

## An Exposition of the Book of the Revelation

Key Verse ... 1:19      Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

The things which you have seen	The things which are	The things which shall take place after these things
1	2-3	4-22
Past	Present	Future

**1a. THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE SEEN** (Revelation 1:1-20)

1b. The Preface 1:1-3

1c. A Revelation from God (1-2)

1d. Source

2d. Subject      “Unveiling of Jesus Christ”

“Things which must shortly take place”

“Communicated it”

3d. Servant      “bondservant”

2c. A blessing Promised (3)

1d. The revelation of the blessing ... first of 7 beatitudes in Revelation

1e. 1:3      “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near”

- 2e. 14:13 “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on”
- 3e. 16:15 “Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments”
- 4e. 19:9 “Blessed are those who are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb”
- 5e. 20:6 “Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection”
- 6e. 22:7 “Blessed is he who heeds the prophecy of this book”
- 7e. 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes”

2d. The reminder of the time ... “For the time is near”

The word for “time” is ‘kairos’, not ‘chronos’. Kairos refers to a fixed season. Daniel’s prophecy ... 1<sup>st</sup> 69 weeks completed. Rapture ... then 70<sup>th</sup> week begins!

2b. The Salutation 1:4-8

1c. Grace to the Churches (1:4-5a)

**Note:** John writes to 7 specific Churches in Asia Minor ... Why 7? Why those 7? (We’ll address this when we come to Chapter 2-3)

Grace ... unmerited favor

Peace ... result of trusting God

2c. Glory to the Son (1:5b-6)

1d. His Person

- 1e. Revealer (John 18:37; John 1:9, 14, 18; 17:4,8)
- 2e. Rank (I Corinthians 15:20, 23; Philippians 2:9-11; Daniel 7:14)
- 3e. Relationship to Domitian (emperor of Rome) (Revelation 19:16)

2d. His Performance (5)

1e. Past Work ... *redemption* (5b)

“Loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood”  
(Romans 8:37-39)

2e. Present Work ... *sanctification* (6a)

“and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father”

**I Peter 2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

3e. Future work ... *glorification* (6b)

3c. Guarantee of the Son's Coming (1:7)

Rapture or Second Coming?

**Zechariah 12:10** And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

4c. God's Sovereignty (8)

1d. The eternal One ... “Who is and who was and who is to come”

**Exodus 3:13-14** Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; AND He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Past - Present - Future ... Eternal being ... not becoming

2d. Completeness and Authority of His revelation

Alpha – Omega ... sum total of the alphabet (From A to Z). All words are within the alphabet ... total revelation!

- 3b. The Vision of Jesus Christ 1:9-20
  - 1c. The Instruction 1:9-11
    - 1d. The Context: The Lord's Day
      - 1e. Sunday?
      - 2e. The Day of the Lord
      - 3e. A Lordian kind of day
    - 2d. The Command:
  - 2c. The Illumination 1:12-16 [Son-erama]
    - 1d. The Seven Golden Lampstands
    - 2d. The Son of Man
      - 1e. His Pre-eminence

- 2e. His Portrait
  - 1f. The Robe
  - 2f. The Girdle
  - 3f. The Hair
  - 4f. Eyes
  - 5f. Feet
  - 6f. Voice

“When faith murmors, unbelief revolts, and men challenge the Supreme to break that silence and declare Himself, how little do they realize what that challenge means. It means the withdrawal of the amnesty; it means the end of the reign of grace; it means the end of mercy and the dawn of the day of wrath.” – Sir Robert Anderson, *Silence of God*, p. 146

7f. Hand full of stars

8f. Sharp 2-edged Sword

9f. Face

3c. The Interpretation 1:17-20

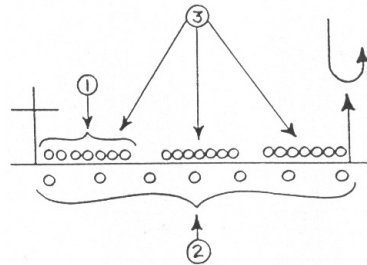
1d. The Response of John

2d. The Removal of Fear

3d. The Request to Record the Vision

**2a. THE THINGS WHICH ARE (Rev. 2-3)**

1b. The Approach to the 7 Letters to the 7 Churches



**1c. Historical Significance (Contemporary) [1]**

- 1d. These 7 Churches are historical ... they existed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.
- 2d. The messages to these churches reflect particular circumstances that existed in each respective church.

**2c. Representative Significance (Composite) [3]**

- 1d. These 7 Churches reflect characteristics of the Church that exists throughout the Church age. Only 7 Churches are included ... out of so many in existence in John's day (500 to 1,000), only these 7 are chosen, not because of their prominence in the days of the Apostles, but because of their representative character!

“In the seven churches, we have both every kind of church and every kind of member, which not only existed on earth in John's generation but also will exist throughout all ecclesiastical history. In other words, we have in the seven selected local churches a composite picture of all local churches on earth at any particular time. – Alva McClain

- 2d. At the end of each address, there is the exhortation to “hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Though each letter is written to a church, the promise is to all the churches.
- 3d. The number “7” is often used to denote “completeness” .... the fact that the number of churches selected precisely “7”, argues that within these congregations the entire Church of this present era is representatively portrayed.

Ephesus	First love lost
Smyrna	Persecuted
Pergamum	Faithful, but tolerates false teachers
Thyatira	Domination by false prophet
Sardis	Spiritually dying
Philadelphia	Faithful witnessing church
Laodicea	Lukewarm church

“With good reason have theologians in all ages regarded these seven churches of Asia Minor as a miniature of the whole Christian church. There is no condition, good, bad, or mixed, of which these epistles do not give suitable and wholesome direction.” – Phillip Schaff

**3c. Prophetic Significance (Chronological) [3]**

- 1d. These 7 churches/messages represent the chronological development of the Christian Church viewed spiritually.
- 2d. This theory does not deny the historical and representative character of the 7 churches, but simply adds a prophetic significance.
- 3d. The order presented is significant. Historical development of the Church.

Ephesus	Apostolic Church	30 - 100 A.D.
Smyrna	Persecuted Church	100 - 313 A.D.
Pergamum	State Church	313 - 590 A.D.
Thyatira	Papal Church	590 - 1517 A.D.
Sardis	Reformed Church	1517 - 1790 A.D.
Philidelphia	Missionary Church	1830 - 1900 A.D.
Laodicea	Apostate Church	1900 - Rapture

- 3d. The dates are not to be overly pressed, but are to serve as guides which point to the approximate time one era concludes and the next begins. It must be kept in mind that this theory does not claim that the entire earthly Church would homogeneously pass from stage to stage. Rather it is acknowledged that during this entire inter-advent era somewhere on earth there would be persecuted churches like that of Smyrna, faithful witnessing churches like that of Philadelphia, dead churches like that of Sardis, and lukewarm churches such as Laodicea.
- 4d. What is being suggested is that the dominant characteristics of the seven churches would rise in Church history successively within the professing Church in the order divinely given and that these seven periods would consume the entire inter-advent age.
- 5d. Nature of Revelation ... Progressive

Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

- Genesis 9:18 Shem (Son of Noah)
- Genesis 12:1 Abraham
- Genesis 49:8 Judah
- Isaiah 11:15 Jessee
- 2 Samuel 7:12 David
- Micah 5:2 Bethehem
- Isaiah 7:14 Virgin Birth

Only as the picture unfolds is it possible to look back and see how much was wrapped up in that simple verse!

- 2b. The Analysis of the Seven Letters
  - 1c. The Letter to Ephesus Rev. 2:1-7
    - 1d. The City
      - 1e. Economics
      - 2e. Politics
      - 3e. Religion
    - 2d. The Characteristic of Christ
    - 3d. The Commendation
      - 1e. Service
      - 2e. Steadfastness
      - 3e. Suppression
    - 4d. The Condemnation
      - “You have lost your first love”
    - 5d. The Correction
      - 1e. Remember
      - 2e. Repent
      - 3e. Return

6d. The Challenge

2c. The Letter to Smyrna Rev. 2:8-11

1d. The City

- 1e. Destroyed by Lydia 627 B.C./ Rebuilt by Alexander after centuries of being a “ghost town.”
- 2e. Great persecution of Christians. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyred.
- 3e. Name “Smyrna” [myrr]: had to be beaten and crushed to give off the pleasant aroma. Smyrna was the suffering church.”  
Ramsey (Historian) : “Christianity has held on here better than any city in Asia.”
- 3e. Strong allegiance to Rome ... center for Roman emperor worship. 196 b.c. ... Temple to Dea Roma (goddess of Rome)  
126 A.D. ... chosen from among 6 cities in Asia Minor to build a temple dedicated to the reigning emperor, Tiberius.  
Capital offense to refuse to offer the yearly sacrifice to the emperor.
- 4e. Largest anti-Christian Jewish population ... dangerous place for Christians to live.

2d. The Character of Christ (8)

3d. The Commendation (9)

- 1e. I know your tribulation
- 2e. I know your poverty  
Matt 6:19-21; 2 Cor. 6:10; James 2:5

3e. I know your blasphemy

\*\* Persecution came from the Jews!

**Romans 2:28-29** ... For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly; neither is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

**Polycarp** ... (A.D. 70-155) was bishop of Smyrna and a godly man. He had known the apostle John personally. He was urged by the Roman proconsul to renounce Christ by saying "Caesar is Lord", Polycarp refused. The governor then urged him, "Swear! I will set you free. Reproach Christ." Polycarp answered with one of the famous avowals in all history: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me any injury. How then can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?" When the procounsel again pressed him, the aged pastor answered, "Since you are vainly urging that I should swear by the fortune of Caesar and pretend not to know who and what I am, hear me. I am a Christian." A little later the governor threatened: "I have wild beasts at hand. To these I will cast you except you change." Later the proconsul said, "I will cause you to be consumed by fire, seeing that you despise the wild beasts, if you will not change. Polycarp said, "You threaten me with fire that burns for an hour, and after a little, is extinguished. But you are ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment reserved for the ungodly. But, why do you tarry? Bring forth what you will." Soon after he was burned to death. In the flames he prayed, "I thank You that You have graciously thought me worthy of this day and this hour, that I may receive a portion in the number of Your martyrs in the cup of Your Christ. (W.A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas)

4d. The Condemnation

None! Suffering had produced an acceptable lifestyle!

5d. The Correction

None!

6d. The Challenge (10-11)

1e. Fear not (cf. v. 8) Christ has conquered death!

"Tribulation 10 days" ...??

- if taken literally, we can't find any historical fulfillment
- if taken figuratively ... 10 eras of persecution. (See 8 x 11)

2e. Be faithful unto death.

"Crown of Life" ...

**James 1:12** Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

3c. The Message to Pergamum Rev. 2:12-17

1d. The City

- 1e. Library ... more than 200,000 books (hand copied). Use of parchment (animal skins) as writing material was invented at Pergamum..
- 2e. Temples ...  
Zeus ... Latin “Jupiter” ... top god; one of the 7 wonders of the world  
Dionysius ... Latin “Bacchus” ... god of wine and drama  
Athena ... Latin “Minerva” ... goddess of wisdom in art and in war  
Aesculapius ... god of healing (Pergamum god) Medical School: emblem was the serpent  
Galen, second only in prominence to Hippocrates, was born and studied in Pergamum.
- 3e. Emperor worship ... overshadowing the Greek gods was emperor worship. Temple of Augustus (29 b.c.) Later, temples honoring Trajan and Septimus Severus. Center of emperor worship in all Asia.

**Note:** In other cities Christians were in danger one day a year when they were required to offer sacrifices to the emperor, but in Pergamum they were in danger every day! (V. 13 ... Antipas ... martyred)

2d. The Character of Christ

“The One who has the sharp two-edged sword” ...

- 1e. Doctrinal ... The sword represents the Scriptures as the penetrating Word of God.  
  
Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.  
  
God’s Word can reveal truth and error, right and wrong, no matter how foggy the issue!
- 2e. Cultural ... Pergamum held power as a Roman city ... power to enforce emperor worship, etc. But Christ will have the ultimate power over life and death. His power is not given by Rome or limited by civil boundaries.

Cf. Revelation 19:15

3d. The Commendation (13)

1e. They held fast His Name, living in a difficult city to live in.

Pergamum ... hotbed for idolatry and pagan deities

His Name:

Lord ... authority

Jesus ... Savior (mediator)

Christ ... anointed one ... Messianic title

2e. They did not deny the faith ... (Doctrine of Jesus Christ)

Athanasius ... answered the Arian heresy (denial of deity of Christ)

Council at Nicea (325) ... condemned Arianism

Augustine answered Pelagius (denial of original sin; depravity)

4d. The Condemnation (14)

1e. Toleration of Balaam followers ...

**Numbers 22-25 and 31** ... Balaam was hired by Balak to curse Israel, but God would not let him do it. Balaam did something worse to corrupt God's people. The prophet Balaam showed King Balak how he could use the Moabite women to seduce the Israelite men into sexual immorality, illegal marriage and pagan worship.

**Numbers 31:16** Behold, these caused the sons of Israel through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the Lord.

**The church at Pergamum** ... compromised their faith by allowing themselves to mix with pagan practices!

2e. Teaching of the Nicolaitans

– conquerors of the people ... church hierarchy .. They exalted themselves over the people. They abused their freedom in Christ by accommodating their doctrine and conduct to the society in which they lived. “Sacramental salvation” ... as you are born a citizen of the state, so you are christened a member of the Church.

– religious sect that advocated immorality and impurity

5d. The Correction (16)

6d. The Challenge

1e. Hidden manna ... divine provision for needs

2e. White stone ...

Judicial ... sign of acquittal at a trial

Military ... sign of victory and triumph ... reward

Citizenship ...

**Tessara hospitalis**.... Two men, friends, about to depart, would divide a white stone, each carrying with him half, upon which was inscribed the name of the friend. It may be that they would never meet again, but that stone in each case would be bequeathed to a son, and sometimes generations after, a man would meet another, and they would find that they possessed the complementary halves of one white stone, and their friendship would be at once created upon the basis of the friendship made long ago. (*G. Campbell Morgan*, p. 106)

**Revelation 21:27** And nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

4c. The Message to Thyatira Rev. 2:18-29

1d. The City

Thyatira is the least known, least important, and the least remarkable of the 7 cities in Rev. 2-3, yet it has the longest message.

Noted for its numerous guilds (linen, wool, leather, bronze) Major claim to fame was the manufacture of a purple fabric made from a rare purple dye. (1 pound of this dye sold for 1,000 denarii, the equivalent of 3 years pay.

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God ... [Lydia was a wealthy businesswoman who came to Christ through the ministry of Paul].

Thyatira today ... small city of 25,000. Known for the manufacture of oriental rugs.

Very possible that the church at Thyatira was founded by Lydia. It floundered because of the woman Jezebel.

2d. The Character of Christ

1e. Son of God

This is the only occurrence in Revelation

Claim of deity. The greatest assertion of authority than previous letters.

Christ is not just a prophet, nor just Mary's son, but the eternal Son of God, endowed with authority. [Perhaps a rebuke on the RCC for degrading Christ as the son of Mary.]

**Philippians 2:9-10** Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that ever tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2e. Eyes like flaming fire ... (Omniscience) Christ knows the true nature of His Church.

3e. Feet like burnished bronze ... (Purity and Holiness)

Revelation 14:19-20; 19:15

Today's culture ... both Christians and pagans live as though Christ were not Divine, Omniscient, and Authoritative ... honoring Him is optional!

3d. The Commendation (19)

1e. Deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance ...  
Active church ... not a hospital for spiritual invalids.

2e. Increasing

**2 Peter 1:5-8** Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence in your faith add moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, know-ledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your god-liness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, Christian love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor fruitless in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4d. The Condemnation (20) “You tolerate the woman Jezebel”

Not external persecution ... internal compromise  
Not wolves from without ... perverted people from within

1e. Source of the heresy ... Jezebel

1f. A woman leader in the church at Thyatira ...self-appointed false prophetess who urged the Christians in Thyatira to continue their pagan worship of idols which characterized the unbelievers in the city.

2f. Her name may not have been Jezebel ... but Jesus assigns her that name because she was fulfilling the role of the Jezebel of the O.T. [I Kings 16:33 Jezebel ... wife of King Ahab] She was one of the most evil characters of the O.T., who tried to combine the worship of Israel with the worship of the idol Baal.

**I Kings 16:33** And Ahab also made the Asherah (wooden idol of a female deity). Thus Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, God of Israel, than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

She (Jezebel) is therefore the epitome of subtle corruption and a symbol of immorality and idolatry.

The message to the assembly in Thyatira seems to foreshadow that period of church history known as the Middle Ages proceeding the Protestant Reformation. In that period the church became corrupt as it sought to combine Christianity with pagan philosophy and heathen religious rites so that much of the ritual of the church of that period is directly traceable to comparable ceremonies in heathen religion. During this period also there began that exaltation of Mary the mother of our Lord which has tended to exalt her to the plane of a female deity through whom intercession to God should be made, and apart from whose favor there can be no salvation. The prominence of prominence of a woman prophetess in the church at Thyatira anticipates the prominence of this unscriptural exaltation of Mary. Along with this, the church experienced spiritual depravity, and idols in the form of religious statues were introduced. Not only gross immorality but spiritual fornication resulted, much as was true in the church of Thyatira. - John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 75.

2e. The situation in Thyatira ...

1f. Wrong in Principle ... Woman oriented church

**1 Timothy 2:11-12** Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to reach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

2f. Wrong in Practice ... Sheep were being led astray

Immorality; idolatry; Veneration of Mary (without her favor, there is no salvation); Mass for the dead (continual sacrifice)

3f. Characteristics of an apostate:

- Cleverly deceptive
  - Manipulatively dominant
  - Viciously scheming
  - Influentially wicked
- move people out from  
under the authority of  
God's Word

**Matthew 18:6-7** But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes!

5d. The Correction ... repent or else ...

- complete abandonment to her way of life (v. 22)
- trouble for her associates (v. 22)
- eventual death resulting in a purified church (v. 23)

**Acts 15:28-29** For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.

6d. The Challenge (26) “Hold fast until I come”

1e. Reward of authority in the Kingdom of Christ.

**Psalms 2:7-9** ... Promise to Messiah of right to rule the nations during the Millennium. The Church will share in the administration of Christ's kingdom.

2e. The morning star

**2 Peter 1:19** And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

**Revelation 22:16** I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.

5c. The Message to Sardis Rev. 3:1-6  
 “The Morgue with a Steeple”

1d. The City

- 1e. Founded 1200 B.C., capital of Lydia; Extremely wealthy (gold) ... King Croesus ... “As rich as Croesus.” Gold/silver coins first minted at Sardis.
- 2e. City built on a cliff that towered over 1,500 feet above the broad fertile river basin of the Hermus River. Considered unapproachable. Conquered by Cyrus the Persian 549 B.C. Cliffs left unguarded ... soldiers scaled the vertical wall one by one. [History repeated 195 B.C. by Antiochus the Great].
- 3e. Sardis never regained independence ... came under Roman rule in 133 B.C.
- 4e. In John’s day Sardis was prosperous but decaying ... both the city and the church it contained had lost their vitality (MacArthur)

2d. The Character of Christ

- 1e. “Seven Spirits of God” ... the fullness of the Spirit. Jesus Christ is represented in His Church through the Holy Spirit who indwells every member of the body of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

- 2e. “Seven stars” ... [see Rev. 1:20] the seven stars are the seven messengers or elders of the seven churches (representative of all churches). Jesus Christ is Lord over His Church, mediating His rule through godly leaders and pastors.

Christ reveals Himself as the One who sovereignly works in His Church through the Holy Spirit and godly leadership. This perhaps is an indictment against Sardis for not relying on either ... they were dead ... devoid of the Spirit.

3d. The Commendation ... no mention of persecution ... why would Satan persecute a dead church?

4d. The Condemnation (1) ... The Notable Reputation of the Church  
 [The Sardis Church was dead!]

“With His infallible knowledge, He pronounced the Sardis church to be dead. Like so many churches today it was defiled by the world, characterized by inward decay, and populated by unredeemed people playing church.” (J. MacArthur, *Revelation*, p. 111)

- 1e. Fully weighed by Christ ... ‘I know your deeds’
- 2e. Found wanting by Christ ...

1f. Outward/Inward (Name, crosses, compassion, prayer)

**2 Timothy 3:5** Holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power ...

2g. Signs of a dead church

1h. Worship its past ... not its Priest (Christ)

“Learning from the past leads to healthy change. But living in the lap of its past history, a church can die.” (Chuck Swindoll)

2h. Emphasis on programs ... not people

**Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

**Ephesians 4:12** And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.

3h. Greater focus on the material than the spiritual.

**Acts 1:28** And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Ultimate goal of the Church ... spiritual development of people!

4h. Monuments replace movements.

5d. The Correction (2-3) The Needed Reformation of the Church

1e. Remember the past ....

Christ's priority (Chp. 1) ... sovereign Lord of His Church  
Church's purpose ... Salt and light.

2e. Recognize the present ... Repent

3e. Readiness for the future ...

**1 Thess. 5:6** So then let us not sleep, but let us be alert and sober ...

**2 Peter 3:11** Since all of these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God ...

6d. The Challenge (5) “He who overcomes” ... faithful believers

- 1e. “Clothed in white garments” ... Righteousness of God  
“They will walk with Me in white, because they are worthy” (4)

**Rev. 7:14** And he said to me, ‘these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**Rev. 19:7-8** Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

**Peter Waldo** (1170 A.D., France) ... Followers called “Waldenses” Started a revival all across Europe. 1208 – Papal Holy Crusade ... over 1 million martyred.

- 2e. “I will not erase his name from the book of life” ... Promise of eternal life in the presence of God.

Sardis church issued anathemas of excommunication ... without blessing and approval of the Church you are consigned to eternal hell.

When **Girolamo Savonarola** (Florence Italy, 1452-1498, the forerunner of the Reformation) stood before the Pope, he was told, “And I separate thee from the church militant and from the church triumphant.” Savonarola replied, “From the church militant, yes; but from the church triumphant, never, for it is not in thy power to do so.” (Hanged and burned)

- 3e. “I will confess his name before My Father and His angels” ...

**Martin Luther** was excommunicated from the church on October 21, 1617, and his soul consigned to everlasting hell and damnation. But God says, “I will not erase his name from the book of life.”

**John Wycliffe** “Morning Star of the Reformation” ...1382 ... translated the Bible into English. Died before the Church could seize him.

**John Huss** ... 1367 ... influenced by Wycliffe ... converted and began preaching in Bohemia. Condemned to die. Crown placed on his head, “The Great Heretic”. “With joy I wear this crown of shame for the love of Him who wore the crown of thorns.” Pope had Wycliffe’s bones dug up and burned to show his contempt. Ashes were poured into the River Swift, which flows into the River Severn, which flows into the River Avon, which empties into the sea. Wycliffe’s ministry today is worldwide.

6c. The Letter to Philadelphia Rev. 3:7-13

1d. The City

- 1e. Strategic trade route ... gateway to the east. (Bordered on Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia.)
- 2e. Greek culture and language easily spread to Lydia and Phrygia. By A.D. 19 the Lydian tongue had been replaced by Greek as the only language of the country.
- 3e. Last bastion of Christianity when Asia Minor was overrun by the Islamic Turks.

**Edward Gibbon**, famous historian... In the loss of Ephesus, the Christians deplored the fall of the first angel and the extinction of the first candlestick of the revelation. The desolation is complete and the temple of Diana, or the church of Mary, will equally elude the search of the curious traveler. The circus and the 3 stately theatres of Laodicea are now peopled with wolves and foxes. Sardis is reduced to a miserable village. The God of Mohammed without a rival or a son, is invoked in the mosques of Thyatira and Pergamos. The populousness of Smyrna is supported by the foreign trade of the Franks and Armenians. Philadelphia alone has been saved by prophecy or courage. Among the Greek colonies and churches of Asia, Philadelphia is still erect, a column in the scene of ruins. (It is to this day still largely a Christian town.)

2d. The Character of Christ

- 1e. Holy ... no sin, corruption, imperfection (right in character)
- 2e. True
  - 1f. Christ is the one and only Lord and Messiah
 

**John 14:6** I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. [He alone was worthy to be our substitute and satisfy the holy demands of the Father for our sin.]
  - 2f. Christ is trustworthy ... We can believe Him and His promises.
- 3e. Sovereign (Who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens)
  - 1f. David ... associated with Messianic Office ... Messiah will occupy the throne of David.
  - 2f. Key ... authority and control

Revelation 1:18 I have the keys of death and of Hades

**Isaiah 22:22** (Eliakim, steward to Israel's king) Then I will set the key to the house of David on his shoulder, When he opens no one will shut, When he shuts no one will open. (Because of his office, he controlled access to the monarch.)

\*\* We have an open door of access to the Father ... and open doors of access to minister in His Name.

3f. Sovereign control of His Church. No one can overturn His purpose!

3d. The Commendation (8)

1e. **“Little power”** ... Church was not great in size or influence. Commendation of strength ... energized by the Holy Spirit, they had the potential to walk through open doors of opportunity and minister to people.

**2 Cor. 12:10** Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

**John 15:5** I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**Zechariah 4** Vision of Zechariah ... lampstand of gold ... bowl ... 7 spouts; 2 olive trees. “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

**Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

2e. **Faithfulness to the Word** ... “You have kept My Word.” She not only knew the Word but she practiced it.

**James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

**John 8:31** Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.”

3e. **Credible Christians** ... “Have not denied My Name” ... Not fair-weather Saints! They did not shrink back from their public confession ...”follower of Christ.” (Persecution and pressure)

School ... do you stand on your confession?

Office ... Do you stand on your confession?

**Illust:** Chariots of Fire ... Eric Liddle ... Scottish missionary to China, 1924. Member of Great Britain's Olympic Team ... runner (100 m). Discovered that his race was to be run on Sunday. Refused to run ... told to choose between his faith and his Queen ... Chose his faith!

**Illust:** When Martin Luther, began to proclaim what the Bible clearly taught , he was branded a heretic by the very church that in theory accepted the Bible as one of its two main sources of authority (the other being tradition). At the Diet of Worms (1521), the Catholic scholar Johann Eck asked Luther whether he wished to retract what he had taught. Luther's famous reply was as follows:

"Since your serene majesty and your lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed: unless I am convinced by the testi-mony of the Scriptures or by clear reason..... I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.. I cannot and will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience."

#### 4d. The Compensation

##### 1e. Humiliation of Enemies (9)

True Jews are descendants of Abraham, and they have found forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel (cf. Romans 2:28-29). Deceiving Jews are those who reject and persecute believers in Christ. They are in reality children of Satan.

Christ promises the Church at Philadelphia that He would humble her enemies and make them acknowledge what they refused to accept .. That the Church is the object of the Messiah's love.

**Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow , of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

##### 2e. Great opportunity for ministry

1f. For ancient Philadelphia ... great outreach ministry to Turkey! Early church evangelized Turkey ... responded to the open door.

2f. Church History ... open doors of opportunity

1g. 1792 ... William Carey pleaded for world-wide cause of missions. Carey spent his life evangelizing India.

2g. 1813 ... Adoniram Judson ... Burma. Judson labored 6 years without a convert. War between England and Burma (1824-26). Judson was imprisoned ... fettered down with 5 pair of chains, sick with fever, suffering from the excessive heat of the jungle. He was kept alive by his wife, Ann Hasseltine. He lived to see thousands of Bermese come to Christ.

3g. Hudson Taylor ... "Lord, give me China." He was forced out in 1947 by the Communists. His grandson, Hudson Taylor III went back to China with his mother in 1974 ... Hudson III estimated conservatively that there were 50 million Christians in China (lay led evangelism started by Hudson Taylor).

4g. Africa, Europe ... Doors were opened ... even today, open doors in Russia, Ukraine, Romania.

- 5g. Closed doors ... public schools in America. State of Calif. ... prohibits Christian high school graduates from even applying to the Univ. of California system.

3e. Deliverance from the hour of testing ... (10)

- 1f. This is a reference to the Tribulation period, Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week.

- 1g. Post-tribulationists argue that the Church is preserved in the hour of testing (internal preservation).

Questions to ask:

# 1 ... If multitudes of believers are going to die under the fierce persecution of antiChrist, Satan, and the wicked, then in what way has God preserved them through the tribulation?

#2 ... What kind of comfort and encouragement would this kind of preservation be to the Church?

- 2g. Pre-tribulationists maintain that the Church is here promised preservation outside the hour of testing by means of the Rapture of the Church (external preservation).

- 3g. "Keep you from the hour of testing" ... "To test those who dwell upon the earth" [tereo ek ... out from, away from]

**Revelation 6:10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'

**Revelation 11:10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry... (Martyrdom of the two witnesses in Tribulation)

**Revelation 13:8** And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, every one whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

**Revelation 13:12** And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound is healed.

"Thus the judgment referred to in Revelation 3:10 is directed against the earth-dwellers of that day, against those who have settled down in the earth as their real home, who have identified themselves with the earth's commerce and religion." (Henry Thiessen)

- 4g. Nature of the tribulation ...

**Revelation 6:16** And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

5g. “Test”

The nature of the testing in the 70<sup>th</sup> week is not to bring the individual to cleansing but to reveal the degradation and need of the unregenerate heart. The nature of the church prevents such a testing. (I John 4:17)

6g. “Kept from the hour”

A promise that guarantees not only being kept from the trials of the Trib but being kept from the time period of the Tribulation.

How can the Church be in the Trib and be protected if the events of the Trib are worldwide and directly and indirectly affect every-body ... how can the Church be on the earth and escape such events?

The only way to escape the time of the judgments is to not be in the place where the judgments take place. The only place that meets those qualifications is heaven! (I Thess. 4:13-18)

**I Thessalonians 1:10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come. [KJV: “who hath delivered us”]

5d. The Challenge (12) “He who overcomes” ...

- 1e. “Pillar in the temple of My God” ... Stability, permanance, immovability. Pillars also represented honor in temples. Believers have a permanent place of honor in the temple of God (heaven).
- 2e. “Name of My God and city of My God” .... Believers have eternal citizenship in heaven’s capital city, the New Jerusalem. (Safety, security, glory)
- 3e. “My new name” ... Completion of the transformation process that is underway now (Sanctification ... being set apart unto God ... conformity of mind, emotion and will to the character of God).

6d. Concluding Thought ... What keeps a door of ministry open?

- 1e. Spiritual Intimacy (“Little Power”) ..dependance on H.S.
- 2h. Theological Accuracy ... “Kept my Word”
- 3h. Evengelistic Credibility ... “You have not denied My name”

7c. The Letter to Laodicea Rev. 3:14-21  
(The Church That Was Luke Warm)

In the book, *The Screwtape Letters*, by C. S. Lewis, a devil briefs his demon nephew, Wormwood, in the subtleties and techniques of tempting people. Through the letters the devil says that the objective is not to make people wicked but to make them indifferent. Satan cautions Wormwood that he must keep the patient comfortable at all costs. If he should start thinking about anything of importance, encourage him to think about his luncheon plans and not to worry so much because it could cause indigestion. And then the devil gives this instruction to his nephew: "I, the devil, will always see to it that there are bad people. Your job, my dear Wormwood, is to provide me with people who do not care."

1d. The City

- 1e. The great Roman road ran through Laodicea, making it an important center of trade and communication.
- 2e. Wealthy city ...production of a fine quality black wool.
- 3e. Proud city. Devastating earthquake in A.D. 17 ... people refused imperial help in rebuilding the city. [Ironic to speak of this church at a time in our history where everybody wants a federal "bailout".
- 4e. Famous school of medicine. Production of "Phrygian Eye Powder" ...exported in tablet form, it was ground down into a special ointment for the cure of eye defects.
- 5e. One historian notes that "there were no excesses or notable achievements to distinguish it. It was a city of bankers and finance, which had learned to compromise and accommodate itself to the needs and wishes of others. The Laodiceans did not zealously stand for anything."

2d. The Character of Christ

- 1e. "The Amen" ... only time used as a noun in N.T. Certainty and validity of His words. Acknowledgment of that which is sure and truthful.
- 2e. "The faithful and true witness" ... consistent and reliable.

**Hebrews 1:1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**John 12:49-50** For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.

- 3e. "The beginning of the creation of God" ... the creative source of the entire universe!

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

## 3d. The Condemnation (15-17)

- 1e. Church's deeds were neither hot nor cold.
- 1f. City drinking water ... tepid. 6-mile aquaduct brought water to the city from the south. The water came either from hot springs and cooled down during the 6-mile journey, or from cooler springs, but warmed up during the flow to the city. For all its wealth, Laodicea had bad drinking water. Induced vomiting among visitors.
- 2f. The Church was not cold or lifeless. There were some who made positive contributions to the community. Respectable .. Peaceable.

The the Church wasn't hot or zealous either! They smiled at kids, used contemporary Christian lingo, gave of their finances ... even discussed the needs of the community. But they did not give of themselves. Did they stand up for Christ? Did they share the gospel? Defend the faith? Minister to the needs of others?

**Indifference** .... "temporal sufficiency" ... Sat, soaked, soured. Content with material prosperity and Social acceptance, they grew indifferent to Biblical truth and it's applications to the Christian life. They lost the battle against complacency, compromise and indifference.

V. 17 ... ignorant of their true spiritual condition.

- 3f. Laodicea was:      Evangelical but not evangelistic  
                                  Cross was not denied, but it was not vital  
                                  Hearers ... not doers  
                                  Orthodox, but indifferent. (No passion)  
                                  Rich in pride (material things), but bankrupt in spirituality

**John F. Walvoord**, "It is remarkable, however, that in the indictment of the church in Laodicea none of the sins mentioned in the preceding churches are itemized. On the one hand there are no works which are commended, but on the other hand there is no citation of departure in doctrine or morals. Perhaps such defection did not occur, or it may have stemmed from the sin of being lukewarm. In either case the quality of being lukewarm assumes the dimension of being utterly intolerable by God.

**Illust:** The writer Joaquim Maria Macado de Assis tells the story of a well-to-do woman living with her family and an aspiring college student. It's a story of tolerance taken to an extreme. Intimately involved with another woman, her husband spent the night with his mistress once every week. The wife knew about her mate's rendezvous but never tried to stop him. Though his affair grieved her at first, she eventually became "used to the situation ... and finally she came almost to accept the affair as proper." The young student living with the family described her as a person with "a temperament of great equanimity, with extremes neither of tears nor of laughter. Everything about her was passive .. She was what is called a kind person. She spoke ill of no one, she pardoned everything. She didn't know how to hate; approval supplanted sorrow; tolerance suppressed truth. In a similar progression, the first-century church of Laodicea allowed her devotion to Christ to shift into neutral. She no longer wrestled with evil or defended the faith -- instead, she tolerated everything, neither loving nor hating anything. Christ attacked her spiritual blandness with some of the harshest words found anywhere in Scripture. – (Taken from Revelation, Charles Swindoll, p. 44)

2e. Response of Christ ... “I will spit you out of My mouth”

1f. Christ would have them hot or cold ... apostate or loyal. The most difficult people to deal with are bland, blind religionists. Conformity at any price is their game.

2f. Complacency rendered them useless ... Empty religiosity made Him sick!

4d. The Correction (18)

1e. Exchange wretched poverty for pure gold. Spiritual wealth comes from serving Christ faithfully.

**Matthew 6:19-21** Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

**Romans 12-1-2** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2e. Exchange stark nakedness for white garments ... True righteousness is work of Spirit (internal) ... not outward.

**Philippians 3:9** And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

3e. Exchange your spiritual blindness for healing eye salve.

4e. Exchange lukewarm indifference for hot zealotry! (V. 20)

Go beyond just knowing about Him ... start knowing Him! (Intimate relationship)

Note: v. 20 is in the context of Christ wanting back inside His Church!

6d. The Challenge (21) “He who overcomes” ...

“Sit down with Me on My throne” ... promise to rule and reign with Christ during the Millennial kingdom, and throughout all eternity.

Summary:

In all 7 letters, The challenge issued involves the blessing of being glorified, seeing Christ face to face, and participating in the fulfillment of His earthly rule and reign as the Messiah of Israel and King of Kings.

Comprehensive warning from Christ Himself as embodied in the exhortations to each of the churches:

1. Ephesus, the danger of losing our first love (2:4), that devotion to Christ.
2. Smyrna, the danger of fear of suffering (2:10).
3. Pergamum, the danger of doctrinal compromise (2:14-15) ... often the first step toward defection.
4. Thyatira, the danger of moral compromise (2:20) ... moral relativism.
5. Sardis, the danger of spiritual deadness (3:1-2) ... orthodoxy without life, focus on externals only.
6. Philadelphia, the danger of not holding fast (3:11) ... empowered by the H.S., true to Word, Christ.
7. Laodicea, the danger of lukewarmness (3:15-16) ... selfsufficient, unconciousness of spiritual need!

Charles C. Ryrie, Revelation 3:10

It is possible to conceive of the church's being protected from the judgments of the tribulation period while remaining on earth, but we know that God's saints on the earth during that time will not be exempt from the judgments or from death.

One might be kept from the tribulation without a pre-tribulation rapture, but how can one be kept from the "hour" without being raptured? If the church will not be raptured before the hour begins, then the promise will not be fulfilled, because many saints simply will not be preserved, but will suffer and die.

The verse (10) indicates that this does not refer to the normal trials of Christians but to a special hour of trial which will be worldwide. Even the persecutions which believers have and are suffering today at the hands of particular nations do not fulfill this verse since they are not worldwide.

John F. Walvoord (President, Dallas Seminary) Letter to Laodicea

This state (lukewarmness) refers to those who have manifested some interest in the things of God. They may be professing Christians who attend church but fall short of a true testimony for Christ and whose attitude and actions raise questions concerning the reality of their spiritual life. They have been touched by the Gospel but it is not clear whether they really belong to Christ.

It is apparent that there is something about the intermediate state of being lukewarm that is utterly obnoxious to God. Far more hopeful is the state of one who has been untouched by the gospel and makes no pretense of putting his trust in Christ than the one who makes some profession but by his life illustrates that he has not really honored the Christ whose gospel he has heard and professed.

There is no one farther from the truth in Christ than the one who makes an idle profession without real faith. The church at Laodicea constitutes a sad picture of much of the professing church in the world throughout the history of the Christian era and serves as an illustration of those who participate in the outer religious worship without the inner reality.

3a. The Things Which Shall Take Place After These Things (Rev. 4-22)

1b. The Chronological Problem of the Throne Scene (Rev. 4-5)

Rev. 4-5 presents a breath-taking scene in the heavenlies. The Father is manifested upon the throne surrounded by a rainbow, the four living creatures are next about the throne, then come the twenty-four elders, then the myriads of angels, and finally as the concentric circles grow even larger all the other creatures in the universe are seen. Christ, the Lamb, takes the book with the seven seals from the Father and all of the universe breaks out in rapturous song and shouts of holy joy!

Two major questions to be asked and answered: 1) What is the chronological relationship between the event signified by this vision (Throne scene) and the Tribulation period?; 2) What is the relationship between this event and the rapture of the Church?

1c. What is the chronological relationship between the event signified by this vision and the Tribulation period?

1d. Unity and Function of Revelation 4-5

1e. Comparison of Rev. 4:1 and 1:19

1f. Rev. 1:19 divided the book into 3 sections

**Revelation 1:19** Write therefore the things which you have seen , and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things .

The things which you have seen	The things which are	The things which shall take place after these things
Chapter 1	Chapters 2-3	Chapters 4-22
Past	Present	Future

In light of this, the voice of Rev. 4:1 informs John that he is now about to see “the things which shall take place after these things.” In other words, John is about to be shown the things which comprise the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final section of the book.

“Take place after these things” ... 1:19 and 4:1 .... identical Greek words!

2e. This means that Revelation 4-22 forms a unity consisting of the things which shall take place after the church things of Rev. 2-3.

3e. A backward look ....

Rev. 21-22 Inauguration of the eternal state.

Rev. 20 The 1,000 year millennial reign of Christ

Rev. 6-19 The tribulation period and its plagues of 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls of wrath.

Rev. 4-5 The heavenly scene where Christ takes the 7-sealed book from the Father.

The opening of the seals of this book by Christ begins the plagues of the Tribulation which start with the opening of the first seal in Rev. 6:1.

- 4e. So the scene of Rev. 4-5 is the prelude to judgment. It reveals the Lamb obtaining “The Title Deed of the Universe. This sealed deed is a Writ of Repossession and Eviction. Because of Sin, Satan had usurped the creation from the holy God, but Christ’s death made possible the redemption of man and all creation . Only Christ, who paid the price and defeated sin is worth to evict Satan and all sinners from Satan’s illegal domain (5:2-5), and to repossess the creation for God.
- 2d. Chronological Location of Revelation 4-5
    - 1e. The event of Christ taking the book from the Father represents an act that takes place after the cross, but before the Tribulation period.
    - 2e. The Tribulation officially begins when the first seal is broken (6:1)
    - 3e. Christ must take the book (authority to execute judgment upon the earth) before the judgment period can commence. It is impossible for anyone taking Rev. 6-19 as the Tribulation period to dispute the point. The taking of the book (5:1-6) must occur prior to the Tribulation period (6:1).
    - 3e. It is equally clear to see that Christ takes the book from the Father after the cross. The atonement at Calvary was necessary as the basis of His being worthy to receive and open the book. That is the proclamation of 5:9.
    - 4e. How much time must occur between the taking of the book and the Tribulation starting? Scripture does not specifically address that question. But we can make some observations:
      - 1f. If the receiving and opening of the book had occurred immediately after the ascension of Christ, it should properly have been mentioned in Rev. 1 as part of the vision of the risen Christ.
      - 2f. The throne scene is located in the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the Apocalypse which unfolds “the things which will take place after these things (church things).
      - 3f. **Conclusion:** If the throne scene was not directly after the ascension, then it must be at the only other appropriate time, right before the beginning of the Tribulation.
    - 5e. Rainbow, lightnings (4:2, 3, 5) ... seem to confirm the view that the opening of the sealed book is associated with a period of judgment such as the Tribulation.
      - 1f. The rainbow represents God’s mercy in the midst of divine wrath.
      - 2f. Lightnings and voices of thunder ...God’s presence with impending judgment of sinners.
- 2c. What is the relationship between the Throne Scene and the Rapture?
    - 1d. A major issue that helps answer this question involves the identity of the “24 elders” of Rev. 4-5. If the 24 elders represent the Church already raptured, then this ceremony that John witnesses must take place in the brief interval between the rapture (I Thess. 4:13-18) and the start of the Tribulation (Rev. 6:1)
    - 2d. If this be true, the rapture must necessarily be a pretribulation one because the Church is already wearing crowns in heaven before the Tribulation judgments begin.

## 2b. The View of God's Throne 4:1-3

1c. Location of the throne ... heaven. God is above all human government.

## 2c. Description of God

1d. Jasper/Sardius ... (Clear diamond/Red) ... symbolizes the purity of God and His Grace/Mercy/Love shown through the redemptive program of His Son and His atoning death.

– **Exodus 28:17-21** ... Priest's breastplate ... 12 stones. First stone named was the ruby (sardius) ... last stone was the Jasper (clear diamond). Collectively, the image of the breast of the priest was that he represented the 12 tribes of Israel ... God's covenant people

Jasper stone represented Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob. The Sardius stone represented Benjamin, the youngest of the 12 sons of Jacob. ... First and last ... God identifies with His covenant people.

**Reuben** "behold, a son" .... **Benjamin** "son of my right hand" ... Regarding Christ, He is the representative of Israel; He is also the Son of God. Like **Reuben**, Christ is the first begotten son. Like **Benjamin**, Christ is also "the son of my right hand" in relation to God the Father.

The person John sees on the throne looking like a jasper and a sardius in appearance is, therefore, God in relation to the nation Israel (He has not abandoned His covenant people).

## 3b The 24 elders (4)

## 1c. Views ...

1d. Representative of the saints of all ages. (12 = O.T. Israel; 12 = N.T. Church)

2d. Representative of the angels

3d. Best View .... Representative of the Church glorified in heaven.

1e. O.T. Background ... Priesthood had 24 courses. (I Chronicles 24)  
Thus 24 is a number of representation of a priesthood.

**1 Peter 2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ..

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

## 2c. Additional descriptions

1d. White garments ... Symbol of redeemed righteousness (Rev. 19)

2d. Gold Crowns ... Not diadem (sovereignty) ... Stephanos (victor's crown). The elders have been rewarded ... sitting!

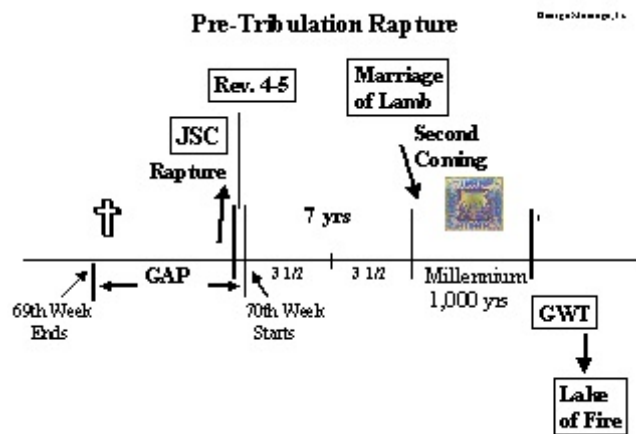
1e. Can't be angels ... judgment comes later after the kingdom.

2e. Can't be Israel ... judgment comes after the Tribulation.

3e. Only the church is raptured and eligible for reward.

3c. Additional Evidences for a Pre-tribulation Rapture

- 1d. None of the N.T. passages on the tribulation mention the Church (Matt 24:15-31; I Thess 1:9-10; 5:4-9, Rev. 6-19)
- 2d. The rapture of the Church (I Thess 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-52) is never mentioned in any passage dealing with the second coming of Christ after the Tribulation.
- 3d. The Church is not appointed to wrath (Rom 5:9; I Thess 1:9-10; 5:9). The Church therefore cannot enter “the great day of their wrath” (Rev. 6:17)
- 4d. The Church of Philadelphia was promised deliverance from “the hour of trial, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth” (Rev. 3:10).
- 5d. It is characteristic of divine dealing to deliver believers before a divine judgment is inflicted upon the world as illustrated in the deliverance of Noah, Lot, Rahab, etc. (2 Peter 2:6-9)
- 6d. The pretribulational interpretation is the only view which teaches that the coming of Christ is imminent!



4b. The Four Living Creatures 4:6-8

1c. The sea of glass (6)

1d. No explanation is given in the text.

“No sure interpretation of the sea of glass may be advanced.” – John F. Walvoord.

“All kinds of symbolic interpretations, more or less fanciful, have been given.” – Henry Alford,  
The Greek New Testament

2c. John is not occupied at this point with the sea of glass, but rather with the four living creatures described in the midst of the throne and round about the throne.

1d. “Living Creatures” ... not “beasts” (KJV) Zoe’ ... zoology  
Therion “beast” ... used in Revelation 13 ... wild animal

2d. Each is distinguished according to vs. 7 ... lion, calf, face like a man, flying eagle. (Each is highest order in their category)

3d. Each of these creatures are full of eyes, around and within, and each has six wings.

4d. “In the center and around the throne” ... not said about anyone or anything else in Chp. 4

5d. Identity of the “living creatures”

1e. “In inquiring after their symbolic import, we are met by the most remarkable diversity of interpretations.” – Henry Alford

2e. Cherubim?? ... Ezekiel writes of living ones and identifies them as cherubim  
(Ezek 10:15, 20)

3e. Preferred interpretation: Representatives of the attributes or qualities of God presented by John here as living entities. Just as the Holy Spirit is represented by seven lamps, so the attributes of God in general are represented by the four living creatures (ones).

The fact that the creatures are full of eyes is taken as significant of the omniscience and omnipresence of God who sees all and knows all. – John F. Walvoord

4e. Similarity between the 4 living creatures and the 4-fold way Christ is represented in the Gospels.

<b>Matthew</b>	Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, the son of Abraham, the Son of David.	LION
<b>Mark</b>	Jesus is the Faithful Servant of God (10:45)	CALF
<b>Luke</b>	Jesus is the Incarnate Son of God (fully man, apart from sin)	MAN
<b>John</b>	Jesus is the Eternal Son of God (fully divine)	EAGLE

5e. Tribes of Israel encamped around the Tabernacle in the wilderness ... Numbers 2:2

**Tribe of Dan: Eagle**

**Tribe of Ephraim: Ox**      **TABERNACLE**      **Tribe of Judah: Lion**

**Tribe of Ruben: Man**

5e. Person of God cannot be separated from His covenant people, Israel!

6e. Taken in general, the four living creatures are representative of God; they are, as in the case of the seven lamps, a physical embodiment of that which would be otherwise invisible to the natural eye. – John F. Walvoord.

5b. The Worship Around the Throne (4:9-11)

- 1c. Living Creatures are designed to give glory, honor, and thanks to God sitting upon His throne. Emphasis on divine attributes and worthiness of God as Creator.
- 2c. 24 Elders ... They recognize not only the attributes of God, but the works of God which reveal the attributes.
- 3c. Casting of crowns (stephanos) by Elders ... Elders testify that if it had not been for God's grace, salvation, and goodness, they could have not had victory over sin and death. [Recognition by Redeemed Church that the creature honors His Maker and accepts God's sovereignty over all His creation.

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Rev. 4: The Wonder of God as a Creator]

6b. The Wonder of God as a Redeemer Rev. 5 “**The Christology of Heaven**”

“A Christian is a person who is amazed at the fact that he is forgiven. He does not take it for granted.”  
– Martyn Lloyd Jones

“Men wonder at how we could put a man on the moon. They should wonder at how God can put a man in heaven.” – Charles C. Ryrie

**Matt 16:13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he began asking His disciples, saying “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” And Simon Peter answered and said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjonas, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

The Great Debate, last 2000 years: “Who is Jesus Christ?” Throughout church history, people have denied Christ His deity and His humanity.

In our modern world, when the question is asked, “Who do you say that I am?,” you get anything but the answer Peter gave. You can speak of Jesus as prophet, holy man, teacher, or spiritual leader, and few will object. But declare Christ the Son of God, fully divine, of the same nature as the Father, and people will line up to express their disapproval.

Jehovah Witnesses ... Christ is a created being and less than full deity.

Mormonism ... Christ was a created being ... and the brother of Lucifer.

Modernist ... Christ was an imposter ...

Hugh Schonfield's, “The Passover Plot”

The DaVinci Code ... Christ carried on a lover affair with Mary Magdalene.

For centuries, one of the doctrines at the heart of Christianity has been based on Jesus' words in John 14:6, where He states, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." But now, a new Newsweek/Beeliefnet poll shows a shocking number of people who call themselves evangelical and born-again have come to reject those words. The question in the poll reads, "Can a good person who isn't of your religious faith go to heaven or attain salvation, or not?" Of the 1,000 adults 18 years of age and older surveyed, 68% of evangelical Christians believe good people of other faiths can also go to heaven. Nationally, 79% of all those surveyed said the same thing, with an "astounding" 91% agreement among Catholics, notes BeliefNet. Steven Waldman of BeliefNet believes the best explanation for these results is that Americans have become so focused on a very personal style of worship – that is, forging a direct relationship with God – that spiritual experience has supplanted dogma, or teaching based on the authority of the Bible. (Pastor's Weekly Briefing, 08-30-05)

On earth there is always debate .... "Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ; What have You really sacrificed? Jesus Christ, Superstar, Are You Really Who You Say You Are?"

But in heaven, they know who He is .... **Revelation 5** is a confirmation of the true identity of Christ ... His person and His work.

1c. The challenge of God Proclaimed 5:1-4 [Who has the right to rule and judge?]

1d. The Scroll V. 1

1e. Jeremiah 32 ... eve of deportation, Jeremiah told by God to buy property ... fill out the title deed and seal it and hide it. When Israel returned to the land, they would have title to possess the land again. Sealed Scroll ... title deed ... proof of inheritance. Mark of ownership.

2e. Contents of scroll ... Tribulation judgments to be poured out upon the earth.

2d. The Silence V. 3

1e. Issue is not willingness ... but worthiness!

2e. To open ... reveal; To break ... execute.

3d. The Sobbing V. 4

No one among humanity worthy to rule and reign.

2c. The Christ of God Presented 5:5-7

1d. His Person

1e. Lion

Genesis 49:9-10 Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The Scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, Until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

2e. Lamb .... sacrificed .... 7 horns ... omnipotent – perfect power  
7 eyes ... omniscient – perfect wisdom

- 1f. Selected Lamb (Hebrews 10:5)
- 2f. Spotless Lamb (I Peter 1:18-19)
- 3f. Silent Lamb (Isaiah 53:7)
- 4f. Slain Lamb (Matt. 20:28)
- 5f. Substitutionary Lamb (Romans 5:8)
- 6f. Sovereign Lamb (John 10:18)

Lamb	Lion
1 <sup>st</sup> Coming	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming
Meekness	Majesty
Savior	Soverign
Judged	Judge
Grace of God	Government of God

2d. His Position ... “In the midst” .... center stage!

3d. His Perfect Right ... “He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”

By Creation ... Colossians 1:16 For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.

By Calvary ... His work of redemption ... 2 Cor. 5:21

By Conquest ... His resurrection John 5:26 For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.

3c. The Choice of God Praised 5:8-14

1d. Worship in Heaven 8-12 (Focal center)  
(Angels and Redeemed)

2d. Worship in the Universe 13-14 (Fartherest Circumference)  
(Satan, fallen angels, and lost)

The Christology of Heaven ..... They know who He is and they worship Him as God!

John Peterson ... ‘I have No Song To Sing But That of Christ My King’

2b. The Seven Seals 6:1-8:1

1c. Introduction

- 1d. Rev. 6-19 deals with the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel, the 7-year Tribulation period, divided into 2 equal 3 ½ year periods of time. Rev. 4-5 puts the Church in the Throne Scene, the prelude to the commencement of the Tribulation period. [Thus the Tribulation period cannot commence until first the Church is raptured out of this world.]
- 2d. Rev. 6-19 is dominated by 3 sets of judgments: 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls, presented in that order.
- 3d. **1<sup>st</sup> Major question:** Are the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls contemporaneous or successive?

<b>Contemporaneous:</b>	<b>Successive:</b>
Seals        1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Seals ..... Trumpets ..... Bowls
Trumpets    1 2 3 4 5 6 7	_____
Bowls        1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Tribulation
_____	
Tribulation	

“A correct answer to this question will aid greatly in unraveling the chronology of the seven tribulational years, while an incorrect answer must lead only to countless erroneous concepts. The difference between (1) the first of the seven bowls of wrath being poured out *after* the seven seals and seven trumpets have already been loosed, and (2) this same first bowl being opened at the outset of the period *at the same time* when the first seal and the first trumpet are being started is a profound difference indeed. The immensity of the diversion is as if in a battle the question should be confused as to whether the air force, tanks, and infantry should each attack one after another in that order only when each preceding element has been fully committed or whether they should all begin the onslaught at the same moment. This issue must be settled positively if an internal chronology of Revelation 6-19 is to be realized.” (Dr. Gary Cohen, Understanding Revelation, pp. 77-78)

- 4d. Arguments for the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls being Successive (one followed by the next)
  - 1e. Succession within each series of judgments.
    - First, second, third ... etc.    Use of ordinal numbers
  - 2e. Logical progression within each series of judgments.
    - War ... Famine ... Death ... Martyrdom (Seals)
  - 3e. Relationship of the 7 Trumpets to the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal
    - Rev. 8:1-2 ... 7 Trumpets introduced at announcement of 7<sup>th</sup> Seal. [If not, then we are not told what the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal is.]
  - 4e. Relationship of the 7 Bowls to the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet
    - Rev. 11:14-15, 19    The Bowls are the contents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet [If not, ??]

**Logic:** If Proofs 3 and 4 are true, then the judgments must be successive. The Trumpets cannot be contemporaneous with the 7 Seals if they are the contents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal. The Bowls cannot be contemporaneous with the 7 Seals or the 7 Trumpets if they are the contents of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet.

5e. Argument from observations from the Greek text.

1f. Rev. 8:1-2 ... Opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal.

From this point on the trumpets are dealt with and the seals are never again even mentioned. This is a break from the pattern of the first 6 Seals.

**Nestle's Greek text** ... note that the space devoted to the description of each seal progressively increases:

1 <sup>st</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:1-2	5.1 lines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:3-4	5.8 lines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:5-6	7.4 lines
4 <sup>th</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:7-8	7.6 lines
5 <sup>th</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:9-11	9.7 lines
6 <sup>th</sup> Seal	Rev. 6:12-17	15.5 lines

According to this progression the last seal should be treated in more detail than any of the previous ones, but instead only the 1.6 lines of Rev. 8:1 are devoted to describing it in the Greek text even though when it was opened the sight was so awesome that a half hour of silence ensued. If the Trumpets are not the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, where are its missing contents?

2f. Observations Concerning the Trumpet Judgments

8:7-12	Relatively brief description of 1 <sup>st</sup> Four Trumpets
8:13	Announcement of final 3 Trumpet judgments "Woe, Woe, Woe"
9:1-12	The 5 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet ... 1 <sup>st</sup> Woe (32 lines)
9:13-21	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet ... 2 <sup>nd</sup> Woe (29 lines)
11:14-15	The 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet ... 3 <sup>rd</sup> Woe

Since the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet is also called a "Woe", logic would expect it also be given more attention, especially when introduced by the promise of great blessing!

**Rev. 10:7** but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

Bowl judgments do not begin until 16:1! 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet announces the coming of Christ and the judgments He brings upon the Beast and his kingdom (Bowl judgments)

5e. Increasing Severity Among the Judgments (exposing the increase in man's impenitence).

Rev. 8	Rev. 16
2 <sup>nd</sup> Trumpet ... 1/3 Sea stricken	2 <sup>nd</sup> Bowl ... Entire Sea stricken
3 <sup>rd</sup> Trumpet ... 1/3 Rivers	3 <sup>rd</sup> Bowl ... All Rivers
4 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet ... 1/3 Sun, moon, stars	4 <sup>th</sup> Bowl ... Sun scorches earth

"The fact that the judgments become progressively more severe as they move from the seals to the trumpets to the bowls weighs heavily in favor of the view that the three series occur successively rather than synchronously. This is true because while it is fitting and just for judgment to increase in harshness as impenitence increases during the Tribulation span, reason questions any theory that sees the same objects visited with wrath near simultaneously in varying measures of sternness." (Dr. Gary Cohen)

**Note:** Seals: Providential judgments ... familiar to men  
Trumpets: Extraordinary judgments ... limited to 1/3 effect  
Bowls: Extraordinary & universal

6e. Relationship of the Bowls to the Beast (antichrist)

1<sup>st</sup> Bowl ...loathsome and malignant sore on those who had mark of Beast

5<sup>th</sup> Bowl ...kingdom of Beast darkened ... throne of Beast judged.

6<sup>th</sup> Bowl ...Euphrates River dried up in preparation for Armageddon

**Point:** Bowls poured out during Beast's power (last 3 ½ yrs) ... God's judgment on his kingdom. [Latter half of Tribulation]. If latter half, then they cannot be contemporaneous to the 1<sup>st</sup> half of Tribulation.

7e. 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Question: When Do the Seal Judgments Start?

“The terminous aquo of the Seals is by universal confession admittedly at the start of the period in view [Tribulation], futurists rightly seeing this to be at the beginning of the Tribulation.

1f. 1<sup>st</sup> Seal (White horse) ... False Christ  
2<sup>nd</sup> Seal (Red horse) ... War  
3<sup>rd</sup> Seal (Black horse) ... Famine  
4<sup>th</sup> Seal (Ashen horse ... Death  
5<sup>th</sup> Seal Martyrs

**Note:** Similarity with Matthew 24:4-9 (1<sup>st</sup> half of Tribulation period)  
Relative peace for Israel under the agreement of Daniel 9:27.

2c. The First Seal (White Horse) 6:1-2

1d. 2 major interpretations: (1) Jesus Christ .... or (2) antiChrist

1e. Jesus Christ

2e. Antichrist

3c. The Second Seal (Red Horse) 6:3-4 War

Wars will lead to the final campaign of Armageddon (Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 9)

Cf. Report From Iron Mountain (8x11)

4c. The Third Seal (Black Horse) 6:5-6 Famine

– Aftermath of war

– Scales ... means of measuring – economics/commerce

1 quart [choenix] of wheat for a denarius ... According to Herodotus, a choenix (quart) was a soldier's daily ration; denarius = 1 days pay

**Barley** ... cheaper commodity than wheat – horse food. For 1 days pay you can get 1 meal of wheat or 3 meals of barley.

Oil/wine ... untouched! Non-essentials ... luxury items.

George Borgstrom, **Hungry Planet**, cautioned in the '60's, "It is sobering to realize that no part of the world, in the event of serious crop failure, is more than one year away from critical starvation, and even the rich U.S. with all its surpluses is not more than two years away." (1967)

William and Paul Paddock, **Famines – 1975!** "The crisis of population explosion versus static agriculture is indeed formed. The nations of the undeveloped world are no longer grain exporters; they are grain importers. There is no more unused land to bring into cultivation; even the deficient marginal land is by now in use. Hunger is rampant throughout country after country, continent after continent around the undeveloped belt of the tropics and subtropics. Today's crisis can move in only one direction – toward catastrophe. Today hungry nations; tomorrow starving nations. (1968)

5c. The Fourth Seal (Ashen Horse) 6:7-8 Death

One-fourth of earth's population killed! Pestilence/famine/war

Death/Hades ... "Death claims the physical part of man (the immaterial never dies) and is accompanied by Hades (Hell) which claims the immaterial part. Here is evidence that death does not end all, for the soul goes to Hades and eventually the unsaved person will be cast into the lake of fire (20:14). [C. Ryrie]

The means of extermination are four: sword (war), hunger (famine), death (perhaps by plagues of diseases which often accompany war) and wild beasts of the earth (which apparently will be unrestrained and will roam to kill men).

Suddenly all of man's programs for bringing in peace, plenty and longevity through medicine and technology will be overturned as God brings diving judgment to the earth.

How can some insist that the first half of the Tribulation is characterized by Peace? Israel has protection from her enemies, but the world is engulfed in war, famine, death.

6c. The Fifth Seal 6:9-11 Martyrdom

The Fifth seal depicts action in heaven which presupposes certain happenings on earth. Now, John's attention is turned to a group of martyrs in heaven ... because of having been martyred on the earth.

1d. Who are they?

Not martyrs of the Church Age ... they were raptured prior to the holocaust of the Tribulation began. Martyrs during early period of Tribulation.

2d. Why were they killed?

"Word of God" and "testimony they had maintained"... Intense hostility toward believers!

3d. What do they want?

Their murderers are still living on the earth.... asking for judgment!

4d. Response by God ... Wait! It's not over yet! More martyrs.

[Note the patience of God and the utter wickedness of the earth.]

World War II ... Nazi Germany ... holocaust of the Jews ... only a preview of Tribulation.  
Lampshades made from human skin  
Hair baled/ gold teeth extracted

7c. Sixth Seal 6:12-17 Great Earthquake

Note 6 things:

1d. Earthquake

2d. Sun darkened

3d. Moon became as blood

4d. Meteor shower on earth

5d. Heavens opened ... to allow men on earth to see the throne in heaven?

6d. Physical phenomena ... mountains & islands moved! [no 'as']

Intent of 6<sup>th</sup> seal ... strike fear into the hearts of those who dwell on the earth!

6:15-17 They recognize that judgment is coming from heaven ...

8c. Parenthesis – The Program of Evangelism 7:1-17

Note: Revelation 6 ... Judgment of God

Revelation 7 ... Grace of God (Salvation)

"From the severity of the judgments under the 6<sup>th</sup> seal it would appear that not a single person could or would be saved. "For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" But even in the wrath of the tribulation God remembers mercy, so this scene of judgment is interrupted by the scene of mercy in this chapter." (Charles Ryrie)

"In contrast to Chp. 6 which seems to give the chronological sequence of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 Seal judgments, Chp. 7 does not advance the narrative but directs attention to two major groups of saints in the tribulation. The opening portion of this chapter pictures the 144,000 representative of the godly remnant of Israel on earth in the great tribulation. The latter part of the chapter describes a great multitude of martyred dead in heaven, those who died as a testimony to their faith from every kindred, tongue, and nation." (Dr. John F. Walvoord)

## 2 Major Issues:

1) Will anyone be saved after the rapture of the Church? Based on Chp. 7, the Scriptures clearly indicate that a great multitude of both Jews and Gentiles will trust in the Lord after the removal of the Church. After Christ comes for His Church, there will be believers on earth during the tribulation period. They are never referred to as members of the “Church”, but they are saints, justified by faith in Christ.

2) How can people be saved in the tribulation if the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world? (2 Thess. 2:7) The Holy Spirit is removed from the world in the same sense in which He came on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). People were saved before the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God came to indwell the Church. Also, the Holy Spirit is Omnipresent – He has always been in the world and will always be. The special ministries of the Spirit in this present dispensation will cease, but His ministry will continue as it always was before Pentecost. (Jesus Christ – ministry prior to Incarnation: Angel of Jehovah – after Incarnation: Incarnate Son of God)

In the tribulation period, the Holy Spirit will continue to lead people to Christ. This is the explanation of Revelation 7.

## 1d. The Call &amp; Sealing of the 144,000 Jewish Witnesses 7:1-8

1e. Sealing ... marks those owned by Christ ... immunity from His judgments. Divine remnant to be a testimony to God’s grace and mercy during the time of judgment. [Noah; Rahab]

2e. Sealing is on physical Jews – 12,000 from each tribe

Judah	Reuben	Gad	Asher	Naphtali	Manasseh
Simeon	Levi	Issachar	Zebulun	Joseph	Benjamin

In some lists of the 12 tribes both of the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, are numbered as separate tribes. In this list Ephraim is replaced by his father Joseph. No explanation is given.

Tribe of Dan is also omitted – no explanation is given.

“In the enumeration of the tribes throughout Scripture, of which there are about 18, the full representative number 12 is always given; but as Jacob has 13 sons, one or other is always omitted. Levi is more generally omitted than any other [Priestly tribe]. In the apocalypse enumeration [Rev. 7] Dan and Ephraim are omitted. Both these tribes were remarkable as being connected with idolatry in Israel, the probably reason for blotting out of their names here (Deut 29:18-21). But in the end grace triumphs, and Dan is named first in the future distribution of the land amongst the tribe (Ezekiel 48:2), but, while first named, it is the farthest removed from the temple, being situated in the extreme north.” (Walter Scott, Revelation)

**Point:** Israel is divided into 12 tribes ... 2000 years after destruction of 70 A.D. In God’s mind, He knows what tribe every one of the 144,000 belong to!

“The fact that the twelve tribes of Israel are singled out for special reference in the tribulation time is another evidence that the term “Israel” as used in the Bible is invariably a reference to the descendents of Jacob who was first given the name Israel ... The prevalent idea that the church is the true Israel (Amilennialism; Reformed Theology) is not sustained by any explicit reference in the Bible, and the word Israel is never used of Gentiles and refers only to those who are racially descendants of Israel or Jacob.” (Dr. John F. Walvoord)

“The question has also been raised whether the ‘12,000’ in each tribe means literally 12,000. There seems to be indication that more than 12,000 from each tribe actually will be saved. The point of this Scripture is that in any event 12,000 in each tribe are made secure. There will be other Israelites saved besides these 144,000, but many of these will die martyrs’ deaths and give up their

lives for the faith. The 144,000 are those who are delivered from their persecutors and brought safely through this terrible time of tribulation. In Chapter 14 they are seen triumphant at the end of the tribulation when Christ returns.” (Dr. John F. Walvoord)

2d. The Salvation of Gentiles 7:9-17

1e. Purpose of 144,000? To proclaim the grace of God in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation age. In doing so, Israel will finally do what they were called to do in the O.T., but failed due to their own unbelief, apostasy and idolatry.

2e. The number saved? “A great multitude, which no one could count”

3e. Their nationalities? “Every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues”

4e. When were they saved? v. 13-14 Tribulation saints [Not Church Saints]

v. 14 “these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation”

– They (3:10) were kept out of the great tribulation ... these (Rev. 7) come out of it (martyrdom) – sealed their testimony with their own blood.

– They (Church) sit on thrones ... these stand before thrones.

– They (Church) wear crowns ... these are uncrowned.

– They (Church) have harps and vials ... these have palm branches.

– They (Church) are kings and priests and reign ... these serve Him day & night.

“Some believe that the majority of the saints in the tribulation will die as martyrs. Many will be killed by earthquakes, war, and pestilence. Others will be the object of special persecution by the world ruler. They will be hounded to death much as the Jews were in WWII. Because they will not worship the beast, they will be under a death sentence (Rev. 13:15). Those who accept Christ in that time may be faced with the solemn alternative of either renouncing their faith in Christ and worshipping the beast or being slain. The result will be multiplied thousands of martyrs. The scene before us, then, is not earth but heaven, not the millennium but the time of the tribulation. The martyrs are before the throne and before the Lamb.” (Dr. John F. Walvoord) [cf. Cohen, p. 127]

5e. God’s provisions for them 15-17

1f. Service They will serve God during Millennium

2f. Satisfaction ... Satisfied because of the presence of God & provisions of God

3f. Sufficiency ... Philippians 1:21 “To live is Christ”

“The requirement that all the world hear the gospel pertains not to the rapture, but to the coming of Christ to set up His kingdom. Though the church should press on with all zeal in presenting the gospel to every creature, it is not necessary for the rapture to wait until this task be completed. In spite of the difficulties, there will be worldwide preaching of the gospel during the tribulation time.” (Dr. John F. Walvoord)

**Conclusion:** Revelation 7 emphasizes two important facts.

1) God is going to judge Israel during the tribulation. 144,000 Jews will be protected and sealed from the judgments that will fall upon the world during that time.

2) A great multitude of Gentiles will also be saved, but many will be martyred for their faith. Even in a time of unprecedented judgment, God displays Himself as a God of Grace.

3b. The Seventh Trumpets 8:1 - 11:19

1c. Introduction 8:1-6

1d. Time ... probably the middle of the week

2d. Terror ... ½ hour of silence ... the lull before the storm

“In fitting recognition of the important character of this seal, the Scriptures record that there is silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. Though thirty minutes is not ordinarily considered a long time, when it is a time of absolute portending such ominous developments ahead it is an indication that something tremendous is about to take place. It may be compared to the silence before the foreman of a jury reports a verdict; for a moment there is perfect silence and everyone awaits that which will follow.” (Dr. John F. Walvoord)

Illust: the eye of a hurricane – dead calm, then everything reverses itself.

3d. The Seventh Seal are the 7 Trumpets!

“The trumpets, therefore, do not double back over all or some of the Seals, but lie under the sixth Seal, and proceed from it. For this reason it is equally incorrect to speak of the Trumpets as following the Seals. They do not follow, but are the Seventh Seal.” (Graham Scroggie)

1e. Trumpets used in the O.T. to announce important occasions: (2)

- |     |                 |   |
|-----|-----------------|---|
| 1f. | Exodus 19:19    | Giving of the Law                               |
| 2f. | Lev. 23:24      | Holy feast days ... calling the nation together |
| 3f. | Lev. 25:9       | Day of Atonement                                |
| 4f. | Numbers 10:2-10 | Tabernacle/War trumpets                         |
| 5f. | Joel 2:1        | Day of the Lord (judgment)                      |

2e. The Golden Censor (3-5)

Angel ... “Angel of Jehovah” .. Preincarnate work of Christ ... mediator between God and the saints.

Censor ... used by High Priest in Holy of Holies ... Symbol of judgment

2c. The First Trumpet 8:7 Judgment on Vegetation

1/3 of earth burned up. Agriculture ... results in soil erosion, floods, mud slides, smoke pollution. Ecological imbalance of earth.

God is removing common grace from mankind.

3c. The Second Trumpet 8:8-9 Judgment on the Seas

1/3 of marine life, shipping – cripples distribution as well as production

Nuclear holocaust? Huge meteor from outer space ... Economic catastrophe!

4c. The Third Trumpet 8:10-11 Judgment on fresh water.

1/3 of fresh water supply – large meteor with capacity to contaminate water supply

“Wormwood” – parallel experience to Exodus 15:23-25 (Waters of Marah) ... tree cast into the bitter waters made them sweet. Here the wormwood cast into the sweet water made it bitter.

Analogy to God’s judgment and Christ – His death on the cross atoned for sin and made that which was bitter sweet (salvation). When Christ comes in judgment he will turn the vain hopes and ambitions of men into bitterness and despair.

5c. The Fourth Trumpet 8:12-13 Judgment on Light sources

1/3 of all light (Sun, Moon, Stars) ... tremendous impact on ecology – production

Solar energy ... man takes it for granted. God provides it every day.

TV advertisement “ The sun is yours now and forever”

V. 13 Warning ... “Woe, woe, woe” ... The worst is yet to come! Man chose not to honor God and credit Him as Creator and Sustainer of the earth ... I’m going to remove all my benefits.

“It is of considerable interest to note the progress – one third of the green trees and grass, one third of marine life and shipping, one third of the waters, and one third of the heavenly bodies. Food is destroyed; distribution is crippled; water supply is limited; production is hampered.” (J.B. Smith)

**Note:** Up to this point, the first 4 Trumpet judgments were destruction of 1/3 of natural resources. Now, it’s direct destruction of mankind itself. The three “Woe” trumpets will be far more severe in nature.

6c. The Fifth Trumpet (First Woe Judgment) 9:1-12 The Fallen Star and the Abyss

1d. The Devil Identified (1)

“Star” ... used in 6:12, 8:12 ... literal heavenly body; Here in 9:1 it is symbolic for an angel -- personified as ‘he’ ‘Given to him’ [celebrity: star]

“Had fallen” ...perfect tense (Gk) ... action completed in the past. John did not see the star actually fall ... it had already fallen.

Rev. 12: 7-9 ... Casting Lucifer down from heaven ... middle of Tribulation!

Powerful creature ... “Key of the bottomless pit” given to him.

V. 11 ... angel of the bottomless pit (Satan). [Luke 10:18]

2d. The Detention Center Opened

1e. Key to the abyss ... first occurrence! Used 3 times in Chapter 9; 7 times in Revelation

\* 1:18 Christ has the keys of death and hades

Luke 8:31 ... the abyss is the abode of demons ...

Rev. 20:1-3 ... Satan will be confined here for the 1,000 year reign of Christ

2e. Demonic locusts (scorpions) ... Torment inhabitants of earth for 5 months.

“Now these descriptions of heaven and hell were meant by the author to be very literally taken. They are not figures of speech; and if we are to be true to the writer’s thought we

can scarcely represent the scenes to our imagination with too much realism. And similarly the scorpion locusts are quite literally intended; they are not heretics, or Goths, or Mohammedans, or the mendicant orders, or the Jesuits, or Protestants, or Saracens or Turks, but they are uncanny denizens of the abyss, locusts of a hellish species, animated by devilish instincts and equipped with infernal powers. (A.S. Peake, *The Revelation of John*, p. 181)

**Note:** In the Old Testament, locusts were feared because they could strip every piece of green vegetation or grain, leaving the land devastated and the people with nothing to eat.

**Exodus 10:15-16** For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron, and he said, ‘I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you.

“Description which follows in verses 6-11 shows that these will not be ordinary locusts, and their origin from the shaft of the abyss substantiates that conclusion. These creatures are described as being very real so we must not consider them as merely ‘symbolic representations of judgment.’ They are animal creatures, like locusts, though not ordinary locusts, for they are demonic in nature. Indeed, it would be better to describe them as demons who take the form of these unique locusts. Verse 11 makes it clear that this is the case.” – Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, p. 61

“The pain from the sting of a scorpion, though not generally fatal, is, perhaps the intensest that any animal can inflict upon the human body. The insect itself is the most irascible and malignant that lives, and its poison is like itself. Of a boy stung in the foot by a scorpion [it was related that] ... he rolled on the ground, grinding his teeth, and foaming at the mouth. It was a long time before his complainings moderated, and even then he could make no use of his foot, which was greatly inflamed. And such is the nature of the torment which these locusts from the pit inflict. They are also difficult to be guarded against., if they can be warded off at all, because they fly where they please, dart through the air, and dwell in darkness.” (J.A. Seiss, *The Apocalypse*, II, p. 83)

Roman soldiers prided themselves as to how much pain they could endure without flicking an eye. But when several were bitten in the desert of Egypt, they screamed and writhed in pain. (Hal Lindsay, *The Late Great Planet Earth*)

1f. The limitation of their activity ... These demonic creatures will be limited as to what they may strike and how long they may do what they do. (V. 4-5)

1g. No vegetation (as common locusts do)

**Note:** In the Old Testament, locusts were feared because they could strip every piece of green vegetation or grain, leaving the land devastated and the people with nothing to eat.

**Exodus 10:15-16** For they covered the surface of the whole land, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every plant of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Thus nothing green was left on tree or plant of the field through all the land of Egypt. Then Pharaoh hurriedly called for Moses and Aaron, and he said, ‘I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you.

2g. No one with the seal of God in their foreheads (144,000)

3g. No fatal attacks ... just torment for 5 months.

2f. The effect of their activity ... v 6

Men will be driven to suicide, but they will not be able to die.

3f. The likeness of the demonic creatures v. 7-10

1g. Overall they are like horses prepared for battle

2g. Description of these creatures ... difficult to comprehend, but there is no reason for understanding them as merely symbolic. Their power is super-human and they are without compassion – ferocious!

[Hal Lindsay, The Late Great Planet Earth ... Cobra helicopters spraying nerve gas from the tail]

4f. The leader of these demonic creatures ... v. 11 Satan

His name is given in both Hebrew and Greek and means “destroyer” in both languages.

3d. Summary of 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (2<sup>nd</sup> Woe)

This judgment is on those who dwell upon the earth, but its origin is the Divine God of heaven. He allows it ... He sets the limits on it ... He finishes it according to His purpose. God is in Sovereign control.

Free will of man? ... v. 6 ... ‘and in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.’

[Excursion: What is a Demon?]

7c. The Sixth Trumpet (The Second Woe) 9:13-21 A Demonic Invasion

1d. The 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet sounded ... (13)

Voice ... Not specifically identified, but probably Christ Jesus. He was earlier pictured standing near the throne when he took the book from the Father’s hand (5:7) and broke its seals (6:1).

2d. Location of the voice -- “Four horns of the golden altar before God”

In 8:3, this altar is the scene of the offer of incense with the prayers of the saints. Here (final mention in book of Revelation) it is related to the judgment of the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. The inference is that this judgment, like those preceding, is partially an answer to the prayers of the persecuted saints on earth and a token of divine response and preparation for their deliverance.

“Four horns” ... Sovereignty of God and His judicial government!

3d. The leader of the invasion (13-15) “Four Angels”

1e. Contrast to the 4 angels in Rev. 7:1. Those angels are holy angels instructed not to inflict punishment until the 144,000 Jewish witnesses were sealed.

- 2e. Four angels of 9:14 ... different in character ... Bound at the Euphrates River. These are evil angels (nowhere in Scripture are holy angels ever bound) who are loosed on the occasion of the sounding of the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet in order to execute this judgment.

“Bound” (v. 14) ... perfect participle ... Past action complete with continuing results.  
“They were in a state of bondage until God’s determined time came for them to be rereleased to execute their function as instruments of divine judgment.” (**J. Mac-Arthur**)

Euphrates River ... Earth capital of Satan

Genesis 2:10-14 ... Garden of Eden. First lie, first murder, first grave!

Genesis 11 .... Tower of Babel ... plains of Shinar

Revelation 17/18 ... Babylon ... city and system controlled by Beast

- 4d. The armies of this invasion (16) ... 200 million.

- 1e. The physical dimensions of an army of 200 million men would occupy an area 1 mile wide and 87 miles long.
- 2e. “armies” ... plural ... may imply the attacking force will be divided into 4 divisions, each commanded by one of the formerly bound evil angels.
- 2e. Rev. 16:12 ... 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl ... drying up of Euphrates River ... invasion of kings from east. These are two distinct events. 200 million army ... 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. No mention in Rev. 16:12 of number of army from east.
- 3e. Vv. 17-19 ... description ... Figurative language ... These demons are mounted on some type of hellish horse, with a head like a lion and smoke, fire, and flaming sulphur coming out of their mouths. The riders wear fiery-red breastplates.
- 4e. Riders of horses ... Breastplates the color of fire (red), hyacinth (blue/black), and brimstone (sulfurous yellow). These are the colors associated with hell:

(Rev. 14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8)

- 5d. The damage inflicted by this invasion ...

1e. 1/3 of humanity is killed through fire, smoke, and brimstone.

2e. Contrast with 4<sup>th</sup> Seal (Rev. 6:8)

1/4 had already been slain by the 4<sup>th</sup> Seal (6:8) – approximately 1 billion. Now 1/3 of the remaining population is killed – another billion.

The 5th trumpet brought torment but prevented anyone from dying. Now the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet kills a billion people.

- 6d. The result of the invasion ...(20-21)

At this point over ½ of the world’s population has been wiped out due to direct Divine judgment. What is the world’s response of those who remain? Total unwillingness to repent .. Idolatry, immorality. [Murder, Sorceries ... (pharmakeion)... pharmacy – drugs]

“That very year the F.B.I. reports will probably show a 1,000 percent increase in murder and drug-related crimes (rape, incest, burglary).” **(Harold Wilmington)**

8c. Parenthesis (Rev. 10:1-11:14) The Little Book and the Two Witnesses

Just as there was a parenthesis between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Seal, there is a parenthesis between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. This section does not advance the chronology but presents other facts which contribute to the total prophetic scene.

“These interludes encourage God’s people in the midst of the fury and horror of divine judgment. During the interludes God comforts His people with the knowledge that He has not forgotten them, and that they will ultimately be victorious.” **(John MacArthur)**

1d. The Strong Angel and the Little Book 10:1-11

1e. The Strong Angel (10:1)

“Another strong angel” ... holy angel from heaven! Cannot be a reference to Jesus Christ.

1f. “Another” ... (allon) .. Another of a similar kind. Ref. to Rev. 5:2 “And I saw a strong angel” ... definitely Jesus Christ in context of Chp. 5.

2f. “Coming down out of heaven” ... no other evidence that Christ comes down to earth in the middle of the tribulation.

3f. 10:6 ...this angel swears by God. Since J.C. is God, He would swear by Himself (Hebrews 6:13)

4f. Messenger from God: “Though the angel is presented as one having great majesty and power, there is no clear evidence that his function or his person is more than that of a created angel to whom has been entrusted great authority. **(John F. Walvoord) [cf. Cohen, p.127-128]**

2e. The Little Opened Book 10:1-11

1f. The book of Rev. 5? 5:1 Biblion 10:2 Biblaridion

“The contents of the little book are nowhere revealed in Revelation, but they seem to represent in this vision the written authority given to the angel to fulfill his mission.” **(John F. Walvoord)**

3e. The Action of the Strong Angel

1f. Feet on sea and land ... symbolic of total authority of God [Land = Israel; Sea = Gentiles]

2f. Seven peals of thunder ...

“These seven loud, powerful voices cry out for vengeance and judgment upon the sinful earth. The thunder was separate from the angel’s voice and may have represented the voice of God (I Sam 7:10; Psalm 18:3). The text does not reveal what the thunder said, but hearing it certainly would have added to the terror of the scene of judgment”. **(John MacArthur)**

4e. The Instruction to John concerning the 7 peals of thunder. (4)

“The reason John was forbidden to record the message is not revealed. It may be that the judgment is simply too terrifying to be recorded. Any speculation as to the specific content of their message is pointless. If God had wanted it to be known, He would not have forbidden John to write it. They are the only words in the book of Revelation that are sealed.” **(John MacArthur)**

“Though the principal purpose of the vision given to John was to enable him to write the book of Revelation and thus pass on divine revelation to the church, in this instance the revelation is for John’s ears and eyes only, and he is not permitted to reveal what he heard. This illustrates a divine principle that while God has revealed much, there are secrets which God has not seen fit to reveal to man at this time.” **(John F. Walvoord)**

5e. The Announcement of the End of the Age 10:5-7

1f. Delay no longer ... Time has run out – the end is now to be consummated.

2f. Verse 7 declares that the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet – referred to as “the voice of the seventh angel”, brings about the completion of the mystery of God as declared to His servants the prophets. (7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet ... 7 Bowls)

3f. What is the mystery of God that was preached to the O.T. saints?

1g. A kingdom with Messiah ruling over the earth. God would send Christ to rule. But that was no mystery.

2g. The mystery was the delay and postponement of that kingdom. This is a reference to the gap between the 1<sup>st</sup> coming and 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, and the intervening Church Age. (Matthew 13:11)

4f. The angel is proclaiming that that delay is over. The Church has been taken out of the earth ... Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week is soon to be completed ... Kingdom of Messiah soon to come!

6e. The Eating of the Book Rev. 10:8-11

1f. John’s Indigestion (8-10)

1g. Sweet as honey in your mouth ... The book represented the promise of God to establish an earthly Kingdom with Messiah ruling over Israel and all the nations. (Fulfillment of Abrahamic Covenant)

2g. Bitter in your stomach ... John knew what must yet happen before that Kingdom would be established ... the 7 Bowl judgments! Israel must still endure the persecution of the antiChrist and the judgments of God.

2f. John’s Instruction to Prophecy again ... (11)

1:19 John commissioned to write the things shown to him.

10:11 John commissioned a second time. What he is about to learn (12-19) will be more devastating than anything yet revealed – but also more glorious.

John is to warn of all the bitter judgments coming in the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet and the 7 Bowls.

2d. The Measuring of the Temple of God 11:1-2

1e. This event points to a period of Gentile domination over the earthly city of Jerusalem for forty-two months (3 ½ years).

2e. When will this period happen?

1f. During the first 3 ½ years, Israel will be under the protection of a covenant (Dan 9:27)

2f. From the “Abomination of Desolation”, which occurs in the middle of the week unto the end, Antichrist will have total control of Jerusalem, and he will be persecuting Israel and the saints everywhere (Dan. 9:27; Matthew 24:15-22; Luke 21:24).

3f. **Conclusion:** The measuring of the temple signifies the final period of Gentile mastery over Israel which will occur in the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation immediately before the Second Coming of Christ to rescue His people.

“The measuring itself seems to be an act of knowing, claiming or staking out. In this act of John, God is giving assurance that He will take note of those who faithfully worship Him in the tribulation days.” (Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, p. 71)

“Obviously, this was not an effort to determine its physical dimensions, since none are given, but was conveying some important truth beyond architecture. It could have indicated, as in the O.T., that God sometimes marks things out for destruction (2 Sam. 8:2; 2 Kings 21:13; Isaiah 28:17; Amos 7:7-9). However, John’s measuring is better understood as signifying ownership, defining the parameters of God’s possessions (21:15; Zechariah 2:1-5). This measuring signified something good, since what was not measured was evil (verse 2). It is best to see it as God’s measuring off Israel for salvation and His special protection, preservation, and favor.” (John MacArthur, *Because The Time is Near*, p. 180)

3e. Why is the outer court not measured?

The language “leave out the court which is outside the temple” indicates utter rejection. Why? Because the Gentiles will tread underfoot the city of Jerusalem for forty-two months – the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. This is when the Antichrist overthrows Jewish worship and establishes his own.

3d. The Two Witnesses 11:3-14

“Revelation 11:3-13 describes the powerful ministry of the two men who are witnesses of God in a hostile world.” (Cohen)

1e. The duration of their witness – 1260 days [ 3 ½ yrs, 42 months].

“Expositors have differed as to which of the two periods is in view here. From the fact, however, that the two witnesses pour out divine judgment upon the earth, and need divine protection lest they be killed, it implies that they are in the latter half of the seven years when awful persecution will afflict the people of God, as this protection would not be necessary in the first 3 ½ years” (John F. Walvoord, *Revelation*, p. 178).

2e. The duty of the 2 Witnesses – messengers of judgment – to bring about revival and repentance during the tribulation period. (Vv. 5-6)

3e. The Determination of Identity of the Two Witnesses

1f. Two men saved during the tribulation. (Martyrs)

2f. Enoch and Elijah – (Hebrews 9:27)

**Refute:** What about the Rapture? A whole generation of men will not die. So why not Enoch and Elijah? Heb. 9:27 refers to the normal expectation apart from Divine intervention.

2f. Elijah and Moses – the ministry of those men (judgment) was unfinished on earth

1g. Similar miracles –

Elijah called down fire from heaven (2 Kings 1:10,12)

Elijah pronounced a 3 ½ yr. drought on the land (1 Kings 17:1)

Moses turned the waters of the Nile River into blood (Exo 7:17-21)

2g. Jewish tradition expected Moses and Elijah to return in the future.

Elijah ... Malachi 4:5-6

Moses ... Deuteronomy 18:15, 18; John 1:21; 6:14; 7:40

3g. Matthew 17:11 Mount of Transfiguration – Elijah and Moses both present.

4g. Both left the earth in unusual ways. Elijah never died but was taken up to God in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11-12). Moses was buried by God in a secret location (Deut. 34:5-6).

2g. Hebrews 9:27 ... does not rule out Moses returning – what about Lazarus (John 11:14)

4e. The Description of the Two Witnesses (4)

“Two olive trees and two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth” – O.T. reference to Zechariah 4 – Spirit empowered men! (Joshua & Zerrubabel)

The two witnesses will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to execute their office. Their ministry does not rise in human ability but in the power of God.

5c. The Death of the Two Witnesses (7)

Martyred by the beast – first of 36 references to “the beast” ... Antichrist. (Rev. 13 will indicate that the beast is a world ruler who imitates the true Christ and demands to be worshiped (13:1-8). Though the beast is a man, he is energized by the demonic presence and power coming from the abyss.

6c. The Desecration of the Two Witnesses (8-10)

1d. Dead bodies allowed to lay in the street of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days. (Hemerar).

**Note:** Jerusalem is likened to Sodom and Egypt –

2d. Devil’s Christmas Party (10) ... Dead Witnesses Day! - celebration of death of witnesses (The only mention of rejoicing on the earth during the entire tribulation).

“The exposure of their dead bodies tells of a most extraordinary malignity and spite, and attests the extraordinary potency and effectiveness of the objects of it. It shows at once a devilishness of unwonted intensity in the people, and a terribleness

of efficiency in the Witnesses in provoking a fiendishness and resentment so monstrous and unrelenting that it could not be placated by their death, but continued to reek and vent itself upon their lifeless remains after they were dead. (J.A. Seiss, *The Apocalypse*, II, pp. 235-36)

7c. The Deliverance of the Two Witnesses (11-12)

Resurrected on Tel-Star ... world-wide communications! Great fear!

Great Voice! Translation into heaven ... “The cloud” ...Shekinah glory of God.

8c. The Destruction of the enemies of the witnesses (13)

Great Earthquake ... 1/10 of city destroyed

7,000 people killed “honomata anthropon chiliades hepta” -- 7,000 names of men” – possibly a reference to 7,000 prominent leaders in Antichrist’s world government!

“Death cannot hold them, and they arise from the grave. John tells us that they have a triumphant resurrection. He says, ‘And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.’ Picture the scene – the sun-drenched streets of Jerusalem, the holiday crowds flown in from the ends of the earth for a firsthand look at the corpses of these detested men, the troops in the beast’s uniform, the temple police. There they are: devilish men from every kingdom under heaven, come to dance and feast at the triumph of the beast. And then it happens! As the crowds strain at the police cordon to peer curiously at the two dead bodies, there comes a sudden change.

Their color changes from cadaverous hue to the blooming rosy glow of youth. Those stiff, stark limbs – they bend, they move! Oh, what a sight! They rise! The crowds fall back, break, and form again.

They also have a triumphant rapture, John says, ‘And they heard a great voice from heaven say-ing unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them.’ But will these evil men repent when faced with this, the greatest of all miracles? Not a bit of it! ‘Father Abraham!’ cried the rich man from the flames of a lost eternity. ‘Father Abraham ... if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent’ Back came the solemn reply, ‘If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.’ (Luke 16:30-31). And here not just one, but two arise, and repentance is the farthest thing from the minds of men.” (John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation*, p. 158)

**Salvation of Jews** ... “rest” ... must refer to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. If so, this is a reference to Jews who come to faith in Christ. Giving glory to the God of heaven is a mark of genuine repentance in Revelation and elsewhere (4:9; 14:7; 16:9; 19:7; Lk 17:18-19; Rom 4:20)

**Judgment on unbelieving world** ...v. 14 – Second Woe is past; behold the third Woe is coming quickly.

9c. The Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19) [The Third Woe]

1d. Announcement (15)

The parenthetical section between the sixth and seventh trumpets (10:1-11:14) has now concluded. With the sounding of the seventh trumpet comes an announcement – signifying that the dominion of the earth is taken over by Christ. (Some additional events remain to be concluded before all is realized (final judgments, final triumph of Christ at Armageddon), but the coming of Christ is at hand and the announcement can be made. This brings fulfillment to all the OT prophecies concerning Messiah and His earthly kingdom (Daniel 2, 7, Isaiah 9:6-7).

- 2d. Analysis of the seventh trumpet ... at least 7 factors are encompassed in this seventh trumpet, arranged chronologically:
- 1e. **Response from heaven ...** *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”*
    - 1f. Unrestrained joy and celebration that the power of Satan is to be broken, and Christ is to reign forever (establishment of Christ’s kingdom).
    - 2f. **Note:** Singular “kingdom of the world” – All of the world’s kingdoms are in reality under one king – Satan (evil one, Devil, god of this world, ruler of this world).
    - 3f. Heaven rejoices in the announcement of the kingdom of Christ as if it has already taken place.
  - 2e. “Thy wrath came” (18a) announces the wrath of God against the nations, a familiar description of the judgments poured out by God upon the world during the tribulation period.
  - 3e. “And the nations were enraged” (18a) describes the resentment and resistance of the nations against God in His plan to place His Son in sovereignty over the earth (Ps 2), to which challenge Jehovah responds with derision and judgment at the second coming of Christ (Ps 2:4-9), summarized in Rev. 11:18c as the time that He will ‘destroy them which destroy the earth’ (Rev 19:11-21).
  - 4e. “the time ... to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to those who fear thy name, the small and the great” (v. 18d) This is plainly the time that, following His intervention at His second coming, Christ judges living Jews and Gentiles, rewarding the righteous (“sheep”) with welcome into His earthly kingdom (vv. 15-17), and severing the wicked (“goats”) from the righteous by exclusion from His kingdom (Ezek 20:34-38; Matt 24:43- 25:46).
  - 5e. “The time came for the dead to be judged” (v. 18b), a statement that includes both the last battalion of the first resurrection (of righteous dead) before the thousand-year kingdom begins (for they must “reign with Christ”) and the second resurrection (of wicked dead) after the thousand-year kingdom. These two groups are carefully distinguished in Revelation 20:4-6.
  - 6e. The kingdom reign of Christ (vv. 15, 17), which is later stated to be for 1,000 years (20:4-5). Verse 15b is rendered by the *New American Standard Bible* “... has become the kingdom ...” (Note the margin “thou didst reign.”) This agrees with the *King James Version* which says: “thou hast taken to Thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”
  - 7e. “and He will reign forever and ever” (v. 15c). It is apparent from this declaration that, included in this sweeping kaleidoscope summary of 11:15-18, we are to see not only the mediatorial, thousand-year kingdom of Christ on earth but also the eternal kingdom into which the millennial kingdom flows. Thus, by the time we have finished the seventh trumpet, we have been introduced, in this summary, not only to great events of the tribulation period and the return of Christ to earth (with its striking consequences), but we are to understand that Christ has not only begun His reign but “has reigned” for one thousand years; and will keep on reigning, with Father and Spirit, for eternity.

Dr. John Walvoord speaks to this ... “A further problem is presented in the fact that Christ is declared to reign ‘forever and ever.’ This is more than simply announcing His kingdom over the earth. The millennial reign, while it extends for only 1,000 years, is in some sense continued in the new heaven and the new earth. Never again will the earth be under the control and overlordship of man. Even the brief rebellion recorded in Rev. 20 at the close of the millennium is unsuccessful (*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 184).

“This is a very important fact that must necessarily guide the interpretation of the rest of the book. Here we find ourselves only approximately halfway through the Revelation, but we have run out of time at 11:18! Not only is the tribulation over but, to every good intent and purpose, the thousand year reign also (“thou didst reign”). We find ourselves beyond the end of time and into the eternal kingdom.” (Clarence Mason, *Prophetic Problems*, pp 232-33).

3d. Anticipation of communion 11:19

1e. **Promise to believers** of unbroken fellowship with God forever.

1f. Ark of the covenant – inside the Holy of Holies – place where God’s presence dwells (Chp. 4-5). God’s blessing promised to man now available in its fullness.

2f. O.T. – man had to stay away. Only High Priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year – Day of Atonement. Now God says, “Come”.

2e. **Promise to unbelievers** ... Divine judgment. (Lightning, Thunder, Earthquake).

“Haven is the source of vengeance on unbelievers, as well as covenant blessings for the redeemed” (John MacArthur).

4d. Summary of 11:15-19

“The message of the seventh trumpet is that Jesus Christ is the sovereign King. He will one day take the rule of the earth away from Satan and human rulers. When He returns, He will bring covenant blessings to the redeemed, but eternal judgment to those who reject Him (MacArthur).

4b. The Seven Explanatory Prophecies (cf. 10:11) 12:1-14-20

Chapters 12-14 offer another parenthesis in the chronology of the book. These chapters introduce us to some of the main characters or actors involved in the Tribulation.

1c. The Woman, the Man-child, and the Dragon 12:1-6

1d. v. 1 ... “sign” Semeion ... John does not use the word for wonder (teras). Sign of important truth, rather than merely a wonder. The sign is in heaven, but portrays an earthly reality. The woman is persecuted by Satan in the great tribulation.

1e. Identity of the child (v. 5)

1f. Jesus Christ ..the only child born and later caught up to the throne of God!

2f. (Ps. 2:8; Rev. 19:15)

2e. Identity of the woman

1f. RCC – Mary, mother of Jesus. Popular picture in Catholicism: Mary standing in the sun, on the moon, with a crown of stars and the infant Jesus.

But what about Rev. 12:13 Persecution of Mary?

- 2f. Christian Scientists say Mary Baker Glover Eddy Patterson ...
- 3f. The Church? The Church did not produce Christ ... it was just the opposite.
- 4f. Israel ... the logical answer.
  - 1g. Israel is personified as a woman in the O.T. (Isaiah 54:5-6; Jeremiah 3:1, 20; Hosea 2:2)
  - 2g. Context of Rev. 11:19 ... discussion of Temple – only relevant to Israel
  - 3g. Clothing of the woman ... **Genesis 37:9** Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, ‘Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.’
  - 4g. Romans 9:1-5 ...Christ was born a Jew!
- 3e. Identity of the Dragon
  - 1f. 12:9 ... the Dragon is Satan
  - 2f. “Red” ... John 8:44 ... “he was a murderer...”
  - 3f. 7 heads, 10 horns, 7 diadems (Rev. 12:3) ... cf. Daniel 7:7-8 (Antichrist arises out of revived Roman empire (4<sup>th</sup> beast), existing as 10 kings.)
    - 7 heads ... Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Revived Rome
- 4e. Incidents Concerning the child (5-6)  
[Panorama of the birth, life, and ascension of Christ]
  - 1f. Dragon waits for child to destroy him. (Herod’s decree; Herod was an Edomite, descendants of Esau – traditional enemies of Jacob.)
  - 2f. Gap in v. 5 ...33 years. Christ born “king” .... caught up (harpazo, I Thess 4:17) to the throne of God (after death/resurrection). Note: Not His throne – God’s throne! He will not occupy His throne until 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – millennial kingdom.
  - 3f. Fleeing of the woman (v. 6)
    - 1g. Gap of 2,000 years this is tribulation generation of Israel
    - 2g. 1, 260 days ... last 3 ½ of tribulation – divine protection by God.
- 2c. The War Against the Dragon and Israel (7-17)
  - 1d. The Polemic in heaven (7-9)
    - 1e. Elect angels vs. Satan and evil angels

“While it is impossible to be certain, this ultimate battle may be triggered by the rapture of the church.” (MacArthur)
    - 2e. Satan kicked out of heaven. Up to this point in redemptive history Satan has been allowed access to heaven to make accusations against God’s redeemed.  
[Strong argument for justification by faith] (Job 1, I John 2:1)

- 2d. Proclamation of wrath and deliverance (10-12)
- 1e. First demonstration of power over Satan since the resurrection.
  - 2e. Cast out of heaven ... focus is now on earth. Satan can no longer accuse believers before the throne of God.

“Satan’s full fury explodes on humanity when he is cast to the earth. At exactly what point in the tribulation Satan and the demons will be evicted from heaven is not revealed, nor is the duration of their battle with Michael and the holy angels. All that can be said with certainty is that Satan and the demons will be cast out of heaven, possibly at the rapture, but no later than the midpoint of the tribulation.” (John MacArthur)

V. 12 “... knowing that he has only a short time.” Satan’s full power will be directed at anyone belonging to God, especially Israel!

- 3e. Satan’s War on Earth 12:13-17

- 1f. Persecution of Israel (13-14)

- 1g. Discipline for unbelief (cf. Matt 24:15-22)

“A time, and times, and a half a time” ... last 3 ½ years of Trib.

**Zechariah 13:8** “And it will come about in all the land,” declares the Lord, “that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it.”

- 2g. Divine protection

**Exodus 19:4** You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself.

“Whether natural or supernatural means are used, it is clear that God does preserve a godly remnant” (Dr. John Walvoord).

- 3g. Determination to persecute “believing Israel” (v. 17)

“While the program of Satan is against the Jewish race as such, anti-Semitism as a whole will reach its peak against Jewish believers during this period. There is a double antagonism against those in Israel who turn to Christ as their Messiah and Savior in those critical days and maintain a faithful witness. Undoubtedly many of them will suffer a martyr’s death, but others will survive the period including the 144,000 sealed in chapter 7” (Dr. Walvoord).

Summary: Chapter 12 introduces us to the principal actors in the drama that takes place during the Tribulation, including important historical background. Israel, Satan, Christ, Michael, and the godly remnant will be the characters during the last days of the Tribulation.

## 3c. The Beast Out of the Sea 13:1-10 [The False Prince]

“In the first ten verses of Chapter 13, a character is introduced of central importance to the events of the great tribulation. This passage is first of all a revelation of the revived Roman Empire in its period of worldwide dominion, but more especially this paragraph directs attention to the evil character who exercises Satanic power as the world dictator. The revelation is introduced by the expression “And I stood upon the sand of the sea,” which in some versions is included in the last verse of chapter 12, instead of the first verse of chapter 12” (John F. Walvoord, Revelation, p. 197).

## 1d. His Appearance (1-2)

This beast has already been introduced (11:7), but now we are given a complete description of his person and work. There is a link between 12:17 and 13:1 ... “He” refers to the dragon of 12:17 ... Satan.

- 1e. Family likeness ... “10 horns and 7 heads” ... “On his horns were 10 diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names”

Daniel 2, 7 –

Revelation 17:3,10, 12 ... 7 heads are 7 kings... Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Revived Rome ... Beast of the tribulation.

- 2e. Family lineage ... Leopard, Bear, Lion ... Swift, Strength, Power! The beast out of the sea is tied to the 4<sup>th</sup> beast of Daniel 7 (Rome) ... revived Roman Empire.

**Note:** Daniel 2 ... 4<sup>th</sup> metal (feet) ... destroyed by the stone – utter destruction! That has not happened yet ... fulfillment will come at second coming of Christ (Stone).

- 3e. Family legacy ... Satan. 13:4 Authority of beast is from the dragon (Satan).

**Note:** The beast is a kingdom ... revived Roman empire, existing as a 10-king confederacy. But the beast is also a man ... Antichrist. (2 Thess 2)

## 2d. His Acclaim (3-4)

- 1e. One of his heads slain ... fatal wound healed -- Could be a reference to the revival of the Roman Empire after centuries of being dormant (This is the view of John Walvoord). Also could be reference to Antichrist himself ...

“If Christ died actually, then it appears that this ruler will also actually die. But his wound will be healed, which can only mean restoration to life. In 11:7 he was seen as coming out of the abyss, and that coincides with his restoration to life here. He apparently actually dies, descends to the abyss and returns to life. The world understandably wonders after him” (Charles Ryrie, Revelation, p. 83).

“Yet the head whose fatal wound will be healed can only be the future Antichrist. Whether his death is real or fake is not clear. It may be that Antichrist is really killed and God allows him to be resurrected. More likely, Antichrist’s alleged death and resurrection will be a counterfeit of Christ’s death and resurrection, staged, as one of the ‘lying wonders’ perpetrated by the false prophet (13:12-15; 2 Thess 2:9). – MacArthur

- 2e. Result ... the people will be amazed. Remember, the tribulation will be a time when the world will experience death on an unequalled level. A resurrection will be viewed as the power of God!

3d. His Activity (5-7a)

1e. Blasphemy and war. (Religious activity combined with political activity). Antichrist will not only claim political power, but will establish himself as being a “god,” in opposition to the God of heaven.

2e. Authority to act for 42 months.

**Daniel 7:25** And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

3e. “And there was given to him” .... Under the permissive authority of God. Antichrist will make martyrs of God’s people, who, though they give up their lives, are still within God’s protecting care!

4d. His Authority (7b-10)

1e. Extent of authority (7b-8) ... Universal ... worldwide.

2e. V. 9 ... note the absence of the word “churches” – argument for a Pre-tribulation rapture. In Chp. 2-3, the phrase “he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Here in Rev. 13:9 ... this address is not to the churches! Why? They are not present in the tribulation.

3e. V. 10 ... warning to enemies of God ... captors will be taken captive; killers will be killed. These realities are to sustain God’s people during this horrible time of man’s “15 minutes of fame!”

4e.	<b><u>Christ</u></b>	<b><u>Antichrist</u></b>
	Came in God’s name	Comes in his own name
	Humbled Himself	Exalts himself
	Despised	Admired
	Exalted	Cast down to hell
	Came to save	Comes to destroy
	Is the Holy One	Is the Lawless one
	Is the Man of Sorrows	Is the man of sin
	Is the Son of God	Is the son of perdition
	Is the sacrificial Lamb	Is the savage beast
	Will glorify His Holy Bride	Will kill his harlot wife
	Second Person of the Holy Trinity	Second person of the Unholy Trinity

4c. The Beast Out of the Earth 13:11-18 [The False Prophet]

This beast arises from the earth – distinctive from the Beast out of the Sea (Antichrist).

1d. Appearance (11) “Another” ... of the same kind!

His appearance is less pretentious – two horns like a Lamb. A lamb is a religious context for a Jew ... 2 horns suggest strength/power, but not as the 1<sup>st</sup> Beast. False Prophet not characterized like the lion, bear and leopard ... harmless lamb! But he spoke “as a dragon”.

**Matthew 7:15** Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

2d. Aim (12)

To promote the worship of the first beast. He does not promote himself – his aim is to promote the 1<sup>st</sup> Beast. He has the same power as 1<sup>st</sup> Beast, but directs it toward worship of the Antichrist.

3d. Activity (13-17)

- 1e. Miracles/signs and wonders (Fire from heaven)
- 2e. Promotes worship of the Beast ... image of Beast. “Breath” ... pneuma. Can be translated “life” (supernatural miracle by Satan), or “wind”– some magical sleight of hand to give appearance of life from the image.
- 3e. Mark of the Beast – False prophet will force men to identify with the Beast – wear a mark that allows Beast to control economy.

666 ??

Word “beast” occurs 36 times in Revelation. If you add 1 through 36 to each other, the total is 666.

Some Roman ruler?

I =	1
V =	5
X =	10
L =	50
C =	100
<u>D =</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 666</b>

Kaiser Neron - N W R N RS K	
K =	100
S =	60
R =	200
N =	50
R =	200
O =	6
<u>N =</u>	<u>50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>

“Probably the simplest explanation here is the best, that the triple six is the number of a man, each digit falling short of the perfect number seven. Six in the Scripture is man’s number. He was to work six days and rest the seventh. The image of Nebuchadnezzar was sixty cubits high and six cubits broad. Whatever may be the deeper meaning of the number, it implies that this title referring to the first beast, Satan’s masterpiece, limits him to man’s level which is far short of the deity of Jesus Christ.” (John F. Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ, . 210)

5c. The Picture of the 144,000 14:1-5

- 1d. Notice that John sees “the” Lamb and the 144,000 standing on Mount Zion. This is a scene in earthly, not heavenly.
- 2d. These are the same 144,000 as referred to in 7:1. (The number is the same, and they have the same “seal” on their foreheads.)
- 3d. This is a prophetic vision of the ultimate triumph of the Lamb following His second coming, when He joins the 144,000 on Mount Zion at the beginning of His millennial reign.
- 4d. “First fruits” (v. 4) ... refer to the beginning of a great harvest ... reference to the millennial kingdom. The 144,000 do not die and go naturally into the millennium as “first fruits” of the harvest of Jews into the kingdom. (Zechariah 8:20-23)

- 5d. Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of 10 Virgins  
Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of 10 Talents  
Matthew 25:31-46 Parable of Sheep/Goats
- 6d. V. 4-5 ... Ultimate sanctification of the people! (Set apart for God)
- 6c. The Proclamation of Judgments 14:6-13
- 1d. Declaration of God's eternal Gospel (6-7)... God's last call of grace to a world that persists in rejecting Him and openly defies Him.
- "An eternal Gospel" ... it will always be by God's grace! God will never accept men on the basis of their merit ... "Faith alone in Christ alone!"
- Romans 10:2-3 For I bear them [Israel] witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.
- Universal gospel ... Jew/Gentile "every nation and tribe and tongue and people"
- "Give Him glory" ... Acknowledgment that God is the creator of the heaven and the earth!
- 2d. Doom of Babylon (8) Another angel announces the fall of Babylon (details will be given in Rev. 17-18).
- 1e. Certainty of judgment "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great" (16:19 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl)  
(Prophetic Aorist ... speak of future event in past tense)
- 2e. Cause of judgment
- 1f. Her own immorality  
2f. Her infection of other nations with her sin
- 3d. Doom of Beast Worshipers 9-13
- 1e. Extent of judgment ... Tormented forever and ever !
- 2e. Encouragement to faithful followers of Christ (12-13) While enduring temporary persecution – guarantee of the ultimate destruction of beast and his followers – eternal punishment.
- V. 13 ... Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!
- Recognition as "in the Lord" – Believers!  
– Rest from labor  
– Reward – God remembers faithfulness!
- 7c. The Preview of Judgment 14:14-20
- 1d. The Reapers 14-18
- The reapers of God's harvest are the Lord and His angels. (v. 14, 16, 17)
- Matthew 13:49 Parable of the Drag-Net (Judgment at the Second Coming)

2d. The Reason 15, 18

1e. “The hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

1f. Hour ... “end of age” ... Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-41

v. 39 And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

2f. Harvest ... (15) Matthew 13:38 “ the tares are the sons of the evil one”

3f. Ripe (15) ... [exeranthe] ...to become dry or withered.

The unsaved world is overripe ... dry and withered – ready to be removed from the harvest.

4f. v. 18 ... Grape Harvest ... her grapes are ripe ... [ekmasan] ... fully ripe ... prime – bursting with juice!

Two different words – same picture – appointed time of judgment.

“The picture here is that all the false religion of man is fully ripe and ready for harvest. Thus the harvest is ready because man in his own efforts apart from the life of God has fully developed an apostate religious system.”

(Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, p.92)

3d. The Result 19-20

The harvest of the grapes involves the judgment in the winepress of the wrath of God. V. 20 indicates that this judgment is not eternal hell (lake of fire) ... but an earthly judgment. Probably a reference to the campaign of Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-19), when the blood from the slaughter will flow 1,600 furlongs to the depths of the horses’ bridals (approx. 4 ½ feet). This will happen in the valley of Megiddo which is located in northern Palestine.

1600 furlongs ...

1 furlong equals 606 3/4 English feet (1/8 of a mile)

1600 furlongs equals 183.8 miles

183.8 miles is the distance from Dan to Beersheba

Armageddon – will cover all of Palestine

“A better interpretation, whether there are actual horses involved or not, sees this as hyperbole to suggest the slaughter in which blood will splatter into the air profusely along the whole length of the battle. When the slaughter reaches its peak, blood could flow deeply in troughs and streambeds.” (James MacArthur, *Because the Time is Near*, p. 241-242)

“This is obviously a picture of ultimate judgment of the wickedness of men at the time of the second coming of Christ ... this passage speaks prophetically of that which will chronologically follow the return of Christ to the earth” (John Walvoord, *Revelation*, p. 223)

“A tremendous final act of vengeance is denoted.” (Henry Alford, *The Greek New Testament*, p. 693.)

“The whole city ran down with blood to such a degree that the fires of many houses were quenched by it.” – Josephus, commenting on the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

**Revelation 13:4** ... who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?

[For the answer to that question, read Rev. 14:14-20].

5b. The Seven Bowl Judgments 15:1-18:24

1c. Introduction 5:1-16:1

1d. Plagues 15:1

These will be the last 7 judgments of God. When they are finished, the anger of God is completed.

2d. Praise 15:2-4

1e. Faithfulness of God in upholding His own.

2e. Song of Moses/ Song of the Lamb ... God is being praised because of His mighty works.

1f. Moses

Exodus 15:1-18 ... Praise to God for victory over the Egyptians

Deut 32:1-43 ... Praise to God for deliverance from wilderness

2f. Lamb ... Rev. 5

3d. Preparation for judgment 15:5-8

1e. Commissioning of the outpouring of the last 7 plagues (Bowl judgments).

2e. Opening of the "Holy of holies" in the heavenly Temple.

3e. Procession of 7 holy angels carrying the 7 bowls of judgment.

4e. Filling of the Temple with the smoke from the glory of God ... Access into the sanctuary is made impossible by the smoke until the judgments contained in the seven plagues are fulfilled – ominous sign of impending doom for those who persist in their blasphemous disregard of the sovereignty and holiness of God.

**Exodus 40:34-35** Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

2c. The First Bowl 16:2

Malignant sores upon Beast worshipers. "Sore" ... helkos – ulcer.  
LXX (Septuagint) ... used helkos to translate "boils" of Exodus 9:9-11.

3c. The Second Bowl 16:3

Destruction of all Sea life. (2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet – ½ of sea life destroyed)  
Stench and ecological catastrophe'

4c. The Third Bowl 16:4-7

Fresh water turned to blood! (Law of Retribution)  
v. 6 ... they are worthy

5c. The Fourth Bowl 16:8-8-9

Intense heat of the sun ... “fierce heat”  
Blasphemy of men – no repentance

6c. The Fifth Bowl 16:10-11

Darkness upon the kingdom of the beast.  
Disruption of kingdom – inability to carry out enforcement of worship  
Continued blasphemy (Depravity of man – God must change man’s heart)

7c. The Sixth Bowl 16:12-16

1d. Euphrates River dried up to allow invasion of the kings from the east. (Daniel 11:40- 44)

Euphrates River ... 1800 miles long ... not fordable. 300-1200 yards wide; 10-30 feet deep

2d. Unfolding War (Polemis) of Armageddon ... invasion of armies to challenge authority of the beast?

God will use “demonic wooing” (evil deception) to draw the armies of the great powers of the earth to Palestine for the final confrontation between God and man.

God is directing this  
Demons accomplish it  
Satan, the beast & the false prophet are involved in it.  
Kings of the earth will assemble in Megiddo without any sense of compulsion

**W.A. Criswell**, The Gathering of the Hosts for the War of Armageddon (Handout)

**Herman Hoyt, Revelation**, “Little does Satan realize here that his own wisdom is corrupted, and God is actually using this evil scheme to prepare the way for the day when he will deliver the final death blow to the satanic kingdom. All who dwell in the earth are warned of this coming day of wrath and urged to be ready by keeping their garments and avoiding nakedness.”

**John F. Walvoord**, “The major problem is how a war is possible when there is a world government under the control of Satan and the beast. Some have interpreted this as a gathering of forces in anticipation of the second coming of Christ. More probably, it reflects a conflict among the nations themselves in the latter portion of the great tribulation as the world empire so hastily put together begins to disintegrate. The armies of the world contending for honors on the battlefield at the very time of the second coming of Christ do all turn, however, and combine their efforts against Christ and His army from heaven when the glory of the second coming appears in the heavens. It will be the final challenge to divine sovereignty and power as the military might of the world of that day will be engaged in fighting on the very day that Christ returns (Zechariah 14:1-3).

3d. V. 15 ... Appeal for purity and watchfulness in the midst of this announcement of Armageddon! Grace still being offered even in the face of persistent and shameless rejection.

8c. The Seventh Bowl 16:17-21

1d. Climax of God’s judgment ... “It is done” ... perfect tense – action is complete; results continue!

2d. Physical signs & disturbances ... great earthquake ( 18) ... Same response after 7<sup>th</sup> seal(6:12) and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet (11:19) [Matthew 27:51-54]

Isaiah 2:19, 21; Haggai 2:3-4 – “shaking of the nations”

3d. Earthquake divides the great city and causes other cities to fall. Is it Jerusalem or Babylon?

1e. Jerusalem: (Ryrie, McGee) (Rev. 11:8 ... Jerusalem called “the great city”)

**Zechariah 14:4** In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

\* But Jerusalem is not destroyed with the judgments of the tribulation.

2e. Babylon: (Walvoord, Hoyt, MacArthur) (context of Chp. 17-18) -- fully judged

What are the 3 parts of Babylon? ... refer to 17:7-8 ...7 heads: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Revived Rome, Antichrist. Rome will pass through 3 stages: Original empire, Revived Empire (10 kings), Antichrist. Judgment will fall on 3 parts, symbolizing total judgment on all forms of the Roman empire, which in the Tribulation will be the current system of Babylon ... Last Gentile kingdom.

3d. Response of those who dwell on the earth 21 ... Persistent blasphemy to God.

100 lb. Hailstones ... Joshua 10:11

“Quite literally, the whole world will collapse around him [man], yet he will persist in thinking he is still the master of his own fate without any need for God.” (Charles C. Ryrie)

9c. The Great Harlot 17:1-18

The conclusion of the Bowl judgments brings us to the second coming of Christ (Rev. 19), but John is first given a vision of the details the judgment on Babylon. The emphasis in Rev. 17 is on religious and political Babylon, and Rev. 18 will focus on commercial Babylon.

Babylon is both a city and a system ... it’s beginnings were in Gen. 10 with Nimrod. Babylon flourished as a great empire under Nebuchanezzar (6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.). Saddam Hussein attempted to restore Babylon to a place of world dominion during his reign, including the restoration of the ancient site of Babylon. (Coins minted with profile of Nebuchadnezzar and Hussein side by side).

In the tribulation, Babylon will once more emerge as a world dominion, led by Antichrist.

1d. Description ... 1-6

1e. **Harlot 1-2** ... 4 times in Rev. 17 this characteristic of the false religious system is mentioned. After the rapture of the true Church, religion will remain on the earth – there will be a continuation of the false church. This church is unfaithful to the Lord and thus is a harlot. (1 Cor. 6:15-20)

2e. **Beast 3** .... The apostate religion is joined with the political system of the Antichrist in the tribulation. Compare v. 3 with Rev. 13:1 The woman sitting on the beast gives the picture of the false religion having power over the man of sin. This is looking at the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the tribulation week, before the man of sin overthrows religion and demands those on the earth to worship him as god.

- 3e. **Glory 4** .... The harlot is seen in her material wealth and self-glory. Note the things she glories in ... abominations and immoralities!
- 4e. **Counterfeit 5** ... “Mystery, Babylon” [Mystery is not an adjective ... but a noun in apposition with Babylon. (Ephesians 3:3-7; 5:29-30, 32) The true Church is called a “mystery” ... So the false church (Babylon) also is called a “mystery.”
- 5e. **Federation 5** ... “The Mother of Harlots” ... Babylon will control a federation of many other religious groups.

Eccumenicism ... A one-world religion ... Reducing religious beliefs and convictions down to where all can agree and form a unified organization. {National Council of Churches; World-wide Council of Churches)

“With the identification in 17:9 and with the interrelation of Babylon and practices of the Roman Catholic Church, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Roman church is the harlot. But this is not the whole picture, for the apostate church is not merely the Roman Church. It will include other groups in a family relationship with their mother. The tie that will bind them together will be their harlotry.” (Charles C. Ryrie)

“I do not hesitate to maintain that interpretation which regards papal and not pagan Rome as pointed out by the harlot of this vision.” (Henry Alford)

Read Fox’s Book of Martyrs ... atrocities of the Roman Catholic Church

Vance Havner, “At the Nicean Council (325 A.D.), of the 318 delegates attending, fewer than 12 had not lost an eye, or lost a hand or did not limp on one leg lamed by torture for their Christian faith.”

- 6e. **Persecutor 6** ... Contrary to the true Church that worships Jesus, this apostate counterfeit church will persecute those who believe in Jesus.
- 2d. Determinations 7-15
- 1e. **Beast 8**

Rev. 11:7 portrays the beast as about to come up from the abyss – indicating that vv. 1-7 precede his rise to power in the middle of the tribulation.

- 2e. **Heads 9-11**

“No reasonable doubt can be entertained as to the meaning of these words. The seven hills of Rome were a commonplace with the Latin poets.” (Henry Barclay Swete, The Apocalypse of St. John)

“Some commentators associate the seven mountains with Rome, famous for being built on seven hills, and identify the woman as the Roman Catholic Church. Such an interpretation is too narrow. More than just Rome must be in view because Antichrist’s empire is worldwide. Nor can the woman be the Roman Catholic Church, since v. 18 identifies her as the city of Babylon.” (MacArthur)

“The great harlot who sits on many waters” (v.1) ...must be taken as metaphorical since it is interpreted in v. 15 as ‘peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.’

No speculation is needed ... vv. 9-10 give us the interpretation ... The 7 mountains are 7 kings ... 5 are historical (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece). The current empire (John's day) was Rome. The kingdom to come will be the Revived Roman Empire (out of which will emerge the Antichrist (little horn of Dan. 7)

**Note:** John is reminded that his destiny is already determined, even before he begins his rule on earth. Daniel's prophecies affirm his doom (Daniel 2:44; 7:25-27; 9:27)

3e. Horns (12-14)

1f. The horns of the beast are 10 kings (Dan. 7:23-24) – they are ten nations who are allowed to rule for “one hour”

1g. Must be a future rule ... v. 12 “have not yet received a kingdom.” They will receive authority as kings with the beast for “one hour” Devoted to Antichrist and his agenda of persecuting Israel.

2g. Could be understood to refer to “a specific purpose or activity.”  
Luke 22:53 “ While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.”

3g. Could be understood to refer to the shortness of their rule. (Context of vv. 13-14) “Wage war with against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them ...”

3d. Destruction of Religious Babylon 16-18

1e. Religious Babylon, who sought political alliances and power will in the end be destroyed by a political alliance. (v. 16, “ten horns”)

2e. “Desolate”, “naked”, “eat her flesh”, “burn her up with fire” .... speak of completeness of her destruction.

3e. Destruction of the harlot (false religion) ... opens the door for the imposition of Antichrist on the earth as god – worship me! (2 Thess. 2:3-4)

10c. The Great City 18:1-24 [Political/Commercial Babylon]

Babylon involves a city (certainly Rome and perhaps Babylon on the Euphrates and a system. The religious aspect of that system was described in the preceding chapter (17). This chapter concerns the commercial/political aspects of Babylon ...

1d. Proclamation of judgment 1-8

1e. “Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great!”  
[2-fold destruction – the system and the city]

**Note:** Aorist tense ... action complete in the past. When used to refer to an event yet future, it emphasizes the certainty of the judgment! (You speak of a future event as though it has already happened.)

2e. Literal judgment on a literal city? Prophecy of Jeremiah indicates that when God judges Babylon, the city will never again be occupied! (Jeremiah 51:24-26)

Present-day Babylon ... The village of Hilla sits on the ancient site of Babylon, population 10,000.

April 10, 1962, **The National Review: Babylonian Meditation** by Frederick D. Willhelmsen: “The other day I was in Babylon. The approach to the ruins is through a fine arch, made of the same dung-colored brick from which was built the old city of sin. Stacked up against the walls of the little museum set back behind the arch, were tiers upon tiers of the same brick, stamped with the famous lion.

The government of Iraq is rebuilding the city; and when finished, Babylon will be as she was. An unobservant visitor could not tell the difference between the brick taken from the original site and that from the new arch. They build now as they did then, four thousand years ago.

\*\* O.T. prophecies have not yet been fulfilled. Babylon will exist during the Tribulation period and will function as the political/commercial capital of the kingdom of the beast.

“Those who deny that Babylon will be rebuilt do so on the principle that the prophecy of destruction refers to ecclesiastical and political power symbolized in Babylon but not embodied in an actual city. The city of Babylon politically therefore is now destroyed historically. The power and religious character of Babylon are destroyed at the second coming. The ultimate decision depends upon the judgment of the expositor, but in many respects it is simpler to postulate a rebuilt Babylon as fulfilling literally the Old Testament prophecies as well as that embodied in this chapter.” (John F. Walvoord)

- 2e. Reason for the judgment (3)
  - Men have worshiped the Beast ... Fornication, Immorality, Compromise ... If you share in her sins, you share in her judgment.
- 3e. Means of escape (4) Separation ... deny the Beast. If you share in her sins, you share in her judgment.
- 4e. Retribution (5-8)
  - 1f. Remembrance (5) ...The first Babel confederacy tried to build a tower to heaven (Gen. 11:4) ... the last Babylon piles up her sins to heaven – God remembers!
  - 2f. Retribution (6) ...
    - “The angel’s request that God give back to Babylon double “according to her deed” (literally, “double the double things”) is a request that Babylon’s punishment fit her crimes. Double has been her iniquity, double will be her punishment.” (John MacArthur)
  - 3f. Retaliation (7-8) ... Babylon tried to glorify herself ... God retaliates with torment and sorrow. “Lived sensuously” ... cf. v. 3
- 2d. The Lamentation over her Judgment 9-19
  - 1e. Kings 9-10
  - 2e. Merchants 11-17a
  - 3e. Sea Merchants 17b-19
- 3d. The Rejoicing over the Judgment 20-23a
- 4d. The Justification of the Judgment 23b-24

- 6b. The Seven Final Visions of John 19:1-22:5
  - 1c. Introduction: Joy in Heaven 19:1-10
    - 1d. The Hallelujah Chorus 19:1-6

J. Vernon McGee writes, “Revelation 19 marks a dramatic change in the tone of Revelation. The destruction of Babylon, the capital of the beast’s kingdom, marks the end of the Great Tribulation. The somber gives way to song. The transfer is from darkness to light, from black to white, from dreary days of judgment to bright days of blessing. This chapter makes a definite bifurcation in Revelation, and ushers in the greatest event for this earth – the Second Coming of Christ. It is the bridge between the Great Tribulation and the Millennium.” (Reveling Through Revelation, II, p. 66.)

Four times in these verses the word “Hallelujah” is given, and this is the only time in all of the N.T. that they are recorded. So why now? The word “Hallelujah” is a Hebrew word that means “Praise to the Lord.” [Used 24 times in the Psalms]

“The Holy Spirit has reserved it for this occasion. Heaven now celebrates the Lamb’s victory over the harlot, and His marriage to the bride.” (Harold Wilmington)

Revelation 19 is praise time – time to praise the Lord for what He has done, is doing, and will do!

- 1e. Hallelujah ... Praise the Lord for Salvation! (Vs. 1)
  - 1f. “A great multitude” ... Same Greek phrase used in 7:9 (ochlou pollou). Tribulation saints.
  - 2f. First use of Hallelujah in O.T. .... **1 Chronicles 16:4** [Installation of the ark of God in the midst of Zion.]  
 “And he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the Lord, even to celebrate and to thank and to praise the Lord God of Israel.  
  
 Ark of God was the symbol of His presence among the people.  
  
 Christ, of course, is the true ark, and in the context of Rev. 17-18, when the enemies of God are overthrown and Babylon is destroyed, and Christ comes to take His rightful place on the throne of David as Israel’s Messiah, Heaven breaks out in praise ... **Hallelujah. God’s presence will be again among His people ... literally!**

- 2e. Hallelujah ... Praise the Lord for Divine Justice! (Vs. 2-3)
  - 1f. Answer to the appeal of the martyred saints in 6:10 for God’s righteous judgment on those who shed their blood.  
  
**Revelation 6:10** And they cried out with loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?
  - 2f. Hallelujah ... justice has been done! (Rev. 17, 18)  
  
 17:16 For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose ...  
  
 18:5 For her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.

- 3f. The eternal lake of fire will change the hearts of the wicked. No repentance!
  
- 3e. Hallelujah ... Praise the Lord ... Worthy of Worship! (Vs. 4)
  - 1f. This worship involves two groups ... the glorified Church (24 elders), and the 4 living creatures (Cherubim).
    - 1g. Redeemed Church worships ... destruction of a fallen world that hated Christ and hated His Church.
    - 2g. Cherubim ... angels. Lucifer was a Cherub before his fall, and he cause many others to fall with him. These cherubim are righteous and holy and will remain so for all eternity. Their worship is based on gratitude at not following Lucifer.
  - 2f. Acts of worship ... bowed before Him ...
  - 3f. Amen. Hallelujah ... Amen .... “truly, truly” “That’s the truth!”

Illust: Congregational response to the preached Word. “Amen.”... “That’s the truth.”

- 4e. Hallelujah ... Praise the Lord because He’s a Sovereign God! (Vs. 5-6)
  - 1f. “Bond-servants” ... doulos [O.T. Endentured slaves ... God made provision so it would not last indefinitely ...6 years! 7<sup>th</sup> year ... bondman was to be freed.

**Deut 15:16,17** And it shall come about if he says to you, “I will not go out from you,” because he loves you and your household, since he fares will with you, then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door and he shall be your servant forever.

Bond-servants choose to serve the Lord ... privilege of serving Him now and throughout all eternity! Serving Him is an act of worship.

**Revelation 22:3** And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him.

**Romans 12:1** I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
  - 2f. Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! ...Sovereignty!

God is in control! His will will be done ....

Dr. W.A. Criswell in one of his many journeys to other countries visited a large Baptist Church in Moscow. At that time, the government allowed one church for a city of 7 million ... a showcase to the tourists to convince them that there is religious freedom. The people were hurt and oppressed, and you could see it in their faces and tears. They had a choir that sang gloriously. They were singing a song with a triumphant note in it. Criswell could recognize only three words in the song.... Je-sus... Christos....Hallelujah!

He turned to the Russian minister seated next to him and asked, "What are they singing?" He said, "They are singing about the second coming of Christ. The triumph of our Lord when He comes again.... Je-sus....Christos....Hallelujah!"

2d. The Marriage of the Lamb 19:7-10  
"Here Comes The Bride"

1e. Announcement of the Marriage (7)

This is Christ's marriage ... He is the focus of attention.

Note: For Christ to faithfully return for His bride and fulfill His promises gives glory to Him!

**Illust:** Ray Sport, Vietnam vet

2e. Adornment of the Bride (8)

"For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints" (NASV)

"For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (KJV)

"The brides's array, fine linen, which is explained as 'the righteousness', requires the translation 'righteous deeds.' In other words, the wedding garment of the bride will be made up of the righteous deeds done in life. The bride is the bride because of the righteousness of Christ; the bride is clothed for the wedding because of her acts. Righteous acts flow from a righteous character which is entirely of the grace of God" (**Charles C. Ryrie, Revelation, p. 111**).

**Thought provoker:** Have you ever considered that at the marriage of the Bride to the Lamb, each believer will be wearing the wedding garment of our own making?"

3e. When will the marriage of the Lamb take place? The marriage will take place following the rapture of the Church and prior to Christ's Second Coming.

3d. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (9-10)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be the Millennial Kingdom. At the Second Advent, Christ will bring His Bride to show her off and introduce her to the supper guests.

1e. The terms "marriage" and "marriage supper" are related to Jewish marriage customs in Biblical times.

**Betrothal** (establishment of the marriage covenant that bound a man and woman together as husband and wife (Joseph and Mary). [12 month minimum – test of the fidelity of the couple. If pregnancy occurred, the contract would be voided])

**Presentation** ... time when the groom would claim his bride.

**Marriage Feast** (Supper) ... introduction of Bride to Groom's friends ... Great Celebration!

2e. The wedding guests in the Millennium will comprise mortal earth saints (Jew and Gentiles), and resurrected Old Testament and Tribulation saints.

*(Cf. Matt. 25 ... Parables of Ten Virgins, Talents, Sheep & Goats)*

"One side issue should be noted. According to Revelation 19:9, wedding guests will be called to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and those who are called will be blessed. Since wedding guests are not the bride, it must be concluded that the guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb will not be part of Christ's bride, the Church. But since the guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb will be blessed and will be in the Millennial kingdom, they must be believers (Rev. 20:6).

The fact that the guests will be believers, but not part of the Church, forces one to conclude that not all believers of all ages belong to the Church. God has groups of believers distinct from the Church. The souls of Old Testament saints will already be assembled in Heaven when the Church arrives there at the time of the Rapture and marriage of the Lamb. Those Old Testament saints will be guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Renald Showers, *The Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb*, Israel My Glory, June/July, 1991, p. 12)

- 3e. “These are true words of God” .... emphasizes the authority, certainty, and trustworthiness of God’s promise!
- 4e. John’s Response (10)

John was overwhelmed by the revelation of the marriage of the Lamb!

**Ephesians 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

**Ephesians 5:32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” ... Ultimate end of all prophecy? ... to reveal Christ’s return for victory over His enemies and glorification of His Kingdom rule! Apart from Christ and His prophesied return as Messiah, Savior, and King over all, what is the point of prophecy?

- 2c. The Second Advent of Christ                      19:11-16  
“The King is Coming”

Revelation 19:11 is a very critical and important verse in the Book of the Revelation. Among premillennialists it is considered to be the climax of the book. Dr. John Walvoord, former president of DTS, expresses it well when he says,

“At this point in the Book of Revelation the climax of the revelation is reached with the presentation of Jesus Christ as the glorified King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In keeping with the subject of the book itself, “a revelation of Jesus Christ,” all which precedes Revelation 19:11 is in some sense introductory and all that which follows is an epilogue.”

- 1d. The Return of Christ (11-16)

1e. **His aim**

Jesus is described at His Second Coming as riding a white horse (holiness). He is called “faithful and True” (Rev. 3:14, “the faithful and True witness” – faithful to His promise to return and fulfill the promises made to Abraham and his seed, and those martyred in the tribulation; True, in contrast to the Antichrist and his evil empire (Rev. 18:23).

“In righteousness He judges and wages war”

“The Lord is a man of war! In righteousness he judges and makes war. The judging has been going on throughout the breaking of the seals, the blowing of the trumpets, and the pouring out of the bowls. Now He makes war. He, who for long centuries has endured patiently the scoffings, the insults, the bad manners of men; who for ages has contemplated Calvary and all that it displayed of human hatred and contempt; and who, through the millennia has made peace through the blood of that cross, now makes war over that blood.”  
**(John Phillips, Exploring Revelation)**

2e. **His appearance**

1f. Eyes are a flame of fire ... Quality of his judgment. He knows it all ... nothing beyond His scope... righteous judgment.

2f. Many crowns ... majesty and sovereignty

Collecting the crown of a defeated king was an ancient custom. David took the crown of the Ammorite king and wore it on his head to signify his authority over the defeated king (2 Sam 12:30).

3f. Robe dipped in blood ... Note: this is before He enters the battle!

“It is a sure token of the righteous vengeance which will shortly be meted out in that battle. (Ryrie, Revelation, p. 112)

4f. His name – “The Word of God” ... unmistakable identification as Jesus Christ! [Note: Only John uses this title (John 1:1, 14; 1 John 1:1; 5:7)]

3e. **His army** 14 The saints of God

4e. **His authority** 15-16

His authority is symbolized by the sharp sword, His taking up the rule of the nations, in the figure of treading out the winepress (14:20), and in the name “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

Christ alone will be King of kings and Lord of lords (v. 16) [cf. 11:15, “the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

2d. War of Armageddon ...

Passages that anticipate this final war at the second coming of Christ: Isa 34:1-5; Isa 63:3-4, 6; Joel 3:2, 9-17; Zechariah 14:1-11, Revelation 14:14-20, Revelation 16:16, Revelation 19:11-21

1e. Armageddon is not the same battle described in Ezekiel 38 (invasion of Russia from north).  
– Russia will invade from the north, but Armageddon is an invasion from all directions.  
– Russia invades to capture Israel’s wealth; Armageddon’s invasion is to destroy the Lamb.  
– God leads the Russian invasion, but Antichrist leads the war of Armageddon.

2e. Armageddon is not the final battle on earth. The final war occurs after the Millennial reign of Christ (Rev. 20:7-10).

3e. **Location of Armageddon** ... The battlefield will stretch from Megiddo on the north (Zech 12:11; Rev. 16:16) to Edom on the south (Isa. 34:5-6, 63:1), a distance of 1600 furlongs, approximately 200 miles. It will extend from the Med. Sea to the hills of Moab, approximately 100 miles. It will include the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2, 12) and the Plains of Esdraelon. The central focus will be the city of Jerusalem.

4e. **Participants** ... it is estimated that upwards to 400 million men will be engaged in this final holocaust. The armies from the kings of the east, west, north and south.

“In the most dramatic sense this will be the ‘Valley of Decision’ for humanity (Joel 3:14) and the great winepress into which will be poured in the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God” (Rev. 19:15) – **Herman Hoyt, The End Times.**

5e. **Historical Significance of Armageddon ...**

“Megiddo was in the plain of Esdraelon, which has been the chosen place for encampment in every contest carried on in Palestine from the days of ... Assyria unto the disastrous march of Napoleon from Egypt into Syria. Jews, Gentiles, Saracens, Christian crusaders, and anti-Christian Frenchmen; Egyptians, Persians, Druses, Turks, and Arabs, warriors of every nation that is under heaven, have pitched their tents on the plains of Esdraelon, and have beheld the banners of their nation wet with the dews of Mt. Tabor and Mt. Hermon.”  
(**Marvin Vincent, Word Studies in the N.T., p. 542**)

“Palestine will be given a blood bath of unprecedented proportions which will flow from Armageddon at the north down through the Valley of Jehoshaphat, will cover the land of Edom, and will wash over all Judea and the city of Jerusalem. John looks at this scene of carnage and he describes it as blood flowing to the depths of the horses’ bridles. It is beyond human imagination to see a lake that size that has been drained from the veins of those who have followed the purpose of Satan to try to exterminate God’s chosen people in order to prevent Jesus Christ from coming to reign.” (**J. Dwight Pentecost, Prophecy For Today, p. 118**)

“The Battle of Armageddon will result in wholesale carnage among the legions of the beast. The brilliance of Christ’s appearance will produce a trembling and demoralization in the soldiers (Zech. 12:2; 14:13). The result of this demoralization and trembling will be the desertion from the antichrist and the rendering of him inoperative (2 Thess 2:8). This tremendous light from heaven will produce astonishment and blindness in animals and madness in men (Zech 12:4). A plague will sweep through the armies from this light and men will rot right where they stand (Zech 14:12, 15). The blood of animals and men will form a lake two hundred miles long and bridle deep (Rev. 14:19-20). The stench of this rotting mass of flesh and blood will fill the entire region (Isa. 34:1-3)... The beast and the false prophet will then be cast alive into the lake of fire forever.” (Herman Hoyt, *The End Times*)

6e. **The Brevity of the Battle**

**John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation* ...** “With what panoply and pomp the armies march across the plain of Galilee, file through the passes and deploy on the fertile fields of Megiddo! What masses of military equipment are stockpiled in the hills! What fleets ride at anchor in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and along the shorelines of the Mediterranean! What stirring strains of martial music are heard. The ground shakes to the beat of marching feet; the skies darken with aircraft drawn from the ends of the earth. Amazing new weapons, given to men by the beast, are brought into place. Miracles are wrought by the false prophet to encourage the troops. The final commands are given.

Then suddenly it will all be over. In fact, there will be no war at all, in the sense that we think of war. There will be just a word spoken from Him who sits astride the great white horse. Once He spoke a word to a fig tree, and it withered away. Once He spoke a word to howling winds and heaving waves, and the storm clouds vanished and the waves fell still. Once He spoke to a legion of demons bursting at the seams of a poor man’s soul, and instantly they fled. Now He speaks a word, and the war is over! The blasphemous, loud-mouthed beast is stricken where he stands. The false prophet, the miracle-working windbag from the pit is punctured and still. The pair of them are bundled up and hurled head-long into the everlasting flames. Another word, and the panic-stricken armies reel and stagger and fall down dead. Field marshals and generals, admirals and air commanders, soldiers and sailors, rank and file, one and all – they fall. And the vultures descend and cover the scene. Thus ends the battle of Armageddon!

7e. The Reasons for the battle of Armageddon

What will draw the nations of the world to Armageddon?

1f. Because of God's Sovereign Purpose. Many passages of Scripture indicate this:

- 1g. "For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, and His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter." (Isaiah 34:2)
- 2g. "I will gather all the nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land." (Joel 3:2)
- 3g. "For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle ... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle." (Zechariah 14:2,3)
- 4g. "Therefore, wait for Me," declares the Lord, "for the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal." (Zephaniah 3:8)
- 5g. "And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Mageddon." (Revelation 16:16)

2f. Because of Satan's deception (Revelation 16:13-14)

Satan will use the three unclean spirits to trick the nations into gathering at Armageddon.

3f. Because of the hatred by all the nations for Christ and His Kingdom.

- 1g. "Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed." "Let us tear their fetters apart, and cast away their cords from us!" "He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger and terrify them in His fury: 'But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.'" (Psalm 2:1-6)
- 2g. "And the nations were enraged, and Thy wrath came ..." (Revelation 11:18)

3c. The Great Supper of God 19:17-18

1d. Carnage 17-18, 21

There will be such a slaughter of men and animals at Armageddon that God will turn to His creation to dispose of the carnage. Humor of God ... "Great Supper of God" for the birds of His creation!

"And all the birds were filled with their flesh" [Divine Environmental Disposal

2d. Captivity & Destruction of the Beast (Antichrist) & the False Prophet 19-20

The Beast and False Prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (eternal hell), never to oppose God and His Anointed King forever!

## 4c. The Binding of Satan 20:1-3

Satan will be bound and incarcerated during the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth. There will be no external temptation during the millennial reign of Christ – “so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed” (Rev. 20:3). Christ will rule “with a rod of iron” – no two-party system, no loyal opposition.

## 5c. The Kingdom of the Son 20:4-6

- 1d. Literal 1,000 year reign of Christ over all the earth.  
“Thousand years” mentioned 6 times in vv. 1-7.

**Premillennialism:** Christ will return literally to establish His Millennial kingdom

O.T. Israel = Israel [Church] [Tribulation] Kingdom {Israel}

**Amillennialism:** (No literal thousand year reign of Christ on earth ... Church replaces Israel)

O.T. Israel = Israel N.T.: Israel = Church [No earthly Kingdom for Israel]

**Irony:** Those who dispute the literalness of the “thousand years” refer to 2 Peter 3:8 “One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” However, those same objectors attempt to expand the 6 literal days of creation in Genesis to billions of years of time!

“Let us notice again this fact: the teaching of the O.T. concerning the millennium is so complete that the Jews in the Talmud succeeded in developing it entirely themselves, without possessing the gifts furnished by the N.T. later. For example, they had indeed affirmed before the Apocalypse that the messianic kingdom would last 1,000 years. One should not, therefore, claim (as some have done) that without the famous passage of Revelation 20:1-10 the doctrine of the millennium would not exist.” (Rene Pache, The Return of Christ, p. 380)

- 2d. **Two resurrections** ... 1<sup>st</sup> Ress (Life) 2<sup>nd</sup> Ress (Death) – separated by 1,000 years of time (Rev. 20:4-5). This seems to contradict passages such as John 5:28-29 and Daniel 12:1-2

**Solution:** Issue is not: “Times” of the resurrection, but “Kinds” of resurrections. There are two kinds of resurrection, but multiple occurrences of 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection: Christ’s Ress (I Cor 15:20; Rapture of Church (1 Thess 4:16); Ress of O.T. & Trib saints at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (Dan. 12:1-2, Rev. 20:4). There is only one occurrence of 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection, the GWT Judgment, which follows the Millennial Kingdom.

Speaking of this observation, Charles Ryrie comments, “The Lord indicated this same distinction of two resurrections in John 5:29, but did not specify the time difference between the two. (Revelation, p. 115)

**Note:** A closer examination of Daniel 12:1-2 may confirm that even in the Old Testament, a time interval between the two resurrections (Life and Death) was predicted. It appears that the resurrection of O.T. Saints is only a part (Many, not all) of those in the ground. The “these” would refer to those resurrected to the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom, while the “others” are unsaved who will not be resurrected until some time later (The GWT of Rev. 20).

## 6c. The Loosing of Satan 20:7-10

- 1d. When Satan is loosed after the 1,000 year rule of Christ, He will find many willing to follow His rebellion (“the number of them is like the sand of the seashore”). **Where do they come from?**

At the commencement of the millennium, every individual (Jew or Gentile) will be a believer. But during the 1,000 years many children will be born and will live very long lives. All will be obligated to give outward allegiance to Christ and His authority outwardly, but not inwardly. As a result, there will be many living who have never turned to Christ for salvation [Christ will not compel them to believe with their hearts] – they just honor His authority as King during His rule. God will give them opportunity to outwardly express their rejection of Christ by responding to Satan’s rebellion. They will seize on this opportunity to show outward rejection of Christ’s position and authority when Satan arises to be a leader in opposition to Christ.

Those who rebel are identified as “Gog and Magog.” These are not the same people as Ezekiel 38-39. The time is different and the judgment is not similar (Ezekiel 38:19-22).

“Number like the sand of the seashore” ... almost incomprehensible to imagine so many rejecting Christ after 1,000 years of peace, prosperity, and righteousness.

“The millennium will prove, among other things, that a perfect earthly environment and even universal knowledge of the Lord will not change men’s hearts. This must be done personally, and multitudes will never have experienced it during that long period.” (Charles Ryrie, Revelation, p. 116)

**Brief War** ... Fire from heaven devoured them! The purpose of the rebellion was to give mortal souls the opportunity to exercise their “free will” ... accept or reject Christ.

**Judgment on Satan** ... (10) Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire, where the Beast and false prophet are also. Notice that those who rebelled against Christ are not cast into the Lake of Fire ... Where did they go? Their physical bodies were returned to the earth ... their spirits were sent to Hades, awaiting the Great White Throne judgment.

**Think about it:** In heaven there will be no one who does not want to be there – choice made to believe God! In hell, many may not want to be there, but none can claim “no choice”... God honored their choice to reject Him.

## 7c. The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15

- 1d. **Time** ... this judgment will follow the close of the millennium.
- 2d. **Judge** ... Jesus Christ is the judge. (John 5:22 ...”all judgment given to the Son”)

KJV: “before God” ... seems to contradict John 5:22. “Thronou” ... throne! (NASV)

- 3d. **Subjects** ... “The dead, the small and great!” At this point in the chronology of God’s program of resurrection, only the wicked dead remain in the grave ... all righteous saints have been resurrected prior to the Millennium. Christians are always described as “the dead in Christ” (I Thess. 4:16).

This judgment is for the wicked dead of all ages.

- 4d. **Basis of judgment** ... “According to their deeds” (v. 13)

Two sets of books ... Books (Plural) and Book (singular).

- 1e. **“The Books”** contained the record of their lives ... evidence that condemns them as sinners and therefore lacking God’s righteousness. (Rom 3:23 “for all have sinned;” Romans 3:10 ... “there is none righteous, no not one.”)

**Irony:** Men today believe that their works on earth will be the basis for their salvation, when, in antithesis, man's works only condemn him as a sinner, lacking the righteousness of God.

**Hebrews 10:4** For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**Romans 4:5** But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness.

The Books not only give evidence of man's sin, but they are the basis for the degree of punishment unbelieving men will receive from God.

**2 Corinthians 11:15** Therefore it is not surprising if his [Satan] servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

**Matthew 16:27** For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds.

2e. **"The Book"** ... record of those justified by faith and imputed with God's righteousness. So the Books were evidence of their guilt before God, and the Book gave evidence of their unbelief and rejection of Christ and His righteousness.

5d. **Verdict** ... (15) "if anyone's name was not found written in the 'book of life', he was thrown into the lake of fire [eternal separation of man's soul from God].

"Even death (which claims the body) and Hades (which claims the soul) are cast into the lake of fire since their work is now done. The death men die on earth is only temporary. All will partake of resurrection. The prison of the soul at death, Hades, is also temporary; for the final separation, the second death, is in the lake of fire. (Charles Ryrie, Revelation, p. 117)

8c. The Eternal State 21:1-22:5

"Throughout these last two chapters of Revelation the discussion concerns a city, the New Jerusalem. That this is the description of eternity seems apparent from the phrases in 21:1 and the close association between verses 1 and 2. Almost all commentators recognize this. Some, however, feel that 21:9-21 reverts to a description of the millennial state. This would seem incongruent with the chronological pattern of the book and of this section. Perhaps the best way to understand this entire section is to regard the new Jerusalem as the abode of the redeemed of all ages. Conditions within the new Jerusalem are conditions of eternity. Of course the redeemed will be inhabiting the city during the millennium as well as during eternity. Always the conditions within the city are eternal, even when the city is related to the millennium. This is no different from the present, for loved ones in heaven are enjoying eternal conditions as is God even though these eternal conditions impinge on time (as, for instance, on the Mount of Transfiguration or this entire vision given to John in the Revelation). In other words, the new Jerusalem is the abode of the redeemed during the millennium and during eternity." (Charles Ryrie, Revelation, pp. 118-119).

1d. The Habitation of God 21:1-8

1e. This is a description of eternity for the following reasons:

1f. "New" heaven and "new" earth .... The word for "new" means "of another kind" – new in quality. This is a new creation involving both heaven and earth.

- 2f. The old has passed away.
- 3f. There was no more sea ... the end of the old order. This will involve a change in topography, geology, climatology, and cosmology.
- 2e. The New Jerusalem
  - 1f. God will now dwell with men during eternity. (3)
  - 2f. Old experiences will be excluded (4-5)
  - 3f. New things will be experienced (6-7)
    - a complete satisfaction 6
    - a full inheritance 7a
    - full fellowship 7b
  - 4f. Certain people are excluded (8)

People who are characterized by cowardice, unbelieving, abominable, murder, immorality, sorcery, idolatry and lying will be excluded to the lake of fire. John is not told that people whoever committed any of these sins are excluded, but people whose lives are characterized by these things.
- 2d. The Habitation of the Godly 21:9-22:5

Note: Revelation 21:1-8 describes the New Jerusalem as it relates to eternity. Now in Revelation 21:9-22:5, John is shown the New Jerusalem in relationship to the earthly millennial reign of Christ on mortal earth. In other words, there are two descents of the city – 21:1-8 in relation to eternity and 21:9-22:5 in relation to the millennium.

- 1e. The glory of the city (11) The glory of the city is the glory of God. The light of the city is the radiance of God's character.
- 2e. The construction of the city (12-14)

Even in eternity Israel and the church are distinguished, though both are included in God's redeemed people.
- 3e. The measurements of the city (15-17)

The city measures 1500 miles (12,000 furlongs) length, width and height [could be a cube or a pyramid in shape]. These linear dimensions (1500 miles square) would approximate the distance from the Mississippi River to the California coastline.

The wall of the city measures 72 yards high – which are also angelic measurements!

“The tetragon occurs more than once in the legislation of Exodus. Both the alter of burnt offering and the alter of incense were of this form (Ex. 27:1-30:2), and so was the High Priest's breastplate (Ex. 28:16; 36:16-39:9); the feature reappears in Ezekiel's new city and temple (Ezek 41:21; 43:16, 45:1, 48:20). In Solomon's Temple the Holy of Holies was a perfect cube, 20 cubits each way ... In ancient cities the foresquare form was not unusual ... As is well known, the rectangular tegragon was to Greek thinkers a symbol of perfection.” (William Barclay Swete, The Apocalypse of St. John, p. 284.)

4e. The materials (18-21)

Gates of Pearl ... clearly a reference to the Church.

“The names of the twelve tribes may be inscribed on the twelve gates, but the important feature is the material of construction. Each is a perfect pearl. This is the one jewel that sets forth the Church... The Church is the pearl of great price (Matt. 13:45-46). The comparison of the church to the formation of a pearl is striking and suggestive. The pearl is different from all other precious gems, for instead of coming from the earth, the pearl comes from the sea. Other stones are mined from the earth, found in rock and ore. They are taken out, cut and polished to reveal their beauty. But the Pearl comes out of the sea, and it comes from a living organism. A little grain of sand or some other particle begins to cut into the side of a living organism. To protect itself, the organism sends out a fluid to coat the object. Layer upon layer coats it until a beautiful pearl is formed. The New Jerusalem is the home of the Church, and the gates of pearl are there to remind us throughout eternity that we were a little grain of sharp, dirty sand that was a hurt in the side of Christ. We were not attractive; we were in rebellion against God, walking according to the course of this world. But Christ took that ugly thing – which was you – and covered it with His righteousness. You and I are covered with Him. The beauty is not in the grain of sand, but in what the organism puts around it. God sees us in Christ, and He is lovely. The Pearl was lightly esteemed by Israel, but was precious to the Gentiles. We have no value in ourselves, yet we are the pearl of great price. The price that is put upon a thing gives it its value. The price that He paid gives us value. Christ gave His life to get us, and to Him we are precious” (J. Vernon McGee, *Reveling Through Revelation*, p. 101-102)

“Our earthly minds trying to comprehend heaven certainly understand from this description that it is a place of extreme beauty.” (Charles Ryrie, *Revelation*, p. 122)

5e. The Relation to God (22-23)

- No temple required – God is present and He is the Temple.
- No sun or moon – the glory of God and the Lamb will light the city.

6e. The Relation to the Nations (24-27)

The mention of nations shows that the time referred to is the millennium. The New Jerusalem will suspend above the earth as a satellite city.

7e. The Delights of the City 22:1-5

1f. Fullness of life and blessing (1-2)

- Source of the river of life is the throne of God and the Lamb – symbolizes the fulness of life to all who inhabit the city.
- Tree of life – assurance of fulness of life. Fruit yielding constantly indicates the continuous blessing to those who inhabit the city.
- Healing of the nations? – some sort of blessing.

2f. Fullness of Paradise (3-5)

- No curse
- Redeemed sinners serving God for eternity

- No darkness
- Acceptance and fellowship with God
- Reigning with God for eternity!

7b. The Summation 22:6-21

After receiving the revelation of all that must take place from John's day to eternity, including the return of Christ Jesus, John offers responses believers should have, and reasons why unbelievers should respond to God's offer of Grace.

1c. Responses every believer should have to the imminent coming of the Lord 22:6-12

- 1d. Immediate obedience 6-7 "Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book"
- 2d. Immediate worship 8-9 "Worship God"
- 3d. Immediate proclamation 10-11 "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book"
- 4d. Immediate service 12 "I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me"

2c. Reasons for responding to God's invitation 22:13-21

- 1d. The invitation: Come! 17
- 2d. Incentives for sinners to accept the invitation: 13-21
  - 1e. Because of Christ's person 13, 16
    - "Alpha and Omega , first and last, beginning and end" – speaks of His eternity
    - "Root and offspring of David, the bright morning star" – Sums up Christ's two natures. Christ is theanthropic – the God Man – full deity and humanity in one person!
  - 2e. Because of the exclusivity of heaven 14-15
    - Heaven is exclusively for those redeemed by death of Christ!
  - 3e. Because of the truthfulness of Scripture 18-19
    - To alter Revelation is to alter Scripture!
  - 4e. Because of the certainty of Christ's Return 20-21
    - Christ's return is imminent – nothing must happen prophetically before Christ comes to claim His Church at the Rapture!