

THE REVELATION
OF
JESUS CHRIST
ABOUT
END TIME EVENTS



MINISTER MINISTRY

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These notes are those used in my pastoral ministry as I taught the contents of this particular book. They were written on a busy pastor's schedule and help was drawn from a number of different sources. They are intended to help and encourage people as they dig deeper into the word of God.

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May the Lord bless you as you study His word,
PREACHER MIKE Ps 16:11

II Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Habakkuk 2:2 And the lord answered me, and said, Write the Vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.



Our Mission:
To get every one possible,
using every means possible
"To Know and to Show Christ"



[The Revelation of Jesus Christ]
[Seventh Printing September 2003]
[Eighth Printing October 2010]

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PROPHETIC PRINCIPLES

Deut 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of his law.*

I. What is PROPHECY?

A) To Foretell Events to come- Telling about the Future while in the Present

B) To Forth Tell God's Message- I Cor 14:3 *he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.*

Note the difference in the way God gives the message- The prophecy of future events *came not by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost* (II Pet 1:21) Whereas the Prophet as a Preacher realizes that *the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets* (I Cor 14:32).

II. 3 Dangers in studying PROPHECY:

1> The MISINTERPRETATION of Scripture- Making it say what we want it to say (The Jews refused to accept Christ as Savior because they made all references to Him say He would come as a KING first). Also be aware *that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation* (II Pet 1:20). When only one person interprets Scripture a certain way that should ring warning bells in your brain.

2> The MISAPPLICATION of Scripture- Putting things in the wrong place (Many of the descriptions of the Millennium age are applied to Heaven. Many of the promises to Israel are applied to the Church).

3> The "MYSTICISM" of Scripture- You become so interested in what God is going to do a hundred years from now until you fail to Witness of, and live for, Him right now! (See Acts 1:6-11).

III. What is the PURPOSE OF PROPHECY?

A) A PROOF of God-Ezek 39:27-28 *When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations: Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.* (See 38:23, 37:28, 36:38, 35:15, 33:33). The Purpose of Prophecy is not to satisfy your curiosity but to demonstrate God! When we see His words come true time after time then we know that He is GOD- Deut 18:21-22 *And if thou say in thine heart, how shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*

B) A PURIFYING Influence- I John 3:3 *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.* I Thess 5:4-9

C) A PROMISE to look for- John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* I Thess 4:13-18

IV. How does God Give Prophecy? Daniel was given Prophecy by:

A) Vision- Dan 7:1

B) Angels- 8:15-16 (Note that Satan delayed an answer 3 weeks in 10:1-14)

C) Study- 9:2 coupled with prayer, fasting, confession of sin.

(THERE IS NO NEED FOR FURTHER PROPHECY AS GOD HAS ALREADY REVEALED THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM IT'S BEGINNING TO THE NEW EARTH- See the warning of Rev 22:18-19)

V. How do we UNDERSTAND Prophecy?

A) Look for Bible Explanations- See Dan 8:-

Rules for Interpreting Scripture:

- a. What does the Word normally mean? {When the Plain sense of the Scriptures makes common sense, seek no other sense!}.
- b. What is the context the word is used in? (Text out of context is pretext!!)
- c. What is the Historical background of the word or the writer?
- d. What is the grammatical construction of the word in the original?

B) Identify the WAY the Word is given-

- a. Figure of speech- "Behold, the Lamb of God"
- b. Parable- The Prediction is given in a "story" form- (Nebuchadnezzar's Golden image in Dan 2:)
- c. Presentation Prophecy- Many of the Prophets of the Old Testament.
- d. Conditional Prophecy- John the Baptist/Elias Matt 17:10-13; Jonah's Prophecy to Nineveh
- e. "Double" Prophecy- Present Prediction/ Future Prediction [Example of Brazen Serpent: Healed the children of Israel right then (Num 21:4-9); Used wrongly later (II Kgs 18:4); and pictured the Cross of Christ (Jn 3:14)]
- f. Symbols:
 - (a) Multi-used symbols- "Time, Times, and Half a Time"- Dan 12:7, Rev 12:14. Abomination of Desolation- Dan 9:27 11:31, 12:11, Matt 24:15, Mark 13:14
 - (b) Bible Identified Symbols- Ram= Media, Persia (Dan 8:20); Goat= Greece (Dan 8:21); Dragon= Satan (Rev 12:9)

C) Identify the "Cast"- The Bible is not a systematic study of Theology, or Morals, or History, or Science, etc. It is a REVELATION of God, of the fall of Man, of God plan to Redeem Man, and of God's Plans and Purpose for the Ages. It reveals:

3 main "Players"- God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), Satan (Devil, Antichrist, Demons), and Man (Man, woman, child)

3 main Places- Heaven, Hell, Earth

3 main Peoples- Jews, Gentiles, The Church of God.

God the Father is married to the Jew, Jesus has the Church as a Bride, and the Holy Spirit seems to be the "bachelor of the Bunch"!

D) Identify the Perspective- Is it talking from the point of view of Heaven or earth? Jew or Gentile? Is it Predictive or Corrective?

Mystery- A mystery is something previously hidden that God has now revealed. There are numerous "Mysteries" in the New Testament:

- 1) The fact that God's program with Israel would be interrupted was a mystery- Matt 13:11; Rom 11:25
- 2) The Wisdom of God in His way of Salvation- I Cor 2:7; Rom 16:25
- 3) God's work thru Christ- I Tim 3:16
- 4) The development of evil into it's culmination in the man of sin (II Thess 2:7) and the development of the great apostate Religious system (Rev 17:5,7) are called Mysteries.
- 5) The Rapture is a Mystery- I Cor 15:51
- 6) The Formation of the Church (Centered around Gentiles) as the body of which Christ is the Head was a Mystery- Col 1:23-29 Eph 3:3-9

Paul called himself not only a Minister of Christ but also a "Manager of the Mysteries of God"; and, as such, realized his responsibility to share these "Mysteries" faithfully- I Cor 4: 1-2

THE APOCALYPSE

Written by the Apostle John, this is the last of the inspired writings. John had been banished to the isle of Patmos for *the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ* (Rev. 1:9). God used this exile to share with John some of the greatest news the world has ever heard- In a world of trouble and trial, God is still in control and will "reward" the evil as well as the good. Tradition says that John was eventually returned to Ephesus where he died a natural death at age 100 (The only Apostle to die a natural death).

Revelation is called the Apocalypse (Greek for "to unveil" or "TO REVEAL") because it is the revealing by Jesus Christ of things which must shortly come to pass (Rev. 1:1). It is the only book in the New Testament containing the promise of blessing to the one *that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein* (Rev. 1:3).

CHARACTERISTICS OF APOCALYPTIC WRITINGS:

1. Usually written in times of trouble and distress
 - A) Daniel during the Babylonian captivity
 - B) Revelation at the beginning of the Conflict between the Roman Empire and the Church
2. Convey their message by means of signs, symbols, dreams, and visions. (Cp. to Christ's use of Parables when opposition increased)
3. Give promise of the eventual triumph of good over evil.

THE 4 BASIC METHODS OF INTERPRETATION OF REVELATION:

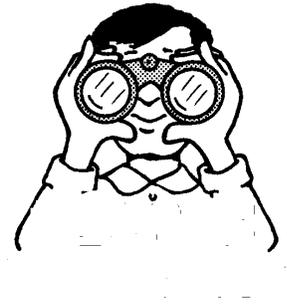
1. The Preterist (Past Time) Method say Revelation deals with the events concerning the Church and the Roman Empire before 100 AD and is therefore of no value today except as a means of showing that God and good will prevail.
2. The Historicist Method- sees the book as revealing the History of the conflict between the Church and Satan. Its weakness lies in the inability to get the signs to agree with actual history- each time history changes the signs must change also.
3. The Futurist Method- with the exception of Chapters 1-3, the whole of Revelation is viewed as Future- showing the wrath of God before the Return of Christ. The main problem is that people ignore the writings today because they think they only relate to the Future.
4. The Idealist Method- This method interprets Revelation as dealing with spiritual allegories, rather than historical realities. It says that Revelation is just to show us that God will triumph over evil so we won't get discouraged.

The Futurist Method seems to be the "most right" of the methods because it agrees with the whole scheme of the Bible. It also gives us God's Revelation of events until the "end of the age".

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

This book was not meant to be a mysterious, unknowable book. Its very name- Revelation (Greek-Apocalypse)-means "an unveiling", a plain showing. The problem is that most people become entangled with all the details and miss the heart of the Book- Jesus Christ revealed as:

- Ruler of the Church
- Worthy to open the seven sealed Book (Earth's title deed)
- Worthy to be served even during dire persecution
- Ruler during Earth's Blessed Millennium
- Groom claiming His Bride (The Church)



The Revelation is the "Cap Stone" to the rest of the Bible. It allows us to see all the way to the end of time. It is important because Man would be left hanging in doubt and despair without its revelation of how everything finally ends up-- A wicked, Christ rejecting, earth is judged, The Saint is found worshiping in Heaven, Satan is defeated and cast away, and God and man find eternal Joy in Fellowship together.

The Basic outline of the Book is found in 1:19 *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*

I. THE THINGS WHICH THOU HAST SEEN Chapter 1

The Person of Christ- "Son of Man" Glorified

II. THE THINGS WHICH ARE Chapter 2-3 (Church age)

The Place of Christ-Ruling thru His Church

III. THE THINGS WHICH SHALL BE HEREAFTER Chapter 4-22

The Power of Christ- Victorious over rebellious man, Satan, and Sin.

NOTE: -The "Numbers" in the Book (especially 7, 3, 12, and 10).

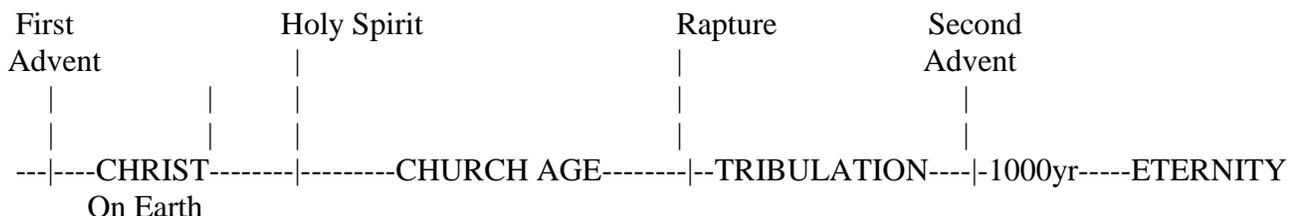
-All chapters after the first one in each part begins with "and"

-The word "Church" is not used after chapter 3 until all is complete

-The Power from the North is considered to be Russia (See Ez.38, 39)

-The beast with seven heads and ten horns is considered to be a revived Roman Empire of 10 nations headquartered on the 7 hills of Rome

The last days can best be shown on a graph:



(Christ came to earth, lived to show us God, Died to Redeem us from sin, and Ascended back to the Father. The Holy Spirit came down to empower the Church thru Christians during the Church Age. The Church will be Raptured and the Tribulation will begin. The Tribulation will end when Christ comes the Second time. This will begin the 1000 Year reign of Christ on earth (The Millennium) and will end with final Judgment and then Eternity with God in Heaven).

Remember that everything "Revolves" around Christ and men's acceptance or rejection of Him.

I. THE THINGS THAT THOU HAST SEEN- Chapter 1---Vision of the Glorified Christ**A) The Record 1-3**

1. God's Purpose- To show things which must shortly come to pass
2. John's Plan- To bare record of:
 - a. The Word of God- The Scriptures reveal Christ
 - b. The Testimony of Jesus Christ- The Spirit reveals Christ
 - c. All things he saw- His Sight revealed Christ
3. Blessings Promised
 - a. To Him that reads this Prophecy (Read this book regularly)
 - b. To Him that hears the words of this Prophecy (Listen to what God is saying in this Book)
 - c. To Him that keeps the things of this Prophecy (Prophecy is not to ponder, it is to Practice!)

B) The Writings 4-8

Greetings from:

God----who is, was, and is to come (God is Present, Past, and Future)

Spirit--7 Spirits before God's throne (See Rev 4:5)

Jesus Christ:

1. Who He is- Faithful Witness (He can be Trusted)
First begotten of the dead (Death could not conquer Him)
Prince of the Kings of the earth (He is in Charge and will Rule)
2. What He did- Loved us
Washed us from our sins in his own blood (Dealt with our sin)
Made us kings and priests unto God (Exalted us as sons)
3. How He's Coming- With clouds for all to see (This is the RETURN not the Rapture)
With Judgment- Unsaved Men will Wail because of His Return

C) The Revealing 9-16**1. Of John (vs 9-12)**

- a. Who he was- brother and companion
- b. Where he was- on the Isle of Patmos (Turkey coast)
- c. Why he was there- (For his stand for) the Word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ
- d. What happened to Him:
 - 1) In the Spirit on the Lord's Day (Spirit filled Sunday)
 - 2) He heard a great voice (definite message)
 - 3) He saw a great sight (He turned to see it)

2. Of Jesus (vs 12-16)

- a. His Place- In the midst of the seven golden candlesticks (7 Churches)
- b. His Person- (No longer the "Gentle Shepherd"; now King of Kings!)

Everything speaks of Judgment- The Garment of the Judge, The Girdle of the High Priest, The White Hair of the Elder, The all seeing eyes of Fire, The feet of Brass (Judgment in O.T.), The Commanding Voice, The Right Hand holding the Gospel Messengers, The Two Edged Sword of the Word of God, and the countenance as the Sun to lighten every dark place.

D) The Response

1. "I fell at his feet as dead" (A Vision of God in His strength reveals us in our weakness! See Is. 6:-)
2. The Command to write is given (When God gives a Message it needs to be communicated to others)

PRESENT EARTH TIME CHART
(Many people believe the world is almost 6000 years old. The following chart gives a brief description of what happened during each 1000 year span)
4000BC Creation , Fall of Man Ancient Civilization
3000BC Flood, Babel, Nations Begin
2000BC Abraham, Jewish Nation Egyptian Bondage, Exodus Conquest of Canaan, Judges
1000BC United Kingdom-Saul, David, Solomon Divided Kingdom- Judah, Israel Captivities, Return to Jerusalem
1AD Incarnation – Christ is Born and ministers (The Gospels) Crucifixion – Christ is crucified Pentecost – Holy Spirit Comes, Church is Born (Acts and Epistles)
APOSTOLIC CHURCH 33-100AD Ephesus- First Love
MARTYR CHURCH 100-316AD Smyrna- Period of Persecution
STATE CHURCH 315-500AD Pergamos- Rise of Constantine
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 500-1500AD Thyatira - Rise of the Papacy
REFORMATION CHURCH 1500- Sardis - Rise of Martin Luther
MISSIONARY CHURCH 1793- Philadelphia - Period of Modern Missions
LUKEWARM CHURCH Laodicea
RAPTURE OF CHURCH / JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST TRIBULATION BEGINS (70th week of Daniel) 7 YEARS OF TRIBULATION- 3 ½ years with the two Witnesses and 144,000 Jews. Antichrist rises at Mid Point of Tribulation and the Great Wrath of God is unleashed
RETURN OF CHRIST AS KING MILLENNIUM (1000 Year reign of Christ on earth)
WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT OF SINNERS AND SATAN ETERNITY - NEW HEAVEN/NEW EARTH

II. THE THINGS WHICH ARE Chapter 2-3 (The Church Age)

All of the Churches are located in Asia Minor (Modern Turkey). Some of the qualities of each Church can be found in every age but each Church is a representative of the General spirit of that age.

A) The Church at Ephesus: The Apostolic Church

1. Historical Teaching

- a. Time- until 100AD
- b. Special Events- This is the first Church; founded by the apostles. The scriptures are completed and God's turning from Jew to Gentile is now clear.

2. Spiritual Teaching

- a. Christ is holding the 7 stars in His right hand and walking in the midst of the candlesticks. In the early days of the Church, Christ walked in the midst of the Church and men took instructions from him.
- b. The first Church problem is loss of Love. Work and Sacrifice mean nothing without Love (I Cor. 13:1-3). God's answer is Remember, Repent, or be removed!
- c. Nicolaitanes - (Nikas- "to conquer" Laos- "The people") The system that divided the Church into two divisions- Clergy and Laity. A Pastor is a Servant of God and of God's People, not a ruler of his private kingdom. Notice how the deeds of the Nicolaitanes become the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes (vs 15) in a few years. A custom can become a law if done often enough! Notice also that Christ said He hated it both times.

B) The Church at Smyrna: Martyr Church

1. Historical Teaching

- a. Time- 100-316 AD
- b. Special Events- This was the time of intense persecution for the Church. Most Christians lost their possessions and many lost their lives. There are 2 views of the ten days of tribulation in vs. 10-
 - (1) The 10 attempts to wipe out Christianity prompted by the edicts of 10 different Roman rulers.
 - (2) The last persecution lasted exactly 10 years.

2. Spiritual Teachings - The Poor Rich Church (Compare to Laodicea- The Rich Poor Church)

Christ pictures Himself as suffering even unto death and so He is able to help these sufferers. He also promises them a Crown of Life (One of 5 Crowns promised to believers- See study later in this book.)

C) The Church at Pergamos: State Church

1. Historical Teaching

- a. Time- 316-500 AD
- b. Special Events- The Doctrine of Balaam (vs 14) is that if you cannot curse God's people then you try to corrupt them. When the 10th Roman Emperor died, two generals fought to become the new Emperor. One of them was Constantine. On the night before the battle, legend says that he saw a vision of a cross with the words "by this sign conquer" and he made a vow that if he won the battle Christianity would become the religion of the state. He did win and the Christians were lifted from the catacombs to the castle- but multitudes now joined the Church because it was popular; without any repentance of sin. Whole companies of soldiers were baptized at one time. Constantine became "head" of the Church. The Church became popular with the world but Christ promised to fight it with the Sword!

2. Spiritual Teaching - Where Satan's seat is- Satan does not have a throne in Hell! He is the "prince of this world" and sets up his headquarters at various places on the earth. Pergamos was known for its different religions and temples- these were what Satan worked thru. It is when Christianity becomes centralized in a man or location that Satan is able to take control and compromise the work of God. (One of the reasons there are so many denominations in the world today.)

D) The Church at Thyatira: Roman Catholic Church

1. Historical Teaching

a. Time- 500AD

b. Special events- The State Church has grown from an organism into an organization. The priest assumes more and more power and a Pope is elected to become "God's Spokesman". Good works, works of Charity, and works of patience are emphasized. Many good and sincere people are still found in this organization (vs 24). The Catholic Inquisition was active during this time. The Dark Ages of History occurred during this time.

2. Spiritual Teaching- The Woman Jezebel- The Roman Catholic Church changed Mary into someone to be worshiped and prayed to. They also changed the Church into the "Mother Church" that left its members in ignorance and superstition while the Church became richer and more powerful.

"I will cast her... into great tribulation" (vs 22)- The Catholic Church will form the base for the religious activities during the tribulation. They will form a pack with Antichrist until Antichrist proclaims himself as God.

E) The Church at Sardis: Reformation Church

1. Historical Teaching

a. Time 1500 AD

b. Special Events- The word Sardis means "escaping ones" or those who come out". This is the period of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther, Knox, Wycliffe, etc. It officially began on Oct. 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his "Ninety-Five Theses" to the door of the Church in Wittenburg, Germany. For almost 1000 years Rome had held sway over the minds and souls of men but now the chains were being broken as men began to "rediscover" the Bible and its teaching of Salvation by Grace thru Faith for all men

2. Spiritual Teaching- Notice that this is the Church of the Spirit and the Messengers! "thou hast a name that thou livest and are dead"- The Lord looks beyond what we say to what we are. The Church had escaped from Rome-but Pride and the Past (They kept many of the Catholic traditions) combined to "sap" the life and leave just a name.

God's command to Sardis is the same as to Ephesus- Remember, Repent, Return.

I will not blot out his name out of the book of life. Several times in scripture there is talk about blotting people's name out of the Book of Life. That is a warning and an exhortation we need to heed.

F) The Church at Philadelphia: Missionary Church

1. Historical Teaching

a. Time- 1793 AD

b. Special Events- Philadelphia means "brotherly love". This Church represents the time from around 1750 AD until the present when the doors to the mission field were flung open and men reached out with the Gospel in brotherly Love to those that had never heard it. This is the day of William Carey, Adoniram Judson, the Wesley brothers, Whitfield, Finney, Moody, Billy Sunday, and others whom God used mightily to spread the Gospel.

2. Spiritual Teaching- God opens the door and no man can shut it- but He also closes the door and no man can open it. After World War II General MacArthur called upon the Christians of America to send 5000 Missionaries thru the open door of Japan. We were too busy and too satisfied and now the communist have a major hold on Japan and the door of opportunity is nearly closed.

The strength of this church was because they kept the word and did not deny the name of Christ.



G) The Church at Laodicea: Lukewarm Church

1. Historical Teaching

a. Time- Present

b. Special Events- Laodicea was a town of wealthy merchants. It had all the "trappings" of High Society and very little of the "bad elements" of life. It was a "good" little town where men bought and sold and lived in comfort

2. Spiritual Teaching

a. Christ did not find fault with their Faith- But with their Feverency!

(Neither hot nor cold they made God sick)

b. What they said about themselves and what God saw was very different.

Christ urged them to buy (see Is. 55:1) the very spiritual things that they did so much physical business in.

c. Christ seems to have given up on the Church as a whole and now stands without the door of "any man" who will hear. (Note that it is Christ who seeks men and not men who seek Christ!)



CHURCH	IDENTIFICATION OF JESUS "These things Saith"	EVALUATION OF CHURCH "I Know thy Works"	EXHORTATION TO THE CHURCH	CALL TO ATTENTION "He that hath ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR"	PROMISE "To Him that Overcometh"
Ephesus 2:1-7	Holds 7 stars in His right hand Walks in the midst of 7 golden candlesticks.	Labors, Testings and hate Deeds of Nicolaitans	Remember, Repent, Do First works	Or else I will remove thy candlestick!!	Eat of the Tree of Life
Smyrna 2:8-11	First and Last Dead and is alive	Poor (but Rich) Endured Blasphemy	Fear Not Be Faithful	Endure and I will give you a crown of life.	Shall not be hurt of the second death
Pergamos 2:12-17	Hath sharp sword with two edges	Holds fast to the name of Christ even at Satan's seat and when martyred	Repent, Beware of Doctrine of Balaam and Nicolaitanes	Or else I will come quickly and fight against you with the word	Eat of the hidden of manna. Given a white stone with a new name.
Thyatira 2:18-29	Eyes like flame of fire. Feet like fine brass.	Works, faith, patience. Allowed Jezebel to lead Saints astray.	No other Burden will be put on you. Hold Fast what you have.	Jezebel's followers will go into tribulation	Power over the nations . Give you the Morning star
Sardis 3:1-6	7 Spirits of God 7 stars (Messengers)	Name to live but dead! Works not found perfect	Be Watchful, Strengthen remainder, Hold fast, Repent.	I will come as a thief- be on guard.	Clothed in white. Not blot name out of book of life. Confess you to Father.
Philadelphia 3:7-13	Holy, True Holds keys of David to open or shut	Open door but little strength Kept word and denied not name	Hold Fast what you have that no man take your crown.	I will make the worshipers of Satan to worship thee.	Pillar in Temple Write upon him the name of God.
Laodicea 3:14-22	Amen, Faithful and True Witness. Beginning of Creation of God.	Luke warm Rich (But Poor)	Get Real Riches, Cloth nakedness, Anoint eyes.	Be zealous and repent. I'm without the door trying to get in	Sit with me in my throne Open the door and I will come in.

CONDITIONS BEFORE THE COMING

There are some things we need to understand about this age we live in- between the resurrection of Christ and the rapture of the Church

1. **DISTINCTIONS OF THIS AGE.** There are a number of ways in which this present age differs from all the ages that preceded it.

A) Before, Christ was anticipated. Now we see Him on the right hand of the Father as we look back at His death, burial, and resurrection. Our Faith is in an accomplished victory instead of an anticipated visit.

B) In ages past, The Holy Spirit came on certain men to empower them for specific tasks. Today He dwells in every believer.

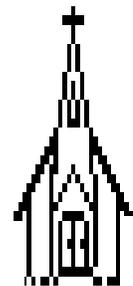
C) The Nation of Israel has been set aside as God's primary instrument during this age and the Gentiles have been grafted in.

2. **GOD'S PROGRAM DURING THIS AGE.**

God has not "Changed" or "done away with" His program for Israel. He has simply set them aside while He accomplishes His purpose with the Gentiles. His purpose for Israel will be yet be realized. His program for this age is to call out a people from the Gentiles to show the marvel and wonder of Grace- Eph 2:7 *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Jesus Christ.* He will actually show in the ages to come how Israel could have enjoyed the Blessings of God but their stubborn rebellious spirit kept them from doing so.

These called out Gentiles form the Church and as such are the:

- BODY of which Christ is the Head (Ep 1:22-23)
- BRIDE of which Christ is the Bridegroom (Ep 5:25-27, 32)
- BRANCH of which Christ is the supporting vine (Jn 15:1)
- FLOCK of which Christ is the Shepherd (Jn 10:7-27)
- TEMPLE of which Christ is the Cornerstone (Ep 2:19-22, I Pet 2:5)
- Ministering PRIESTS of which Christ is the Chief Priest (I Pet 2:5)
- NEW CREATION of which Christ is the First Fruits (I Cor 15:45)



3. **CONDITIONS DURING THIS AGE**

There are NO SIGNS of Christ's return to Rapture the Church (There are numerous signs before His Second Coming in Glory). However, there are a number of prevailing conditions that will exist as this present age draws to a close that warn us to be increasingly watchful. The key thing to remember about these conditions is that they will exist in the Church and not just in the world.

1. Denial of God's power II Tim 3:5
2. Denial of Christ's coming in the flesh I Jn 4:3
3. Denial of Christ's return II Pet 3:3-4
4. Denial of the Faith I Tim 4:1-2 (Age of Apostasy)
5. Denial of Sound Doctrine II Tim 4:3-4
6. Denial of the Separated Life II Tim 3:1-7 Jude 18-19
7. Denial of Christian Liberty I Tim 4:3-4

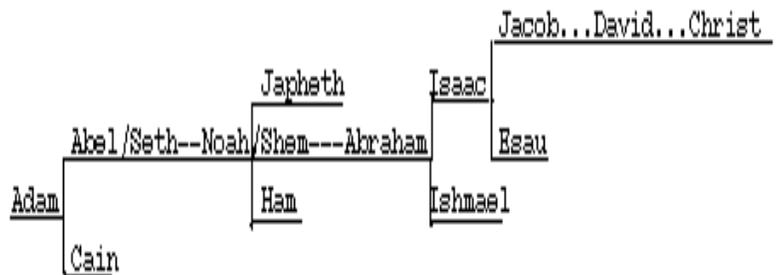
The example of how this age will develop is found in the 7 churches in Rev. 2:,3:.. Notice that the Church finally ends up in Riches instead of Rags but with Christ on the outside seeking entrance!!!

THE RETURN OF CHRIST THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

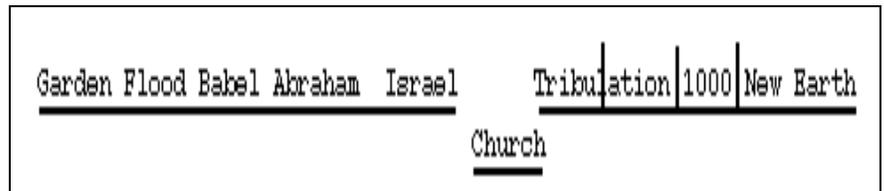
Any Study of Eschatology must come to grips with 2 main Biblical Truths- The Return of Christ WITH His Saints in contrast to the coming of Christ FOR His Saints (Rapture). There is a great deal of Controversy and Confusion about these two events because people have tried to isolate them from the rest of the Bible.

Another reasons for error and misapplication in Eschatology is the fact that people use "common sense" and present day circumstances to translate promises made by God whose "thoughts are not our thoughts, neither His ways our ways". God's Program has been consistent and continuing from the Garden of Eden. It is not some "stop gap" measure implemented at the last moment to cover unknown circumstances.

In order to understand the Future it is necessary that we examine the Past. One of the most obvious things we see is that God had a plan (REDEMPTION) that involved God CHOOSING and CARING for a specific group of people (Israel). God's Proclamation of this coming Redeemer and the need to prepare for Him {In addition to the accounts of Satan's Attacks on this Plan and these People} are the major focus of the Old Testament.



The New Testament begins with the birth and ministry of this Promised Redeemer, Christ. He presents himself to Israel by Message and Miracles as their promised Messiah but is rejected and crucified. Upon being raised from the Dead He instructs His disciples to continue His ministry but their miracles and Message are also rejected and so Christ seeks a Bride among the Gentiles (The Church).



Once this Bride has been selected and Raptured (Snatched away from "Jacob's Trouble"- Tribulation), God will finish

His program with Israel. This will include the 1000 year reign of Christ on the throne of David, in the "capital country" of the World- Israel, as God fulfills all His promises to Abraham and David.

At the end of this time Satan will be released for one final rebellion and God's victory over him will conclude with the casting of Satan and all his followers into the Lake of Fire. God will then purge this earth with fire and set up a New Heaven and a New Earth- Dominated by a New Jerusalem and Governed by God Himself!!

Once we grasp God's Purpose and Plan, the Promises and Prophecies of the Bible become relatively clear- Dan 12:10 *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.* [REMEMBER, Prophecy is not given to satisfy your Curiosity but to show God's Plans and Purposes in order that GOD might be glorified. It is not a "Trick" we show off but a Tool we use to Warn and Win].

THE CASE FOR COVENANTS

Once we realize God's General program for the ages we can then begin to pick out some specifics; because it is these specifics that will determine our understanding of When and Why Christ will Return (and this will, of course, have a major impact on our understanding of the Rapture of the Church).

We have shown that God CHOSE certain people to Proclaim and Produce the Savior that mankind needed. It is His COVENANTS with these Chosen People that have had a bearing on the entire history of the earth until now; and will continue to do so until the new Earth.

There are **TWO KINDS OF COVENANT GIVEN:**

A) Conditional ("IF") Covenant in which certain obligations or conditions must be fulfilled by the receiver of the covenant before the giver of the covenant is obligated to fulfill that which was promised (See Deut 28:-)

B) Unconditional Covenant ("I WILL") in which that which was covenanted depends upon the one making the covenant alone for the fulfillment- Rom 9:16 *So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.* (It should be noted that even an Unconditional Covenant can have some conditions- God's would not give His Unconditional Covenant to Abraham until he had finally left his family as well as his home).

The Primary Unconditional Covenant God made was the **ABRAHAMIC COVENANT**. This Covenant resulted in much of what happened in the Bible, and will be the reason for much of what will happen in the Future. This Abrahamic Covenant was amplified in the Palestinian Covenant (Deut 30:3-5) which assured final, permanent restoration to the LAND, in the Davidic Covenant (II Sam 7:11-16) which promised a DYNASTY, nation, and throne to David's Descendants, and the New Covenant (Heb 8:6-13) which promised REDEMPTION and a new Relationship.

It is important, therefore, that we understand the Basics of

The Abrahamic Covenant: (Gen 12:1-3; 6-7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-14; 22:15-18)

1. Abraham's name shall be great
2. A great Nation shall come from him
3. All families of the earth shall be blessed in him.
4. To him personally and to his seed should be given Palestine forever as an inheritance.
5. The multitude of his seed would be as the dust of the earth
6. Whoever blessed him would be Blessed, and whoever cursed him would be cursed.
7. He would be the father of many nations
8. Kings would proceed from him
9. This would be an "everlasting" covenant
10. The land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession.
11. God would be a God to him and his seed
12. He would process the gates of his enemies
13. In his seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed.

Many of the Promises given to Abraham (and his descendants) have yet to be fulfilled-- Which is a primary reason for the Millennium! The last week of Daniel's 70 "weeks of years" (Dan 9:23-27) is distinctively the time of "Jacob's Trouble" (Jer 30:7). This points to the Church being taken away before this "Tribulation" begins.

Now that we have some Background we're ready to look at the Theories about the Return of Christ and the Rapture of the Church.

RESURRECTION/RETURN

The Doctrine of the Time of the Resurrection is an Important Doctrine because Paul said wrong doctrine on this would overthrow some people's faith- II Tim 2:15-21 vs 18 *Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.* (It appears the primary reason for writing II Thessalonians was to correct some misconceptions about this Doctrine).

We must ask and answer these questions:

1. Does the Bible say there will be a "Rapture"? If so, does it say it will take place separated from the Resurrection? If so, When will it take place?
2. Is the Church in the Tribulation? If so, How long is it in the Tribulation?
3. When will the Church be Resurrected? When will Israel be Resurrected? When will the Unbelievers be resurrected?

The Bible Distinctly identifies 2 Resurrections:

Rev 20:4-6 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

John 5:28-29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

I Cor 15:23-25 *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterwards they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up 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.*

I Thess 4:16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

--The Shout of Christ is the call to Dead Christians, otherwise all people would come forth from the grave (As in the case of Lazarus).

--The Voice of the archangel is thought by some to be the call of Michael (Dan 10:13,21; 12:1; Jude 9; Rev 12:7) to the Jewish Saints of the Old Testament (Because he is "the great prince which standeth with the children of thy people" (Dan 12:1)). However there is no indication that any other than the Church, as the Bride of Christ, will be resurrected at this time and so this is probably Gabriel who is used to announce events concerning the Church.

--The Trump of God refers to I Cor 15:52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

This change will involve the dead receiving new bodies and the living receiving eternal bodies- I Cor 15:53 *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* Paul said he was looking for the "Blessed Hope" and the "Glorious Appearing" of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ (Tit 2:13). The "Blessed Hope" is the Rapture and the "Glorious Appearing" is the Return.

I. THE RETURN OF CHRIST. There are 3 basic views about the Return of Christ to set up His Kingdom. All of these views use the Millennium as their reference point (Millennium= 1000 years. In the Bible it refers to the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth).

The Millennium is mentioned by direct reference only in Rev 20:2-7 (Although we will find numerous references to the conditions and circumstances of this period scattered throughout the Bible).

Several things are clear about the Millennium from this passage:

1. Satan is bound and sealed in the bottomless pit during the Millennium.
2. Certain people will live and reign with Christ during this 1000 years.
3. The First Resurrection precedes the Millennium.
4. Satan will be loosed after the Millennium and will inspire the rebellion of Gog and Magog
5. Following this Rebellion, Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and the Great White Throne Judgment will take place.

The 3 views about the Return of Christ in relation to the Millennium

1. POST-MILLENNIUM: Post= "after". The Post-millennium people believe

A> That Christ will return to Earth **AFTER** the Millennium.

B> That the Church, not Christ, will be the means of bringing about the Millennial Kingdom.

C> That a person takes part in the first resurrection by being Born Again and as people are Born Again the world will become better and better until the conditions prophesied about in the Old Testament will exist.

D> That Satan is bound by the Spirit now and he will be loosed at the end of the age for the final battle.

They believe in a general resurrection after this at which time the Saints will receive their new bodies and sinners will be judged.

This theory enjoyed some popularity until all of the Twentieth Century wars cause people to realize that the church is not conquering the World and apparently never will!

2. AMILLENNIUM: A= "No". The Amillennialist do not believe in a physical millennium but instead look for a spiritual, heavenly one. They believe:

a. that the scripture should be spiritualized instead of taken literally (Lamb lying with Lions simply means world peace...).

b. that O.T. promises to Israel are fulfilled in the Church.

c. that the 1000 years are a symbolic expression of the period from the resurrection of Christ to His Second Coming.

d. that Christ's kingdom will be spiritual and heavenly, not political and earthly and is entered at the New Birth (John 18:36 *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.* John 3:3 *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*)

The Amillennialist have most of their following among the liberal denominations where Christianity is a theory to be discussed instead of a life to be lived.

3. PREMILLENNIUM: Pre= "Before"

a. Premillennialist hold that Christ's second coming precedes His establishment of a glorious kingdom of peace and righteousness on earth. He will personally reign from Jerusalem with His Saints.

b. They hold to the grammatical, historical, and literal interpretation of the scriptures, whenever possible.

c. The prophecies of the Old and New Testaments concerning the Messianic Kingdom are interpreted as finding their fulfillment in this future Millennial kingdom:

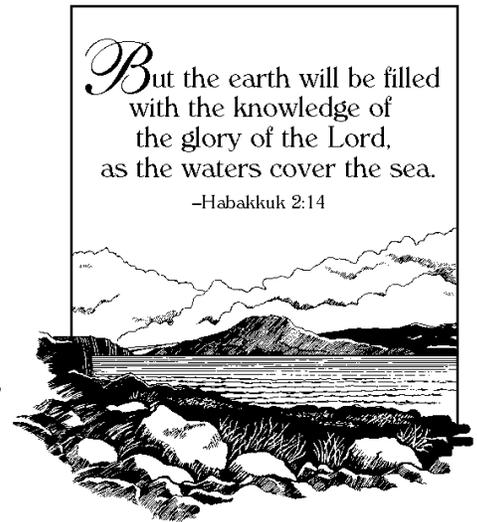
1. A universal theocracy Ps 89:35-37
2. A universal peace and righteousness among the nations Is 2:4
3. Restoration of all nature Is 11:6-9
4. Longevity will characterize the people during this time. Is. 65:20

Most Fundamental Bible Scholars hold this position. They find too many prophecies about, and references to, the reign of Christ upon earth to ignore or to explain away. Many of these believe that Satan reigned on the earth before his fall and God will use this time to show Satan (and the rest of Heaven) that a Righteous Reign would have been prosperous, peaceful, and pleasant.

An interesting Study the next time you read your Bible through would be to mark the passages that refer to:

- 1> The Millennial Kingdom
- 2> The New Earth
- 3> The Return of Christ
- 4> The Rapture of the Church

It might also be interesting to see if you can distinguish between promises made to Israel, to Christians, or to anyone who will claim them (Rev 1:3 *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*)



Rom 11:25 *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

The Time Element in Prophecy- (From a Quote by Angus-Green)

1. The Prophets often speak of things that belong to the future as if present to their view (Is 9:6)
2. They speak of things future as past (Is 53)
3. When the precise time of individual events was not revealed, the prophets described them as continuous. They saw the future rather in space than in time; the whole, therefore, appears foreshortened; and perspective, rather than actual distant, is regarded.

II. THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. (The Word "Rapture" is not found in the Bible. It is a Latin word meaning "to catch away" and was adopted by the early Church to signify that great moment when the Church is "caught up" by the Lord. I Thess 4:13-18). Most Post-millennialist and Amillennialist do not believe in the "Rapture" since they cannot see any reason for God taking His people away from a world that is getting Better and Better. However Paul taught the Rapture with such urgency until He had to write the book of II Thessalonians to urge the Thessalonians to continue with their work until the Lord returned since they were stopping work and their activities as the Lord would return at any moment.

There are 3 PRE-MILLENNIAL views about the Rapture:

1. Pre-Tribulation- The Church will be raptured at the beginning of the 7 years of Tribulation. Those who believe this say that God will not allow His Church to go thru the horrors of the Tribulation.

2. Mid-Tribulation- The Church will be raptured in the middle of the Tribulation just before the "Great Wrath" begins. This group holds that the 2 witnesses of Rev 11:12 represent the Church.

3. Post-Tribulation- The Church will go thru the Tribulation but will then be raptured just before the Millennium begins. These view the Tribulation as a time of purging for the Church as well as a time of judgment for the world.

3 main arguments for Pre-tribulation rapture:

1> The great Tribulation is punishment of the Christ-rejecting nation of Israel, not the Christian Church. Jer 30:7 *Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.* Rev 3:10 *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee (The Church) from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Christ's predictions to the Disciples about the Tribulation are based on Jewish, not Christian, concerns- The setting is Judea, They were to pray that their flight be not on Sabbath (Little concern to a Christian), and They were to watch for the Abomination of Desolation (Having to do with the Temple).

Satan persecutes the woman (Israel) during the Tribulation (Rev 12). If the Church were around he surely would persecute it. I Thess 4:15 says that there will be some that are "alive and remain" when Christ returns while Revelation says that all who will not worship the Antichrist will be slain.

2> The nature of the Christian Church forbids it going through the great Tribulation.

3> An interval of time is necessary between Christ's coming FOR his Church and His Return WITH His Church.

The partial Rapture Theory: (Held by some as an encouragement to good works)

Christ will rapture PART of the Church at the Beginning of the Tribulation (The ones who produce "Gold, silver, and precious stones") but the remainder of the Church will go thru the first half of the Tribulation to burn away their "wood, hay, and stubble". I Cor 3:11-15 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

BEGINNING OF OUR STAY IN HEAVEN

Rev 4:-

I. THE CHURCH IS RAPTURED: vs 1

"After this"- therefore after the Church age in Chapters 2 & 3

"The First voice as it were a trumpet". Compare to I Thess 4:13-17

The word "Church" is not used again until all is finished.

Chapters 5-21 all begin with "And".

The different views of the return of Christ:

-Pre-Millennial: before the 1000 year reign of Christ

-A-Millennial: There will be no 1000 year reign of Christ (The "A" in Greek means "no")

-Post-Millennial: Christ will return after the 1000 year reign (The Kingdom will be set up by the Church as it makes society better)

Pre-Millennial people are divided into 3 groups:

1. Pre-Tribulation: The Church raptured before the Tribulation

2. Mid-Tribulation: The Church will be raptured at the middle of the Tribulation; before the "Great Wrath" begins.

3. Post-Tribulation: The Church will go thru the Tribulation and be raptured just before the Millennium begins.

CHRIST IS COMING TO:

A) Redeem our bodies- Rom 8:23 "Fleshly" will become "Spiritual"

B) Receive us into His Presence- Jn 14:3, I Thess 4:17 We will Be with HIM!!

C) Reward us- Rev 22:12. The 5 crowns the Believer may receive are:

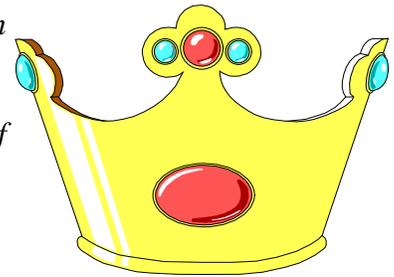
1. **The Incorruptible Crown** (Deals with Dedication) I Cor 9:25 *Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things, They do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

2. **The Crown of Righteousness**- (Having to do with our Love and Purity- See I Jn 3:2-3) II Tim 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

3. **The Crown of Life** (Having to do with our steadfastness). James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him.*

4. **The Crown of Glory** (For faithful Pastors) I Pet 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

5. **The Crown of Rejoicing** (Soul Winner's Crown) I Thess 2:19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*



This is the time that Christians will stand before the **Judgment Seat of Christ**- Rom 14:10-12 *For we shall all stand before the Judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Some of the things we may be judged for are:

- a. How we exercise authority over others
- b. How we treat other believers
- c. How we use our talents
- d. How we suffered for Jesus
- e. How effectively we control our old nature
- f. How many soul we witness to
- g. How we react to temptations
- h. How much we read and live the Word of God
- I. How faithful we are to Church
- j. How much we live our lives in accordance with God's Plan

II. THE LORD IS REVEALED 4:2-11 Note that in order for John to witness this he had to be "in the Spirit"- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

A) The Throne- First thing noticed!

1. He that sat on the throne- God. God is Spirit, Light, Love, and Truth. How do you Picture these?? John saw Him as Jasper (clear to Blue) and Sardine (Red).

2. Round the Throne:

- a. An emerald (green) Rainbow
- b. 24 Elders in white raiment with crowns of Gold (Israel and the Church or the 12 tribes and the 12 Apostles??)

3. Out of the Throne- Lightnings and thunderings and voices (See Ex 19:16-20). The throne speaks of Judgment.

4. Before the Throne- 7 lamps of fire which are the 7 Spirits of God (Representing the 7-fold ministry of the Spirit: Restraining, Convicting, Regenerating, Sealing, Baptizing, Indwelling, and Filling). There is also a Sea of Glass like unto Crystal

5. In the Midst of the Throne- 4 living creatures full of eyes (See Ex 1:4-10) representing the many sided nature of God:

- Lion ---- King-----Matthew
- Calf ---- Servant ---Mark
- Man ---- Man -----Luke
- Eagle --- God ----- John

Their cry is *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* No needs (!) except to Praise the Lord and adore who He is.



B) The Worship- The first thing we DO in Heaven is WORSHIP.

1. The Reaction of Worship. They cast their crowns before the throne.

2. The Reason for Worship- Respect (Awe) for God. *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created* vs 11. You are not your own, you are brought with a price.

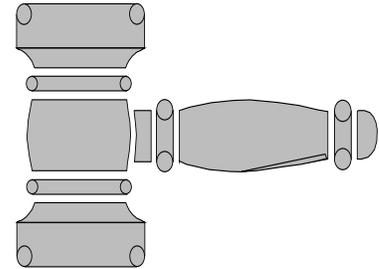
[The following 3 pages give us an opportunity to see the major Judgements listed in the Bible as we are looking at the Judgement seat of Christ in this part of the book of Revelation].

J U D G M E N T

A great man once said, "The most awesome thought in the world is my accountability to God". Surely we need to know **WHAT** will be judged and the **BASIS** of that Judgment if indeed we will be judged by an almighty God (And we will!!!)- Heb 9:27 *It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

There are 6 major Judgments listed in the Bible:

1. Judgment of Saints- Romans 14:10
2. Judgment of Sinners- Rev 20:11-15
3. Judgment of the Earth- II Pet 3:5-7
4. Judgment of Angels- Jude 6, II Pet 2:4, Isaiah 14
5. Judgment of the Gentile Nations- Matt 25:31-32
6. Judgment of Israel- Matt 24, Ez 20:34-38



THE JUDGES:

1. Jesus- John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:* John 9:39 *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world,...*
2. Saints will Judge the "world" and Angels- I Cor 6:2-3 *Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?... Know ye not that we shall judge angels?*
3. Sinners will be judged by the Bible and their works- Rev 20:12 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

I. JUDGMENT OF THE SAINTS I Peter 4:17 *Judgment must begin at the house of God.*

A) The Place of Judgment- Rom 14:10-12 *For we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

The word for Judgment seat here is "Bema" Seat. In Paul's day this was the place that the judges gave out awards in the Olympic games. Therefore the Judgment Seat of Christ is a place of **REWARDS** for service, not judgement for sin (Christians sins have already been judged in Christ).

The Time of this Judgment will be between the Rapture of the Church and the Return of Christ.

B) The Purpose of the Judgment- Christ is coming to:

1. Redeem our bodies - Rom 8:23 *And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*
2. Receive us into His presence - Jn 14:3 *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* I Thess 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
3. Review us - This review will mean 3 things:

REBUKES for failure to properly build. I Cor 3:12-15 *Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

REGRETS over lost opportunities (I believe this is why God will wipe away the tears from our eyes in Rev 21:4)

REWARDS to cast at Jesus' feet - Rev 4:10-11 *The four and twenty elders (Representing the Church) fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

There are 5 Crowns the Believer may receive:

1. The Incorruptible Crown (Having to do with the way we boss our bodies and faithfully perform our duties) I Cor 9:25 *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things, Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*

2. The Crown of Righteousness (Having to do with our purity as we long for His return) II Tim 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing.* I Jn 3:3 *Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

3. The Crown of Life (Having to do with our steadfastness in Temptation.) James 1:12 *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

4. The Crown of Glory (For Faithful Pastors) I Peter 5:4 *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

5. The Crown of Rejoicing (The Soul Winner's Crown) I Thess 2:19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming.*

Here are some things we may be judged about:

1. Some say this is simply a judgement of our **MOTIVES**. They say that the works we did in fleshly strength for fleshly glory will be "Burnt up" as wood, hay, or stubble. That we did to bring glory to God will stand the fire as gold, silver, or precious stones (I Cor 3)

2. Others believe this is a judgment of **SERVICE**. In the Past God dealt with us as Sinners, Presently God deals with us as Sons (Rom 8:14, Heb 12:5-11), in the future God will deal with us as Stewards ("Give an account of himself" in Rom 14:12 is the phrase used to describe a steward reporting to his master about how he has managed the resources entrusted to him). (I Cor 4:1 *It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.*)

This Judgment for Service may involve:

a. How we used our talents - Hid or invested: Matt 25:14-30

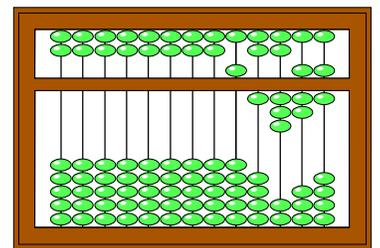
b. How we suffered for Christ - Matt 5:11-12 *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake, Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.* (See also I Peter 4:12-13, II Cor 4:17, and Phil 1:29)

c. How we spent our time and money - Ep 5:16 *Redeeming the Time for the days are evil.* I Tim 6:17-18 *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.* (See also Matt 5:19-21)

d. Whether we followed God's plan or our own - The very essence of sin is choosing your way over God's way.

e. How we reacted to temptation - James 1:2-3 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

f. How faithful we are to Church, Prayer, and the Word of God. Heb 10:25, Luke 18:1, II Tim 2:15
II Cor 5:10 *For we must ALL appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that EVERY ONE may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*



II. JUDGMENT OF SINNERS - The Great White Throne Judgment found in Rev 20:11-15.

A) The People of the Judgment

1. Christ as Judge - Jn 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the son. Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is (Christ) which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.*

2. Sinners as judged - Rev 20:12-13 *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them.*

B) The Books of the Judgment - Rev 20:12 *...and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

1. The Book of Conscience (?) Rom 2:15 *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another: (Not always a good guide).*

2. The Book of Words - Matt 12:36 *But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

3. The Book of Secrets - Rom 2:16 *God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ. Heb 4:13 There is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

4. The Book of Work - Matt 16:27 *For the Son of man shall come in the Glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*

Rev 20:13...*and they were judged every man according to their works.*

5. The Book of Life - Only Blood washed Saints found there.

C) The Results of this Judgement - Rev 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

III. JUDGMENT OF THE EARTH- II Pet 3:5-7

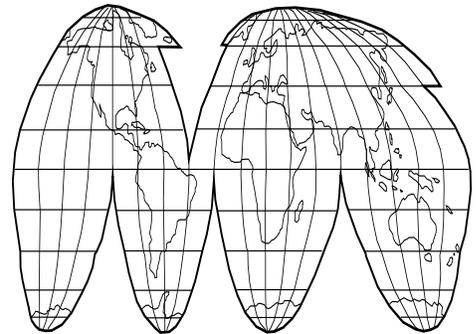
The main part of Revelation deals with God's Judgment on the people of the earth for rejecting His Son and using the world as if it were their own (Matt 21:33-44). He will destroy their food, their water, their religious organizations, their economic organizations, and their hope (they will cry for mountains to fall on them and beg to die).

Following this judgment on the earth "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 therein shall be burned up" and we will see "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (II Pet 3:10-13)

IV. JUDGMENT OF ANGELS- Jude 6

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day

II Pet 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.*



V. JUDGMENT OF THE GENTILE NATIONS- (Mat 25:31-32)

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: {32} And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: Judgement of the Gentile Nations according to the way they have treated Israel.

CHRIST AS REDEEMER

Chapter 5

THREE THINGS IN THE BIBLE COULD BE REDEEMED:

1. Man- A man having no money could sell himself as a servant. However a near kin could redeem him from his servitude (Lev 25:47-55) and become his Kinsman-Redeemer.
2. Wife- If a woman's husband died, and left no unmarried brother to marry her, or if a living brother chose not to marry, then the nearest next kin could marry her (Deut 25:5-10) and become the Kinsman- Redeemer. (An example would be Boaz marrying Ruth- Ruth 4)
3. Land- If a man lost his land, a near kinsman could buy it back (Redeem it) thereby keeping it in the family (Lev 25:25).

At this time (after the Rapture) Man [Christians] has received a new body and is redeemed (Rom 8:22-23). The Church as the Bride of Christ has been redeemed. Only the land awaits redemption and that is about to take place.

The 7 sealed book is the title deed to the earth. Man was originally given dominion over the earth (Gen 1:27-28) but lost it to Satan when he fell into sin (Satan offered the world to Christ if He would worship him and Christ didn't dispute his right to do so). Men have tried over the years to re-establish that dominion (Pharaoh, Rome, Hitler) but all have failed for No man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. (Rev 5:4)

How would you like it if you came home to find 4 families were living in your house; raising hogs!!!. God is now going to deal with these people and begin the eviction process

I. THE REDEEMER 5:1-6

- A) The Title Deed (Sealed)
- B) The Tears- Because no one was found worthy to open the Book
- C) The Triumph- of the Lion who is a Lamb slain

II. THE REJOICING 5:7-14

- A) The Savor- of Saint's Prayers (See Rev 8:3-4)
- B) The Song- of the Worth of the Lamb
 1. Because He was slain and hast redeemed us.
 2. Because He made us Kings and Priests
- C) The Seven Fold Blessing (Of the Beasts and Elders and over 100,000,000 Angels.)
 1. Power (All Power is given to me Matt 28:18)
 2. Riches (Owns cattle on 1000 hills- and hills!!)
 3. Wisdom (See Col 2:3)
 4. Strength (Over death, Hell, grave)
 5. Honor (Name above every name)
 6. Glory (all Glory is HIS)
 7. Blessing (Adoration- only He is worthy of being Adored)
- D) The Symphony- Heaven and Earth Worship and Praise God.

The rest of the book of Revelation now concerns the opening of this title-deed book and the steps that are taken to evict the husbandman who have used the vineyard as their own and despised the servants and Son who came seeking Fruit for the owner. (Matt 21:33-46)

THE REASONS FOR HIS WRATH

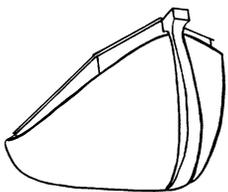
As we Christians look forward to the RETURN of Christ we must realize it is a Time of WRATH as well as WONDER. This wrath will begin with a period of intense problems in the world (Death, Disease, Famine, etc) in which over 1 billion people will perish, increase at the end of the first 3 ½ years to a time called the "Great Wrath" of God, and culminate after the Millennium with the cleansing of the earth by fire. Millions upon millions of people will suffer intense pain and persecutions during this time (even to the point of desiring to die and not being able to do so) as the God of Love and Mercy shows a rebellious world that He is also a God of Judgment.

Why would a God who loved the world enough to send His own Son to die for them bring such wrath and judgment upon mankind?? I think the only way to find reasonable answers are to look back at History and see the times in the past when God brought massive Judgment on men and then try to learn from their mistakes. While we know we cannot prevent this future Wrath; yet we can learn **WHY** it will come and how not to be a part of it.

1. SATAN'S REBELLION: The first time we know of God bringing wrath on a massive scale was following the rebellion of Satan and his angel cohorts. God covered the world with water and cast it into darkness (This happened between Gen 1:1 and 1:2) and only brought it back into the "sunshine" in order to be inhabited by man. Isaiah 14:13-14 tells what Satan did that incurred such wrath- *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God (Place of Control): I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.* Isa 14:13-14 Translated into common English this simple says, "I will be my own GOD".

So the first time God brings wrath on the world on a massive scale was because those who served Him tried to take His Power and deny His authority (Remember, the first commandment is always, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me").

2. MAN'S SINFULNESS: The second time the earth feels the full force of God's Wrath was the flood in Noah's day. Gen 6:2 and 5 tell why God brought this destruction- *the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.* (Gen 6:2) *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Gen 6:5 God had given Adam and Eve His Plan that called for Marriage and producing Children (To repopulate the earth and, after sin, to bring forth Messiah to save the world). Now Man put Pleasure ahead of God's Plan and let his desires overcome God's directions. We don't know much about Satan's pre-adamic world but we do know that in Noah's day God's Wrath would mean the destruction of every man, woman, boy, and girl on earth; except those in Noah's family [In fact, it even changed the world so that rain became a part of nature's cycle- and man's life cycle was greatly shortened following the flood]. Man had put his plans in the place of God's plans and destruction was the result.



3. REJECTION OF CHRIST: The Third time God's Wrath will fall upon this world is because men refuse to accept the Person of God in Jesus Christ- *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?* Rev 6:15-17



3 reasons then for Wrath:

1. Refusing to yield to God's POWER
2. Refusing to Follow God's PLAN
3. Refusing to Accept God's PARDON as found in Christ.

How is this applicable to today?

1. We live in a world in which man refuses to acknowledge God's Power- Man has become his own God (Humanism) and feels he must answer only to self. He only wants to USE God when he's sick or in trouble; otherwise, if God doesn't bother him he won't bother God.

2. God's Plan of Marriage and Family is under constant bombardment by a world bent on making Pleasure it's God. Abortion, Homosexuality, live-in Lovers, and divorce are the order of the day. God's plan may be good to talk about but no one expects you to really live the way God commands if it cramps your style!

3. Men are willing to give Money, time, and work to the Lord but don't ask them to humble their heart at the foot of the cross and accept Christ as Savior. Everyone wants to "go to Heaven" but few want to bear a cross and be counted a fool for Christ's sake.

It is not a question of **IF GOD'S WRATH WILL COME** but **WHEN WILL GOD'S WRATH COME???** You have 2 choices today:

1. *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.* 1 Th 1:10

2. *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;* Rom 2:4-5

You can acknowledge God's Power, follow God's Plan, and accept God's Pardon; or you can keep "storing up wrath" until one day God says enough and His wrath falls upon you. No one but you can make the choice!!

TRIBULATION

Jesus said that there would be no other time in human history equal to the great tribulation in severity (Matt 24:21). Jeremiah said (30:7) *That none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble*; and Daniel said (12:1) *There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.*

I. DEFINED: Tribulation- To press hard upon, to squeeze. It is translated Tribulation, affliction, anguish, persecution, trouble, or burden and occurs 54 times in the NT.

It is used to define:

1. Those hard pressed by war
2. Those pressed by poverty
3. A woman in child birth- Jn 16:21
4. The afflictions Christ had to endure
5. Anxiety, burden of heart- II Cor 2:4
6. A period of trouble at the end of the world. It is this period of time at the end of the world called the Tribulation that we are concerned with. It has 2 main purposes:

1. To proclaim Christ at the Rightful Ruler over the earth (Rev 5:-11:15)
2. To prepare Israel for the coming Kingdom (Matt 24:- OT Prophets)

II. DURATION: 7 years (There is some question about Jesus' statement in Matt 24:22 *except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.* If this means the "Period of Time" called the Tribulation shall be shortened then it will not last the full 7 years. If this means "literal days" shall be shortened (See Rev 8:12) then the full 7 years will be accomplished)

We know the length of this time because it is Daniel's "Seventieth week"-Dan 9:24-27 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the streets shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary: and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations shall be determined. 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, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

The command to rebuild Jerusalem was given on March 14, 445BC and Christ made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on April 6, 32AD--a period of exactly 173,880 days or 483 prophetic years of 360 days (7 X 69=483). The Church age now intervenes between the 69th and 70th year while Israel is "cut off" and the Gentiles are "grafted in".

The Seventieth week will be divided into 2 parts, each 3½ years long (42 months; 1260 days; time (12), times (24), and ½ time (6)). The first half is called the Tribulation and the second half is called the "Great Wrath". The division point is the "Abomination of Desolation when Antichrist will enter the temple, erect an image to be worshiped, and declare himself God. Sever persecution of the Jews (and anyone not willing to acknowledge the Antichrist by accepting his "mark") will begin at this time (Matt 24:15).

III. DETAILS- Much is said about this period...yet it is said thru symbols and from various viewpoints (Heavens, earth, Jews, Gentiles) and it is difficult to know when, how, or why certain events will take place. Here are some of the major guideposts" from Revelation.

1. War

A) On the Earth:

- at the beginning of the Tribulation Rev 6:
- the Beast warring against the two witnesses during the first half of the tribulation Rev 11
- The Beast against the Saints Rev 13:7
- The destruction of the Russian Army Ez 38, 39
- The Dragon against the Jews during the last half of the Tribulation Rev 12:12-17
- The Battle of Armageddon

B) In Heaven: Rev 12:7 When Michael and his angels cast Satan out of Heaven forever! (Glory!!!)

2. Woes- There are a large number of dreadful events to happen during the Tribulation.

- War, Famine, and disease kills 1/4 of the world's people Rev 6:8
- 1/3 of the trees and grass burned up, 1/3 of the sea becomes blood, and 1/3 of the sea creatures die 8:7-9
- 1/3 of the water becomes so bitter till men die that drink it 8:10
- pain so great from "scorpion" bites until men beg to die and are unable to do so Rev 9:3-11
- So many men die in the valley of Armageddon until the blood rises to the height of the horses bridle for almost 200 miles 14:20
- Thunder and lightning, great earthquakes, 130 lb hail 16:17-21
- Destruction of the "religious" and economic centers of the earth 17:- 18:-

3. Wonders-

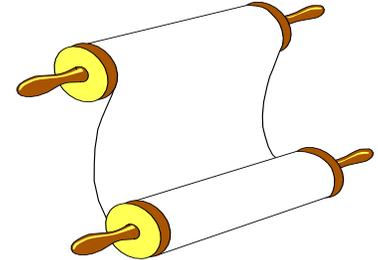
- That the two Witnesses will be able to destroy men with fire, order drought on the land, turn water to blood, and smite the earth with plagues. 11:4-6
- That the Antichrist will be able to overcome the Two Witnesses 11:-
- That the Antichrist will appear to come back to life 13:3-4
- That the Antichrist will be able to defeat the Saints 13:7 and that the false prophet will be able to call fire from Heaven and cause an image of the Antichrist to come to life 13:11-15.
- That men continue to refuse to repent 9:20-21

IV. DELIGHT- While all of this happening on earth I'll be "getting married" in Heaven as the Bride of Christ! *And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels. In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; II Thess 1:7-9*

THE BEGINNING OF THE END (The Seals)

Rev. 6

The Scene shifts from Heaven to Earth. The 70th week of Daniel is about to begin. The Lamb is about to open the 7 sealed "Title Deed" of the earth and eviction is about to begin.



I. FIRST SEAL vs. 1-2 White Horse: Antichrist

This Rider carries a bow instead of a sword (see Rev. 19:11-15) and appears at the beginning of the Tribulation. He is the False Man of Peace (no arrows for his bow) that unites much of the World after the chaos of the Rapture.

II. SECOND SEAL vs. 3-4 Red Horse: War

The Peace last but a short time as powers seek to take advantage of the disorder in the World. (Communism is represented by Red.) There will be wars and rumors of war as nations attempt to gain hold over earth's few remaining resources.

III. THIRD SEAL vs. 5-6 Black Horse: Famine

The destruction of America and the continued war produces World Wide Famine. "A measure of wheat for a penny" - A quart of wheat for a day's pay! (At \$30 per day that is \$960 a bushel!) But the rich will still have their oil and wine and the luxuries of life. (The Dead Sea of Israel is a vital source of Potash - Fertilizer to grow food will be worth more than Gold.)

IV. FOURTH SEAL vs. 7-8 Pale Horse: "Death" followed by Hell,

War, and Famine brings death - 1/4 of the World population of over 4 billion will die from war, hunger, disease, and attack by beasts of the earth (add pets, zoos, circus, etc. to other wild animals.) Hell follows death - The Christians are already raptured. Most of the remaining people will go to Hell when they die (see notes on Chapter 7)

V. FIFTH SEAL vs. 9-11 Martyrs

Slain for Word of God and their testimony.

Cry for vengeance (How things change!)

Told to wait

Two views as to who these are:

1. Old Testament saints who were not raptured with the Church. (The Rapture is for the Church, the Resurrection for the Jewish Saint)
2. People who heard the testimony of the 144,000 and died for their faith during the Tribulation.

VI. SIXTH SEAL vs. 12-17 "Natural" Catastrophes

Great Earthquake (one of 3 in Rev. -here, 11-13, 16:18-20)

Sun Black, Moon as Blood, stars fell, Heavens closed

1. Many think this is a symbol of the world governments in chaos
2. Real Catastrophes caused by God's Wrath and Man's wars

Notice that instead of turning to God these men try to hide from Him !

COMPARISON CHARTS

SEALS 6:1-17	TRUMPETS 8:-, 9:- 11:15-19	PERSONAGES 12: 13	VIALS 15: 16:
1. White Horse (Rise of Antichrist)	1. Hail, fire mingled with blood. 1/3 of trees and all green grass burnt	1. The Woman with child	1. Grievous sores upon the men which had the mark of the Beast
2. Red Horse (War)	2. "Comet" in the sea. 1/3 of sea to blood, 1/3 of creatures in sea died, 1/3 of ships sank	2. Red Dragon 7 heads & 10 horns	2. Sea to blood & every living soul died in the sea
3. Black Horse (Famine)	3. Wormwood Star- 1/3 of fresh water turned bitter. Many Die	3. Man Child caught up to Heaven	3. Rivers and fountains of water turn to blood.
4. Pale Horse (Death with Hell)	4. 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and Stars blotted out	4. Michael and the Angels war in Heaven.	4. Sun scorched men with great heat
5. Martyrs	5. Locusts from the bottomless pit. Men seek death and can't find it. FIRST WOE	5. Remnant that have the testimony of Jesus Christ	5. Kingdom of Beast full of darkness so men gnaw their tongues
6. Change in Conditions	6. Angels of Euphrates loosed. 200 million men who kill 1/3 of men. SECOND WOE	6. Beast out of the sea	6. Euphrates dried up so the way of the King of the East is prepared. Spirits work miracles.
Sealed Israelites Saved Gentiles	INTERLUDE The little Book and the unwritten part. The 2 Witnesses.		
7. Silence as 7 Trumpets sound.	7. Great Voices in Heaven. The Kingdoms become Christs	7. Beast out of the Earth	7. Voice from Heaven . Greatest Earthquake. Jerusalem Divided 102 lb hailstones

This chart will allow us to see the differences and similarities between the various happenings in the book of Revelation. Some events are world wide while others are local in scope. Some deal with Circumstances while others are about the people who play a major part in this unfolding drama.

In Wrath God Remembers Mercy

Chapter 7

(This is a Parenthesis between the 6th and 7th seal)

I. THE SEALED (On Earth) 1-8 [Jews first; then to the Gentiles]

A) Preserved-- Hurt not the earth...till we have sealed the servants of our God

NOTE 1) In verse 1 & 2 it's almost as if the 4 angels are nearly ready to pass out judgment and the angel from the East comes rushing in saying, "Wait! God's people must be cared for first".

NOTE 2) The seal in their foreheads- NO SECRET DISCIPLESHIP! I take this to be a physically seen stamp just as later 666 is visible on the hands and foreheads of Antichrist's men.

B) Picked- 12,000 from each tribe except Dan [which went to idolatry]. These Jews will preach the Kingdom of God during the first 3 ½ years of tribulation while there is a period of relative peace under Antichrist. The 2 witnesses of Chapter 11 will have won these to Christ and they will go world wide preaching.

A SEAL is a sign of Possession and Protection. Christians today are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ep 1:13). When the Church is raptured the Holy Spirit will be taken also (II Thess 2:7) and a Physical sign will be needed.

II. THE SAVED (In Heaven) 9-17

A) What- A great multitude of all nations, people, and tongues

B) Who- They have come out of great Tribulation, washed in blood. (Saved Gentiles of the Tribulation period who believed the preaching of the 144,000 Jews and PROBABLY suffered martyrdom for their belief)

NOTE- 1. I think it will be very difficult, if possible, for those who have heard the Gospel before to be saved. (2 Th 2:11-12) *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: {12} That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

2. Remember Matt 24:14 *And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* (Matt 24 is dealing with events involving the Jewish nation and not the Church. There is no sign of the Rapture of the Church but there will be signs of the Return of Christ to set up the Millennium).

C) Where- Before the Throne of God.

1. Serve God day and night in His temple

2. God dwells among them (Oh Glorious Truth! The Great God of the universe will dwell among His creation. No wonder the host of Heaven can do nothing but Praise His Name.)

3. No more hunger, thirst, or discomfort (What a promise for those who died from lack of food and water or from torture.)

4. Tears wiped away (Is 25:8) *He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.*

AS ENOCH WAS TRANSLATED BEFORE THE FLOOD (The Church Raptured) AND NOAH WAS PRESERVED IN THE FLOOD BY THE ARK (Jews in Tribulation) SO GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES FOR HIS CHILDREN.

TRUMPETS

(Rev 8:-)

The pause of Chapter 7 is over. The 7th seal is about to be opened

I. THE SILENCE vs 1

1. Measure- ½ hour (A long time when you are waiting.)
2. Meaning- eye of hurricane: GOD'S WRATH IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

II. THE SOLEMN PREPARATION vs 2-6

1. 7 Angels given 7 Trumpets- "Get Ready to sound!"
2. Angel with censer- incense and prayer on altar (See Rev 6:10)
3. Censer with fire cast into earth: Voices, thundering, lightening, and an earthquake.

III. THE SINNER'S PUNISHMENT vs 7-13 (Trumpets)

1. Hail/Fire mingled with blood cast upon earth. 1/3 of trees burnt up and all green grass.
2. As it were a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea. 1/3 of sea became blood; 1/3 of sea creatures die; 1/3 of ships destroyed.
3. Star "Wormwood" falls on rivers. 1/3 of water bitter- many die
4. 1/3 of sun, moon, and stars darkened. Day and night shone not for 1/3 of it. (Perhaps clouds of smoke blotted out sky)

(Remember, we are now seeing foolish men killing and being killed because they are attempting to occupy land that Christ has the title deed to!). Men need to be made aware of the Goodness AND Severity of God. Goodness toward them that in Faith trust in Him and EQUAL severity on those who deny and disbelieve Him.

3 Woes to Come!!! LOOK OUT!!! (3 more Trumpets)

W O E ! W O E !

(Rev 9:-)

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET (The First Woe see 9:12) 9:1-11

1. vs 1 An Angel (Star- See Job 38:7) is given the key to the bottomless pit. (Not Satan for the same angel binds Satan in the Pit later- Rev 20:1-3)
2. vs 2-10 Locust (?) came out of the smoke of the pit.
 - a. Perhaps Demons who are seen. (But demons have only been able to work by occupying a person until now- not stinging).
 - b. Perhaps humans who are in number like locust dressed for battle with gas mask and driving tank like equipment. They would probably use a type of nerve gas to torment but not kill. This goes on for 5 months (vs 5,11) or the effects of the gas are for 5 months
3. vs 11 Apollyon [Destroyer]- probably not Satan for this angel is evidently bound in the bottomless pit. There are a number of powerful fallen angels (Comp. Dan 10:12-13).

II. THE SIXTH TRUMPET (Second Woe) 9:12-21

1. The River Euphrates is the dividing line of East and West
2. The Angels were released at the specific hour, day, month, and year ordered by God to slay 1/3 of men. (It would do us well to remember that although God uses men; they are under HIS control).
3. 200 million "horsemen" (Again probably mobile soldiers) kill 1/3 of men by fire (Atomic explosion is mainly heat), smoke (fallout), and brimstone (contamination).
4. **AND THE REST OF THE MEN REPENTED NOT.** Now stubborn and hard is the wicked heart of men!!!!

THE RIGHTFUL RULER

Rev 10:- 11:-

INTRO- Chapter 10 and 11:1-14 is another parenthetical part like chapter 7 which came between the 6th and 7th Seal. This comes between the 6th and 7th Trumpet.

NOTES:

1. Who is this Angel?? (Vs 1-6). Most scholars seem to say Christ because of His appearance.
2. (Vs 4) Some things are better not known so they're sealed.
3. "Time no longer" means no longer any delay. Not the end of time- there is still 3 ½ years of Tribulation plus 1000 years of the Reign of Christ before time will cease to be. (And that because there won't be any sun to measure time by.)
4. The little Book (vs 2, 8-11) may be the Word of God for Jeremiah and Ezekiel both were told to eat the Word which was sweet in their mouth. (It is sweetness to me to read in Revelation that Jesus will be crowned King of kings but when I read about the hardness and rebellion of men's hearts it is bitter to my soul.)

Chapter 11

5. The Temple will be rebuilt in order to be measured. Today the Moslem "Dome of the Rock" sits on the site of the Old Temple.
6. 42 months = 3 ½ years = 1260 days (42x30) = Time (12), Times (24), and half a time (6). (A Bible year is 360 days or twelve months of 30 days each. Roman Emperors changed months around to honor themselves after the time of Christ.)
7. Who are these Two Witnesses?? Most scholars agree 1 of them will be Elijah but there is division over the other. Some argue that it must be Enoch because Enoch and Elijah were the only men not to die and it is appointed to man once to die. Others say it must be Moses for Moses and Elijah appeared together on the Mt. of Transfiguration and the miracles the Two Witness perform are like those of Elijah (Fire to destroy men, drought for 3½ years) and Moses (Water-blood, plagues).
8. Note that they are not overcome until AFTER they finish their testimony. They lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days (Jewish official death was 3 days after pronounced dead. That's why Christ spent 3 days in the tomb.), and then they are resurrected and transported to Heaven.
9. Until recently it would have been impossible for different people, nations and tongues to see the dead bodies but with satellite TV it's a common thing. Notice that men call a celebration because the truth has been hushed.
10. These witnesses have testified for the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation but now the Great Tribulation (the last 3½ Years of the tribulation) is about to begin.

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET Rev 11:15-19

The Kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (Christ now actively begins to assume His rightful ownership of the world. With great power and just judgment shall He come against those that have used His as their own. **THIS IS THE KEY POINT! WHOSE ARE YOU?** I Cor 6:19-20 *What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

THE ONLY REASON GOD THROWS MEN INTO THE SCRAP HEAP OF HELL IS BECAUSE THEY AREN'T GOOD FOR WHAT THEY WERE CREATED FOR - TO GLORIFY GOD!!

WAR IN HEAVEN

Chapter 12

NOTES:

1. The Woman is Israel (See Gen 37:9). The Child she brought forth was Christ who was an Israelite in the flesh.
2. The great red dragon is Satan (vs 9). The 7 heads and 10 horns with 7 crowns upon the heads represents the Revised Roman Empire (see Dan 7:19-28, also Rev 17:7-8). Rome is founded upon 7 hills. Satan will begin his work thru the ruler of the revised Roman Empire.
3. 1/3 of the angels of Heaven revolted with Satan when he revolted. (Before man inhabited the earth) and were cast out of Heaven. (Satan is allowed back into Heaven to accuse the brethren (vs 10) but that will soon stop.)
4. Satan sought to "devour" Christ from the beginning. (Herod killing the boy babies. And often during the ministry of Christ- tempted to throw self off temple, people tried to throw him off cliff, and some tried to stone him.) But Christ did not die until His job was completed and He could say, "It is finished!"
5. The Jews had a peace pact with the Antichrist for the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation but he now breaks that pact and seeks to destroy the Jews. During the first 3 ½ years the temple worship will return and Jews know some of the glory of bygone days. At the end of that time Antichrist will go into the Holy of Holies and raise up an idol to himself and proclaim he is god and must be worshiped- An example of this was in 167BC when Antiochus Epiphanies defiled the temple. This is the abomination of Desolation (Jesus and Daniel spoke of). The Jews will run to the wilderness (Probably the town of Petra) where God will take care of them for 1260 days (3 ½ years)
6. The reason for this is found in vs 7-9. The Devil is cast out of Heaven and knows he has but a short time so he tries to do all the damage he can.
7. Michael is an arch-angel and has often confronted Satan before (See Dan 10:13, 12:1, and Jude vs 9- about Moses' body)
8. Satan accusing us before God day and night is a horrible thought! We know he is a liar and the father of it, so he probably lies about us to God always to make God stop loving us. But what a horrible hurt it must be to the heart of God when he accuses us TRUTHFULLY. How God must love us to continually forgive! Thanks be to God for our advocate (Lawyer) who stands and pleads our case always (I Jn 2:1). (Don't be an accuser of the brethren. That puts you on Satan's side!)
9. Ways to win the war against Satan:
 - 1) the blood of the lamb- the only sacrifice for sin (Notice how even today Satan is attempting to the blood out of new bible translations and songs).
 - 2) The word of their testimony- Believe in your heart and Confess with your mouth and thou shalt be saved. Paul was always giving his testimony in Acts. When's the last time you gave yours?
 - 3) Loved not their lives unto the death- They stood for God even if it killed them. Death for a Christian is not a defeat but a glorious victory.
10. vs 12-17 Satan knows his time is limited (3 ½ years) and he knows he cannot defeat God so he tries to destroy those God loves. But God's hand of protection is still with the believing Jews and He carries them to a place of nourishment in the wilderness on the wings of a great eagle (Possible an airplane but more likely just a figure of His ability to care for them. See Ex 19:4, Deut 32:11-12)
11. The devil in his anger because he can't get the Jews who are protected by God will seeks to destroy any who have the testimony of Christ who aren't in the place of safety and many will die (Dan 11:31-36). This is but a continuation of the war that has gone on since the fall of man.

THE UNHOLY TRIO

Rev 13:

After the "war in Heaven" (Rev 12:7), Satan will realize that his time is short (Rev 12:12) and he will boldly seek to claim men's souls by imitation and intimidation. He will abandon his peaceful take-over begun during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and now openly force men to worship his "Christ" instead of the real Christ. Antichrist will go into the rebuilt Jewish Temple and proclaim that he is to be worshiped now and then he will begin an intense campaign of wrath against any followers of Jesus (Rev 12:17) (These are people that believed during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation under the ministry of the Two great Witnesses (Rev 11) and the 144,000 Jews (Rev 7). The Church Saints have been raptured and are in Heaven).



The 3 main characters in Satan's plan are:

1. The Dragon- Satan. Who wants to be God
2. The First Beast out of the sea (13:1)- Antichrist. He does not just deny Christ. He seeks to replace Him. (The "sea" is normally used to designate Humanity in general. The Antichrist will probably claim to be a Gentile but possibly will have a Jewish background (Many Nazis did this during WWII)). We live in the age of personality worship in Religion, Politics, Society, etc and it would be very easy for a powerful personality who preached Peace to gain control of governments.
3. The Second Beast out of the earth (13:11)- The False Prophet He seeks to exalt the Antichrist as the Spirit exalts Christ (The "earth" here is the word used many times to signify the land of Israel. This leads many to believe the False Prophet will be a Jew).

The main "Vehicles" for this Trio to work thru are:

1. Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots (Rev 17:5)-This is the false Religious System headed by the Catholic Church headquartered at Rome (17:9). Antichrist will probably use this for the beginning of his work but then abandon it to be "raped" by his kingdom (17:16) when he declares himself God in Jerusalem.
2. Babylon the Great (Rev 18)- The world Economic System that will eventually be headquartered in the region of ancient Babylon (Iran, Iraq).

I. THE DESCRIPTION OF ANTICHRIST 13:1-2

- A) His Beginning- out of the "sea of humanity
- B) His Base- 7 heads (each with a blasphemous title written on it)
10 horns with 10 crowns. The ten nation revived Roman Empire (3 of the nations will be under 1 rulership but will retain their identity). (See 17:8-18)
- C) His "Beastliness"- Like a Leopard-Greek empire (Swift)
Feet of a Bear-Medo-Persia Empire (Savage)
Mouth of a Lion- Babylon (Smart)
- D) His Benefactor- The Dragon (Satan) gave him:
 1. Power- ability to perform
 2. Seat- Throne (Place to reign from) (See Rev 2:13, 16:10)
 3. Great Authority- Dominion over people

II. THE DETAILS OF HIS REIGN 3-10

A) The Wound vs 3. Either Antichrist will be killed and brought back to life (vs 12, 17:8-10), or one of the kings of his empire is killed and Antichrist restores him to life.

B) The Worship vs 4 (This is Satan's Goal- Is 14:14)

1. The Dragon vs 4
2. The Antichrist vs 4, 8, 12
3. The Image of the Antichrist vs 15

(People will not accept and Worship Christ but they will worship all about this "Antichrist".)

C) The War vs 4b-7

1. He will defeat many by his "resurrection" (4b)
2. He will defeat many by his "retort" (5)
3. He will defeat Saints!!! (6-7)
4. He will conquer the world (7b)

D) The Warning vs 10 *He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

III. THE FALSE PROPHET 11-18

A) His Description vs 11

1. Out of the "earth"- Probably a Jew. Is he the High Priest of the rebuilt Jewish Temple before Antichrist proclaims himself God? Does he now recognize this "false Christ" as the Messiah?

(Remember that the Jews are looking for a world ruler that will restore Jerusalem's glory. When Antichrist moves from Rome to Jerusalem and conquers the world it would be easy to convince many that this is the coming Messiah).

2. 2 Horns like a Lamb- A Lamb does not have horns, a Ram does! This false prophet will pretend to exalt Christ but will actually promote Antichrist. The 2 horned Ram of Daniel 8 was the Medo- Persian Empire. Will this False Prophet be able to convince the Moslems to worship this "Messiah" also?!? Joining Jews and Moslems together to fight "False Jews" that still proclaim Christ as Messiah!

3. He spake as (for) a Dragon- He identified himself as Satan's spokesman. In a world gone "Mad" that worships Satan and Satan's man (Antichrist) this will make him someone to listen to instead of someone to scorn.

B) His Power

All of the Power of the first Beast-who obtained his power from Satan (13:4).

2. Establishes World-wide worship of the Antichrist.

He does this by means of:

a. Wonders- calling down fire from Heaven (as Elijah who would precede Messiah- Mal 4:5).

b. Deception- calling down fire could be done in "the sight of men" but other miracles must be done in the "sight of the beast". Were these real "Miracles" or manipulations by electronic or mechanical means? The example given is the erection of an image of the Antichrist that is made "alive" and speaks as well as controls those who do not worship the image. Is this a "super computer" that can deceive men with it's vast store of information and destroy men by means of an "implant" as the mark of the Beast?? (See 16:2)

C) His pressures- This false Prophet will use every means available to get people to worship the Beast and his Image knowing that once people worship them their fate is sealed- Rev 14:9-11 *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

1. Religious Pressure- 13-15 Wonders and deceptive works are used to bring men to worship. In a world that is being trained to believe only feelings and sight instead of faith (Heb 10:38) men will fall easy prey to this clever trickster. This will be the most popular Religion ever and everyone will be pressured to "jump on the bandwagon". Matt 24:24 *For there shall arise False Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

2. Physical Pressure- 15b "as many as would not worship should be killed"! This will make the Catholic Inquisition look like a picnic! Torture and death will be common- with no chance of escape because the mark will be clearly visible on all who worship. Matt 24:21 *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be.*

3. Social Pressure- 16 *All, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead.* This will be the "Communist" ideal-no social classes, no races, no division of any kind. All men will join together in one great "Brotherhood". (Christianity does not seek to make all men "equal"- one is a "hand", one is a "foot", etc. and every Christian has a different gift according to the diversity of the Spirit (see I Cor 12:-). It is the Humanist that say every man should get an equal share of the pie". God says if a man can work and will not work that he is to do without!! II Thess 3:10).

4. Economic Pressure- 17 "No man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark". Men will watch their business close, their families starve, their bank account becomes useless, and see their life slowly be squeezed away if they refuse to worship. Today men will do almost anything to get and keep a job- what will it be like in that day?? Mk 13:12 *Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.*

The second Beast will use all the power of the First Beast to get people to worship the First Beast

The Second Beast will be a "Miracle Worker"

The Second Beast will raise up an image to the First Beast and then cause this image to come to life and speak.

He will cause people to worship the image of the Beast or die

He will cause all to receive a mark in their right hand or forehead in order to survive.

IV. THE MARK OF THE BEAST 16-18

A) The Location of the Mark- On right hand or Forehead. The Mark will be public and obvious so everyone will know you worship the Beast. There will be no secret discipleship. (This is a Satanic "copy" of God's program- Rev 7:3 *Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their forehead.* See also 9:4, 14:1 and 3:12). Today the Holy Spirit is our seal (Ep 1:13) but, evidently, after the Rapture men will have a physical seal when they follow Christ. Before the Church it was the Physical sign of Circumcision.

B) The Need of the Mark- Could not buy or sell without. Men will be forced to choose between their physical body and their eternal soul- - the same choice facing them today!!

C) The Description of the Mark- Note that ANY ONE of the three would enable you to buy or sell.

1. The Mark- Symbol of the Beast
 2. The Name of the Beast- Signature of the Beast
 3. The Number of his name- 666. Wisdom and understanding are necessary to interpret the number. It is therefore more than the numerical amount of 666- and MAY mean that the number 666 will not be used during the Tribulation. Instead it may refer to what the number represents (Wrath is pronounced on those who have the mark of the Beast- not the number of the Beast !!).
- a. The number of (a) man- The number may simply signify man as opposed to God. (7 is generally considered a "holy" complete number to represent God. 6 is as close as you can come to that. Also remember that man was created on the 6th day). It being 3 times repeated may refer to the "Unholy Trio"
- b. The number may represent the Revived Roman Empire. (In Roman Numerals 666 is DCLXVI which are the first 6 symbols of Roman numbers- I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500). Perhaps the "number" will be 710 (7 heads and 10 "horns") and 666 is only God's way of showing us the meaning of that number.
- c. The number may be "Shorthand" for the name of a man (The numerical value of Jesus is 888). Here are a few of the MANY ideas men have come up with:

The Greek Name Euanthas	If A=6, B=12, C=18...	If A=100, B=101, C=102...
E = 5	K = 66	C = 18
U = 400	I = 54	O = 90
A = 1	S = 114	M = 78
N = 50	S = 114	P = 96
Th = 9	I = 54	U = 126
A = 1	N = 84	T = 120
<u>S = 200</u>	G = 42	E = 30
666	E = 30	<u>R = 117</u>
	<u>R = 108</u>	666
	666	

Ronald Wilson Reagan (Six letters in each of his names) Caesar Nero = 666 in Hebrew and Aramaic
 6 6 6

Rev 13:18 (Amp. Bible) Here is (room for) discernment- a call for the wisdom (of interpretation); let any one who has intelligence (penetration and insight enough) calculate the number of the beast, for it is a human number-the number of a certain man; his number is six hundred and sixty-six

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON ANTICHRIST:

The present day spirit of Antichrist seeks to REJECT Christ (I Jn 4:3 *Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: for this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that is should come; and even now already is it in the world*) while the Antichrist of Revelation will seek to REPLACE Christ (II Thess 2:3...*that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*). Today the strategy is to produce lack of Faith in Christ. In the Tribulation time it will change to trying to produce Faith in another "Christ" (Matt 24:5,24).

Much is said (and much is left unsaid!!) in the Bible about this "Future Fake". This is a brief overview.

I. HIS POWER

A) From Satan- II Thess 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,* Rev 13:2 *And the dragon (Satan-Rev 12:9) gave him (The Beast) his power, and his seat, and great authority.* Rev 13:4 *And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: (Which is what Satan has wanted from the beginning!)*

B) After the Spirit departs- II Thess 2:6-7 (New American Standard Bible) *And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains (The Holy Spirit) will do so until he is taken out of the way*

NOTE- Because of these references to direct Satanic Power many people believe that the Antichrist will be a resurrected Judas Iscariot:

1. Jn 6:70,71 Jesus refers to Judas here as the Devil (in the Greek)
2. Luke 22:3, Jn 13:27 Satan actually enters Judas. This never said of another individual in the Bible. (It talks about demons entering but never the Devil)
3. Jn 17:12, II Thess 2:3 The title "son of perdition" is used only of Judas and the Antichrist.
4. Acts 1:25 Peter says Judas went "to his own place". Some believe this to be the bottomless pit where Satan has kept Judas until he brings him forth during the Tribulation (See Rev 17:8) .

II. HIS PERSONALITY:

- A) An Intellectual genius Dan 8:23 "understanding dark sentences"
- B) An Oratorical genius Dan 11:36 "shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods"
- C) A Political genius Rev 13:1 Heads the revived Roman Empire
- D) A Commercial genius Rev 13:16,17 Dan 11:43 Controls all Commerce
- E) A Military genius Rev 6:2 13:2 Defeats the Russian Army combines the world's armies
- F) A Religious genius Rev 13:8 II Thess 2:4 Gets people to worship him at God, Allows Jews to build temple and worship there (3 ½ years)

People will bask in his presence and wonder how anyone could withstand such a marvelous person who brings peace to the world and unity to the world community. They will not look on him as a dictator over the world but as a "daddy" that helps them thru the difficult times and punishes those who continue to cause trouble by trying to worship God or refusing to accept the new world order.

III. HIS PRACTICE- Dan 8:23 *And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*

Fierce Countenance- Not a playboy but a determined leader

Understanding dark sentences- master of the occult and trickery

His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power- Satan powered

Destroy wonderfully- uses "marvelous means " to destroy his enemies

Prosper- everything he attempts will succeed

Practice- he will not only say but perform

Destroy the mighty and the holy people- Defeat God's people!!

Policy shall cause craft to prosper in his hand- Promote occult

Magnify himself in his heart- until he proclaims himself God

By peace shall destroy many- when they say peace sudden destruction will come on them.

Stand against the Prince of princes- seek to replace Christ

Broken without hands- II Thes 2:8 *The Lord shall consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy him with the brightness of his coming.*

SEVEN VISIONS

Revelation 14:1-20

Chapter 14 contains 7 visions that are not in chronological order. It's as if God was showing John that He was still in charge and would be victorious in the end after the dreadful vision of the Antichrist and the False Prophet in Chapter 13. Satan and his crowd will have their day but don't get discouraged for God is still God and the Victory is His.

1. The Sealed (1-5) The 144,000 witnesses of Chap. 7 are now home.

- A) Sealed on their forehead - openly for God (as opposed to those who are sealed with the Mark of the Beast)
- B) Singing a New Song of Redemption that only they can learn
- C) Set Apart - 1. From the World
 - 2. For the Lord

2. The Angel preaching the Gospel (6-7)

- A) Fear God - The beginning of Wisdom (Fear Him that can cast body and soul into Hell!)
- B) Give Glory to Him - Sin is falling short of God's glory
- C) Worship Him - He alone is worthy

3. The Angel announcing Babylon's Fall (8) (See Chap.17&18) (Babylon is the Seat of the False Religion and World Economic Power of the Tribulation. Her fornication is not only literal but also Spiritual. She not only drinks of the Wine of Wrath herself but gives it to others! The Bible says to flee out of the midst of her - Jer 51:6)

4. The Announcement of Wrath on the Worshipers of the Beast (9-12)

If you Worship or receive the mark you will be tormented with fire and brimstone without rest forever!

5. The Blessed Dead who Rest from their labors and their works follow (13). Picture a man starting a machine and then sitting down while the work continued. (I'm one of Paul's converts because he came to Philippi and then went from there to Europe to America)

6. The Reaping of the Harvest by the Son (14-16) This is the Rapture where the wheat is separated from the tares.

7. The Wine of the Wrath of God (17-20) When blood will flow as high as the horse's bridle for 200 miles. (This is the battle of Armageddon when the 200 million soldiers of the East are preparing to attack and destroy Jerusalem but God intervenes with an earthquake and hail weighing 130 lbs. (Rev. 16:12-21) and the army is destroyed.

JESUS
THE WAY, 
THE TRUTH, 
THE LIFE. 

ARE YOU GOD'S FRIEND OR ENEMY?



SINGING THE SONG

Rev. 15

I. THE SETTING vs 1-2

A) The Reason for the song is that earth's punishment is about to be complete - The last 7 vials are about to be poured out on the nations.

B) The place - A sea of glass mingled with fire (Heaven).

II. THE SINGERS - Those who have gotten the victory (vs 2) (How did they get the Victory?)

Rev. 12:11. *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death*

III. THE SONG vs 3-4

A) Of Moses see Ex.15 and Deut. 32 (Theme - VICTORY over the enemies of God - Pharaoh, Satan)

B) Of the Lamb

1. Works - great and marvelous (Heaven, Man...)

2. Ways - Just and True (Every man will stand for himself one at a time. Christ was slain for ALL to be saved therefore thou art inexcusable.)

3. Worship

a. Fear - Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge

b. Glorify thy Name - He ALONE is worthy of Praise

c. Relate His Character - Holy (WHICH DEMANDS SIN BE JUDGED!)

IV. THE SEVEN vs 5-8: 7 angels with 7 vials (Bowels to pour out quickly) of the Wrath of God. Be sure your sin will find you out! "...no man was able to enter into the temple..."

Lam. 3:42-44. *We have transgressed and have rebelled; thou hast not pardoned. Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us; thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through.*

THE 7 VIALS OF WRATH

Rev. 16

1. A grievous sore upon those that had the Mark of the Beast (vs 1-2)

2. The Sea becomes as Blood - every living soul in the sea dies (vs 3)

3. Rivers and Fountains of water become blood (They killed the Prophets now they have blood to drink) (vs 4-7)

4. Men scorched with fire BUT REPENTED NOT (vs 8-9)

5. Darkness till men gnawed their tongues for pain BUT REPENTED NOT (vs 10-11)

6. Euphrates dried up and all the world armies gather to Armageddon (vs 12-16)

7. A great Earthquake that divided Babylon? (or Jerusalem?) into 3 parts and 130 lb hail fall on men AND MEN BLASPHEMED GOD (17-21)

There is no indication that anyone is saved during this time. During the last part of the tribulation the two faithful witnesses (Rev. 11:3-12) and 144,000 sealed witnesses (Rev. 7:4-8 and 14:1-5) have gone to Heaven. There is no one to witness and it appears that men would not listen even if there were!!!

THE FALL OF BABYLON

Chapters 17 & 18

Rev. 17 = Mystery Babylon - Religious System (Destroyed at the midpoint of the Tribulation by the Beast and his nations) (17-18)

Rev. 18 = Babylon, The Economic System or the City that is the center of the System (Destroyed at the End of the Tribulation by God) (18:20-21)

Chapter 17 - Mystery Babylon, the Religious System.

Simply speaking, this is the one world Church controlled largely by the Roman Catholic Pope but containing all of Apostate Christendom, during the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation the Antichrist will encourage religion and the trade of the world will be regulated by "Christian" Principles. This will greatly antagonize the Rulers of the world who will want to rule for Profit, Pleasure, and Power so that at the end of the first 3 ½ years when Antichrist commits the Abomination of Desolation and proclaims no worship but of himself the nations will rejoice and quickly strip Mystery Babylon of all her power and riches.

Mystery Babylon is a Religious System founded back in Gen. 10:8-10, 11:1-9 and combines Astrology, Works, Sorcery, Worship of Self, and Social Gospel. Two examples of it are: Cain, who sought to come to God with good works; and Nimrod and the people of Babel who sought to join together to build their way to Heaven.

The Symbols explained -

1. Woman - The great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth (vs. 18) This is Apostate Religion (Whore) headquartered in Rome.

2. Waters - People, Multitudes, nations, tongues (vs. 16) (This Religious system drew it's power from worldwide participation)

3. Seated upon a scarlet colored beast - 7 heads 10 horns (vs. 3)

7 heads = 7 mountains (vs. 9) Rome, city of seven hills

7 Kings (vs. 10) 5 are fallen, 1 is, 1 to come

10 horns = 10 kings (vs. 12) give power and strength to the Beast

(vs.13) this is the 10 nation European Community that has its headquarters in Rome during the Tribulation.



4. Beast - was and is not; shall ascend out of the bottomless pit; shall go into perdition (vs. 8) (This is the Antichrist - This is the reason some people say he will be Judas Iscariot, Judas was and is not. Some say that he is being reserved in the bottomless pit until time to be released. He is called the Son of Perdition by Paul--II Thess. 2:3

vs. 6 *And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus;* (Sir Robert Anderson of Scotland Yard estimated that the Roman Church was guilty of the death of nearly 50,000,000 (!) in the Inquisition, the stake, and the torture chamber.

Chapter 18

Deals with the fall of Babylon, the Economic center of the world. Every indication is that this is the actual city of Babylon that will be rebuilt by the oil rich Arabs. The city will be destroyed at the end of the 7 years of tribulation in an hour's time by God.



I. THE WARNING vs 1-8 Come out of her!

A) A command from Heaven - better be obeyed! (Remember Lot)

This is especially addressed to any Jews and Believers that have survived this long.

B) The Reasons -

1. That ye be not partakers of her sins - Christians are not to practice isolation but are to practice separation.

2. That ye receive not of her plagues - Don't get caught in Sin's Punishment.

II. THE WARES vs 9-14 Fruit that thy soul lusted after. Things and People are all sold. (Compare to today - Prostitution, drugs, "Million Dollar" athletes, children who want more and more and more!) *They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition (I Tim 6:9)*

III. THE WEEPING vs 15-19

A) In one hour the end will come and all their dreams will crumble. (Notice who weeps - Monarchs vs. 9, Merchants vs. 11, and Mariners vs. 17)

B) A Christian weeps when he sows (Ps 126) A sinner weeps when he reaps!

IV. THE "WIPE-OUT" vs 20-24

The World's Economic system is completely done away with. No money in Heaven or Hell!

What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul??

HOW CHEAP WILL YOU SELL OUT??

1. Profit - Judas: 30 pieces of silver Lost life and Apostleship Acts 1
2. Pleasure - Esau: mess of pottage Gen.25:34 Lost his birthright and couldn't get it back (Heb 12:16-17)
3. Prestige/Popularity - Lot: Well watered valley of Sodom Lost his testimony and family
4. Personal Gain - Gehazi: 2 talents of silver and 2 changes of clothes (II Kings 5: 20-27) Lost his health (Leprosy)

WHAT'S YOUR PRICE???

WHAT WILL KEEP YOU IN BABYLON???

TWO

Rev. 19:- and 20:-

There are a number of contrasting things in these 2 chapters. These contrasts bring out the sharp dividing line between the people that are with God and those against Him. (There is no Middle Ground)

These 2 chapters also mark the end of the earth as we know it and this present world system. This is the "End of the Beginning"!!

I. TWO VIEWS OF BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION 19:1-4

Babylon here represents the present world economic system built around Profit instead of Principles where anything or anyone will be sold if the price is right.

- A) The World's view- Alas! Rev 18:15-19 (Is Gold your God??)
- B) Heaven's View- Alleluia (Praise the Lord)!! 19:1-4

II. TWO INVITATIONS TO SUPPERS Rev 19:5-21

A) The Blessed invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Notice that the Bride's dress is of her own making- Her "Hope" chest is the righteous deeds she does. Our SALVATION Righteousness is Christ but we should also do Righteous SERVICE

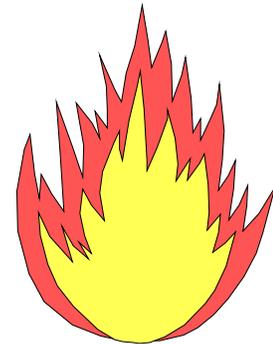
The Groom (Christ) now comes to evict those men who rebel against His rule so he can set up "House" with His Bride

B) The Birds are invited to feast on the Multitudes who die in the Battle of Armageddon. The Antichrist and his armies are about to destroy the remaining Jews. The rest of the world's armies (most notably the 200 million man Chinese army- Rev 16:12-16) take this chance to attack Antichrist as well as the remaining Jews. Both armies see the sign of Christ' return and join together to fight against Him. The Blood will flow as high as the Horse's bridle (Rev. 14:20) and the Birds will feast on flesh.

III. TWO CAST ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE Rev 19:20

A) The Beast and the False Prophet are plucked up from the battles and cast alive into the Lake of fire. Multitudes had asked, "Who is like unto the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev 13:4). Now God gives the firm answer- God can and will defeat him

- B) There were two taken alive to Heaven also- Elijah and Enoch



IV. TWO RESURRECTIONS Rev 20:-

A) First: Contains 3 groups of BELIEVERS: (1) Church- Those from Pentecost to the Rapture. (2) Tribulation Saints- Those Jews and Gentiles saved during the Tribulation. And (3) Pre-Church Believers- Mainly the Jewish nation. These resurrected Saints will rule and reign on Earth during the Millennium.

- B) Second: ALL NON-BELIEVERS will be resurrected at the end of the millennium to face judgment

V. TWO REASONS TO ACCEPT CHRIST AS SAVIOR Rev 20:-

A) No matter how good the conditions or circumstances man still cannot change apart from the New Birth. Satan will be bound for 1000 years, Christ will rule, Saints will guide, and circumstances will be ideal; yet when Satan is released men will listen to him and rebel with him against God and have to be destroyed.

B) The Great White Throne Judgment- Verdict for EVERYONE here will be the Lake of Fire. Make sure you name is in the Lamb's book of life so you won't have to face this.

MILLENNIUM

(The 1000 Year Reign of Christ On Earth)

Rev 20:1-6

A larger body of prophetic scripture is devoted to the subject of the Millennium than to any other one subject!

I THE REASON FOR THE MILLENNIUM-

A) To completely fulfill all the covenants that God made with Israel;

1. The Abrahamic Covenant will be completely fulfilled as Israel occupies all of the land it was promised with all of the blessings that go with it. (Physical)

2. The Davidic Covenant concerning the King, the throne, and the Kingdom will find complete fulfillment in the reign of Christ as Messiah. (Government)

3. The New Covenant promises of a new heart, forgiveness of sin (national), and the filling of the Holy Spirit are fulfilled during this time. (Spiritual)

B) This is God's final "test" for mankind. Mankind will have ideal conditions to live in, a just government (Saints will rule), access to God, and freedom from Satanic Temptation (Satan will be bound during this 1000 years). So mankind will be without excuse when Satan is released and deceives the nations into rebelling against God.

II. CONDITIONS DURING THE MILLENNIUM.

God will set up a Kingdom characterized by Righteousness, Obedience (He will rule with a "rod of iron"), Holiness, Truth, and Fullness of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29). This will produce ideal conditions for mankind:

1. Peace- Swords into plowshares..man will learn war no more. Is 2:4 Even among the animals- The lion will lay down with the lamb and the child play on the snake hole Is 11:6-9

2. Joy- with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of Salvation

3. Holiness- The pots of Jerusalem and even the bells of the horses will have "Holiness unto the Lord" on them!! Zech 14:20-21

4. Glory- The Glory of God will be for all to see Is 40:5

5. Comfort- God will comfort as a Mother her child Is 66:13-14

6. Justice- There will be the administration of Perfect justice for every individual Is 9:7

7. Full knowledge and Instruction from God Is 2:2-3

8. Removal of sickness (Is 33:24), & Healing of deformities- Is 29:18

9. Rest from oppression- The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they break forth into singing Is 14:7

10. Seven-fold increase in light by day and night (Is 30:26) which will increase production on earth.

11. Unified language (Zeph 3:9) and Unified Worship (Is 66:18-20).

The Temple will be at Jerusalem and everyone will come to worship there at least once a year.

Imagine what will be invented and accomplished during this time when mankind has divine knowledge to draw on, extended life to use his knowledge (a 100 year old man will be but a child!), and all of our energy and resources will be directed toward good instead of war. No wonder some people confuse this time with "Heaven"!!

HELL

One of the most neglected subjects in spiritual circles today is the subject of Hell. It is seldom preached on or thought about but it is of vital importance to everyone- Sinners need to know where they're going, and Christians need to glimpse the place we're trying to rescue people from.

1. Our greatest Fear should be of Hell- Luke 12:5 *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into Hell, yea, I say unto you, fear him.*

2. It is better to be maimed in this life than to go to Hell- Matt 18:8 *Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.*

I. THE PURPOSE OF HELL- Hell was originally prepared for the Devil and the angels who rebelled against God (Mt 25:41) but was enlarged to include everyone who chose to rebel against God and follow the works of Satan (Is 5:11-15) *** If someone had a virus that caused them to do harm to themselves and to others and this virus was highly contagious; wouldn't you need to separate this person from others to protect them. That's why God had to prepare a place to put rebels. If they went to Heaven, they would change it into a "Hell" (Disease, Disobedience, and Death would move into Heaven if they entered there).

The reason God does not just "kill" these rebels is that they are given an eternal soul as part of their "birthright" that makes man different from the animals. Our Soul is our greatest Blessing--but if you refuse to trust Christ, it is your greatest Burden.

II. THE NAMES OF HELL- The Bible uses 4 words for Hell:

1. Sheol- The O.T. word for the place where the dead go. It is sometimes used for the grave (Gen 42:38, Ps 88:3) but always in the sense of a place of separation from God (Jonah 2:2).

2. Hades- Equivalent to the O.T. "Sheol". Luke 16:19-31 makes it clear that Hades was divided into 2 parts before the ascension of Christ with an impassable gulf between them. The unbelievers were in Hell where they were tormented and the saved were in "Abraham's Bosom" or "Paradise" (See Luke 23:43 where the repentant thief went to Paradise that day).

At His ascension Christ carried the Paradise Believers with him to Heaven (Ep 4:8-10 Also Matt 27:52-53) where they await their resurrection bodies. (Paul talked of being caught up into the third heaven or paradise in II Cor 12:1-4).

3. Gehenna- Identical to the "Lake of fire". It is the final abode of the wicked. It gets its name from a place in the valley of Hinnom, just outside Jerusalem, where trash and refuse was dumped and burned (It is said that the fires never went out here and that many dead animals and poor people, who had no burial place, were cast into this "trash pile"). When Israel fell into idolatry they offered human sacrifice at Gehenna (II Chron 28:1-4, Jer 7:31-33)

It is significant that God chose to call the final abode of the wicked dead by the name of a trash pile. Men will go there because they rebelled against God and are therefore useless.

4. Tartarus- The prison of fallen angels (II Pet 2:4, Jude 6,7) where they await God's final judgment. (These are the angels that rebelled with Satan).

III. THE LOCATION OF HELL

A) Hades, Sheol, and Tartarus all seem to be located within the earth. Each time they are used mention is made of going down into them.

B) Gehenna seems to be located on the edge of or outside of the Universe. It is called "Outer Darkness" (Matt 8:12, II Pet 2:17).

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF HELL

A) Unquenchable fire (Matt 3:12, Mk 9:43) in which the body survives (remember that God produced fire that did not consume Moses' bush and the 3 Hebrew children lived in the fire) and the worm does not die (Is 14:11, Mk 9:44). The fire will produce thirst and torment (Lu 16:24) and Misery and Pain (Rev 14:10-11) "They have no rest day or night").

B) Memory and remorse- Luke 16:25 "Son remember..."

C) Frustration and anger- Mt 13:42 "Wailing and gnashing teeth"

D) Undiluted Divine Wrath- Rev 14:10 "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture..."

E) According to knowledge and opportunity- Lu 12:47, 20:45,47

F) Forever- Mt 25:46 " everlasting punishment"

V. THE PEOPLE OF HELL (Gehenna- "The Lake of Fire")

1. The first occupants are the Beast and the False Prophet. Rev 19:20 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire...*

2. The next occupant will be Satan- Rev 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. The idea that Satan reigns in Hell is not Biblical!!*

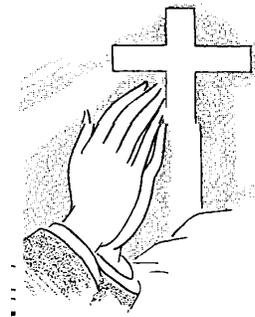
3. Fallen Angels- Jude 6 *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in ever-lasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. These fallen angels will be judged by the Saints (I Cor 6:3).*

4. All unsaved People- Rev 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, 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. Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

You don't have to go to Hell. God has provided an escape- Jn 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

You don't have to spend eternity thirsting in the flames- Rev 21:6-7 *I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

YOU CAN DENY HELL; YOU CAN DISBELIEVE HELL; BUT YOU'RE DESTINED FOR HELL APART FROM CHRIST.



HEAVEN

There are 3 places called "Heaven" in the Scriptures:

I. THE ATMOSPHERIC HEAVEN- The Atmosphere is normally considered to be the area from the ground to 20 miles above the earth (although all "air" does not end until 1000 miles above the earth. To give you some reference- normal clouds are within 7 miles of the earth. The density of the air at 150 miles above the earth is 1 ten-millionth of that at sea level!) [The Greek words used in the Bible to distinguish the Atmospheric Heaven from the Celestial Heaven makes the dividing line the top of the mountains- specifically Mt. Olympus; which may make Heaven "breathable" air].

The Atmospheric Heaven is the abode of the birds and the source of rain (Snow, hail, dew, etc). It has 3 important aspects in regards to Spiritual Happenings:

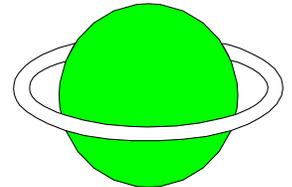
A) It is the Dominion of Satan- Ep 2:2 The prince of the power of the air is Satan and he and his demon cohorts use the atmosphere to travel from place to place to do their wicked work. They consider the air their particular dominion because man (until recently) was unable to invade it. (Man was given dominion over the fowls of the air (Gen 1:26) and this may be Satan's way of trying to show his superiority over man. Also, when God cursed the serpent, He told him to crawl in the dust of the earth and Satan may be showing his rebellion against this punishment). Think of all the bad music and programs that go out over the "air waves".!! [When Jesus ascended on high in Ep 4:8-10 the idea is that as He went thru the air the demons tried to stop him but he shed them as a running back sheds tacklers!].

B) At the Lord's Return we will meet Him in the Air (I Th 4:17). To show His dominion and control over Satan Christ will gather His children for their flight to Glory in the atmosphere that Satan considers his own.

C) The 7th Vial judgment (The final one before Christ's return) will be poured out into the air- Rev 16:17 *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there was a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.* This may bring about the atmospheric changes that will enable man to live extended lives during the Millennium as he did before the flood. It may simply be God's final judgment on Satan's dominion in the air).

II. CELESTIAL HEAVEN- What we on earth call "Space"; containing the sun, moon, and stars. On a clear night as many as 200 stars can be seen with the naked eye standing in one spot. With a one inch telescope some 225,000 stars are visible. With the 100 inch telescope 1,500,000,000 stars are visible but with the 200 inch telescope nearly 1 billion galaxies are visible (each of which may contain as many as 100,000 million stars!!!)

The distance between stars is so great until it must be measured in light years (The distance light travels in 1 year- 5,880,000,000,000 miles). Our Solar System has a diameter of 660 light minutes but the galaxy of which it is a part has a diameter of 100,000 light years! The closest galaxy to us is the Andromeda Galaxy- 1,500,000 light years away!!!



1. We are to stand in awe of the Universe- Ps 8:3 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him?*

2. We are to use the "guidepost" of the Heavens- Jer 31:35 *Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night.* See also Gen 1:14-19). Ships pilot by the stars (The wise men followed a star to Christ). The sun is our "timepiece"- days, season, etc.

3. We are not to worship the Heavenly bodies or use them to forecast the future- Ex 20:4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:* Many of the Eastern religions worship the sun--but check our beaches!! Satanic worship involves the use of the Zodiac signs (Most scholars believe that the tower of Babel was built to worship the "Heavenlies" (Zodiac signs) and was never intended to reach the "Moon". Gen 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 whole earth.* "May reach" was added by the translators and should read "topped by the heavenlies". Such a Zodiac building has been found in the ruins of Babylon. This means you should not read or heed your "horror-scope"

III. THE THIRD HEAVEN- The Abode of God.

While it is true that God is a Spirit and "the Heaven of heavens cannot contain God" (I Kings 8:27, II Chron 2:6) because He is everywhere at once; yet the Bible tells us that God has chosen to abide in a place called Heaven.

There are very few references to this Heaven in Scripture (Most things that people say about Heaven are actually about the Millennial kingdom or the New Jerusalem). The clearest description is found in Rev 4:- and this is mainly about **God's throne**. It describes who is:

A) On the Throne (God)- He is described as Jasper (Clear to Blue) and Sardine (Red). [God is Spirit, Light, Love, and Truth. How do you picture this??]

B) Round the Throne- 24 elders in white raiment with crowns of gold (Israel and the Church?? 12 tribes and 12 Apostles?). [There is also an Emerald (green) rainbow round the throne.

C) Out of the throne- lightnings and thunderings and voices. (See Ex 19:16-20, The Throne speaks of judgment)

D) Before the Throne- 7 lamps of fire representing the 7 Spirits of God (The 7-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit- restraining, convicting, regenerating, sealing, baptizing, indwelling, filling). Also a sea of glass like unto crystal

D) In the midst of the throne- 4 living creatures full of eyes (See Ez 1:4-10). They represent the many sided nature of God. These creatures begin to give glory and honor and thanks to God which causes the 24 elders to begin to worship God by casting their crowns before the throne. (The reason for this worship: *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive Glory and honor and power: for thou has created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* We realize that our purpose and peace is found in worship of God..)

The "Door of Heaven" is the house of God- Gen 28:17

THE FUTURE

Rev. 21:-

There are many things we do not understand about the Future of the Earth after God's present plan is completed. This chapter reveals a few of the Future things to give us a "taste" of what's coming.

I. THE TABERNACLE OF GOD WITH MEN vs 1-4

A) We begin by noticing that things begin with a "fresh start". There will be a New Heaven and Earth that contains no sea because 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 therein shall be burned up (II Pet 3:10). All those things that men now covet, fight for, and sell their souls over will one day pass away!! Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness (II Pet 3:11).

B) The capital of this new earth will be New Jerusalem. It is described in great detail later in the chapter. Verses 9 & 10 make it clear that New Jerusalem is the Lamb's Bride (Which would make it the Church- yet it is also identified with Israel [The 12 gates have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. vs 12]. But on the new earth won't we all be one in the Lord?).

C) The God of the Universe who is Spirit (Jn 4:24), Light (I Jn 1:5), and Love (I Jn 4:16) now "Pitches His tent" among men and dwells with them!! (One of the most awesome thoughts in the Bible). More than any other verse in the Bible, this verse convinced me of God's Love for me. God himself shall dwell with men and we shall see him Face to Face whom so long we have known heart to heart. That God's Love would cause him to limit himself this much is amazing.

D) God shall wipe away all tears (are they there because we see how little we did compared to what we should have done?), and former things such as death, sorrow, and pain will have passed away. Hallelujah!!!

Many people just want to "get to Heaven" but I long for the day when God will pitch His tent among men and we can fellowship together in that unbroken bliss. "O, I want to see HIM, look upon His face. There to sing forever of His saving Grace."

II. THE TESTIMONY OF THE FAITHFUL ONE vs 5-8

A) The Faithful Sayings vs 5

1. All things made new (see vs 1-4)
2. Because these sayings are absolutely true then write them. (Are you Sharing the Sayings of the Savior with others??)

B) The Finished Work vs 6

1. It is done (See John 19:30). Nothing can be added to the complete, sufficient sacrifice of Christ. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the end-- All we need.
2. This Sufficient Sacrifice is available to the THIRSTY. There must be a "Want to" on your part. God has already done His.

C) The Failure of some to heed the Testimony vs 7-8

1. Who's going to Heaven:

a. OVERCOMERS-

1) JESUS was an Overcomer- Jn 16:33 *Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*
2) We Overcome in Him- I Jn 4:4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*
3) We Overcome by Faith- I Jn 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our Faith.*

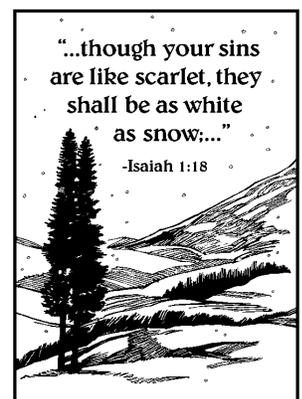
b. SONS- Jn 1:12 *As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

Their Reward- "Shall inherit all things". Thou art no more a servant but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

2. **Who's not going to Heaven?** (These shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: ...the second death)

a. Fearful- Cowards, lacking in courage to make a stand for God. (People who fear the world more than God so they refuse to accept Christ.)

b. Unbelieving- Faithless. Sins are paid for; unbelief condemns



- c. Abominable- depraved and defiled (Living in and liking sin)
- d. Murderers- Not just to kill but even if you hate your brother you are a murderer (I Jn 3:15)
- e. Whoremongers- lewd, adulterous (Thought and action)
- f. Sorcerers- Practicers of magic arts. Those who converse with demons (Seances, "Horror scopes", etc..)

The root word deals with Drugs. So it would include those who turn to drugs instead of God. I believe that drugs (including alcohol) can lead to demon possession.)

g. Idolaters- Those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God. (Covetousness is idolatry Col 3:5).

h. All Liars- Who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed. (God is Truth and He expects Truth from His people)

God's "Faithful Message" then is that there is a division between men and that division is based on what men do in regards to His Son Jesus. If they accept Him by Faith as Savior then they go to Heaven. If they deny Him and chose their own way, then it's Hell.

III. THE TREMENDOUS NEW CITY OF GOD 9-21

vs 9-10 An Angel invites John to view the Lamb's bride, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God (There won't be any sea on the new earth (vs 1) but there will be Mountains (vs 10).)

vs 11 The first thing noticed about the city is that it has the glory of God. (Is that what you're looking for in Heaven??). The light for the city is the Glory of God (vs 23). This light may travel thru the streets and walls which are of pure gold (vs 8,21)

vs 12-13 The city has a wall great and high (Why a wall??) that has 12 gates guarded (??) by 12 angels which have the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on them. Gates are of pearl (vs 21).

vs 14-18 This wall rest on 12 foundations (in which are the names of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. [Which 12? Surely not Judas!! I think the 12th is Paul.]). The walls of the city are nearly 1500 miles wide and high (12,000 furlongs) and nearly 216 feet thick (144 cubits). (There will be plenty of room for your mansion there. That's almost 2 BILLION cubic miles!!). (See Rev 22:14).

vs 19-21 The foundations of the wall are garnished with all manner of precious stones. I don't know the significance of the various stones but I do know what garnish is- that's that "weed" that restaurants put on plates to make it look good!! (God takes the Jewelry that men fight and die for and decorate his foundations with it!!)

IV. THE THINGS NOT FOUND IN NEW JERUSALEM 22-27

1. I saw NO TEMPLE therein for the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it (vs 22). You won't have to go to Church when you get to Heaven! Because you Worship everywhere (If people don't want to spend 2 hours worshipping God in Church will they be happy in Heaven where you worship all the time???)

2. And the City had NO need of the SUN, neither of the MOON, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof (vs 23). No Sweat in Heaven!! God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all (I Jn 1:5). Jesus said, *I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life.* (Jn 8:12). We won't have to settle for a substitute light in Heaven. We'll bask in God's "Glory Glow".

3. NO CLOSED DOORS- *The gates of it shall not be shut at all by day; and there will be no night there* (vs 25). (How could there be night when the Light is provided by the Glory of God and He will dwell there?). This will allow the nations and kings of the saved to bring their glory and honor unto God in the city (vs 24,25). With New Jerusalem as capital of the New Earth there will be the blessings of Prosperity, Peace, and Progress. (Since time will be no more, I believe it will involve being able to go from place to place at astonishing speeds. With no war, I can hardly imagine what God will allow us to discover with our research all turned to good. With no death, it's hard to imagine what it will be like to continually gain knowledge and experience).

4. NO UNSAVED PERSON: And, finally, there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life (vs 27). IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN THERE?????????

NEW JERUSALEM

Revelation 21

One of the most common fallacies among people is the assertion that we will spend eternity in "Heaven". The actual order of things for the Christian after death is Heaven with the Lord, Earth during the 1000 year Millennial reign of Christ, and our mansion in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth throughout eternity.

Most of the things that people ascribe to Heaven are in fact about the New Jerusalem. Here are some facts about that marvelous place- It is not "Heaven"; but it's what we think of when we think of Heaven!

I. IT'S SHAPE- Rev 21:16 *The city lieth four-square, and the length is as large as the breadth:...* The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. There are 2 possibilities- a cube or a pyramid. If it is a pyramid then the top would be the throne of God and everything else would radiate from it.

II. IT'S SIZE-

A) The City: Rev 21:16 *he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs.* That's about 1400 miles- the bottom of the city would reach from New York to Denver and from Florida to Canada! Scientist say that the bottom "Floor" of this city would accommodate every man, woman, and child that has ever lived on earth.

B) The Walls: Rev 21:17 *He measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.* 216 feet in present day measurements (Some believe this to be the THICKNESS of the walls). To compare- a 216 foot wall around a 1400 mile high city would be like a one inch curb around the Empire State Building!! and yet John called the wall "Great and high" (21:12); 216 feet is, after all, equal to a 20 story building!

III. IT'S CHARACTERISTICS-

 Adorned as a bride for her husband (2,9)

A) It's Foundation- The City rests upon 12 layers of foundation stones each with a name of one of the 12 apostles of the Lamb inscribed on it (14). Vs 19-20 describe the precious stones that make up this foundation: Jasper (clear to blue), Sapphire (darker blue), Chalcedony (sky-blue with intermingled colors), Emerald (bright green), Sardonyx (white with layers of red), Sardius (Fiery Red), Chrysolite (Golden Yellow), Beryl (sea-green), Topaz (Golden Green), Chrysoprasus (Blue Green), Jacinth (Violet), Amethyst (Sparkling Purple).

B) It's Wall- The wall was of Jasper (vs 19). A "See-Thru" wall.

C) It's Gate- 12 gates, and at the gates 12 angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the 12 tribes of the children of Israel: On the east 3 gates, on the north 3 gates: on the south 3 gates; and on the west 3 gates (12-13). The twelve gates were 12 pearls: Every several gate was on one pearl (vs 21). The Gates were never shut (vs 25)

D) It's Streets- Pure gold, as transparent as glass (vs 21). The Glory of God will radiate thru the wall and the street and provide light for the city.

E) It's River- A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the lamb (22:1).

F) It's Tree of Life- In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life (22:2). Possibly the river runs down the middle of the street. The purpose of the tree- to bare 12 manner of fruits, and yield her fruit every month (?? No sun, how will we distinguish months?) and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (???)



IV. IT'S CITIZENS

A) Who They Are

1. The Holy Angels- Heb 12:22 *But ye are come unto Mt Sion, and unto the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.* How many angels are there?? *And I heard the voice of many angels around about the throne,...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands!!!* (Rev 5:11). They have served God and the Saints (Heb 1:14) and will continue to do so.

2. The Church- The Bride of Christ. All those that have overcome thru the Blood of Christ and become sons of God.

3. God- *And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.* This is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible. The God of the universe will choose to dwell forever with redeemed men!! More than any other verse this proves God's Love for men to me.

B) What We Do- His servants shall serve him Rev 22:3 Probably with Song and Worship, but also with identification (His name shall be in their forehead 22:4) and by reigning with Him (22:5). Will the New Jerusalem be our "Home Base" as we administer God's business thru out the universe??!!

SOME THINGS YOU WON'T FIND THERE:

1. The Old Earth- It has passed away (Rev 21:1, II Pet 3:10)
2. No Sea- Rev 21:1 Where does the River of life go??
3. No Tears, Death, Sorrow, Crying, Pain, or Curse (21:4, 22:3)
4. No Temple- *The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple of it* (21:22). Symbols have become substance- We won't be talking about Him, we'll be worshiping Him!!
5. No Sun, Moon, or Night- *The Glory of God and the Lamb lighten it* (21:23, 22:5). Possibly by traveling the golden street and jasper walls much like light travels a tube of glass.
6. No Shut Gates- 21:25 Access always!
7. No one not Written in the Lamb's book of Life (21:27,8; 22:15)

1. JESUS IS COMING- Every book of the New Testament makes reference to the Second Coming. There are over 1800 references in the Old Testament that prophesy the Advent of a victorious, reigning Messiah. Jn 14:3 *If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

2. JESUS IS COMING PERSONALLY- The Second Coming is not Spiritual or symbolic. Acts 1:11 *Why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into Heaven.*

3. JESUS IS COMING VISIBLY- Rev 1:7 *Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him,...*

4. JESUS IS COMING VICTORIOUSLY- Every passage that speaks of the Return of Christ describes a great victory consummated by His appearing. II Thess 2:8 *And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

5. JESUS IS COMING SUDDENLY- I Thess 5:2 *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night* Matt 24:44 *Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

GOD'S FINAL PROCLAMATION

Rev 22:-

God has given John the complete picture of the final Battles and Blessings and now He brings this marvelous Book to a close with final instructions and warnings.

We need to search our lives as we finish this book to be sure we have not read it for entertainment instead of instruction and edification. God has shown us the Future- are we ready for it???

I. THE DESCRIPTIONS 1-5

A) Things found there- Water of life and Tree of life (Satisfaction and Substance)

B) Things not found there: -no more curse (sin and Satan will be removed and the ground will no longer be cursed [Gen 3:17])
 -no more night. (Our light will come from God, who is Light, and He will dwell with us forever!)

II. THE DECLARATION 6-16

A) These sayings are true 6-7 They should be believed and HEEDED

B) The One to Worship- GOD 8-9 Don't let the Speaker get between you and the Savior.

C) The Responsibility placed on the hearer- HEAR OR PERISH 10-16 Listen before it's too late!!

III. THE LAST THINGS RECORDED IN THE BIBLE 17-21

A) The Last Plea- Come, take of the water of life freely

1. The Spirit says come.
2. The Bride (Church) says come.
3. He that heareth says come- Everyone ought to tell everyone
4. Who should come?
 - a. He that is Thirsty (Desire)
 - b. Whosoever WILL (Determination)

B) The Last Punishment- For adding to, or taking from, Word of God
 (God has said all He needs or wants to say; you'd better not try to "Help Him out" by putting in or taking out.)

C) The Last Promise- Surely I come Quickly

1. To receive us unto Himself
2. To inspect our Labors- Judgment Seat of Christ
3. To Reward us for our Faithfulness
4. To cast Satan and Sinners into the Lake of fire away from the presence of God and His people

D) The Last Prayer-

1. A Plea for His return- Even so, Come, Lord Jesus
2. A Plea for His Presence- The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
 be with you all. (The only way to escape Wrath is His Grace)

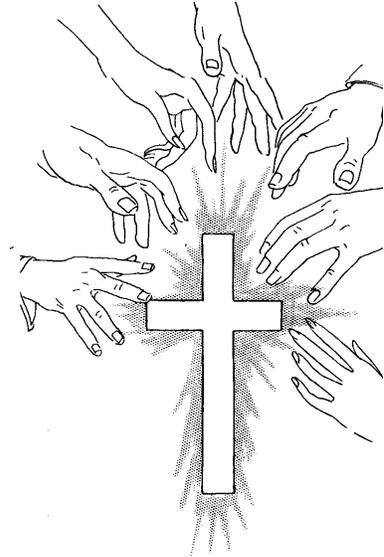
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure I Jn 3:2-3

The most important decision you will ever make is your decision about receiving Christ as your Savior. It's the most important decision you'll ever make because:

1> It's an **ETERNAL DECISION**- Heb 9:15 *for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

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.*

The decision you make about Christ will effect you NOW and for ETERNITY. This is not something to be treated lightly or put off until a later time.



2> It's a **NECESSARY DECISION**- Heb 9:27 *it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*. Every person MAKES A DECISION about Christ- Either to Accept Him as Savior or reject Him and be lost. EVERY man must Die, EVERY man must face the Judgment. Only the Blood of Christ can deliver us from Condemnation.

WHO SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
ROM 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ROM 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

WHEN TO BE SAVED: ROM 5:8 *God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

THE WAY TO BE SAVED: ROM 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

HOW TO LIVE AFTER YOU ARE SAVED:

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

Have you Accepted Christ as Savior?
If you need help or follow up booklets then contact--
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