



REVELATION

The book of Revelation is God's future prophetic account of His wrath upon an evil world (John 7:7 Galatians 1:4), and the end of man's dominion on the planet earth.

However, in this study on Revelation we will begin at the beginning, which is the creation. Since Revelation is the book of the fulfillment of God's prophecy, we believe it is necessary to view the prophecy from beginning to end.

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THE CONSUMMATION

CREATION

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The word God in this verse is the Hebrew plurality of *Elohim* (*Elohym*), which is the word for supreme deity. God is a trinity. He is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The trinity took part in creation. (Genesis 1:2b John 1:1-3,10 many more)

The word created is the Hebrew word *bara*, and it means something from nothing.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord and there is none else.

The word vain in this verse is the Hebrew word *tohu* (*tohuw*), and it means, *to lie waste; desolate; confusion*. This will be important when we look at the next verse in Genesis.

Job 38:4a and 7 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?.....

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Not only did God create the earth perfect and to be inhabited, the angels of God shouted for joy.

THREE VIEWS CONCERNING CREATION

1. The gap principle – God created, then a judgment and the earth fell into a chaotic condition
2. The day age theory – A day in Genesis is a genealogical age. From this came theistic evolution.
3. The young earth – 6,000 years since the original creation.

The gap principle is the only one that makes Biblical sense.

CORRUPTION

Genesis 1:2a And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. ...

The Bible states that God did not create the earth in vain. (Isa. 45:18)

Definition of words.....

Was - The word was in this verse, according to most Bible scholars, should be translated became. (ref. Genesis 2:7)

Without form = Hebrew *tohu* (*tohuw*) = *to lie waste; desolate; a worthless thing*.

In Isaiah 45:18 God said He, “created it not in vain.” The word vain is the same Hebrew word ‘tohuw.’ Therefore, God did not create the earth to lie waste and desolate, and a worthless thing. It became that way.

Void = Hebrew *bohu* (*bohuw*) = *empty; ruin; undistinguishable*.

Darkness = Hebrew *choshek* = *misery; death; destruction; ignorance; sorrow; wickedness*.

It should be easy to see that none of these words are a description of God and His creation.

We believe the Bible teaches there is a reason the earth became dark and miserable and etc.

Satan, who is called Lucifer in Isaiah 12:14-17, wanted to be as God. He rebelled against God, and in Revelation 12:3,4 he was cast out of the third heaven with one third of the angels who followed him. When this took place God withheld His divine light and the earth became dark and void. Satan and his angels have been roaming the first and second heaven since that time. (the rebellion of Satan and his angels. Isaiah 14:12-17 Ezekiel 28:12-19 Revelation 12:3,4 Luke 10:18 Their final destiny Matthew 25:41)

1 John 1:5 This then is the message we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

If God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all, then according to the Bible, He could not have created the earth in darkness. Those who believe in a young earth should re-evaluate their doctrine.

RE-CREATION

Genesis 1:2b And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

In Genesis 1:2b through Genesis 2:25 God brought the earth back into it's original condition. Between the original creation and the earth becoming chaotic we have no record of the time. It could have been one day, or one million years. Then between the years of corruption and re-creation there is also no amount of time given.

In Genesis 1:14-19 is the account of the second heaven, which is outer space. In Genesis 1:20-23 is the account of the first heaven, which is the earths atmosphere.

Mankind is limited to the earth and it's atmosphere. (Psalm 116:15 Acts 17:26,27)

NOTE: This is not a commentary on Genesis. For further information we suggest contacting Dr. Max D. Younce P.O.573 Walnut Grove MN. 56180 or www.Heritagebbc.com

THE COMMISSION

Genesis 1:26-28 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Definition of words

Image = Hebrew *tselem* = *resemblance; model*

Likeness = Hebrew *demuth* = *shape; phantom; figure*

Dominion = Hebrew *radah* = *subjugate; tread (down) prevail against; reign; rule.*

What is the image of God? God is an eternal trinity. He is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The trinity may be seen in the baptism of Christ.

Notice the words "us" and "our" in these verses. Therefore, God created man an eternal trinity. Man is a body, soul, and spirit, and he is eternal. Every human being from Adam and Eve to the last person born is an eternal trinity, in God's image.

That is the reason for the gospel of Christ. He died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sins. Everyone will have a resurrection, and be eternal... somewhere.

Note: acquire the short booklet from this ministry IN GODS IMAGE And The Importance of a resurrection. Christian Bible Press 3194 Spencer Dr. Geneva, Ohio 44041

God gave man stewardship over the earth. We are allowed to use it for our needs. We grow our food in the ground. The earth provides heat in the winter. The things man acquires from the earth is unlimited.

However, the earth and all things belong to the Lord. (Psalm 24:1)

Jesus Christ the Lord holds the title deed to the earth. Someday He will reclaim the earth, (Revelation 5:1-10) and man will lose his dominion over the earth.

THE BLOOD

Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 9:4 But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

The human body is 85% water which is called H₂O, Hydrogen and Oxygen. Two gasses which combined are highly inflammable. Yet, God, made them into water.

Man is 15% minerals; calcium, iron; nitrogen, etc. which are the elements the earth is made of.

The average human body contains 5 quarts of blood. It is the blood that maintains life. Therefore, when God breathed life into Adam the blood began to flow. It is the eternal blood of Christ that gives eternal life. The blood shed by Christ was perfect sinless blood. It was the blood of God, and D.N.A. will not work.

THE CONTINUATION

Mankind has continued to have dominion over the earth for approximately 6000 years. Because of Satan and sin we have abused our right to planet earth. The politicians think they have a right to obtain all rights to the earth. Kings, Queens, Pharaohs, and Dictators, who think they are a god, will someday realize how puny and insignificant they really are.

SATAN AND SIN

Original sin began with Satan when he rebelled against God and was cast out of the third heaven. He, along with one third of the angels who followed him, roam about the first and second heaven influencing humanity.

Therefore, we will take a brief look at the genealogical history of man up to the Cross, according to the Bible. This is not an in depth commentary on the Bible. It is just a brief history of man's interaction with Satan and his angels.

THE FALL OF MAN

When God created man an eternal trinity in His image, He gave them dominion over the earth. It did not take long for Satan to influence Eve, and Eve enticed Adam, and Adam disobeyed God, and sin fell upon all humanity. (ref. Romans 3:10,23 5:12-14 1 Corinthians 15:21,22 2 Corinthians 11:3 1 Timothy 2:13,14)

When they felt the effect of sin Adam and Eve hid from God who was walking in the garden. This was none other than the eternal Christ in His glorified body. He clothed Adam and his wife in skins. In order to do this He had to shed the blood of an animal.

This a perfect type of the Lord our Passover, who ultimately would shed His blood for the sins of mankind. In other words, it is the promise of a future Savior. (Gen. 3:1-21)

CAIN AND ABEL

Adam and Eve had two sons. In due time they brought a sacrifice to the Lord. They were aware of the promised Savior. However, Cain, who had been influenced by Satan brought a sacrifice based on his own good works. Abel brought a sacrifice based on his faith in the future Savior. The Lord was not content with the sacrifice of Cain, and because of jealousy Cain killed his brother. (Genesis 4:1-16 Matthew 23:35 Luke 11:51 Hebrews 11:4 12:24 1 John 3:12)

THE FLOOD

Approximately 1500 years elapsed from Adam to the flood. In Genesis chapter six is the account of the events leading up to the flood. Or, more specifically, the reason for the flood, which destroyed all humanity, except eight people.

Genesis 6:1,2 states that the sons of God took daughters of men for wives. The sons of God in the Old Testament refers to angels. In this case it is fallen angels.

This is simply demon possession.

Genesis 6: 4 states, "There were giants in the earth in those days...." These were not big, tall people, as some assume.

The word giants is the Hebrew word *nephiyl*, which means, *a feller; bully; tyrant*; and is derived from the root word *naphal*, which means, *to fall; fallen ones*.

The Bible states their offspring were mighty men, and men of renown. (Genesis 6:4)

This is nothing more than giants against God. God said that wickedness of man was great in the earth, and every thought was evil, and the earth had become corrupt. (Genesis 6:5,11,12)

Once again the influence of Satan and his angels had corrupted humanity and God brought the flood as judgment.

These fallen angels are now reserved in the bottomless pit until the judgment. (ref. 2 Peter 2:4 Jude 6)

ABRAHAM – THE CALLING OUT OF ISRAEL

Once again, after the flood, man began to populate the earth. 1948 years after Adam, God chose a man by the name of Abraham to be the genealogical father of a people He would call His own. (2052 B.C.)

NOTE: Ironically, Israel became a nation again in 1948

Beginning in Genesis 12:1 God made a covenant with Abraham. In Genesis 15:1-6 God Himself preached the gospel to Abraham. (Genesis 15:1-6 with Romans 4:1-5 and Galatians 3:6-9) Once again it was the promise of a Savior.

Abraham had to know the Savior would die and rise again, because he was willing to offer his son Isaac, believing God would raise him from the dead as a type. (ref. Genesis 22:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-19 James 2:21-23)

ISRAEL'S BRIEF HISTORY

Israel, like all of humanity, was a failure. God chose Israel to represent Him among an evil, heathenistic, idolatrous world. Instead, Israel became like all the nations that surrounded them.

FAITH

Faith is the theme of the entire Bible. All Israel had to do was have faith in the future promise of a Savior. The law given to Israel through Moses pointed to their Messiah. Yet Israel fell into idolatry and self righteousness. (for a historical account of Israel and their failure see Psalm 78:1-72 Daniel 9 Acts 7:1-53)

Throughout the entire Bible are pictures of Christ. He clothed Adam and Eve, which is a picture of clothing man in His righteousness. However, we must have faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as payment for our sin.

THE PASSEOVER LAMB

In Exodus chapter twelve is a perfect picture of the promise of the Savior who would shed His blood as payment for the sins of all humanity.

Exodus 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon your houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

Note; when I see the blood!! Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb. When Israel, or anybody, believes in Christ as payment for their sin, the blood of Christ, the Passover Lamb is seen as payment for our sin. (ref. John 1:29 1 Peter 1:19 Revelation 1:5 5:6)

ISRAEL'S FAILURE

The Hebrew Bible, called the Tanakh, what we call the Old Testament, was divinely inspired (2 Timothy 3:16,17 2 Peter 1:20,21) between 1400 and 400 B.C.

The interval between the completion of the Old Testament and the birth of Christ are termed the 400 silent years.

The birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ fulfilled roughly 300 prophecies concerning Him. He was, and is, the Savior of promise.

The law of Israel consisted of the moral law, the civil law, and the ceremonial law. (Exodus 19:1 – Leviticus 27:34) If these laws were obeyed they would prosper and live long happy lives in their land. (Deuteronomy 6:2,18 8:1)

The ceremonial law pointed to Christ the Savior of promise. The blood sacrifices were types of the blood shed by Christ and only made atonement for sin. The atonement was not meant to pay for sin, it only covered sin until the Messiah came.

The concept was the same as it is today, faith in the finished work of Christ the Lord is what saves us from our sin.

However, Israel, like all humanity, desired to be religious. Faith is just not good enough for religious humanity. Israel began to adopt what is called the oral law. That is a law of man made rules. It seems the law given to Moses was just not good enough. Today Israel calls their oral laws the Mishna, and the Talmud. Jesus calls them "traditions of men."

Israel was ruled by intermediaries, called judges. These Judges were told by God what to do to rule Israel. In other words, God was the King of Israel. Soon Israel requested a man to be their king. Any man. As long as it was not God. (to understand this read 1 Samuel 8:7-22 with 1 Samuel 12)

In 1 Samuel 8 God told Samuel to fulfill their request, but He warned them of the king they had chosen. This king is yet future. He is the antichrist who will rule during the seven year tribulation. Israel, like humanity today will get what they asked for. When we reject the God of Israel, the God of the Bible, we will get what is coming to us, and we deserve it.

Soon Israel fell into idolatry, and adopted the gods of nations around them. God would not allow this and led Israel into captivity. Between 602 and 587 B.C. the nation of Israel had been led into captivity in Babylon.

NOTE: man still has dominion over the earth, but if God is not behind it, it will not prosper.

When Babylon captured Israel, the times of the Gentiles began. That is, Gentile rule over the earth. God gave rule of earth over to the Gentiles. Israel no longer was a theocracy, or, a kingdom ruled by God. After all, they 'wanted a king like all the other nations.'

Gentile dominion will end at the end of the seven year tribulation when Christ sets up His kingdom on earth.

Nothing has changed in all these centuries. Man would rather have a man rule over them. Humanity is incurably religious. We elect politicians who rule our lives like we are sheep. And, the strange thing is, we keep electing the same idiots.

We attend churches that look and act religious, but have no truth. We walk out the door filled with joy, but it is short lived when we enter the world, because we have heard man's idea, not God's Word.

"THY KINGDOM COME"

Throughout the Old Testament God offered a kingdom to Israel. He would be their King. He would not allow sinful man to rule His kingdom. Today Israel is still *looking for a man to rule their kingdom.*

They will receive their kingdom in the future. However, they, along with the rest of humanity that rejects the gospel of Christ, must endure the seven year wrath of God.

THE DISCIPLES PRAYER

Matthew 6:1,2 After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Today, as it was in Old Testament times, God has allowed sinful man to rule the earth. Man's ideas are basically inspired by Satan and his followers.

We are told to look forward to God's kingdom on this earth, and to pray for it.

THE KINSMAN REDEEMER

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

God made four distinct promises to Abraham in Genesis.

1. In Genesis 12:1-3 He promised Abraham 'a land He would show thee.' It is called the promised land.
2. Also, in the same portion of Scripture, He promised that from Abraham would be a great nation, and he would be a blessing.
3. Also, all families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham.
4. In Genesis 15:1-6 God preached the gospel to Abraham and that the promised Savior would be Abrahams seed. (Romans 4:1-4 Galatians 3:1-6) Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

This land belongs to God. The land Israel occupies today does not compare to the land God promised them as an eternal possession.

After the death of Moses, God instructs Joshua to lead Israel into the land promised to Abraham.

They are told to go in and divide the land among the tribes of Israel as a possession forever. The law concerning the land was already given to Israel. (Leviticus 25) It was always to remain in the possession of the tribes as allotted.

If a member of one of the tribes of Israel fell on hard times and sold his possession, it must be returned to the original owner on the year of jubilee. The price of the land was determined by the increase in value. Therefore, the one who purchased the land and used it, would not lose his value, but the land would be returned to the owner.

If the original owner was dead by this time, the land could be redeemed by a kinsman. (example Ruth 4:1-22 Jeremiah 32:6-15 must read)

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE REDEEMER

The redeemer of the land needed three qualifications.

1. He must be a kinsman.
2. He must be willing to redeem the possession
3. He must have the price to be paid.

Boaz had all three qualifications in Ruth chapter four. Jeremiah had all three qualifications in Jeremiah chapter thirty two.

Jesus Christ the Lord has all three qualifications in Revelation chapter five. He was a kinsman born in the genealogical line of Abraham. (Galatians 3:16) He was willing to redeem humanity and the land. He paid the price with His sacrifice on the cross, with His blood. (Revelation 5:9,10)

CHARTS

Following are three charts used to help understand Bible prophecy

1. The land of Israel
2. A chart designed by Ron Widger ordained minister
3. Basic chart used by this ministry

Chart #2 shows the Old Testament prophets recording the Word of God, the cross, the church age, and future events in prophecy.

THE CROSS OF CALVARY

Four hundred years elapsed from the completion of the Old Testament until the 16,17 300 prophecies concerning Him.

The four gospels, which record these events, are really New Testament books recording Old Testament events. The New Testament did not begin until all these events were fulfilled.

Christ was the Savior of promise, and the Passover Lamb promised to Israel. Yet, they rejected Him and had Him nailed to a Cross. (John 1:11,29 19:15 Acts 2:22-36)

The Cross is the center of the Bible. The Old Testament saints looked forward to a Savior who would be a sacrifice for sins, and the New Testament saints look back to the Cross.

THE CHURCH AGE

The Commencement

The Church age began on the Jewish feast day of Pentecost, fifty days after Christ rose again, as recorded in Acts chapter two.

The Church age was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets. (Romans 16:24-27 Ephesians 3:1-7 1 Peter 1:9-12)

The word mystery is translated from the Greek word *μυστήριον* (*musterion*) and it means, *a truth concealed until the time revealed, or, a previously concealed truth.*

The truth was in the Old Testament, but it was concealed. Now, in the New Testament, the truth is revealed. The truth is, that God would begin a new dispensation, where anyone who put their faith in Christ as their Savior would be grafted into the Church. Jew and Gentile alike would be part of the family of God through faith in Christ. (Ephesians 2:19-22 4:4-16)

When we put our faith in Christ we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16,17 with Acts 1:4,5) Which is also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the seal of the Holy Spirit, (Ephesians 1:13 4:30) and it is eternal. (ref. also 1 Corinthians 3:16,17 6:19,20 2 Corinthians 6:16)

The Cultivation

The Bible was written to the saved, born again, child of God, in order to help us grow. We are told to study the Bible in order to defend our position as Christians. (2 Timothy 2:15 3:16,17 2 Peter 2:2)

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I call this verse the circle of faith. When I believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, I have eternal life. Then, as I study the Bible, the Word of God, my faith is increased so that I may believe on the Son of God as I serve Him.

The Completion

Someday this present dispensation, the age of grace, the church age, will end. When it does, Christ will gather every believer together at one time. Not one saved person will be left behind as some ignorantly assume.

When we believe the gospel, have faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, He, Jesus Christ the Lord, baptizes us with the Holy Spirit. (acquire the book 'What is Bible Baptism and What is the Rapture' from this ministry at 3194 Spencer Dr. Geneva Ohio 44041)

The Holy Spirit is our seal and guarantee of deliverance on the day of redemption.

We are told that the church is not subject to the wrath of God. (1 Thessalonians 1:10 5:9) Also, the Holy Spirit will be removed before the antichrist is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3-8)

THE CONSUMMATION

Following the gathering together of the church, the rapture, God will usher in the seven year tribulation, the wrath of God. When He does, the Israel, and the world, will receive their king they desired.

Then, at that time, God's Word, the entire Bible will be fulfilled. (Revelation 10:7 11:15 17:17 19:15)

THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

O.T. types of N.T. truths

Always by Faith

Canaan

Canaan The promised land: The second rest of Joshua 1:13,15 Matthew 11:29 Hebrews chapter 3 and 4. It is the Christian ability to see and enter the kingdom of God, which is access to everything God has to offer.

The River Jordan

Crossing Jordan is a type of studying the Word of God. (water ref. John 3:5 15:3 Ephesians 5:26 1 John 7,8,13)

Kadesh Barnea

The entrance to the promised land. It is a short journey taken by faith from.....Deuteronomy 1:1-8

Mount Horeb – which is Sinai – The Wilderness

Every Christian is placed in the wilderness of Sinai. It is the testing ground to see if we will make our journey to Kadesh Barnea, across Jordan, and into the land of promise. It is always by faith. (Deuteronomy 1:26,32)

The Red Sea

A type of mixing the blood of Christ with the Word of God. (water) When we hear the gospel, and believe the gospel, we cross the sea into the wilderness of testing. Note: hearing and believing the gospel.. Ephesians 1:11-14

Egypt

A type of being lost in the world without Christ. While we are in the world, we are subject to seeing the gods of this world, which are false gods. If we accept these false gods, false religion, we are in bondage to a works righteousness, which never works. Notice in the Old Testament it is always “down to Egypt.”

3rd heaven
2nd heaven
1st heaven

creation corruption re-creation

continuation

Cross of Christ

completion
new heaven
and earth

church age

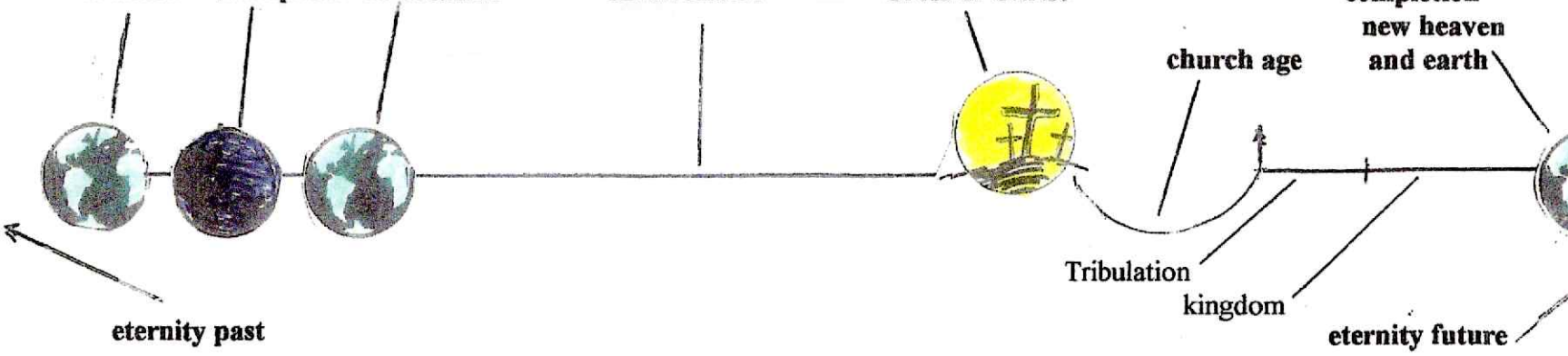
Tribulation

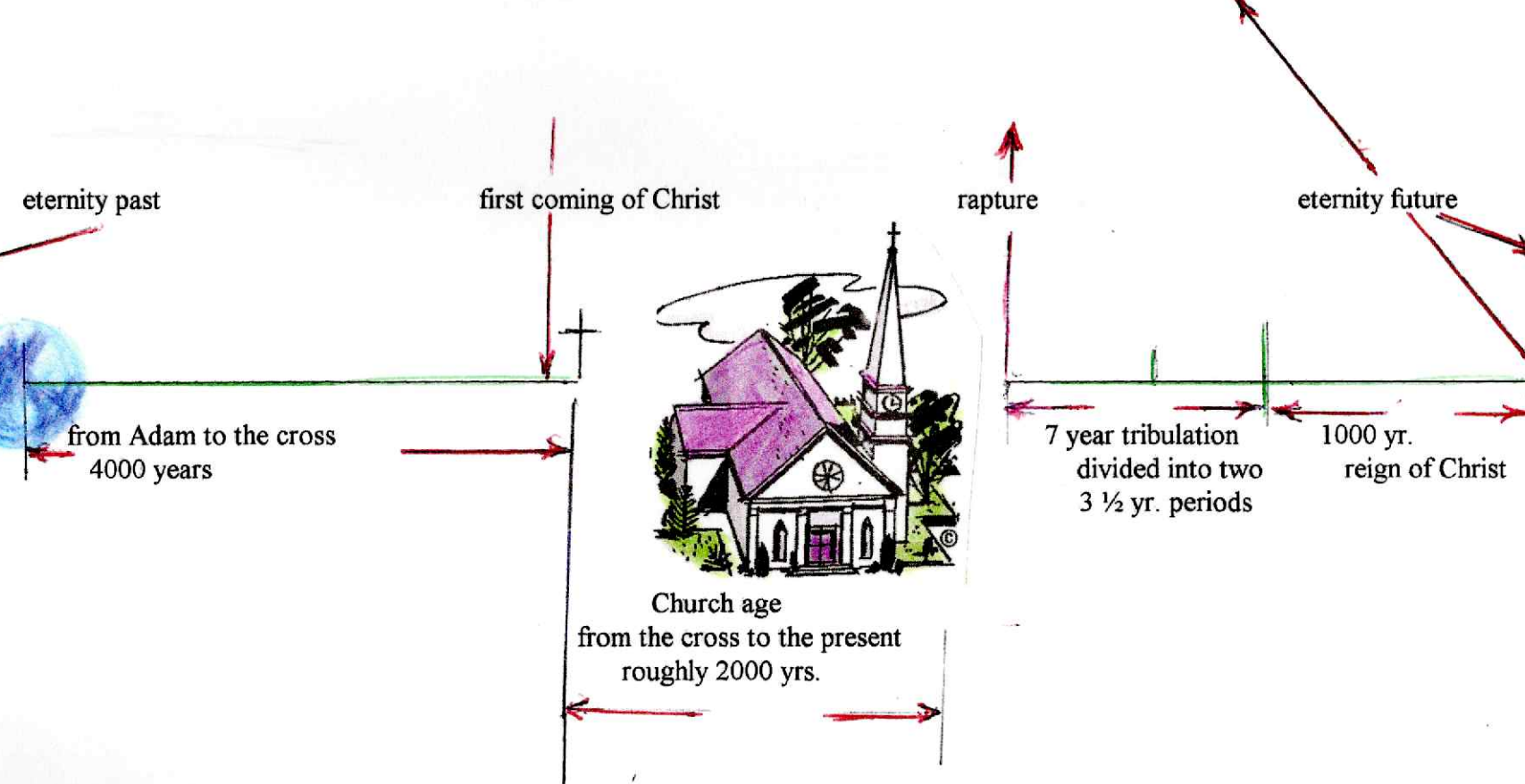
kingdom

eternity future

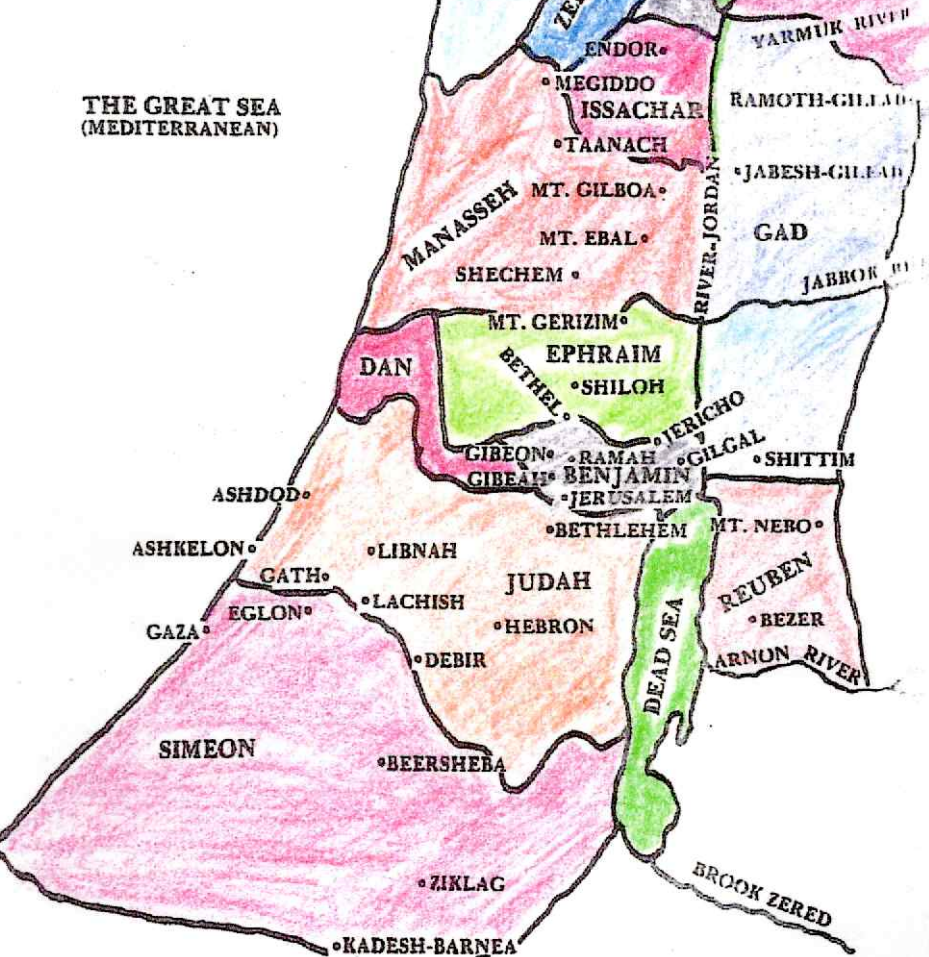
eternity past

all charts are based on this concept





THE GREAT SEA
(MEDITERRANEAN)



Page 15	The middle of the tribulation
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Background Of Revelation

The apostle John was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit (ref. 2 Timothy 3:16,17 1 Peter 1:12 2 Peter 1:21) to write 5 books in the New Testament: The gospel of John, 1st 2nd 3rd John and Revelation.

Revelation, was the last book in the New Testament, and the final Word of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Warning

Revelation 22:18,19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book;

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book. (ref. also Deuteronomy 4:2 12:32 Proverbs 30:5,6)

John was inspired to write Revelation while he was on the Isle of Patmos. (ref. Revelation 1:9) Patmos was a rugged, bare Island, situated in the Aegean Sea approximately 24 miles west of Asia Minor.

He was exiled to Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian (full name Titus Flavius Domitianus) because of his testimony for Christ and the Word of God. Fittingly, Domitian was murdered one year later by the wishes of his wife and the Roman counsel.

It is also ironic that while John was in exile for his testimony for Christ and the Word of God, that it is where we received the final Word of God and His proclamation of wrath upon all those who reject the Word of God which is the truth.

The Blessing

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is at hand.

The word 'keep,' in this verse means to make note, and consider. .

STUDIES IN REVELATION

Understanding the book

Definition: The word revelation is from the Greek word, *apokalupsis*, which means, *to uncover; unveil*: It is where we get the English word apocalypse. *A disclosure of that which was previously hidden*. The word is translated revelation (s) 12 times in the New Testament. It is akin to the word *αποκαλυπτο* translated as reveal and revealed in the New Testament (apo = from kalupto = cover)

Note: Scofield states that the title REVELATION is from the Latin word revelatio. Personally, I disagree.

Mystery

The word Mystery (ies) is used 27 times in the New Testament and 4 times in Revelation. It comes from the Greek word *μυστηριον*, (English musterion = mystery) and it means, *a truth concealed until the time revealed, or, a previously concealed truth*.

The mysteries revealed in the New Testament were previously hidden in the Old Testament. They were in the Old Testament, but were concealed. Therefore, the Old Testament prophets searched for this truth and were perplexed about it's meaning. (Romans 16:24-27 1 Peter 1:9-12)

This truth revealed is the present church age, which began on the day of Pentecost as recorded in the book of Acts chapters one and two, and will end at the rapture of the church.

Revelation is a disclosure of things hidden. It is important to note that the wrath of God, the tribulation, is revealed in the Old Testament, but the specific events were not. (such as the seven seals)

The church age was concealed in the Old Testament, but the seven year tribulation was not. However, the specific events recorded in Revelation were not revealed in the Old Testament. ..

Descriptions of the Tribulation

“The time of Jacob’s trouble:” Jeremiah 30:7,8 “That day:” Jeremiah 30:7,8 with Isaiah 4:1,2 and many more

“The day of the Lord:” Joel 1:15 2:1 and many more.

“One week, and overspreading of abominations:” Daniel 9:27 This is called the seventieth week of Daniel by Bible teachers. A week equals 7 years in this portion of Daniel. (ref. Genesis 29:1-29)

“The abomination that maketh desolate:” Daniel 11:31

“The day of the Lord cometh with wrath:” Isaiah 13:9 The word wrath is used throughout the Bible to describe the day of the Lord. (ref. Psalm 2:5,12 Isaiah 9:19 Ezekiel 7:19 Zephaniah 1:15,18 Matthew 3:7 Romans 2:5 1 Thessalonians 1:10 5:9 Revelation 6:16,17)

“The great tribulation:” Matthew 24:21 “Days of vengeance:” Luke 21:22

“Affliction:” Mark 13:19 “Abomination that maketh desolate:” Matthew 24:15

Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

The things thou hast seen is the past (chapter one) The things which are is the present church age. (chapters two and three) The things which shall be is future, and includes the rapture of the church, and the seven year wrath of God. (chapter four through the rest of the book of Revelation.)

Parenthesis

Parenthesis: From the Oxford Universal Dictionary. An explanatory or qualifying word, clause, phrase, or sentence, inserted into a passage with which it has not necessarily any grammatical connection, and usually marked off from it by round or square brackets, dashes, or commas.

It is important to understand the many parenthetical passages in Revelation.

Example--- Chapter seven is a parenthesis in the narrative of Revelation.

Between the opening of the sixth seal in chapter six, and the opening of the seventh seal in chapter eight, is the parenthetical view of the 144,000 Jews being marked for protection, and a purpose.

Chapter eight verse one through chapter nine verse twenty one the narrative resumes. Then chapter ten begins a series of parenthetical views, which do not seem to fit, but are explanatory.

Understanding the meaning of the word mystery and the parenthetical insertions in Revelation are necessary to understand the book.

Appointed to Wrath

In this present evil age, (Galatians 1:4) there are two groups of people. Those who are saved, or forgiven of their sins, by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and those who are lost by rejecting the simple gospel of Christ.

When the rapture takes place, every one who has been forgiven will be taken home in an instant. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

The seven year tribulation will begin with only those who are lost and without Christ. They are appointed to the wrath because they reject faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Pre-Trib. Mid-Trib. Post-Trib. Views

There are three views concerning the church and the seven year tribulation. View number one is that the church will be taken before the tribulation. View number two is that the church will go through half of the tribulation, or those who are not living the Christian life will go through half of the tribulation. View number three is that the church will go through the entire seven year tribulation.

We believe the Bible assures us the church will be taken before the tribulation begins. 1. We are delivered from the wrath to come, (1 Thessalonians 1:10) and we are not appointed to the wrath. (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

2. The Holy Spirit is in and with every believer forever, (John 14:16-18) and seals every believer. (Ephesians 1:13,14 4:30)

3. The Holy Spirit is removed prior to the tribulation. (2 Thessalonians 2:6,7) If He, the Holy Spirit is removed, so will every believer.

4. The entire church will be gathered together at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52 Ephesians 1:10-12 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 2 Thessalonians 2:1)

The New Testament calls the church the one body, (1 Corinthians 12:4) and the bride of Christ.

Therefore. The church will not be split or divided, as some assume.

In any case, the seven year tribulation will begin with not one saved person. If you think the world is evil today, it is nothing compared to the future, when the Holy Spirit is removed.

TRIBULATION EVENTS

With

Parenthetic Insertions In Revelation

Revelation is divided into three parts: the past, the present church age, and the future after the rapture.

Revelation 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.

This is the basic outline of Revelation. Chapter one, along with a few parenthesis reflect the things which thou hast seen, the past. Chapters two and three represent the things which are, the present church age. Chapter four through the rest of the book, with a few parenthetic insertions, are yet future, the things which shall be hereafter.

Revelation 1:1 – 20 (the things thou hast seen) Vs. 1-3 The introduction and the blessing to those who read and consider the words of the book. Vs. 4-18 The eternal Christ; with visions of the eternal Christ, our eternal priest, after He rose from the dead. (vs. 13-18) The seven lampstands (candlesticks) and the seven angels, which are the seven churches and the messengers of the seven churches. (vs, 20)

Revelation 2:1 – 3:22 (the things which are – the church age) The seven churches are New Testament churches founded on the simple gospel. They are not man made denominations because ‘Christ is in the midst.’ (vs. 1:13) Jesus Christ is not in the midst of false religion. These churches began with the gospel and fell into religious traditions and a works righteousness. Therefore, the warning to the seven churches. “Hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (2:7,11,17,29 3:6,13,22)

These churches represent types of false doctrine that has entered into our churches at that time and throughout history.

Ephesus had left their first love and fallen- 2:4,5 The word fallen in verse 5 means ‘driven off course.’ The word overcometh (2:7,11,17,26 3:5,12,21) is from the Greek word *nikao*, and it means, *to conquer; prevail; victory*. The word Nicolaitans is from a Greek word meaning to prevail, or conquer, the laity, or, the people. Christ hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans.

Smyrna was the church commended by Jesus, and they knew who were of the synagogue of Satan. He warned them of the persecution they would receive and the crown of victory for their faith. (2:10)

Pergamos held two major problems. The doctrine, or teaching of Balaam, which is basically changing the word of God for rewards. (ref. 2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 11 with Numbers 22:1 – 25:9 31:31:16 and James 4:4) They also embraced the doctrine, or, teaching of the Nicolaitans. Notice; what was the deeds of the Nicolaitans in Ephesus (2:6) became the doctrine of the Nicolaitans in Pergamos. (2:15)

Thyatira became the church of extreme idolatry. Following after the ideology of Jezebel. (1 Kings 16:31 18:13) The fornication of verse 21,22 is spiritual adultery, which is the worse crime a Christian can commit against God. (Vs. 24)

Sardis Had a works that Christ said were not perfect. (3:2) and they were ready to die. (spiritually and physically)

NOTE: Even though a church may be founded on the simple gospel, there is almost always someone within the church that is serving Satan. That is why Jesus told His disciples to beware of false prophets. (Matthew 7:15) They must be compared to the Word of God, or they will defile our garments. (Vs. 3:4)

Philadelphia received the most praise of all the seven churches because they 'kept the word' and had not 'denied the name of Christ.'

NOTE: Many Bible scholars believe these seven churches represent seven types of New Testament church doctrine, but also represent seven periods of church history, with the church at Laodicea being the type of church just prior to the rapture.

Laodicea, the last of the seven churches, was lukewarm. (Vs. 3:15,16) They were the most miserable of all churches. (Vs. 3:17) This church is a type of the church, in the latter days, just before the rapture. Christ stands at the door and knocks.

The New Testament churches at Corinth and Galatia were corrupt and filled with a works righteousness, but were angels compared to the church at Laodicea.

NOTE: The word Nicolaitans comes from two Greek words. Nico – which means to overcome, and laity which means the people. They were overcomers of the members of the church.

That becomes easy when the church members are ignorant of the Bible.

THE MESSAGE

The Problem.....

The seven churches were literal churches in Asia at the time with seven different doctrines, or, different messages. These churches were founded on the simple gospel, then fell aside into man made doctrines. (Revelation 2:5 *fallen = Grk. Ekpipto = drawn off course*)

They represent seven types of churches throughout history.

Ephesus = permitted. The church in the beginning. This church knew there were only twelve apostles, according to the Word of God, and the twelve apostles would eventually sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Matthew 19:28 Revelation 21:14)

Smyrna = myrrh; perfumed; ointment; The early church suffered persecution and trials.

Pergamos = lofty; height; tower; This is the church of failure. They became puffed up with self righteousness.

Thyatira = never tiring sacrifices Sardis is the church during a period of religious idolatry. There were no Bibles printed, and people were subject to all kinds of doctrines.

Sardis = from a word meaning red. The reformation church. Men began to rebel against the established church at Rome. (Martin Luther; John Calvin; and many others) The printing press was invented, and the Hebrew and Greek was translated into many languages. The reformation began.

Philadelphia = brotherly love. The word of God began to separate people from false religion and idolatry. Churches promoted the love of God and love of one another. Along came great Bible teachers. The simple gospel flourished.

Laodicea = Justice of the people. The meaning of Laodicea is misleading. This is the final state of the church in apostasy. It is lukewarm. (no message) This will be the state of the church at the rapture. The church today has mixed works with faith and the gospel is almost non existent. The rapture, or the gathering together of the church, will take place during the time of the Laodicean church.

Revelation chapters two and three represent the present church age. It is a time of man made religion and man made denominations. Each denomination has their own idea of what the Bible teaches. There are very few churches today with the simple clear gospel. (the gospel – Christ died, was buried, and rose again for the forgiveness of sin. Faith in His finished work is what forgives us of sins)

THE FUTURE

Revelation chapter four begins another age, another dispensation, in Bible history and prophecy.

Chapters four and five are a scene in heaven immediately following the rapture of the church and just prior to the opening of the first seal, which commences the seven year wrath of God.

It is exactly the scene every saved child of God will experience.

When Christ gathers His church together, (at what is called the rapture) every saved person, including children under the age of accountability, will be gone from the earth.

This gathering of the church, (ref. Ephesians 1:10 2 Thessalonians 2:1 with 1 Corinthians 15:51,52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) will end the church age and begin the seven year wrath of God.

EXPLANATION OF THE FOLLOWING

The rest of this study of Revelation will not be a commentary on Revelation. Instead, it will be focused on the chronological events in Revelation as they will occur during the seven years; And an explanation of things which may be hard to understand.

THE GLORIFIED CHRIST..... Jesus Christ the Lord was the eternal God made manifest in the flesh. He is eternal. (ref. John 1:1,2 John 17:1-5 Revelation 1:8,11,18 Revelation 22:13)

He took on flesh and blood like humanity and revealed the triune God. (John 1:14,18 Colossians 1:15 2:9 Hebrews 1:2,3)

Then, He willingly went to the Cross, and endured the suffering of the pain and humiliation, in order to redeem mankind and the entire creation, including the earth itself.

In Revelation chapter one John saw the glorified, eternal Prophet, Priest, and King, Jesus Christ the Lord. He was clothed in His priestly garments. (Revelation 1:5,12-18) There were three anointings in the Old Testament. (prophet, priest, and king)

This vision of Christ the priest is the same thing Daniel saw. (Daniel 7:9 10:46)

REVELATION CHAPTERS FOUR AND FIVE.... Revelation 4:1,2 is a picture of the rapture, or, the gathering together of the Church. We will hear a voice as a trumpet. (a distinct sound ref. John 5:28,29 with 1 Corinthians 14:8 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17)

“And immediately,” (4:2) the church will be in heaven. (the twinkling of an eye = 11/100 of a second 1 Corinthians 15:52)

We will all see the same thing John saw in heaven.

1. Christ on His throne. 4:2,3 (exalted Philippians 2:9)
2. The twenty four elders. 4:4,10,11 5:5,6,8-11 Clothed in white raiment and crowns of gold.

These twenty four elders are symbolic of the priesthood established by king David, and the priesthood of Israel, (1 Chronicles 24:1-19) and the priesthood of the church. (Revelation 2:26,27 5:8-10)

They are also clothed in white, (Revelation 3:5) and they are crowned with gold. (Rev. 3:4) However, in 4:10 they cast their crowns before the throne. Why?

When the church is gathered at the rapture every Christian will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, (Romans 14:10-12 2 Corinthians 5:8-10) and will receive their rewards, or lack of rewards, for their Christian service. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

There are Crowns for service. (1 Corinthians 9:25 Philippians 1 Thessalonians 2:19 2 Timothy 2:5 4:8 James 1:12 1 Peter 5:4 Revelation 3:11)

The elders are not literally casting their crowns at the feet of Christ. The crowns represent their status in the kingdom and their priesthood duties. They are giving Christ His due credit for their crowns, rewards of service.

3. The seven sealed scroll..... 5:1-10 The scroll represents the title deed to the creation of God.

In the Old Testament the promised land was divided among the twelve tribes of Israel. If for any reason a member of one of the tribes sold their land it could be redeemed by a kinsman. There were three requirements. They must be a kinsman; they must be willing; and they had to be able to pay the price. (Leviticus 25:8-55 Ruth 4:1-13 Jeremiah 32:7-15)

Jesus Christ the Lord became the kinsman redeemer. He paid the price on the cross willingly. And He is the kinsman, born in the line of Abraham. He is ready to redeem the earth that was sold into sin. However, it will be redeemed by judgment. The seven seals are God's judgment upon the world.

4. The seven spirits of God..... vs. 4:5 Are explained in 5:6
5. The living creatures.... We will know about them when we see them personally.

REVELATION CHAPTER SIX

The seven year tribulation is divided into two three and one half year parts, based on the Hebrew calendar of 360 days a year. That would be 1260 days each and forty two months. (Revelation 11:2 with Revelation 13:5 and also Daniel 9:27)

After the church is taken, the seven year wrath of God begins. During the first three and one half years, the first six seals of the seven sealed scroll are opened.

THE FIRST SEAL/ THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE: False peace: Revelation 6:1,2 The world must be in a chaotic condition after the church is removed, because the Holy Spirit is also removed. He, the Holy Spirit, is the only reason sin and disorder do not run rampant. When He is removed, the antichrist is revealed. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-8) The antichrist will be accepted as the Jewish Messiah, and he will confirm the covenant with Israel. (Daniel 9:27) The world will think it is at peace, but then comes the second horse. (1 Thessalonians 5:3 with Ezekiel 38:8,11,14)

THE SECOND SEAL/THE RIDER ON THE RED HORSE: War: Revelation 6:3,4 The antichrist, under the influence of Satan, (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12) after he has taken control of the world, attacks Israel from the north with his army. (Ezekiel 38:1-39:24) This is the first battle of Gog and Magog.

THE THIRD SEAL/THE RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE: Famine: Revelation 6:5,6 The entire world, without the Holy Spirit to reign in sin, is out of control. There will be wars and earthquakes. (Matthew 24:4-14 Mark 13:5-13 Luke 21:8-11) The black horse is symbolic of famine throughout the world.

THE FOURTH SEAL/THE RIDER ON THE PALE HORSE: Death: Revelation 6:7,8 One fourth of the world will die from hunger, wild animals, murderous people, and the many wars.

THE FIFTH SEAL/THE ALTAR IN HEAVEN: Revelation 6:9-11 During the tribulation the gospel will be preached. (Matthew 24:14 Mark 13:10 Revelation 14:6) Satan hates the gospel. During the first three and one half years the antichrist will attempt to kill every one who preaches, hears, and believes the gospel of Christ. Because they are not part of the church, they have not received their resurrected bodies.

They must wait for those who will be beheaded during the last half of the tribulation. However, they are not literally under an altar, they are in heaven under the divine protection of the blood of Christ, our altar. (Hebrews 13:10,20,21) Notice that white robes are given to them, and they should rest a little season.

THE SIXTH SEAL/A CHAOTIC WORLD: Revelation 6:12-17 When the sixth seal is opened, the prophecy of Joel will be fulfilled. (Joel 1:15-3:13) This is the prophecy Peter thought was being fulfilled at Pentecost, recorded in Acts chapter two. (Acts 2:1-21) Peter was not aware of the church age because it was a mystery. Notice in verse 17; “the great day of His wrath...” That is the last half of the tribulation.

During all of this there are other things taking place. 1. The tribulation temple will be built. (Revelation 11:1,2) We know this because in the middle of the tribulation the antichrist will sit in the temple claiming to be God. (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 with Daniel 9:27b and Matthew 24:15 It is called the abomination of desolation) 2. The two witnesses will preach the everlasting gospel. Then, in the middle of the tribulation they will be killed by the antichrist. (Revelation 11:3-14) 3. The two witnesses will torment the people on earth, and they had a testimony. In other words, they tormented humanity with the gospel of Christ. (Vs. 11:7,10)

REVELATION CHAPTER SEVEN A PARENTHESIS

Revelation 7:1-8 and 14:1-5 reveal 144,000 male Jews chosen to serve God.

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Revelation 6:6band see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

These 144,000 are the oil and the wine of 6:6b and the first fruits of 14:4

What does all of this mean? Answer!

The seven year tribulation, is called the wrath of God and the time of Jacobs trouble. (ref. Jeremiah 30:7,8 with Romans 11:26) Jacob is synonymous with Israel. In the Old Testament God called out Israel as a nation to serve Him and be an example to the world. They failed!!! God promised Israel land, a kingdom, and a King. Since they failed, their kingdom and their King has been put on hold.

However, God promised Israel an eternal priesthood through the genealogical line of Aaron. (Numbers 18:1-32 with Deuteronomy 18:1-4) The priest would receive the first fruits of all Israel and the best of the oil and the wine.

Since the church is removed and Christ is the "first fruits of them that slept," (ref. 1 Corinthians 15:20) then the oil and the wine of Revelation 6:6 and first fruits unto God of Revelation 14:4 do not represent the church.

They are the first fruits of Israel that will go into the kingdom with Christ their King after the tribulation is over. At the end of the seven years Christ will redeem Israel. But only those who trust Him as their Savior according to the gospel, which will be preached during the tribulation. (Matthew 24:14 Revelation 14:6)

NOTE: The Old Testament priest of Israel received the first fruits. Corn; sheep; grapes; etc., and the product of that fruit, oil; wine; and etc. Christ, who is our High Priest, will receive the first fruits of those who will be saved out of the tribulation. (the 144,000 Jews and the two witnesses)

REVELATION 7:9-17 There is a multitude in heaven who came out of the great tribulation. The great tribulation is the last half, the three and one half years. Some say they did not go through the last half, still, others say they went through the last half. If we think logically, it is not relevant. First of all, the tribulation began with people who did not believe the gospel. (the gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose from the grave for the sins of the world. Believing in His payment for our sins is what forgives us) Therefore, this multitude had to hear and believe the gospel in order to be in heaven. This gospel is preached by the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-14, and the 144,000 who also had the gospel. Also, this multitude, had to be dead in order to be in heaven. During the tribulation the antichrist will murder anyone who has a testimony for Christ. (Rev. 6:9-11 14:13 11:7 12:11 15:1-4 20:4) That is why the 144,000 have a seal on them. They are the first fruits of the kingdom.

THE MIDDLE OF THE TRIBULATION

Since there is no temple in Jerusalem at this time, the temple will be built during the first half of the tribulation. (Revelation 11:1,2) Remember, the man of sin will sit in the temple claiming to be God, (2 Thessalonians 2:4) and if the temple were built before the rapture, we would know it was time, and that is not possible.

Also, the temple will be trodden under foot for forty and two months, or 1260 days, which is the last half of the three and one half years. (Rev. 11:1,2)

REVELATION 13:1-18 In verse one the beast will rise out of the sea. (= the sea of humanity ref. 17:1&15) He will seem to have a death and miraculous resurrection. (ref. 13:3) Then another beast arises. (ref. 13:11-13)

NOTE: If the mystery of godliness is God manifest in the flesh, Jesus Christ the Lord, (1 Timothy 3:16) then the mystery of iniquity, (ref. 2 Thessalonians 2:7) will be Satan manifest in the flesh. If God is the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, then in the middle of the tribulation we have the unholy trinity, the first beast, who is an imitation of the Son, the second beast, who is an imitation of the Holy Spirit, and Satan, who is an imitation of the Father.

The Following Events Take Place Just Before the Last 3 1/2 Years

Satan and his angels are cast into the earth. No more to roam about the heavens. (Revelation 12:7-12 with Ezekiel 28:17 and Isaiah 14:12)

At this time Satan will literally indwell the antichrist, who will seem to have a death and resurrection. (2 Thessalonians 2:4-12 Revelation 13:1-18)

The antichrist will ascend the throne (in Jerusalem) and claim to be God and demand to be worshipped. This is called the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet. (Daniel 9:26,27 11:31 with Matthew 24:15)

Then he will kill the two witnesses who "tormented them that dwell on the earth," with the gospel. (Revelation 11:10) These are the two anointed ones of Zechariah 4:11-14.

The first beast, the antichrist, who is under the power of Satan, (2 Thessalonians 2:3,4,8-10 Revelation 13:2) will continue to reign for 3 1/2 years, or, the last half of the seven year tribulation. (note Rev. 13:5 "continue forty and two months")

Then he will institute, or, literally require, that everyone will receive the mark of the beast, (Rev. 13:16-18) and demand to be worshipped. (Rev.13:5-8, 14,15)

NOTE: No one really knows what the mark of the beast is, although there is a lot of conjecture and speculation. Personally, I believe it is the number of the un-holy trinity. The number 666 is symbolic of the number of man.

When Satan and his angels (demons) are cast down to the earth, the heavens rejoice, and a woe is pronounced on those who inhabit the earth. (Revelation 12:10-12)

All of this is in preparation for the last half the tribulation, which is called the "great tribulation." (Matthew 24:21 Revelation 6:17)

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

During the last half of the tribulation, the wrath of God, the dragon, who is Satan, attacks those who are saved of Israel, and God miraculously hides them. (Revelation 12:13_17) The Bible states that a remnant of Israel, approximately 1/3, will be saved out of the tribulation, and go into the kingdom alive. (Zechariah 13:8,9 Malachi 3:16,18 Romans 11:5) These Israelites have the testimony of Jesus Christ, (Rev. 12:17) which means they are saved by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (Compare Mark 1:14,15 with Romans 10:1-4)

NOTE: Remember, all of those who are saved during the church age will be taken at the rapture. The tribulation will begin with lost humanity. However, the gospel will be preached during the 7 years. Many will believe the gospel, and be hated by the antichrist. A multitude will be killed by the antichrist and his many followers. (Revelation 6:9-11 7:9-17 12:11 14:13 15:1-4 20:4) Yet, many will live through the tribulation, and go into the kingdom in their physical bodies.

THE LAST HALF OF THE TRIBULATION

THE SEVENTH SEAL: *Revelation 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.*

During the first half of the seven year wrath of God, the first six seals of the seven sealed book are opened. It begins with the antichrist arriving on the scene and accepted as the long awaited Messiah. (the white horse/ false peace Rev. 6:1,2 with Daniel 9:27 2 Thessalonians 2:2-8)

The antichrist, who is also called the man of sin, will be controlled and completely under the influence of Satan. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11)

With the next five seals come war, famine, death, earthquakes, stars falling from heaven, mountains and islands moved out of their place.

Yet, the second half of the seven years will be even worse, it is called the 'great tribulation.' (Matthew 24:21 Mark 13:19 Revelation 6:17)

No wonder there is silence in heaven for a short time. The seventh seal is made up of seven trumpet judgments. (Rev. 8:2) Revelation chapters eight and nine are dedicated to the first six trumpet judgments.

Seven angels are given seven trumpets. In 8:2-6 they are prepared to sound. When the first trumpet sounds hail and fire mixed with blood were cast to the earth, and one third of the trees and all green grass was burned up. (8:7) Imagine a world with no green grass for the animals to eat and one third of the trees missing

The second trumpet sounds and a meteor or something similar was cast into the sea, and one third of the sea became blood. If that is not enough, one third of the sea life died and one third of the ships were destroyed. (8:8,9)

Then, with the third trumpet, one third of all fresh water became wormwood. Whatever this wormwood is, it is bitter and poisonous. (8:10,11 The dictionary and encyclopedia vague on the subject)

With the fourth trumpet, the sun and the moon are darkened. Imagine being dark in the middle of the day! (8:12)

Finally, before the last three trumpet judgments sound, three woes are pronounced upon those who inhabit the earth. Imagine, after all that has just taken place, the next three trumpets are considered woes. (8:13)

Woe, woe, woe, to those who inhabit the earth!

In Revelation 9:1-11 with the fifth trumpet, the first woe is pronounced. I know many will not agree with me, but I would like to give my interpretation, or understanding, of this fifth woe.

Revelation 9:1 The star that fell from heaven with the keys..... Often, in the Old Testament, angels are referred to as stars. (Job 38:7) We are also told that Satan, along with one third of the angels, had two falls from heaven. (Isaiah 14:12 Ezekiel 28:16,17 Luke 10:18 Revelation 12:3,4 & 12:7-9) The first time he was cast out of the third heaven, which is the throne and the presence of God. (2 Corinthians 12:1-\$)

The second time, he and his angels are cast into the earth and are not allowed in the first and second heavens, which is the earth's atmosphere and outer space. Therefore, the Bible states... "woe to the inhabitants of the earth" (Rev. 12:12)

Revelation 9:1,2,11 The bottomless pit. We have no idea where the bottomless pit is located, or what it is like. We do know it is a place reserved to incarcerate spiritual beings. The angels that sinned in Genesis chapter six are reserved in a place called "hell." (2 Peter 2:4) And they are chained in darkness. (Jude 6)

The word 'hell' in 2 Peter 2:4 is a mistranslation. It is translated from the Greek word *tartaroo*, (*a verb which signifies a condition of confinement*) It is referred to as, *bottomless and a pit*, (Revelation 9:1,2,11 11:7 17:8 20:1,3) *darkness and chains*. (Jude 6)

The star that fell from heaven with the keys to the pit, (vs. 9:1) is also referred to as the king over the locusts, and the angel of the bottomless pit, and Abaddon, and Apollyon, which means *destroyer*.

Therefore, Satan is the king over those in the pit, who we believe are the angels that sinned, and are called demons. They will be let loose during the last half of the tribulation to inflict pain on humanity.

Remember! Locusts have no king! (Proverbs 30:27) The demons, the fallen angels, do. These angels are reserved unto the judgment of the great day, (Jude 6) which we believe is the seven year wrath of God.

Revelation 9:12 One woe is past and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Revelation 9:13-21 When the sixth trumpet sounds a 200 million man army appears to kill 1/3 of humanity during the last half of the seven years. This army will be mostly the kings of the east. They will eventually cross the dried up river Euphrates and gather together at the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 9:13-21 with Revelation 14:14-20 16:12-16 19:11-21)

It is at this time, at the end of the seven year wrath of God, that Satan's angels, the demons, will dwell in, and influence kings and humanity, to gather them together at the valley of Megiddo. (har Megiddo – Armageddon)

It is also at this time the entire world will be judged.

Those who hear and believe the gospel during the seven years, and are fortunate enough to avoid being beheaded by the antichrist, will go into the 1000 year kingdom. Those who do not, and worship the beast, will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. (this is called the judgment of the nations Joel 3:1,2,12 Zechariah 12:9 Matthew 24:29-31,40,41 25:31-41,46 Revelation 19:21)

Revelation 10:1-11 A parenthesis: Chapter ten is a parenthesis in the prophecy of Revelation. John saw an angel come down from heaven with a proclamation. This angel stood upon the sand and the sea, which indicates the Lord is about ready to reclaim the earth. This angel uttered seven thunders which John was not allowed to write about. (10:4) The angel proclaimed there should be no more delay, and all things will be revealed. (10:6,7) John was commanded to prophesy again and His words would be bitter and sweet. (10:8-11) In other words, the Word of God is sweet to read, but bitter if not digested and rejected.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS TO THIS POINT

After the rapture, the world will be in a chaotic condition. Millions of people are missing, along with the Holy Spirit. A man will arrive on the scene who the Bible calls the man of sin, (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and that wicked one, (2 Thessalonians 2:8) and the antichrist, (1 John 2:18) and the beast. (Revelation 13:1)

He arrives on a white horse, (Revelation 6:1,2) which is symbolic of a hero promising peace. The Jewish community will accept him as their long awaited Messiah, and he will confirm the covenant with Israel. (Daniel 9:27)

Israel will feel at peace. (1 Thessalonians 5:3 Ezekiel 38:8,11,14) However, the antichrist will gather a large army against Israel, (the red horse Revelation 6:3,4 with Ezekiel 38:1 -) and God himself will defeat the army. (see Ezekiel 38 and 39)

The first six seals of the seven sealed scroll will be opened during the first three and one half years of the tribulation. The temple will be built and in the middle of the seven years, the antichrist will seem to have a miraculous death and resurrection. (Revelation 13:3,4) At this time Satan and his angels will be cast into the earth, Satan will literally indwell the antichrist, and he will sit on the throne claiming to be God. This is the third woe pronounced in Revelation 8:13.

Everything the antichrist does is under the power and authority of Satan. (2 Thessalonians 2:9,10) However, it is God who allows all things in order to fulfill His Word, His will, and the final judgment. (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 Revelation 16:14-16 17:17)

The last half of the tribulation begins with the opening of the seventh seal, which is made up of seven trumpet judgments.

THE LAST HALF CONTINUED

In Revelation 8:13 three woes are pronounced upon the inhabitants of the earth. The 1st woe is fulfilled when the beings are loosed out of the bottomless pit. The 2nd woe is when the two witnesses are slain in chapter 11.

The third woe is when Satan and his angels, demons, are cast into the earth Revelation 12:12. It is at this time Satan knows he has a short time. (vs. 12:12) Which is 3 ½ years. (vs. 13:5) He literally indwells the antichrist and the antichrist seems to have a miraculous resurrection, (vs. 13:1-5) Then, he sits in the temple claiming to be God and demanding to be worshipped. (Daniel 9:27 Matthew 24:15 2 Thessalonians 2:4 Revelation 13:1-10)

Revelation chapter ten is a parenthesis already covered.

Revelation 11:1,2 The temple is measured and built in preparation for the antichrist and the abomination of desolation. It will be desecrated by the nations for 3 1/2 years..

Revelation 11:3-14 The two witnesses preach the gospel for 3 ½ years and in the middle of the tribulation are killed by the beast, the antichrist. (the 2nd woe)

Revelation 12:1-17 Chapter twelve gives a historical account of Satan and his angels, and their hatred for Israel and Christ the Lord, who is born in the genealogical line of Abraham, the Father of the nation of Israel.

Revelation 12:1,2 The woman with the crown of twelve stars represent the twelve tribes of Israel. The child is Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:3,4 Satan and 1/3 of the angels are cast out of the presence of God, the third heaven. They roam about the first and second heavens creating havoc.

Revelation 12:4b and the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to be delivered, to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:5 Christ is born, lives for approximately 33 years, is crucified, and rises from the grave, in payment for the sins of humanity, and ascends into heaven.

NOTE: The interval between 12:5 and 12:6 is the present church age.

Revelation 12:6 Those in Israel who hear and believe the gospel in the first half of the tribulation, are protected during the last half, to go into the kingdom.

Revelation 12:7-12 Satan and his angels are literally cast out of the first and second heaven, and down to the earth. It is at this time Satan indwells the antichrist, and his angels indwell humanity. (Rev. 16:13-14)

Revelation 12:13-17 The dragon, Satan, persecutes Israel, the woman, for the last 3 ½ years. He sends a flood after the woman. (a flood of humanity who are no doubt demon possessed) The woman is protected by God.

Revelation 13:1-18 In Revelation the word beast is used to describe the personality of Satan and his antichrist 36 times. One time it is used to describe the false prophet. (Rev. 13:11)

The Greek word for beast is *therion*, and it means, *a dangerous animal; venomous wild beast*. The same Greek word is used in Acts 28:4,5 for the viper.

WHAT WE KNOW..... The Bible teaches that a prince shall come, and his people shall destroy the city. *Daniel 9:26 and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.....*

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease. *Daniel 9:27a And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease.....*

The word 'prince' in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word, *archon*, and it means, *first in rank and order; chief ruler*;. Four times in the New Testament it is used in reference to Satan. (John 12:31 14:30 16:11 Ephesians 2:2) The prince that shall come, in Dan. 9:26 is the same person as 'he' in 9:27.

This prince that shall come, is the same person as the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and the wicked one in 2:8. He is also 'that antichrist,' in 1 John 2:18.

The seven weeks in Daniel 9:27 are seven years. (ref. Genesis 29:15-29) In the midst of the week, (3 ½ years) he, the prince that shall come, shall cause the oblation to cease. (the abomination of desolation)

Therefore, we can assume the rider on the four horses is symbolic of the rise and rule of the antichrist, who is also the beast of Revelation 11:7 and 13:1.

The beast will be Satan incarnate, or, in the flesh. He will rise out of the sea of humanity.

THE BEAST OF REVELATION

There are some things a student of the Bible must keep in mind. First of all, the gospel message must be according to the Bible, the Word of God. That message is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again for the forgiveness of sin. All anyone has to do in order to have forgiveness of sin is trust, believe, in the Lord Jesus Christ and they are forgiven.

Second, we must remember that God is in control of world affairs. (Daniel 4:17,25,32) It is God who establishes kings and kingdoms. This was a lesson Nebuchadnezzar had to learn. (Daniel 3:1-4:37 esp. 4:32)

Third, Satan and all humanity have a free will. Satan and his angels are influencing people to reject the God of the Bible and the truth. Particularly the simple gospel.

Satan's biggest role is influencing preachers and world leaders. Especially when politics and religion are combined to rule the people.

Luke 4:6 And the devil said unto him, All this power (authority) will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it.

Satan was talking to the person who created him, and the world and all things; Jesus Christ the Lord. The only reason the old devil has so much power throughout all these centuries is because humanity has the free will to accept, or reject the Bible and the truth. Satan uses kings and political and religious rulers for his agenda.

The word beast in Revelation in reference to Satan and his antichrist, is used 37 times and is from a Greek word *therion*, and it means, *a venomous beast; brute beast*.

The word beast found in Revelation chapters four and five is from a Greek word *zoon*, and Scofield has it rightly translated, *living creature*.

Satan has always desired to rule as God. During the seven year tribulation he will have his final chance to do so. It will be brief and devastating.

THE BEAST THAT ASCENDETH OUT OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT.
Revelation 11:7 and 17:8 --- This is in reference to Satan who will be confined in the pit (abyss) for one thousand years during the kingdom reign of Christ on the earth. After the one thousand years are ended he will be loose for a short time and deceive the nations once again for the last time. (Revelation 20:1-3 and 20:7-10)

THE BEAST WITH THE SEVEN HEADS: TEN HORNS: TEN CROWNS:
Revelation 13:1 and 17:7-13 with 12:3 ---- We are told in Revelation 12:3 that the great red dragon, Satan, has seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. In 17:7 the beast has seven heads and ten horns. In 13:1 the beast that rises out of the sea, (of humanity) has seven heads, and ten horns, and ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

The answer to all of this is found in Revelation 17:9-13

Revelation 17:9-10 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

And there are seven kings, five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

The seven mountains are seven kingdoms throughout history on which the woman sits. (the woman 17:1-6 to be discussed later) The seven kings (vs. 10) are the rulers of these kingdoms. The five that are fallen are the ancient kingdoms which ruled the world in their time. They are Assyria; Egypt; Babylon; Media-Persia; and Greece. The sixth kingdom is Rome, and it still is, yet not in it's glory.

The seventh kingdom is the kingdom of the beast who rises out of the sea of humanity. He, the seventh king will continue for a short space.

Revelation 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

The beast that was, (alive) and is not, (wounded to death 13:3) he is the eighth and of the seven. The seventh kingdom is the revised kingdom of the ideology of the other kingdoms. Therefore, the beast, who is the antichrist, is of the seven, because he had a miraculous healing he will be the eighth.

Revelation 17:12,13 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, who have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

These have one mind , and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

During the tribulation the world will be divided into ten kingdoms with ten kings who give their power to the beast. There will be no patriotism, no nationalism, no United Nations, no European Union, no United States of America. The world that has been seeking a one world order with open borders will get it's request.

Daniel saw these future kingdoms in Daniel chapters two and seven. In chapter two Nebuchadnezzar had a dream in which he saw a great image. Daniel interpreted the dream.

Daniel 2:31-34 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee, and the form of it was terrible.

This image's head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of brass,

Its legs of iron, its feet part of iron and part of clay.

Thou sawest until a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces.

Then Daniel explains the meaning to Nebuchadnezzar. The gold was Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom. The silver would be Media and Persia. The brass was Alexander the Great and Greece. The fourth would be the Roman empire. The ten toes would be the ten kings under the antichrist, the beast of Revelation, and the Stone is Jesus Christ the Lord. All of this fits perfectly with Revelation. (ref. Daniel 2:34-45)

Simply put, the image represents four empires, from Babylon to Rome. The ideology of a kingdom run by Satan, with a multitude of gods, has flourished throughout history. The long iron legs of the Roman empire, shows that this ideology exists today.

THE LEOPARD; THE BEAR; THE LION; AND THE DRAGON.....

The beast that John saw was like a leopard, a bear, and a lion, and the power of the beast came from the dragon. (Revelation 13:2 with 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10)

NOTE: The word dragon is used 13 times in Revelation as one of the many names of Satan. See the back of this study for a description of the many names of Satan

Daniel 7:2,3 Daniel spoke and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of heaven strove upon the great sea.

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

Daniel saw the same thing John saw, except in different order. Daniel saw the lion first, then the bear, next the leopard, and finally the fourth beast with the ten horns. (Daniel 7:4-8) Daniel was looking into the future and John was looking into the past. The lion was Babylon. The bear was Media-Persia. The leopard was Greece. The fourth beast would be the iron legs of Rome, with the ten horns, who are the ten kings that give their kingdom to the beast of Revelation.

The explanation is given in Daniel 7:9-28.

THE BEAST AND THE HARLOT OF BABYLON.....

The prophetic account of the future fall of Babylon is recorded in Revelation 14:8 16:19 17:1-18:19 and Isaiah 48:14-20 Jeremiah 50:1-51:64.

Babylon is a type of being captive in false religion.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The truth is that free from sin and eternal death, into eternal life, is faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as forgiveness of sin. It is a free gift. (Romans 6:23 Ephesians 2:8,9)

When Christ gathers His church together at what is called the rapture, the seven year wrath of God will begin with those who are left on this earth. They will be those who have not believed the gospel. They will made up of religious denominations who have their man made doctrines. Then, there will be those who reject the idea of any god/God at all.

The antichrist will allow all religious lies and man made denominations to flourish. Those who are found to believe in the gospel he will attempt to persecute, or kill in some way, specifically by beheading. The religious world will applaud and rejoice. (Revelation 11:9,10)

Then, in the middle of the seven years, he, the antichrist, the beast, will sit on the throne in Jerusalem, and claim to be God, and demand to be worshipped. (ref. Daniel 9:27 Matthew 24:15 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 Revelation 13:1-18)

When this takes place Babylon, religion, will come to an end. (Isaiah 21:9 Jeremiah 51:24,25 Revelation 8:8 14:8)

HISTORICAL BABYLON

Babylon began in the garden when the old serpent, Satan, tempted Eve when he said, "Yea hath God said?" (Genesis 3:1) Then it took root and flourished with Nimrod, the mighty hunter against the Lord. His kingdom began at Babel and Erech in the land of Shinar. (Genesis 10:8-10)

God told Noah to, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." (Genesis 9:1)

Man said.....

Genesis 11:4 And they said, go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.

Nothing has changed!! Humanity is still building their towers... I.E. a works righteousness. And making themselves names. I.E. Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran... and etc. etc. etc.

It began in the land of Shinar.

The word Babel meant gate to God. (Bab-El) When God scattered them at Shinar, He called it Babel, or, confusion. When they were scattered, and their language was changed, it must have been confusion. However, when they went out of that land, (Genesis 10:11) they took the ideology of babel with them.

The land of Shinar later became known as Chaldea, and later, Babylon.

ISRAEL AND BABYLON

When God began building the nation of Israel, a people of His own, a nation that was supposed to represent Him in an evil idolatrous world, He chose Abraham. Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldeans. (Genesis 11:28-31) God told Abraham to go into a land He had prepared for His nation of Israel; Canaan.

Joshua 24:2,3 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your Fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old times, (the river Euphrates) even Terah the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor; and they served other gods.

And I took your father, Abraham, from the other side of the flood, (the river Euphrates) and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

Centuries passed and Israel failed to serve God by simple faith. In the meantime, the land of Shinar became known as Babylon. The city known as Babylon flourished. Historians claim Babylon, the city, was splendid and glorious. Surrounded by a magnificent wall, with towers and temples to their many gods. The main temple however, was claimed to be the tower built by Nimrod at babel in Shinar.

Finally, after years of being warned by their prophets, Israel was taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. While being in captivity for 70 years, many of the Hebrews remained faithful to their God, (such as Daniel) yet many adopted the culture and gods of Babylon.

TWO BABYLONS

There are two Babylon's. Babylon the place, and Babylon the ideology, or false religion.

Babylon the place is now a pile of old bricks and sand south of present day Baghdad. The modern town of Hillah exists near the ancient ruins.

Babylon the ideology still exists. Someday, it will come in remembrance before God, during the tribulation. (Revelation 16:19)

There are many Bible scholars who believe the city of Babylon must be rebuilt because Revelation calls her 'a great city.' (Revelation 14:8 16:19) Some believe the antichrist will rule from the rebuilt Babylon. If that is true Babylon will have to be rebuilt at some time, either before the rapture, or during the first 3 ½ years.

BABYLON THE CITY

The word city in Revelation comes from the Greek word *Polis*, and it means, *city; town; country; state; republic; body of people; a walled dwelling place; a town with walls.*

False religion is a place of refuge; a walled dwelling place. It feels safe and secure. It may be founded on the gospel with man's works added, which makes the gospel of no effect. (ref. Galatians 1:1-9 3:1-5) False religion calls God and His word a lie. It is, "Yea hath God said," it is Babylon. (babble-on)

Revelation 14:8 16:19 17:1-18:24 is the pronouncement of God's wrath and judgment upon Babylon.

Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The kings and inhabitants of the earth made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (Revelation 14:8 17:2 18:3,9)

She rides the beast, (17:3) who is Satan, throughout history. (the seven heads and ten horns: pages 24-26)

The ten kings who rule with the antichrist will hate and destroy her, (17:15-18) because the beast will demand to be worshipped. (13:8)

The religious world will weep for her.... (18:9-19)

Heaven, and those in it will rejoice. (18:20-24

FACING THE FACTS

Fact number one..... Faith is what pleases God. (Hebrews 11:1-40) Religious observance does not please God. Faith in the Savior is what pleases God. Faith in the payment for sin by Christ is what pleases God. Faith in the gospel is what pleases God.

Fact number two..... God shed the blood of an animal and clothed Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:21) By faith Abel brought his sacrifice of an innocent animal before God. (Genesis 4:4) Christ preached the gospel to Abraham and He believed it by faith. (Genesis 15:1-6 Romans 4:1-5 Galatians 3:6-9) Every Old Testament saint looked forward to the cross and their Savior, by faith.

Fact number three..... False religion, Babylon, under the influence of Satan, the beast, disguised as the truth, is the reason for the seven year wrath of God and His judgment.

Fact number four..... God only sees two kinds of ethnic groups; the Jew and Gentile. Out of those two groups, God sees two kinds of people; saved and lost. They are saved by faith, or lost by rejecting the simple gospel and adding man made works of man's righteousness.

Fact number five..... This concept is clearly seen in Revelation 14:6-12. In 14:6,7 the gospel is preached during the tribulation. In 14:8 is the proclamation of the doom of Babylon, all false religion. In 14:9-12 is the wrath of God pronounced upon the worshippers of the beast. Throughout history, rejecting the gospel of Christ for salvation, is the same as worshipping the beast.

GOD AND HIS WORD

The Bible is the word of God. It is the truth. It either has, or will be, fulfilled.

Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

Isaiah 48:3 I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them; I did them suddenly, and they came to pass.

From the very first words in Genesis to the last word in Revelation is the prophetic word of God. The seven year wrath of God upon an unbelieving, or a religious humanity, will be fulfilled.

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants, the prophets.

Revelation 17:16,17 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The emphasis is mine. Every word of God will ultimately be fulfilled.

Revelation records the end of religion as we know it. There will be no more religious, man made denominations. There will be no more, "yea hath God said."

People will be saved by believing in, faith, in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as forgiveness of sin. There will be no more confessing to a man, praying to some dead saint, asking the Lord into your heart, turning from sin, and etc.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Is it really that simple, or did Jesus Christ the Lord lie, as some people seem to think.

THEN COMETH THE END

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered the kingdom to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Revelation is the record of the end of all things which are contrary to God. It is the record of the final judgment of humanity. This judgment is founded on the gospel of Christ. (Romans 1:1-2:16)

The gospel has been preached throughout history, beginning with Adam and Eve, and the everlasting gospel preached during the tribulation. (Matthew 24:14 Revelation 14:6)

The last half of the seven years of the wrath of God begins with the seventh seal being opened, which is made up of seven trumpets. (Revelation 8:1,2) The first six angels sound their trumpets through chapters eight and nine.

Any student of the Bible may read these first four trumpet judgments, they are self explanatory.

Then, in 8:13, there are three woes pronounced upon the inhabitants of the earth, because of the last three trumpets.

First woe---- The fifth trumpet ---- 9:1-17 Satan, who is the angel of the bottomless pit, opens the pit, and out comes indescribable creatures. Personally, I believe they are the demons who indwelt humanity in Genesis chapter six, and are now reserved in chains unto the judgment. (2 Peter 2:4 Jude 6) Note: They had a king over them, who is the angel of the bottomless pit. Locusts have no king. (Proverbs 30:27) This is the first woe because these demons will ultimately indwell a large (200,000,000) man army in preparation for Armageddon. (Revelation 9:13-21 16:12-16) During the last three and one half years, this large army will kill 1/3 of mankind. (Rev. 9:15-18)

Second woe --- Revelation 11:1-14 The two witnesses, who preach the gospel for the first 3 ½ years are killed by the beast and the inhabitants of the earth rejoice. After three and one half days, the spirit of God brings them to life.

Third woe --- Revelation 12:12 Satan and his angels are cast into the earth. They no longer roam about the heavens. The devil now knows he has a short time and has "great wrath."

The seventh trumpet ... When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet the seventh seal of the seven sealed scroll is complete. (Revelation 11:15:19)

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

Jesus Christ reclaims the title deed to the earth and all things in it.

During the last half of the tribulation a multitude of things are taking place.

1. Satan and his angels are cast out of the heavens into the earth. Revelation 12:7-12
2. The beast, who is Satan incarnate, the antichrist, seems to have a miraculous resurrection. Revelation 13:3
3. He sits on the throne in the temple claiming to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 Revelation 13:2 This is called the abomination of desolation. Daniel 9:27 Matthew 24:15.
4. The seventh seal is opened which is made up of seven trumpet judgments. Revelation 8:1-9:21 11:15-19
5. The mark of the beast is instituted by the beast. It is the number 666. Six is the number of man, and therefore, the number 666 is the number of the unholy trinity. Revelation 13:16-18
6. Seven thunders are uttered which John is not allowed to write about. Revelation 10:1-6
7. The world is divided into ten kingdoms, with ten kings, who give their allegiance and all authority to the beast. Revelation 17:7-17 These are the ten toes of Daniel 2:32 2:40-43, and the ten horns of Daniel 7:7,20-26.
8. The fallen angels who are chained in the bottomless pit are loosed, and combined with the angels who are cast to the earth, will literally influence and indwell humanity. They will prepare the world to do battle at the valley of Har-Megiddo. (Armageddon) Revelation 9:16-19 14:14-20 16:12-16
9. The seven vials, or bowls, of the wrath of God are poured out upon the inhabitants of earth. Revelation 15:5-16:21
10. Babylon, false religion, comes in remembrance before God, Revelation 14:8 16:19, and is destroyed by the ten kings who rule under Satan, the beast. Revelation 17:15-17. Chapters 17 and 18 give a description of Babylon and her final doom.
11. The so-called battle of Armageddon takes place at the end of the seven years. Revelation 19:11-19 It will not be a battle at all. Jesus Christ simply speaks His word and these armies are destroyed. (Revelation 19:15) At the valley of Megiddo, or, Armageddon, the blood will flow as deep as a horses bridle for 200 miles. (Revelation 14:14-20 Revelation 19:11-19)

Finally, at this time, the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the final abode for all the lost. Including Satan and his angels.

Satan is then taken and chained in the bottomless pit for one thousand years, during the kingdom reign of Christ.

Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he shall sit upon the throne of his glory.

And before him shall be gathered all the nations; and he shall separated them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me ye accursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels;

This is called the judgment of the nations. (ref. Joel 3:2,3,12 Zechariah 12:2,3 14:2,3 with Matthew 24:29,30,40,41 25:31-41 and Revelation 19:15,21)

The 1,000 year reign will begin those who are saved and lucky enough to live through the tribulation. This includes the 144,000 and the 'remnant', or one third of the nation of Israel. These are the sheep on the right hand. Those who reject the gospel, and worship the beast, these are the goats on the left hand. They will be taken into judgment and cast directly into the lake of fire. Remember, the lake of fire is the final abode of the lost. (note: the remnant: Isaiah 1:9 Ezekiel 20:31-38 Zechariah 13:8,9 Romans 11:5)

THE KINGDOM

Revelation 20:4-10 is a brief record of the thousand years. The kingdom is actually a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. (Isaiah 1:24-27 2:1-5 4:1-6 Jeremiah 23:5,6 and many more)

Israel rejected their King when He came the first time.

Mark 1:14,15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the gospel.

The kingdom, and the King, God promised to Israel was at hand. All they had to do was repent, (repent = metanoeo / metanoia = Change the mind) and believe the gospel. Israel had to change their mind about obeying the law for righteousness, and accept their King as their Savior. (Romans 10:1-4) Instead, they had their Savior nailed to the cross in anger, and lost their King and their kingdom.

After Christ rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, He began the church age in Acts chapter two. The church age is called the dispensation of grace. (Ephesians 3:1-6)

During this dispensation anyone who believes the gospel, *Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin to all who believe*, is grafted into the church, which is called the bride, and the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-31 Ephesians 2:16-22 Revelation 18:23,24 19:7-10 22:17)

When the rapture takes place everyone, Jew and Gentile, who believes the gospel will receive their resurrected bodies, and be taken into heaven to be with the Lord for seven years during the tribulation. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

When Jesus Christ the Lord sets up His kingdom, those who are taken at the rapture, and those who are martyred for their faith during the tribulation, will rule with Christ the King in the kingdom. (Revelation 2:26,27 3:21 5:9,10 20:4-6)

THE END OF THE KINGDOM

At the end of the thousand years, Satan is loosed out of his prison in the bottomless pit for a short period of time. He will gather together a multitude of people against Christ one last time. They are destroyed by God with fire. Satan, the old devil, is cast into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet have been for one thousand years, and remain there for eternity. (Revelation 20:7-10 with Isaiah 14:4-11,15-17 Ezekiel 28:18,19)

GREAT WHITE THRONE

Everyone without exception will receive a resurrected body. At the end of the kingdom, after Satan is cast into the lake of fire, the second resurrection, which is the second death takes place.

Everyone throughout history who has rejected the gospel, will stand before Christ at the great white throne and be judged according to their works. Actually it will be their works for salvation, which does not work. They will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity, in their resurrected bodies. This is the second death, but it will be an eternal death. (Jude 12 Revelation 2:11 20:6,14 21:8)

NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

2 Peter 2:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are in it, shall be burned up.

Seeing, then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, in which the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwelleth righteousness.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.

Revelation chapters 21 and 22 reveal a future perfect world. But first, the old has to pass away before the new comes. The heavens and the earth have been corrupted by sin and must be purged by fire.

Our brilliant scientists will say, "What a silly fairy tale," or something to that effect. Lets consider a few things. The center of the earth is hot, molten, metal, or lava. Just look at all the volcanoes throughout the world. Water is made up of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Both are a gas. The seas are salt water. Salt is mostly sodium. Pure sodium explodes when it comes into contact with water.

Hebrews 1:3a Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,.....

Jesus Christ the Lord, the creator of all things, (John 1:3,10 Hebrews 1:2) also upholds all things by the power of His word.

Therefore, it is no great thing if Jesus Christ the Lord, has the power to create a new heaven and earth in righteousness.

TWO THINGS

At this present time in history there are only two kinds of people who live on this earth; those who are saved, forgiven of their sins, by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as forgiveness sins, and those who are lost because they reject the gospel.

There is also sin and righteousness. Since man is a sinner by birth, he has no righteousness. Therefore his righteousness is acquired from God by faith in Christ, or rather, He gives us His righteousness. (Romans 10:1-4)

When the rapture takes place all of the saved will be taken in a resurrection to be with Christ. This is part of the first resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Revelation 20:4-6)

At the great white throne, there are those whose names are written in the book of life, and those who are not.

In Revelation 21:1-8 these two kinds of people are mentioned. Those who will dwell in the new heaven and earth and those who will not.

Revelation 21:7,8 He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them who are saved shall walk in the light of it, and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither he that worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

LIFE IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH.....

Life in the new heaven and earth will be perfect.

We suggest the student of Revelation read Revelation 21:4,6,24-26 and 22:1-5.

There are nine “no more’s,” in Revelation.

1. No more sea. 21:1
2. No more tears. 21:4
3. No more death. 21:4
4. No more sorrow. 21:4
5. No more crying. 21:4
6. No more pain. 21:4
7. No more anything that defiles. 21:8,27
8. No more curse. 22:3
9. No more night or need of candlelight. 22:5

There will be a new Jerusalem come down from heaven. 21:2,3, 10-27. It will be twelve thousand furlongs square. A furlong is 600 feet. You can figure that out for your self.

It will have twelve foundations with the names of the apostles. 21:14 with Matthew 19:28 and Judges 2:18 and Isaiah 1:26.

The twelve gates represent the twelve tribes of Israel. 21:11-21

THE FINAL WARNING

Revelation 22:18,19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (ref. also Deuteronomy 4:2 12:32 Proverbs 30:5,6)

False religion says we must do something visible, or religious, in order to truly be saved. That is why Babylon, false religion, which is man made rules and regulations, comes in “remembrance before God.” (Revelation 16:19)

Adding to, or taking away from, the simple gospel, or any part of the Word of God, results in judgment.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Since this Bible study is not an in depth commentary on Revelation, and was written only to help the reader understand the simple teachings in Revelation, there are a few things left unanswered. Therefore, this question and answer section.

Question. What does it mean to overcome? (2:7,11,17,26 3:5,12,21 21:7)

Answer 1 John 5:4,5 Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Faith in the sacrifice of Christ.

Question. What is the book of life? (Revelation 3:5 17:8 20:12,15 with Exodus 32:32 Psalm 69:21-28 139:13-16 Luke 10:20) Answer. Everyone who has been born throughout history has their name written in the Lamb's book of Life. If they hear and believe the gospel their names will remain in the book. If they do not, upon their death, their names will be erased from the book.

Question. What are the beast of Revelation chapters four and five? Answer. The word beast is a mistranslation. It is the Greek word *zoon*, and it means, *a living creature; a living being*.

Question. Why is Babylon called, "mystery Babylon?" Answer. Because the word mystery, found 27 times in the New Testament, means a truth concealed until the time revealed. If you think about it, false religion is flourishing. Therefore, it is a truth concealed until it is revealed in Revelation.

Question. How do we know the tribulation is a seven year period of time? Answer. In Daniel 9:27 the word 'week' is actually a week of years, or seven years. Also in the midst of the week, which is 3 ½ years the abomination takes place. Also in Revelation the tribulation is divided into two three and one half year periods of time. Revelation 11:2 and 13:5.

Question. Why are the locusts in Revelation 9:1-12 not literal locusts? Revelation says they have a king over them. (9:11) Locusts have no king. (Proverbs 30:27)

Question. What and where, is the bottomless pit. Answer. Nobody knows except God. All we know is, it is a place where Satan and his angels are imprisoned for a period of time. It is also called the 'abys.' Satan is chained in the abys for one thousand years. Revelation 20:1-3

Question. How do we know the church is taken before the tribulation begins?

Answer. The Holy Spirit is removed. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer. If the Holy Spirit is removed, so is every believer.

Question. What is the first resurrection. (Revelation 20:5,6) Answer. The first resurrection is reserved for those who are saved by faith in the finished work of Christ. IE believing the gospel. The first resurrection is in parts. 1st part; Christ the first fruits. 2nd part the church at the rapture. (1 Corinthians 15:23) 3rd part the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-14) 4th part is the resurrection of those who were killed, or martyred for their testimony during the tribulation. (Rev. 6:9-11 7:9-11 20:4)

Question. How many names does Satan have? Answer. He is called Satan; the devil; beast; great red dragon; serpent; Abaddon; Apollyon; Beelzebub; all are a description of his personality.

FOUR GREAT BATTLES IN REVELATION

There are four great battles mentioned in Revelation. Every battle includes God, Satan, Israel, and Satan's hatred for Israel. 1st battle is the first battle of Magog mentioned in Revelation 6:3,4 with Ezekiel 38 and 39. 2nd battle is in the heavens when Satan and his angels are cast into the earth. Revelation 12:7-12. 3rd battle is when God gathers the world together at Armageddon. Revelation 16:12-16 4th battle will take place after the one thousand kingdom. It is also called Gog and Magog. Revelation 20:7-9

CONCLUSION

This has not been an in depth commentary on Revelation. Our goal has been to make the book easy to understand. Revelation is the record of God's prophetic account of His future wrath upon an unbelieving world. Particularly those who are following Satan and his false doctrine, which is called Babylon. The theme of the entire Bible is faith. (Hebrews 11:1-40) That is, faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for forgiveness of sin. Anything else is based on the four words of Satan, "Yea hath God said?"