians 2000 years ago would have understood that Babylon the Great was Rome for them at that time. Do you think the Romans would have understood that?]

17:7-8 Who are the ones who follow this Prostitute and the Beast? Where does the Beast belong?

17:9 Rome is built on how many hills? The description might also be referring to five empires that were [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece], one that is [Roman] and one that is to come.

17:10 Likely refers to a series of first century Roman emperors, though we cannot ascertain their identities with certainty.

17:11 The Beast is the eighth king but really is the one working through the other seven.

17:12-14 Ten Kings—Ten is the number of earthly completeness, therefore the number refers to all future kings of this world who ally themselves with Satan.

How do those anti-Christian powers unwittingly serve as agents of God's judgment?

17:18 Who is the prostitute who is serving the Beast at the time John wrote Revelation?

REVELATION 18 --The Fall of Babylon

The anti-Christian powers represented by Babylon (Rome) is in big trouble on Judgment Day. What is the priority of those who don't have Jesus as Savior? What evils are committed by anti-Christian powers? What warning is given to Christians who live in an immoral and anti-Christian world? (4)

Three groups are mentioned here—kings, merchants, and seamen. There is not a shred of penitence among them. This city which has killed the prophets and saints will be judged. (24)

REVELATION 19

How do believers react to Judgment Day? (1-5)

In the marriage supper of the Lamb, who is the bride and Who is the groom?

When John saw this vision, he was in awe and he fell down at the feet of the angel who delivered this message to him. How did the angel respond to John's attempt to worship him? What about Jesus—how did He react when people tried to worship Him?

19: 11-21 Who is the Rider on the white horse? How did He defeat His enemies? (15) The winepress is again mentioned which corresponds to Armageddon (bowl 6). What happens to the Beast and the False Prophet [anti-Christian power and anti-Christian propaganda.]

REVELATION 20: THE SEVENTH AND FINAL TRIP UP THE MOUNTAIN—SATAN IS JUDGED AND SENTENCED TO HELL.

There is a small [but vocal] group of Christians that use this chapter to back up their belief that Jesus will come back and rule on earth for a literal 1000 years before He comes on Judgment Day. This is a misinterpretation of Scripture that presents the false idea that some people will get a second chance to believe in Jesus.

20:1-3 Angelos in Greek means messenger. The "angel" in verse one is none other than Jesus.

20:2-3 The "1000 years" indicates the time from Jesus' ascension to the time of His return to judge the world. Luther said that during that time the devil is like a dog on a chain. Explain that analogy. What did Jesus say in Matthew 12:22-32 and especially verse 29? At the end (or near the end) of that "1000 years" what happens? (3) Could we be in that time frame right now?

When John looks into heaven he sees the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God. (4) But were they *really* dead? (4) Or were they victoriously reigning with Christ during that intermediate time in heaven "the 1000 years" before Judgment Day? The unbelievers (spiritually dead people) remain spiritually dead but then become physically alive again on the Last Day when ALL of the dead will rise. (Acts 24:15)

20:5-6 What is the First Resurrection? The Second Death?

1. First Resurrection _____
2. Second Resurrection _____
3. First Death _____
4. Second Death _____

Rev. 20:7-10 Even though the Devil is released for a short time, what is his ultimate fate?

Rev. 20:11-15 What is the difference between the "books" and the Book?

EPILOGUE—REVELATION 21-22 THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

After Judgment Day where will we all be living? Will we be playing harps and sitting on clouds OR will we have our physical bodies back and live on a physical world? What are some wonderful things about this new world? (1-4) What is the

warning for those who reject Jesus? (8) What imagery is used to describe this paradise restored? The "pearly gates" comes from verse 21. [Your goal on this earth is not to accumulate gold—in the new earth it's simply street pavement.]

Why is no temple needed? Why is there no need for sun or moon?

REVELATION 22

22:1-2 Where else have we heard of the Tree of Life? Were Adam and Eve allowed to eat from it? Why not? Now can we eat from it? Why? What kind of fruit tree is it? How does that show the delight of the new paradise?

What is one positive thing that we can do here on earth that we won't be able to do in the new earth?

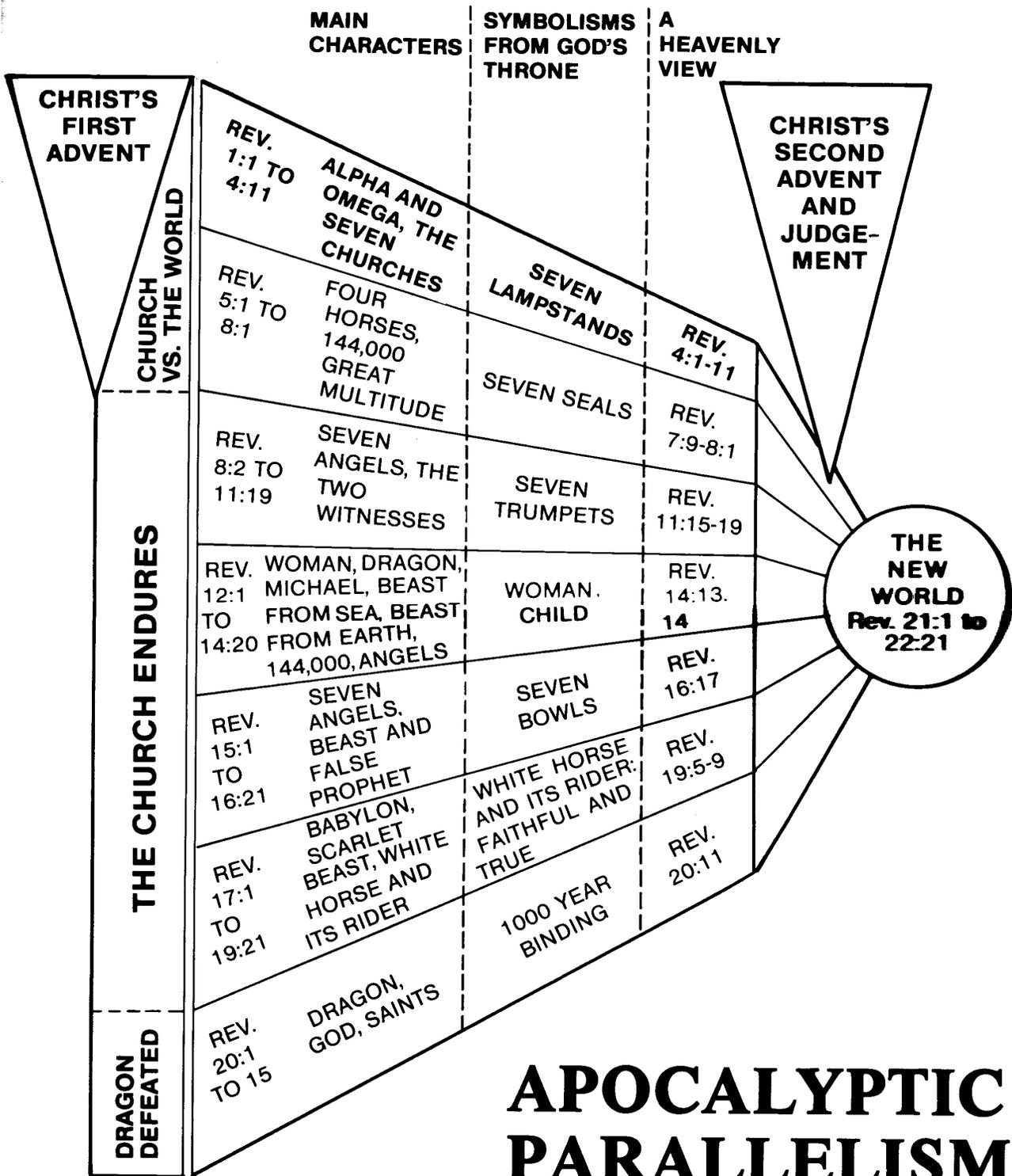
22: 6-21 Now that the angel has told John of the glory to come, he brings him back to his present situation reminding him that "the best is yet to come!"

Did John learn his lesson about angel worship? (8-9)

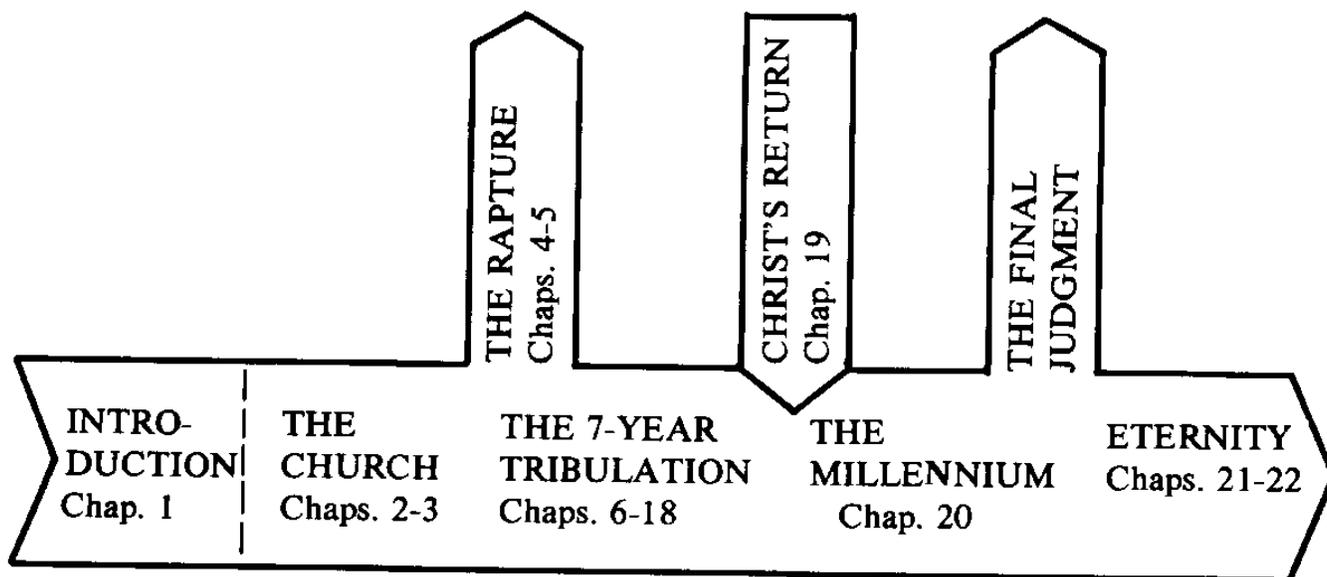
What does Jesus call Himself in verse 13? What does the Father call Himself in chapter 1:8? What does Jesus call Himself in 1:17-18? What does the Father call Himself in Isaiah 44:6?

Compare 22:14 with 7:14.

When Jesus says "Surely I am coming, soon!" what should be our response?



APOCALYPTIC PARALLELISM



THE LINEAR VIEW OF THE APOCALYPSE

APOCALYPTIC NUMBERS

- 3 – TRINITY, GOD'S NUMBER**
- 3½ – HALF OF PERFECT**
- 3½ YEARS = 1260 DAYS**
- 42 MONTHS = 3½ YEARS**
- 4 – REFERENCE TO CREATION OR NATURE**
- 6 – IMPERFECTION, FAILURE, DEFICIENCY**
- 7 – PERFECTION (3 + 4)**
- 10 – WORLDLY COMPLETENESS**
- 12 – THE CHURCH (3 × 4)**
- 24 = 12 + 12**
- 666 – ULTIMATE IMPERFECTION, FAILURE + FAILURE**
- 1000 – MAGNITUDE, VASTNESS (10 × 10 × 10)**
- 44,000 – COMPLETE CHURCH (12 × 12) × (10 × 10 × 10)**

Symbolisms are only a general rule—not always fixed.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

| Prepared by James Knotek | CHRIST'S TITLE | COMMENDATION | REPRIMAND | ADMONITION AND WARNING | ASSURANCE |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| EPHESUS | The One who holds 7 stars in His right hand 2:1 | You persevere and have endured for my name's sake 2:2, 3 | You left your first love 2:4 | Unless you repent, I will remove your lampstand from its place 2:5 | Eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God 2:7 |
| SMYRNA | The first and the last, who was dead 2:8 | I know your tribulation and poverty (but you are rich) 2:9 | (No reprimand) | Tribulation ten days (not because of wrongdoing) 2:10 | Be faithful and I will give you the crown of life 2:10 |
| PERGAMUM | One who has the sharp two-edged sword 2:12 | You hold fast my name and did not deny the faith 2:13 | Some teach of Balaam, eat things sacrificed to idols and commit immoral acts 2:14, 15 | Repent, or I am coming quickly to make war against false adherents 2:16 | I will give hidden manna, a white stone, a new name 2:17 |
| THYATIRA | Eyes like a flame of fire, feet like burnished bronze 2:18 | I know your deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance 2:19 | You tolerate Jezebel who leads some astray by immoral acts and eating things sacrificed to idols 2:20 | Jezebel and her cohorts will have great tribulation, but to the rest, hold fast till I come 2:22, 23 | I will give him authority over nations and will give the morning star 2:27, 28 |
| SARDIS | He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars 3:1 | Some have not soiled their garments and shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy 3:4 | You have the name of being alive, and you are dead 3:1 | Repent and awaken; I will come like a thief, and you will not know the hour 3:3 | I will clothe you in white garments, I will confess your name before my Father 3:5 |
| PHILADELPHIA | The Holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens 3:7 | You have a little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name 3:8 | (No reprimand) | (No warning) Hold fast to what you have 3:11 | I will make him a pillar in God's temple and will write on Him the name of God, of the new Jerusalem and my new name 3:12 |
| LAODICEA | The Amen, faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation 3:14 | (No commendation) | You are neither cold nor hot. You don't know that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked 3:15-17 | Buy from me gold refined in fire; be zealous and repent 3:18, 19 | I will grant Him to sit with me on my throne 3:21 |

PARALLELISM OF NATIONS

| DANIEL | | | | REVELATION | |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| CHAP. 2 | CHAP. 7 | CHAP. 8 | POWER | CHAP. 12 | CHAP. 13 |
| Head of Gold | (Out of Sea) Lion | | Babylon | | (Out of Sea) Lion |
| Breast and Arms of Silver | Bear | Ram with Two Horns | Medo-Persia | | Bear |
| Belly and Thighs of Brass | Leopard | Male Goat (Horn is Alexander) | Greece | | Leopard |
| | Four Heads | Four Horns or Notable Ones | Cassander, Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy | | |
| Legs of Iron | Fourth Beast | Small Horn | Rome | | Beast |
| Toes | Ten Horns | | Nations | Ten Horns | Ten Horns |
| Dan. 7:2-7 — 4 Beasts out of Sea, Including a Fourth Beast With Ten Horns | | | | Rev. 13:1 — Beast Out of Sea With 7 heads and 10 horns | |

The Seven Churches of Revelation

