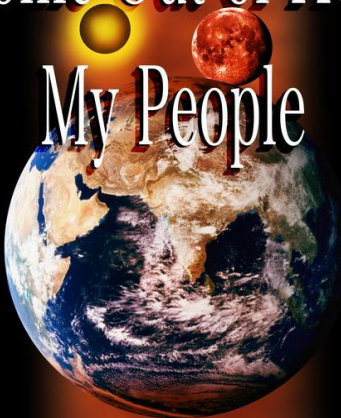


# Come Out of Her, My People

A composite image featuring a glowing sun, a reddish moon, and a view of Earth from space, with the title text overlaid.

Are these words of warning for a  
future generation of God's people?  
Or could they be  
speaking to you?

Third Edition  
C.W. STEINLE

**Come Out of Her,  
My People**

**By C. W. Steinle**

Come out of her, My people

By C. W. Steinle

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***Preface***

When the dreadful day of September 11, 2001, came, I was dropping off one of our children at school. I had only driven a few blocks on my way back to the house. The Christian radio station I was listening to broke away from their musical format to make a special announcement. Now due to the fact that Phoenix Arizona is protected from hurricanes, tornadoes and major earth quakes; our announcements are not often truly "special". But this time, I could tell by the D.J.'s voice, he was genuinely troubled about something concerning the World Trade Center Towers. Next; one of those overly unemotional statesmen read a scripted news report, saying a plane had run into one of the Twin Towers. I began to picture a little single engine private plane bouncing off of the side of a concrete and

## Preface

steel building; and then tumbling onto the streets below. My brief fantasy was interrupted by a discussion between several network broadcasters talking about the commercial airliner, and speculating over the number of passengers potentially onboard. While trying to adjust the scale of my previous misconception, I caught the announcer commenting that the crash may not have been an accident. Although I rarely watch television, I began racing home to turn on the morning news.

Arriving at the house, I turned on the television and called Gwen, my wife, to come downstairs. I gave her a summary of the news I had heard on the radio, and we watched the live action on the TV together. Bystanders were describing the size and type of the commercial jet which had pierced the first tower. The news desk team interrupted the audio portion of the

## Preface

broadcast to report that another low flying airliner was barreling toward the downtown vicinity; a district eminently to be designated, "Ground Zero". As the news cameras were panning the hole in the first tower, gushing black smoke rolled upward from the upper stories like an upside down waterfall; the second plane sprang from behind a building on the right of our screen. A moment later, it ripped into the second tower like it was made of paper and popsicle-sticks. We gazed; expecting the airliner, or least it fuselage, to emerge from the other side of the building. But the ignoble engineers had planned the speed of these vessels with deadly precision. Their steel-melting incendiary was injected into the vulnerable centers of the doomed buildings. My wife and I watched with heartbreaking horror as the first tower's top began to give way. Each of the highest floors collapsed and paused. I thought the remaining floors

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might hold fast. It was like watching in slow motion, as the building began imploding. The floors started giving way with ever increasing speed, until the lower stories just disintegrated under the weight and velocity of the free falling top of the Tower. We never considered that the second tower could copy this crushing cascade of concrete and smoke. Within minutes, both of these landmarks had fallen, and thousands of innocent lives were cut short.

At that moment, Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 came to mind, and the phrase "***is fallen, is fallen***" echoed in my head. I ran upstairs to get my Bible and came back down to find more of our family standing in front of the television. Turning in my Bible to these verses; I read aloud.

***"The kings of the earth  
who committed***

***fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:"*** (Revelation 18:9-11)

***"For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who***

***travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'***" (Revelation 18:17-18)

I felt that these verses were being fulfilled before our eyes. Over the next months, I was compelled to take up a regular study of the Book of Revelation. One morning the command, "***Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues***" (Revelation 18:4), jumped off the page, as if God were speaking to me personally. I realized; to the extent that I was convinced of the identity of Babylon the Great, I was also responsible for obedience to God's command to "***Come***

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**out**". I have reviewed the Book of Revelation several hundred times during these intervening years; and, I am compelled to share my observations, so that the reader might decide how to respond to this command.

Several years have passed since the first printing of this book. I have continued my research on the subjects covered herein; both in my regular reading through the Word, and other readings and travels. My wife and I have made another trip to the Holy Land, as well as our third Footsteps of Paul tour. Last summer we spent a week in Egypt and then traveled along the way of the Exodus through Jordan, up to Mount Nebo; where Moses overlooked the Promised Land. On our last tour of Israel I was privileged to teach from the South steps of the Temple, and at the top of the Tel at Megiddo overlooking Armageddon

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(the hills of the Valley of Megiddo, and site of the End Times “War to end all wars”).

I have also had time to study the history of the interpretation of the book of Revelation. I was surprising to learn that several hundred full-length commentaries on Revelation had been written by the end of the Second Century. Few of these are intact, but references to those commentaries, found in other ancient documents, shed light on the Early Churches’ understanding of John’s Prophecies. Some of those commentators were known to have conversed with St. John’s personal acquaintances. I highly recommend Steve Gregg’s work on the four views of Revelation to see for your self how others have interpreted the last book of the Bible. When I compare the viewpoint of my book to the four basic views described in Gregg’s work, “Come

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out of her, My people” fits best into the Historical View.

*This book is dedicated to my blessed Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and my wife, Gwendolyn, who is the perfect helpmeet given to me by the grace of God. Jeremiah, the prophet, dearly loved Israel, as he warned God's people that they would be scattered. Like Jeremiah, I also love and pray for my country, the United States of America. I pray that God's grace and mercy would continue to*

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*guide and protect her. And I pray for a revival among Jesus' people, resulting in the conversion of the majority of our citizens to saving faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

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## ***Introduction***

The original disciples of Jesus expected His return at any moment and referred to their era as “the last days”. When James, the brother of Jesus, wrote his letter to the first generation church, he said, “***You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***” (James 5:8) It is evident, from the frequent inclusion of such verses in the New Testament, that God intends for every generation to be expectant of Christ’s return. It is consistent with God’s Word for every generation to live in the presence of wars, and rumors of war, and other conditions prophesied in the Old and New Testaments. The “last days” began at the time of Jesus’ first coming. So we should not be surprised; but should, in fact, expect that the events of our world will also keep us looking up in anticipation of our Savior’s return.

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Some of the conclusions and interpretation of Scripture in this book, regarding the “***time of the end***” (Daniel 12:4), hereafter referred to as “End Times”, will challenge the reader’s prior understanding. These challenges, however, do not involve foundational Christian doctrine, such as the doctrine of salvation, or the doctrine of the substitution and vicarious sacrifice of Christ Jesus for our sins. It is the prayer of the author that the reader will develop stronger faith and a greater motivation to follow God’s plan, however it unfolds.

When Christ came, treading outside the guidelines established by the religious rulers of His day, these rulers were slow to yield, or completely unyielding. When the reality of Christ’s life ran contrary to their preconceived ideas, they concluded that He couldn’t be the Messiah. The Jews were expecting a “supernatural” appearance of their King at Christ’s first coming. They were looking for the sky to

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open, and the Lord to appear in all His glory. This is, in fact, the expectation of Christians for Christ's second coming. In the same way, time has allowed a great deal of speculation about the, yet unfulfilled, prophecies and symbolisms predicted in God's Word. What will it actually "look like". As time unfolds, the details of reality must supersede man's best drawn assumptions; or else, we risk missing the moment, as did the scoffers in Jesus' day. As Jesus said to them, "**You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.**" (Matthew 16:3)

The timely and correct interpretation of the command to "**Come out of her, my people**" (Revelation 18:4) becomes more significant as we consider its context. We will see when we study Chapter 18 that this warning comes after an initial attack, but just before the total destruction of the Great Harlot. The spirit of the prophets of our day proclaims, "The time of the end of

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the age is at hand.” The increase of natural disasters, and the reestablishment of the nation of Israel, substantiate these “End Time” prophesies. Jesus said in Matthew 24:34, “Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.” If the generation that experiences the “**beginnings of sorrows**”, spoken of in Matthew 24:8, will live to see the End Times, then it becomes necessary to consider the people and nations of our time, to determine if, and how, they are spoken of in the Biblical account of the “End Times”.

Paul writes in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4 verses 1 through 6;

***1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know***

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*perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" Then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*

First Paul describes the state of the unbeliever; when ***"they say peace and safety"***, ***"sudden destruction"...***

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**“comes as a thief in the night”**; (emphasis added). They will not see the signs of the times, nor understand that the end is near. On the other hand; the Christian, who is walking in the light, will see the Day of the Lord’s coming just as clearly as he would see someone climbing through his window in broad daylight. That Day will not be a surprise, and he will see the movements leading up to His return in perfect detail. The outcomes of that Day will also be contrary for the lost and the saved. The people who rejected Christ’s rescue will experience God’s wrath which has been waiting for Adam’s unrepentant children. Those who have made a heartfelt profession of personal faith in Jesus’ sacrifice for their sins will escape and share in Christ’s inheritance; new life, a new heaven, and a new earth. *(The author pleads with the reader to seek God through His Son and find Life.)*

So what sort of signs of the times should those who walk in the day be able to see;

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as the Day approaches? Some highly visible characters are identified in John's prophecies. One of these characters is a nation that rules over all the other nations, and is such a mighty world power that the other nations proclaim, "**Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?**" (Revelation 13:4) The Great Harlot, and/or Babylon the Great, is clearly spoken of as the trading capital of the world. Because it would typically take decades, if not centuries, for a nation to establish such a global reputation, we must consider the United States of America in one, or both, of these roles; if indeed, we are living out the final generation. If the reader believes in the popular Futuristic approach to interpreting the book of Revelation, then the global stage must be "pre-set" for an action packed seven-year political/theosophical/spiritual blitz. (Futurism reserves the events occurring after Chapter Three of Revelation for a period of time yet to come; and, the

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nineteen hundred years which have transpired since the "Revelation Churches" are not foretold). But even if one holds the Historical viewpoint concerning End Times prophecy, the historical timeline of Biblical fulfillment also places us near the end of the age. (These views are discussed in the next chapter).

Because this book deals primarily with the identity and chronology of Babylon the Great; and because many books have been written about the letters to the Seven Churches, our focus will be on Chapters 6 through 18. This book is not the intended to be a complete commentary on the chapters covered. In fact, the author's dilemma was whether to include only those verses germane to Mystery Babylon, or to discuss every verse in true commentary form. It is in respect of St. John's warning and the author's fear of the Lord that each verse is included. ***"And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall***

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***take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book"***

**(Rev. 22:19)** So, the verses are included even though the commentary is sketchy and "thin" in places where the Spirit hasn't prompted the author to expound. There are many full commentaries of Revelation, and perhaps one of them should be the reader's first study before digesting the focused discussion in this book.

The chapters of Revelation before and after those examined herewith in are included in the appendix in obedience to John's warning.

Please read the  
entire Book of  
Revelation.

See the Appendix  
for Chapters 1-5  
and 19-22.

## Chapter One

### *Two Millennia of Interpretations*

From the writing of Revelation until today, four distinct interpretations of Revelation have been promoted and accepted by the majority of “believing Christians”; here after referred to as the “Church”. By name, the four ways to understand John’s prophetic book are: Preterist, Spiritual, Historical, and Futurist. The chart on the following page shows the life and time in which these views were predominantly held. If you are a Christian; you are most likely totally convinced of the veracity of the interpretation which you embrace. Please appreciate the fact that, although the Church has endured a variety of interpretations, heaven has been

## Two Millennia of Interpretations

increased in every generation by those who have repented and believed in our Lord Jesus Christ. This means that Glory is full of saints who spent all of their time on earth believing something different about Revelation than is popularly held today; and, we will spend eternity loving one another.

Before we continue our discussion of the various views, it is absolutely crucial to recognize that the entire Bible, excluding the Apocrypha, contained in the Roman Catholic Bible, is "God breathed". The Apocrypha, and many other writings, were not accepted by the Early Church; nor by the early Roman Catholics, as inspired writings. These extra books were felt to be useful in understanding the Jews' struggles during the time between Malachi and John the Baptist. But no one recognized them as inspired. The Apocryphal writings were only canonized

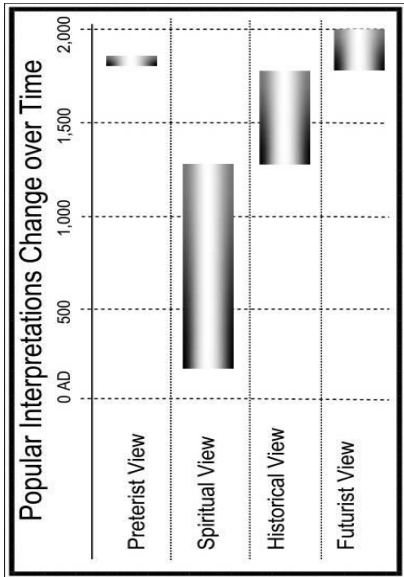
## Two Millennia of Interpretations

at the Council of Trent near the end of Middle Ages; a that time Roman Catholics were on a bent to separate themselves from the Protestants. The Protestants, on the other hand, wanted to purge the church until it resembled the Biblical church of the Apostles. But by adding the Apocrypha to the Roman Catholic scriptures, the Bible was compromised in three ways. First of all, the Holy Catholic Bible was less than holy; tainted by uninspired chapters. Secondly, several of these Apocryphal books lend themselves to spiritualization. ("Spiritualizing" is a technique of converting historical events into allegories. The interpretation of these allegories became more important than the actual historical accounts because they were "supposedly" understood by people who were "spiritually minded".) Now guess who had the ability to correctly interpret these hidden, but essential

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meaning's? The Roman Catholic leaders,  
of course! (*continued after chart*)

## Two Millennia of Interpretations



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priesthood claimed as exclusively their own. And thirdly, as a result, The Spiritual interpretation of the End Times was more easily argued by the Roman Catholic Church, thus enabling them to rebut the Reformers' accusation that the Roman Catholic Church was Mystery Babylon. But apart from the "uninspired books", the Bible is in fact the inerrant Word of God. Attaching any other writing to the foundation laid by the Apostles, the first century church, and Jesus Christ himself, is a grievous sin.

The Holy Bible makes this promise: ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*** 2 Timothy 3:16. And, the Word of God is true. ***"Your word is truth"***. John 17:17b. It is also imperative to realize that words have a specific meaning. A word cannot mean both; a

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specific thing, and the opposite of that same thing. When God isn't speaking in symbolisms and future prophecies, His words have a specific, understandable, and consistent meaning. Most of the Bible is easy to understand simply by accepting the obvious; although the application to the Bible student's own life will vary based on his or her personal situation. Most of the difficult passages become obvious to those who are willing to read all sixty-six books themselves. The author is determined to communicate to the reader that God has spoken clearly about every area of life. St Peter states. **2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious**

***promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.(2 Peter 1)***

The interpretation of future prophecy is difficult indeed. Several prophetic verses contain the phrase “let the reader understand”. Other verses indicate that God wanted certain prophecies to be “sealed up” because their application would be for future generations. These sections of scripture do not have clear meanings, nor are they to be universally understood. A good example is the prophecy found in Psalm 22. The phrases of this chapter must have appeared as a series of random visions to the Jews who recited and preserved them. It speaks of being forsaking by God, gambling over clothing, pierced hands and feet, bones pulled apart, and great thirst. Because these words were inspired, God spoke to

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his people through them even before the express meaning of psalm was realized. But, a mental picture of what was being described wasn't recognizable in the world around them. Death by crucifixion was not instigated by the Romans until at least five centuries after the twenty-second psalm was written! Only God could have known what His Son would endure to redeem retched sinners like you and me. So, as we look at various interpretations of Revelation, and finally the interpretation that God has given me; I pray that you would read the Bible on your own, and attend a Bible teaching church.

Intertwined within the four views are two primary considerations; the timing of Christ's Millennial Reign, and, the nature of the visions. (Do the visions describe actual future events, or illustrations of spiritual principles and moral instructions?) Now before we discuss the four

## Two Millennia of Interpretations

viewpoints, let us define the Millennial Reign.

The primary Bible reference to the Millennial Reign of Christ is found in Revelation 20:1-6;

***“1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the***

***thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand***

***years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."***

From the time of the early church until today, there has been a controversy concerning the relation of Christ's second coming to the period of His thousand year reign upon the earth. Either Jesus returns before the 1,000 years, or, after the 1,000 years.

Until nearly one thousand years had past, after Jesus' first coming, simple logic placed His return before the Millennial

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Reign. This viewpoint is called "Premillennial". The opinion that Jesus would return in a physical body after the Millennial Reign, is deemed "Postmillennial". A third opinion about the Millennial Reign assumes that Jesus would return in a spiritual sense; in the form of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This Spiritual indwelling is spoken of by Jesus in the Fourteenth Chapter of John's Gospel.

***"15 If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you***

***know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”***

This interpretation allows for a third type of millennialism. Amillennialism is the belief that Jesus returned spiritually in His resurrection, or at the Day of Pentecost; and that the Millennium refers to an indefinite “period” of time rather than a literal 1,000 years. The Amillennial’s millennium encompasses all of the years between the crucifixion and Jesus’

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“physical” second coming. Because the Amillennialist believes that Jesus is reigning over the earth through His people during this time, Amillennialism is classified as a type of Postmillennialism.

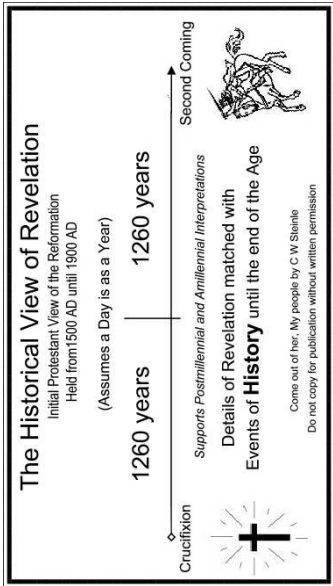
Pre-millennialism is conducive to the Futurist interpretation of Revelation because it pushes the Millennium into the future. The Apostles, and other believers who lived during their lifetime, expected the second coming of Christ “before their generation passed away”. So they obviously believed that the Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth would have to come after His second coming. This Pre-millennial point of view has been found in the writings of second and third century Christians and was referred to as “Chiliastic”.

Along with the Millennium, the Futurist pushes everything in Revelation, which

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falls after the letters to the churches (Chapter Three), into the future. Proponents of Futurism find ample evidence, throughout the Bible, to expect an ever-darkening world of depravity prior to Christ's return. The Futuristic viewpoint has raised objections because of its pessimistic assumptions regarding the ultimate failure of humanistic social advancements.

On the other hand, the Amillennial theory holds the promise of an ever-improving moral environment. Amillennialism proposes that the entire period from the crucifixion to the second coming represents the Millennium. It is obvious, considering that two thousand years have already intervened,



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that the “year” isn’t taken literally in their interpretation. Rather, the entire period is deemed “the Millennial Reign. Another obvious assumption for the Amillennialist is that Christ is reigning in a spiritual sense. The Bible states that Jesus indwells all those who have confessed trust in Christ’s vicarious sacrifice for their sins. So that, Jesus inhabits the earth, embodied by those who have placed their faith in the sacrifice Jesus made of himself at the cross. Therefore, Christ is already reigning over the earth through His people. The Amillennialist would further assert that the world will become evermore “Christianized” until Jesus returns again in bodily form. Amillennialism lends itself to the Historical method of interpreting Revelation. The Historicist looks at the apocalyptic prophecies and matches them to actual historical events. Sometimes the similarities between prophecy and reality

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are striking. But other times the correlations are chronologically skewed, and/or, obscure in their resemblance.

Another branch of the Historical camp makes a more chronologically precise Millennium. They are said to be “Postmillennial” in their view of the Second Coming. By calling on several scriptural references, these Historicists estimate a day to represent a calendar year.

In the general order of church history; the Preterist view was most likely held by Christians of the first Century. Prior to the Romanization of Christianity, early believers would have been consoled as they were persecuted, knowing that Rome would soon be judged for its cruelty. Irenaeus (180 AD) wrote a complete commentary of the Book of Revelation. He believed that Rome was the man of sin, and that the Roman Empire would be

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divided into ten kingdoms before its destruction. The Preterist view assumes the fulfillment of most of Revelation in the fall of Jerusalem. This interpretation is supported by the first verses of Jesus' Olivet Discourse. A "Full Preterist" believes that all of Revelation has been fulfilled, including Christ's second coming. "Partial Preterism" suggests that some remaining prophecies of Revelation are yet to be fulfilled; leaving the return of Christ as an imminent expectation.

Steve Gregg commends Preterism for its faithfulness to the relevance of Revelation. He states: *"This view has the advantage of immediate relevance to the original readers, a feature we would strongly expect to find in an epistle. It also is the only view that does not need an alternative to the literal sense of passages like Revelation 1:1 and 19, which affirm that the events predicted "must shortly*

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*come to pass” and “are about to take place”; and like Revelation 22:10 where John is told not to seal up the book, because “the time is at hand.” When this is contrasted with Daniel’s being commanded to seal up his book because it would not be immediately fulfilled (Dan. 12:9), this seems a deliberate promise that there would be no great interval between the time Revelation was written and the time of its fulfillment.”<sup>11</sup>*

The Spiritual interpretation of Revelation could be called the figurative view. Clement and Origen of the Second Century were among the first commentators to spiritualize Revelation. They didn’t like the fact that Millennialism brought the End Time focus back to the Nation of Israel. Some examples of spiritual interpretation are: the assumption that the locusts’ tails from Revelation Chapter Nine represent “false teachers”;

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and, the rider of the white horse in Chapter Nineteen represents “the light of the Word”; the 24 elders represent the equality of non-Jews with the Jews; and so forth. This Spiritual view of Revelation was the prevalent view from the fall of the Roman Empire until the time of the Reformers. Martin Luther’s commentary suggested that, after the Letters to the Churches, Revelation was a history of the church. The Historical view became the standard Protestant interpretation and was a central difference between the Roman Catholics and themselves. It wasn’t until the time of the New England Settlement that Futurism began to emerge. It has been noted that the Catholics may have contrived Futurism as a way to thwart the Protestants. A Spanish Jesuit named Francisco Ribera promulgated that John had only foreseen the immediate and the distant future, but was prevented from seeing the events in between. Francisco

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predicted that St. John's antichrist would re-appear in the last days, and that Babylon was a future Roman state; not the Roman Catholic Church.

If we are so close to those last seven years, shouldn't there be more points of reference than Israel alone? And have these doctors of theology who have moved the bulk of Revelation into the unchangeable past and the irrelevant future altogether escape John's warning not to remove the words of the Revelation of Jesus Christ? Is remote not akin to removed?

What if The Roman Catholic Church is really the Babylon of Revelation? She most certainly has adulterated God's truth; with myths about Mary, myths about Jesus, and myths about priesthood, sainthood, prayer, communion, baptism and so much more! If the reader is a

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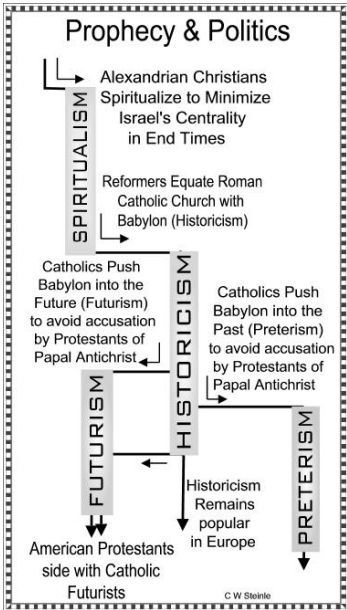
member of the Catholic Church, and a genuine Christian by faith in Christ alone, please be assured there are many good Bible believing churches where you can hear more truth and less fiction.

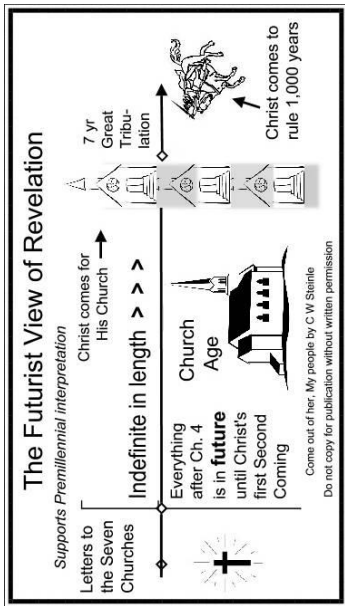
Another problem with the Futurist viewpoint deals with feasibility. Full Preterists drew criticism from Historicists, who expressed strong opposition to the Preterists' notion that the entire drama of Revelation could be acted out in only 70 years. (Full Preterist believe Revelation was fulfilled by the Fall of Jerusalem.) Now consider that Futurists believe it will all take place in just seven years!

A final thought here. What do we do with the old adage?

“If it's new it's not true; and,  
If it's true it's not new”

# Two Millennia of Interpretations





Come out of her, My people by C W Steidle  
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## Five Opinions on the Timing of the Rapture

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### Great Tribulation

← First 3 1/2 Years → ← Second 3 1/2 Years →

In 1830 Margaret McDonald has a

Vision of a "Secret Rapture" prior to the coming of the "Antichrist"

Her vision is embraced at the Powerscourt Castle Prophecy Conference in Dublin Ireland where Futurism is also promoted.

See 1st Thes. 4:17 & 1st Cor. 15:51,52

Rapture before Tribulation	Wrath of God
Rapture triggers Tribulation	Wrath of God
Mid-Trib. Rapture	Wrath of God
Rapture before Wrath	Wrath
Rapture at 2nd Coming	Wrath of God

Second Coming of Christ

# Two Millennia of Interpretations

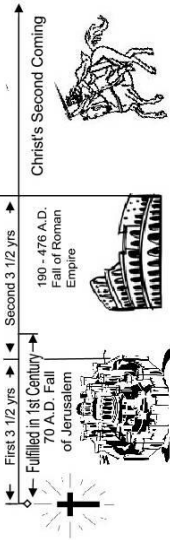
## The Preterist View of Revelation

Valued like Old Testament as fulfilled prophecy

Assumes Time of writing before the fall of Jerusalem

Most of Revelation fulfilled by the fall of Jerusalem, or by the fall of the Roman Empire

After the fall of the Roman Empire No prophecies are left to be fulfilled before Second Coming



## Two Millennia of Interpretations

### Founders and Famous Proponents

Come out of her, My people by C W Steinle

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Preterist	Spiritual	Historical	Futurist
Hymenaeus & Philetus (2Tim 2:17)	Clement	Rupert of Deutz	Ribera
	Origen	Joachin of Floris	Walvoord
Eusebius	Methodius	Martin Luther	Ryrie
Luis de Alcasar	Victorinus	John Knox	Gaebelein
	Tyconius	William Wycliffe	Ironside
Kenneth Gentry	Augustine	John Calvin	John Nelson
	Jay Adams	Alcuin	Sir Isaac Newton
Strabo		John Foxe	C. I. Scofield
	William Hendriksen	John Wesley	
		Charles Finney	Hal Lindsey
		C. H. Spurgeon	
		Matthew Henry	
		E. B. Elliott	

## Chapter Two

### *Mystery Babylon*

**“MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF ALL HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH,”** is the inscription found on the forehead of the Great Harlot of Revelation 17:5. People are instructed to, **“Come out of her”**, in Revelation 18:4; so we must determine WHERE they are to escape from. But how can we understand the meaning of these words, written almost 2,000 years ago, about this city of the future? Studying the history of Ancient Babylon, and the manner in which these phrases are used in the Old Testament, provide a good starting point. Much of the information about Babylon in the following

## Mystery Babylon

paragraphs is found in “The New Unger’s Bible Dictionary”<sup>4</sup>:

Babylon was an ancient city-state in the plain of Shinar. The city of Babylon was located roughly 50 miles south of Baghdad. Babylon was built as a square city around the Euphrates River, whereas Baghdad was established beside the Tigris River. Babylon derived its name from the Hebrew word “*balal*” (“to confound”) and refers to the confusion of tongues that took place when God put an end to their tower project (Gen. 11:9). The city began to dominate the area about 1830 B.C., when it gained success in conquering its adjoining city-states. The Kingdom of Babylon eventually covered all of Mesopotamia and the adjacent lands; an area extending from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, southward; including Assyria to the north, and the entire eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea to the

## Mystery Babylon

west. Thus, the nation of Israel was included in greater Babylon. (Because the Assyrians were closer in proximity to Israel than Babylon itself, the Jews referred to their captors as 'Assyrians'.)

The city of Babylon had a circumference of over 41 miles, according to Greek writers. The great wall was said to be 85 feet thick and eleven miles long. This wall was made of two outer walls about 24 feet thick, with an inner area filled with rubble. It was protected by a moat filled with water from the Euphrates. The Hanging Gardens, constructed by Nebuchadnezzar, were considered by the Greeks to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The terraces were so massive that they could support full grown trees. The city was filled with houses, three to four stories in height. A bridge connected the eastern and western sections of the city. Other prominent

## Mystery Babylon

buildings included the king's palace and the temple of Marduk, or Bel. Babylon was magnificent in wealth, grandeur, power and size; containing around a million people within the walled city.

As we contemplate the nature of Babylon, in order to establish a 'type' of Babylon, and thereby derive our opinion about the identity of this 'Mystery Babylon'; we need to understand the Jewish attitude toward Babylon at the time the Old Testament Bible prophecies were given.

The Old Testament prophets had warned Israel that they could not resist the mounting strength of the Babylonian-Assyrians, unless they remained faithful to the God of Israel. God had shown the Jews time after time that their enemies would be allowed to conquer them, and rule over them, until they returned to the Lord their God. God allowed, and even

## Mystery Babylon

commanded, the idolatrous nations around Israel to defeat the children of Israel because of their chronic waywardness. They were called adulteresses by God because they were unfaithful to Him. Finally, God allowed them to be carried away by the Assyrians, as far away as Babylon. However, God also promised to punish Babylon at a later time for her own wickedness. During the life of Daniel, and after seventy years of captivity, the Medes overthrew Babylon and the Jews were allowed to return to their own land.

The following verses from the book of Isaiah foretell the coming destruction of Babylon. Notice that ***“the day of the Lord”*** is said to be at hand, but the application of this chapter is ***“against Babylon.”*** Also, note that the day of destruction has not yet come for the Medes, whom God used to destroy

## Mystery Babylon

Babylon (verse 17). One other event needs to be mentioned, and it could be quite significant. The darkening of the sun and moon is associated with the judgment of Babylon. 'Stirring up of the dust', so as to darken the sky, is indicative of an intense battle that razes everything standing, and also alludes to the swiftness and size of the approaching army. This description of battle was fulfilled when the Medes destroyed Babylon on October 12, 539 B.C. (After a brief attempt by Alexander the Great to restore the city, it was abandoned and quickly became a desert.) Revelation 8:12 calls for another period of darkness that will affect only part of the earth (one third). Could it be that Chapter 8 of Revelation is also describing the judgment of a future type of Babylon?

### ***Isaiah 13***

***1 The burden against  
Babylon which Isaiah the***

**son of Amoz saw. 2 "Lift up a banner on the high mountain, raise your voice to them; wave your hand, that they may enter the gates of the nobles. 3 I have commanded My sanctified ones; I have also called My mighty ones for My anger- those who rejoice in My exaltation." 4 The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like that of many people! A tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together! The LORD of hosts musters the army for battle. 5 They come from a far country, from the end of heaven- The LORD and**

***His weapons of indignation, to destroy the whole land. 6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, 8 and they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. 10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will***

***not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. 11 "I will punish the world for its evil. And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. 12 I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, a man more than the golden wedge of O'phir. 13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger. 14 It shall be as the hunted***

***gazelle, and as a sheep that no man takes up; every man will turn to his own people, and everyone will flee to his own land. 15 Everyone who is found will be thrust through, and everyone who is captured will fall by the sword. 16 Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be plundered and their wives ravished. 17 Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, who will not regard silver; and as for gold, they will not delight in it. 18 Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces,***

***and they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye will not spare children. 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It will never be inhabited, nor will it be settled from generation to generation; nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, and their houses will be full of owls; ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will caper there. 22 The***

## Mystery Babylon

***hyenas will howl in their citadels, and jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come, and her days will not be prolonged.”***

The prophecy of Joel agrees with the assumption that the time of darkening occurs prior to the time of God's wrath (the Day of the LORD).

***Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*** (emphasis added)

Now listen to God's repeated plea for the righteous to separate themselves from the

## Mystery Babylon

object of His coming judgment in the following verses of Jeremiah.

***Jeremiah 50:8 “Move from the midst of Babylon, go out of the land of the Chaldeans; and be like the rams before the flocks.”***

***Jeremiah 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, and every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the LORD’s vengeance; He shall recompense her.***

***Jeremiah 51:45 “My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself***

## Mystery Babylon

***from the fierce anger of the LORD.”***

Now prayerfully consider that this same plea is given by God near the end of the age; ***“Come out of her, My people.”*** It is made to the inhabitants of a mysterious type of Babylon that will exist near the time of the end. “Mystery”, simply means that her identity was not yet revealed by God during John’s day; and could indicate that the city did not exist at the time of his writings.

Observe that Daniel did not respond to this message during the first overthrow of Babylon. Daniel stayed in Babylon, and even served the conquering Medes. This implies that God may call some of His saints to stay and minister to the people of Mystery Babylon, even while the masses are commanded to evacuate.

## Chapter Three

### *The Outline of the Age (Revelation Chapter Six)*

We find a great similarity between the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel. The prophecies given to Daniel in Chapters 7-12 rehearse the same people, places and events, as many as five times. The “**little horn**” is mentioned in Daniel 7 and 8, and is referred to as a “**vile person**” in Chapter 11. The “**daily sacrifice**” being taken away and the “**abomination of desolation**” are mentioned in Daniel Chapters 8, 9, 11, and 12. The mid-week period of 1,260 days is stated in Daniel Chapters 7, 9, and 12, and another period of 2,300 days is found in Daniel Chapter 8. The cleansing

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of the sanctuary and the anointing of the Holy of Holies takes place in Daniel Chapters 8 and 9, respectively. Finally, the “**time of the end**” is found in Daniel Chapters 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

In comparison, the Book of Revelation covers the events leading up to the “**wrath of God**” at least twice, and includes two other extraneous periods of time. Chapter 6 covers a period from the time of the Revelation churches to the catastrophic disasters of: the great earthquake, the blackened sun and moon, and the shaking of the heavens. At that time, even the kings of the earth are found taking refuge in caves. Verse 17 of Chapter 6 tells us that we have come to the very end of the Great Tribulation stating, “**For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?**” The clock of time is turned back at the end of Revelation Chapter 10 when John is told, “**You must**

**prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings**". During the two chapters that follow, the Book of Revelation carries us back to the beginning of the Hebrew nation, the birth and ascension of Christ Jesus (the "**male child**"), and the Diaspora of the Jews pursued by Satan. It is interesting that after these attacks on the Jews, Satan turns his attention to "**the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**" (Revelation 12:17). After the Jews were expelled from the Promised Land by the Romans, Satan did, indeed, turn to the persecution of Christians. Following the Nazi Holocaust, we might expect Satan to increase his persecution of the Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ.

Chapter 13 begins another countdown, bringing us once again to the wrath of

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God; beginning with the gathering of the grapes of wrath in Revelation 14:14, and culminating with the pouring out of the bowls of God's wrath in Chapter 16:17-21. Lastly, we will discuss the focus of this book, the fall of Babylon the Great, found in Chapter 14:8. The detailed account of Babylon's fall is given in Revelation Chapters 17 and 18, where it is totally destroyed by fire. However, the fall actually occurred before God's wrath. In conclusion, neither Daniel, nor Revelation, is written in chronological order. In "The Four Views of Revelation", Steve Gregg points this out: *"There are additional indicators that the details of Revelation don't necessarily follow one another chronologically. For example, the Beast persecutes the two witnesses (11:7) before he rises to power (13:1) and Babylon is fallen in 14:8, but later not yet fallen (17:1-5; 18:21)."* These repetitions, however, may be "overlaid" to bring a

## The Outline of the Age

deeper understanding of certain events, by examining them in greater detail than the body of text in which they were first presented. Now let's take a look at the first chain of events leading up to the time of God's wrath.

### ***Seals of the Eras***

Chapter 6 records the opening of the seals of the scroll by the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ. Chapters 4 and 5 point out that He alone is worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals. To identify the point in time represented by the seals, we must go back to Chapters 2 and 3 to note that they address the time period of the seven churches; located in what is now western Turkey. Chapter 4 begins with the words, “***after these things.***” The pre-Tribulation method of interpreting this phrase assumes that it refers to the time after the church has been caught up to heaven (the rapture). The justification for this interpretation is that the previous verses address ‘the church’, and therefore “***these things***” are things that pertain to ‘the church’. However, the letters to the churches are directed to seven discreet

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churches and not to the universe of all believers in Jesus Christ.

This view also attempts to segregate God's dealings with non-Jewish peoples from His dealings with the Nation of Israel by placing them in two distinct periods of time. A supporting verse for this treatment is given in Luke 21:24, which reads ***“And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”*** The verses preceding this verse indicate that the ‘time’ here is a time of ***“great distress in the land”***, (the Holy Land), and ***“wrath upon this people”***, (the Jews).

But this time of wrath refers to a time ending with the captivity of the Jews ***“into all nations”***. Now that the Jews have returned to the Promised Land, no further

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dispersion of the Jews is expected by most traditionalists; except for the dispersion to the mountains of Israel that will occur during the Tribulation. Therefore, we might concede that this time of the Gentiles could have already come to an end after WWII, when the State of Israel was reborn and the Jews returned to the Holy Land. In the case of these verses in Luke, **“fulfilled”** refers to the end of the time that the Gentiles have control of the Land, and specifically, control of Jerusalem. Even though the city contains sectors which are occupied by Gentiles, the Jews now govern and maintain justice in Jerusalem. So the **“times of the Gentiles”** has apparently already come to an end, since no other dispersion into other nations is anticipated. A point in time that more likely represents the end of Gentile rule and the beginning of Government from Zion is given in Romans 12:25, 26. In

these verses ***“the fullness of the Gentiles”*** is linked to Isaiah 59:20, 21 ***“The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*** These verses link ***“the fullness of the Gentiles”*** with the first coming of Jesus. Hebrews 9:27, 28 tell us that Jesus came the first time to deal with our sins; and that He is returning the second time to bring the reward of our salvation, not to deal with our sins anymore. In neither case do these verses logically link the rapture, or the transition to God’s exclusive dealing with Israel, to the phrase ***“After these things”***.

Another technicality that is often overlooked, is the reference to ***“He who now restrains”***, being ***“taken out of the way”***, referred to in II Thessalonians 2:7. If this, ‘He’, refers to the Spirit-indwelt

## The Outline of the Age

body of believers (the Church); then, 'He', the Holy Spirit, would be right back on the earth again with the first person saved after the rapture of the Church. A more logical rendering of **"He who now restrains"** would be to assume that 'He' refers to the forces on earth, military and angelic, that are protecting Israel from the Muslims and the anti-Semitic world at large. The Book of Daniel supports the theory that the restrainer is Michael the Archangel. The Church will most likely be "taken out" by the brutal persecution that leads to the words, "blessed are the ones who die in the Lord from now on" *Rev. 14:13*. Further description of the extermination of God's people is given in *Daniel 12:7*.

**"Then I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him**

**who lives forever, that *it shall be* for a time, times, and half a *time*; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these *things* shall be finished."**

Another assumption made by the proponents of pre-Tribulation rapture is that everything after the letters to the Seven Churches refers to the seven year Tribulation period. But might some of Revelation be speaking about the events that fall in between John's time and the beginning of the Great Tribulation? After all, nowhere in Revelation is there an announcement that the Tribulation has begun. But we are told when the wrath of God begins. The sickle and the bowls of wrath in Revelation 14 clearly mark the time of wrath which most students of End Time Prophecy identify with the last three and one-half years.

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Two unbending truths must be retained in any inspired prediction of the timing of the rapture:

- Jesus' return must always be anticipated as eminent.
- Jesus' servants must continue to carry on their master's business until He returns.

It has been said when interpreting Scripture that “the obvious meaning is the obvious meaning”. As we seek the meaning of “**After these things**”, it is true that the ‘things’ being referenced are the instructions to the seven churches of Western Turkey. The most obvious interpretation of, ‘after’, would be “following the information that was previously imparted to John”. This transition prepares the reader to anticipate further revelation. In his monumental work

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on Revelation, Steve Gregg makes this observation. *“It should be remembered that when John says, “After these things I saw ...” (as he frequently does), he is giving us the sequence in which he saw the visions—not necessarily implying anything about the chronological order in which the visions would find fulfillment in events.”*

Words, by definition, possess a certain and reliable meaning. Therefore, a literal interpretation of the Bible should be the first approach used to understand Scripture. The Greek language contains words which are far more specific than the words of the English language. The first words of Chapter 4 are the Greek words Μετά ταῦτα. Ταῦτα<sup>5</sup> means “these things”, so it is the first word that we need to examine. Μετά<sup>6</sup> has the primary meaning of “mid, amid, in the midst, with, or among”; and is used to depict Jesus

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“coming with the clouds of heaven” in Mark 14:62. At the beginning of Revelation Chapters 18 and 19, it is used to mean “in addition to the information contained in the previous chapter”. In neither of these uses does the subject change from the previous chapters. . In fact, “after these things” is such a common phrase to John that he uses these exact same words thirteen times in his Biblical writings.

When used with a noun, Μετά has a secondary meaning of “succession either in place or time”, but there are several other Greek words which have the primary meaning of “successively” or “consecutively”. *Kathexés*<sup>7</sup> means, “in order, successively, consecutively, or in connected order”. *Eíta*<sup>8</sup> is translated; “then”, or “after that”. *Hexēs*<sup>9</sup> has the English meaning: “to follow next in line, or, successively”. Or, *metépeita*<sup>10</sup> could have

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been used, and means; “after that, then, afterwards or thereafter”. Μετά ταῦτα is merely a literary transition between groups of thoughts, and does not imply that they are related, or unrelated. Therefore, it seems reasonable that God used the primary meaning of Μετά (mid, amid, in the midst, with among) rather than the secondary meaning because other Greek words more accurately specify “after” as a succession events or consecutive events.

If, however, God is using a secondary meaning of meta tauta, then the obvious interpretation of “After these things” would be; after God has finished His letters to the seven churches; or, after the previous moments experienced by John during the Patmos revelation. One of the unfortunate results of presuming that most of Revelation will not be encountered by the church is the lack of relevance felt by the body of Christ. This ‘disconnect’ from the

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foreseeable future has encouraged novelists to fantasize about end time prophecy by the volume. The advocates for a pre-Tribulation rapture raise the point that the church should live in anticipation of the Lord's return. And only the pre-Tribulation theory circumvents the need for certain prophetic events to take place prior to the second coming of Christ. But rather than arguing over issues that are not specified in scripture; why not say, "If the Lord tarries, then this or that prophecy is left to be fulfilled". Or, if Jesus comes soon we can assume that some prophecies were fulfilled without being recognized by the church. In either case it might be best, and more peaceable, to be content not knowing the hour or the day of His coming; still, daily striving to be ready, and always desiring His return.

John uses the phrase "***let the reader understand***" to indicate that the meaning

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of certain prophecy would not become clear until it was accompanied by actual future events. The interpretation that is offered in this book for the passages that follow ***“after these things”*** is one that would not have been evident to a reader of Revelation prior to the middle of the second millennium. At least three events need to be identified in order to recognize the formation of a series. This is true in logic and mathematics. In studying Revelation’s seven seals, two sequential events have been evident from the time of John’s writings; the forth and fifth seals (taken together), and sixth seals. The destruction that comes upon mankind is generally associated with the first half of the Tribulation; and this period is summarized by the events of the forth and fifth seals. The catastrophic destruction of the planet by the wrath of God is universally accepted as the second half of the Tribulation, and these events

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correspond with the sixth seal. If we take the fourth seal then, and work backwards to the time of the demise of the seven churches, do the seals overlay any recognizable periods of human history?

The answer is, "Yes!" However, we find that one time period is still in the future for us, and precedes the fifth seal. A time of persecution of God's people will accompany a time of commerce, (Revelation 17:6), and we have not experienced the degree of persecution described in these verses at the time of this writing. But the magnitude of world commerce is accelerating daily. Consider the seals in the following verses and how they might be 'stretched' over time; backward and forward.

### ***Revelation 6***

***1 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the***

*seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."*

*2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.*

*3 When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."*

*4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should*

*kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

*5 When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.*

*6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."*

*7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living*

**creature saying, "Come and see."**

**8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.**

**9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.**

***10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"***

***11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.***

***12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and***

*the moon became like blood.*

*13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.*

*14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

*15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,*

***16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"***

The key to understanding the meaning of multi-colored horses has been established in earlier Scripture. The following passages from Zechariah are the first, and the only verses prior to Revelation, which mention colored horses.

***Zechariah 1***

***8 I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees***

*in the hollow; and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white. 9 Then I said, "My lord, what are these?" So the angel who talked with me said to me, "I will show you what they are." 10 And the man who stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, "These are the ones whom the LORD has sent to walk to and fro throughout the earth." 11 So they answered the Angel of the LORD, who stood among the myrtle trees, and said, "We have walked to and fro throughout the earth,*

*and behold, all the earth is resting quietly.”*

**Zechariah 6**

*1 Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze. 2 With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, 3 with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses—strong steeds. 4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, “What*

*are these, my lord?" 5 And the angel answered and said to me, "These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth. 6 The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country." 7 Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, "Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth." So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. 8*

***And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, "See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country."***

Notice in the section from Chapter 1 of Zechariah that no individual horses are mentioned after the prophet's initial sighting. The purpose of these horses is to transport a recognizance team; who report, "all the earth is resting quietly". In Zechariah 6, the colors are correlated with the direction and the region of the earth through which the horses traverse. However, no meaning is attributed to the horses' colors. It appears that the distinction in color is made to indicate that the horses are unique in their assignment; as opposed to riding as a herd. In fact, the color of the chariots' horses is so

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irrelevant that the mission of the chariot led by the red horses is not even recorded.

Although the particular colors of the horses are not important, the horses do have characteristics that are important for understanding their relation to the seals of the scroll. The steeds seem to represent God's awareness of what is occurring in various areas of the earth. They go "to and fro" in distinct directions. Their riders make known what the Spirit is accomplishing; and report back to God the state of affairs on the earth. The most important aspect of Zechariah's horses, as they set a biblical precedent for the colored horses of Revelation, is that they are sent to accomplish distinct, identifiable missions. There is also a noteworthy difference between the account of the apocalyptic horses and riders, from that of the of Zechariah's equines. Zechariah's

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vision speaks of the sending from heaven to earth: “Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth”. Whereas, John’s vision tells of the observations of distinct conditions of the world: “Come and see”.

Although Futurists generally avoid “spiritualizing” the bible, they have definitely taken that approach in Chapter 6. In an attempt to bring the false prophet into their abbreviated timeline, the Futurists’ claim the white horse bares the antichrist. They claim since “anti”, in the Greek, means “in place of”, “counterfeit”; that the one who comes in the place of Jesus would ride a white horse like the one our Lord will return upon. (Revelation 19:11) But the conclusions from Zechariah convey that “a horse is a horse. . .” And because the word, antichrist” is absent from the book of Revelation, it seems quite a stretch to extrapolate that the antichrist enters the world at this point,

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simply because a white horse is mentioned.

The interpretation of the first four seals as an Outline of this Age is supported by the words used to describe the seals, and by the sequence in which they are listed. Just as the odds of, four-in-a-row, in a game is high, so is the support for a sequence of four successive events.

We see that the rider of the white horse is characterized by the bow and crown, and he goes out conquering and to conquer. Several centuries after John's lifetime, the Greeks used the area of western Turkey as a battleground. The Greeks seized the Christian church buildings and the Christians themselves were victimized by the eastern Turkish warriors. In the seventh century the Muslims invaded the Turks. After 400 years of resistance, the Turks began to convert to Islam. From

## The Outline of the Age

there, the Muslims began to conquer Europe. Once the trade routes to the Orient were blocked, the Western European Countries began to look for an alternate way to the East. They finally decided to try sailing around the world. The era of the conquistadors and of exploration was typified by the bow and crown. Those brave explorers were sent out with royal authority to establish their respective crowns over the Western territories. For several centuries, the thrust of European nations was to colonize the farthest parts of the earth. They went out to conquer, and were successful in conquering, most of the smaller and unprepared people groups of the world.

The second seal revealed a fiery red horse, whose rider was given power to take peace from the earth and cause people to kill one another. He was armed with a great sword. When most of the

## The Outline of the Age

world's territories had been conquered, these colonies desired to establish their own self-rule; and the era of the "world wars" began. World War I started with a small conflict, but the "peace treaties" between the world's "affiliates" quickly brought blocks of nations into deadly conflict. The world found itself killing with the sword, and being killed, for reasons most knew nothing about. World War II and subsequent wars motivated the world's leaders to develop deterrents in order to ensure world peace. While the aggressors of the world were held in check, the golden age of global commerce began.

When the third seal was opened, a black horse was seen carrying a rider with a pair of scales. A voice was heard saying, "**A quart of wheat for a denarius (a day's wages) and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and**

## The Outline of the Age

**the wine.**" (Revelation 6:6) The scales, monies, and commodities obviously represent commerce. So this seal represents the golden era of commerce, and will culminate in the destruction of the trading capital of the world (the Great Harlot).

When the Lord Jesus opens the fourth seal, John hears the voice of the fourth living creature beckoning him to behold a pale horse. The name of its rider was "**Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth,**" (Revelation 6:8) to bring destruction by means of sword, famine, plague, and the beasts of the earth. This fourth seal brings us into the era of the "**beginning of sorrows**" (Matthew 24:8). The mass persecution of the saints is implied by the sword in Revelation 6:8. Death by the 'sword' is often used as a euphemism for the

## The Outline of the Age

practice of beheading. This assumption is supported by the opening of the fifth seal that exposes ***“the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.”*** (Revelation 6:9) They cried from under the altar, ***“How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*** (Revelation 6:10) In Verse 11, a white robe is given to these martyred believers, and they are told to wait until the slaughter of God’s saints reaches its fullness.

When the sixth seal is opened, we find ourselves in the midst of the catastrophic destruction of the planet, which is described in Revelation 6:16 as the ***“wrath of the Lamb”***. During this time period, there will be no commerce, political maneuvering, or intrigue, but only, the great and mighty men of the earth hiding

## The Outline of the Age

in caves. This 'darkened sky' period affects the entire earth. (We will see, however, that a partial darkening occurs in Chapters 8 & 9 that affects only one-third of the earth.) We can be certain that this sixth seal era is the latter part of the Great Tribulation period. Tribulation is a word used often in the Bible that means "trouble", or "trials". The "Great Tribulation" refers to a seven year period prophesied in Daniel Chapter 9. The first three and one-half years will be the "troubles of mankind", caused by Satan. The second three and one-half years will be "troubles upon the earth" purposed by the Righteous Judge (God).

The prior periods of the fourth and fifth seals resemble the sword, famine, plagues, and persecution of the first period of the tribulation. We conclude, then, that the final era before the Great Tribulation will be the commerce era of the

## The Outline of the Age

third seal. To summarize, we have the **first seal era of exploration and conquest**, the **second seal era of wars**, the **third seal era of commerce**, the **fourth and fifth seals era of plagues, persecution, and famine**, and the **sixth seal era of catastrophic destruction**. Thus the time ending with God's dealings with the seven Turkish churches, through the end of the age, is covered by these six seals.

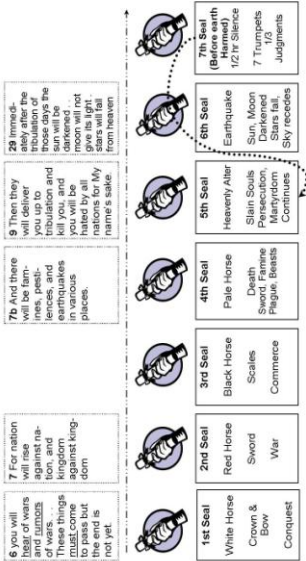
# OUTLINE OF THE AGE

Come out of her, My people by C W Steinle

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CONQUEST (Rev 6:1,2)	WAR (Rev 6:3,4)	COMMERCE (Rev 6:5,6)	DEATH (Rev 6:7:8)	CRY FOR JUSTICE (Rev 6:9-11)	CATACTROPHIC DESTRUCTION (Rev 6:12-17)

## The Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24) With The Seven Seals Timeline



## Chapter Four

### *The Heavenly Kingdom Completed*

Revelation Chapter 7 takes us back to a point in time **prior to the opening of the sixth seal**, before the earth, sea or trees have been harmed. We are also taken to a different setting - the heavenly throne room of God.

#### *Revelation 7*

***1 After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow***

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed  
***on the earth, on the sea,  
or on any tree.***

***2 Then I saw another  
angel ascending from  
the east, having the seal  
of the living God. And  
he cried with a loud  
voice to the four angels  
to whom it was granted  
to harm the earth and  
the sea,***

***3 saying, “Do not harm  
the earth, the sea, or the  
trees till we have sealed  
the servants of our God  
on their foreheads.”***

Because God's Word assures us that God's chosen people are not appointed for wrath, the “catching up” of God's people must occur before the wrath of the sixth seal. Chapter seven gives assurance that heaven will be full of both Jews and Gentiles before the end of the age. Verse three does not tell us whether

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed the sealing of the 144,000 Jews takes place over the centuries, or, if it was the campaign of a moment. The matter of importance is that there is “a completeness”, to the remnant of God’s chosen.

***Revelation 7 cont.***

***4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:***

***5 of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand were sealed;***

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed  
**6 of the tribe of Asher  
twelve thousand were  
sealed; of the tribe of  
Naphtali twelve  
thousand were sealed;  
of the tribe of Manasseh  
twelve thousand were  
sealed;**  
**7 of the tribe of Simeon  
twelve thousand were  
sealed; of the tribe of  
Levi twelve thousand  
were sealed; of the tribe  
of Issachar twelve  
thousand were sealed;**  
**8 of the tribe of Zebulun  
twelve thousand were  
sealed; of the tribe of  
Joseph twelve thousand  
were sealed; of the tribe  
of Benjamin twelve  
thousand were sealed.**

In a similar manner, the gathering of Gentiles is described in Verse 9 as, a

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed  
great and countless multitude comprised  
**“of all nations, tribes, peoples, and  
tongues”**.

***Revelation 7 cont.***

***9 After these things I  
looked, and behold, a  
great multitude which  
no one could number, of  
all nations, tribes,  
peoples, and tongues,  
standing before the  
throne and before the  
Lamb, clothed with  
white robes, with palm  
branches in their hands,  
10 and crying out with a  
loud voice, saying,  
“Salvation belongs to  
our God who sits on the  
throne, and to the  
Lamb!”***

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed

**11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."**

**13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"**

**14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes**

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed  
***and made them white in  
the blood of the Lamb.***

***15 Therefore they are  
before the throne of  
God, and serve Him day  
and night in His temple.  
And He who sits on the  
throne will dwell among  
them.***

***16 They shall neither  
hunger anymore nor  
thirst anymore; the sun  
shall not strike them,  
nor any heat;***

***17 for the Lamb who is  
in the midst of the  
throne will shepherd  
them and lead them to  
living fountains of  
waters. And God will  
wipe away every tear  
from their eyes.”***

Although we are told in Verse 14, ***“These  
are the ones who come out of the great***

The Heavenly Kingdom Completed ***tribulation***", the fact that they are clothed with the Lord's righteousness, and serve Him day and night, are characteristics that apply to all believers; just as, "***the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters***" (Revelation 7:17), has universal application to all of God's saints. The impression of Chapter 7 is a heaven filled to completeness, with both Messianic Jews and Gentile believers. God assures us that everyone who is destined for heaven arrives before Satan's destructive forces, or the wrath of God Himself, bring an end to the earth, as we know it.

## Chapter Five

### ***The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets***

Most of the events in Chapters 8 and 9 concern the **destruction of one-third of the earth**. As we build a case for the identity of the Great Harlot (Babylon the Great), we must consider the possibility that a conspiracy of nations might inadvertently bring about the destruction of the entire Western Hemisphere (roughly one-third of the earth).

#### ***Revelation 8***

***1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.***

**2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.**

**3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.**

**4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.**

**5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises,**

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets  
***thunderings, lightnings,  
and an earthquake.***

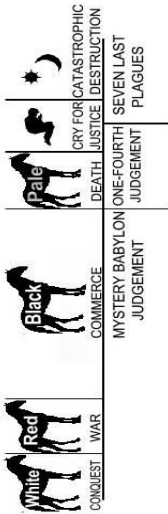
**6 So the seven angels  
who had the seven  
trumpets prepared  
themselves to sound.**

**7 The first angel  
sounded: And hail and  
fire followed, mingled  
with blood, and they  
were thrown to the  
earth. And a third of the  
trees were burned up,  
and all green grass was  
burned up.**

When the Lamb opens the seventh seal, we find ourselves at a point in time somewhere before the final catastrophic destructions of the sixth seal. The content of the seventh seal is the seven angelic trumpeters. As the prayers of the saints ascend before God; ***noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake*** descend from heaven. And so begins a barrage of

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets destructive forces on one third of the globe. These agents closely resemble the chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction of our day.

# Dispensation of End Times Judgements



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# The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets

## COMMERCE MYSTERY BABYLON JUDGEMENT

<b>Beasts emerge</b>	<b>Initial attack</b>	<b>Four Angels Ensure Heaven is filled: Jews &amp; Gentiles</b>	<b>Seven Trumpets 1/3 Judgements</b>
<b>World trading Blocks Formed</b>	<b>Call to Come Out</b>		<b>1</b> Hail, Fire, Blood 1/3 Earth, Trees, Grass, Burned
			<b>2</b> Burning Mtn Thrown to Sea. 1/3 Sea Blood Fish & Ships destroyed
			<b>3</b> Star falls on Water 1/3 of water Bitter
			<b>4</b> Sky Darkened, 1/3 Sun, Moon, Stars Struck
			<b>5</b> Star opens Bottomless Pit: Smoke & Locusts
			<b>6</b> Four Angels released 1/3 Mankind Killed
			----- <b>The Little Book</b> -----
			<b>7</b> Christ's Possession of Earth Celebrated in Heaven

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**Revelation 8 cont.**

**8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.**

**9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

When we consider that in the Apostle John's day no bombs existed, the best description of multiple nuclear explosions would be a great mountain thrown into the sea, accompanied by fire. Jesus took Peter, James and John up to an exceedingly high mountain, and that great mountain was most likely Mount Hermon, on the Israeli-Lebanese-Syrian border. The base of Mount Hermon covers many miles, and its peak is most often snow

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets capped, and enshrouded in misty clouds. In the mind's eye, something like massive Mount Hermon being thrown into the sea, accompanied by flames, would be a genuine attempt on John's part to describe something beyond description 2,000 years ago. The ramifications of the explosions in Verse 8 would logically be a subsurface concussion and shock wave, agreeing with the results in Verse 9.

***Revelation 8 cont.***

***10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.***

***11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many***

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets  
***men died from the water, because it was made bitter.***

***12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.***

Once again, these W.M.D.'s are perceived as falling from heaven. The phrase "***burning like a torch***" (Revelation 8:10) might be John's way of describing the propulsion of a guided missile. The first and second trumpets unleash an explosive and fiery destruction. The third trumpet resembles the effect of chemical warfare. The waters of a third of the rivers are tainted with a deadly poison and "***many men died from the water***" (Revelation 8:11). When the fourth angel

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets sounded, there is no mention of new weapons falling from the sky, but the smoke and earthen particles have now had a chance to become airborne so that the sun, moon and stars are darkened over the third of the earth affected. If the sealing of the 144,000 in Chapter 7 occurs quickly, then it would be necessary to hold back the wind, to prevent the contamination of the remaining two-thirds of the earth.

***Revelation 8 cont.***

***13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three***

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets  
***angels who are about to  
sound!***”

***“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of  
the earth.”*** These next three destructive  
forces are so potent that regions beyond  
the western hemisphere will be affected.  
Thus the warning, ***“to the inhabitants of  
the earth”*** (Revelation 8:13).

***Revelation 9***

***1 Then the fifth angel  
sounded: And I saw a  
star fallen from heaven  
to the earth. To him was  
given the key to the  
bottomless pit.***

***2 And he opened the  
bottomless pit, and  
smoke arose out of the  
pit like the smoke of a  
great furnace. So the  
sun and the air were  
darkened because of  
the smoke of the pit.***

**3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**

**4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

**5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.**

**6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire**

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets  
***to die, and death will  
flee from them.***

***7 The shape of the  
locusts was like horses  
prepared for battle. On  
their heads were crowns  
of something like gold,  
and their faces were like  
the faces of men.***

***8 They had hair like  
women's hair, and their  
teeth were like lions'  
teeth.***

***9 And they had  
breastplates like  
breastplates of iron, and  
the sound of their wings  
was like the sound of  
chariots with many  
horses running into  
battle.***

***10 They had tails like  
scorpions, and there  
were stings in their tails.***

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets

***Their power was to hurt men five months.***

***11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.***

***12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.***

When the fifth angel sounded, another projectile was seen striking the earth. This device drove deep into the earth and apparently pierced the earth's crust, so that a volcanic fountain was formed. John describes the scene as smoke rising out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace. Once again, "***the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit***" (Revelation 9:2). Verse 3 tells us that locusts came out of the smoke and power

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets was given to them to strike people who did not have “***the seal of God on their foreheads.***” (Revelation 9:4) The sting of these locusts had no effect on plant life, nor did it bring about death, but apparently acted as a type of nerve agent, and remained in the victim’s system for five months. Because Satan does not have the power of a creator, these locusts must already exist; or, they are the work of bio-scientists. It seems logical that these locusts might be microscopic, due to the fact that they are carried on smoke particles. Verse 7 further describes the locusts as being like horses, with golden crowns on their heads, having the faces of men, the hair of women, and the teeth of a lion. There exists a multitude of strange looking microscopic life forms; and it may be that John is conveying his description of one of these. It is also possible that John is seeing something from the spirit realm.

***Revelation 9 cont.***

***13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,***

***14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."***

***15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.***

***16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.***

***17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.***

***18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.***

***19 For their power is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.***

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets

***20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.***

***21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.***

At the sound of the sixth trumpet, four angels are released in a region of the earth where animosity toward Israel and the United States of America abounds. The weaponry brought against the condemned third of the earth is not limited to aerial W. M. D.'s but is expanded to include enemy armies as well. Once

The Seventh Seal and the Seven Trumpets again, creatures currently unknown are described. The word “horses”, could be used to describe something larger than a man, that has the ability to travel on the ground. These “horses” apparently have front and rear mounted guns or missiles. In Verse 20 we see that the other two-thirds of the earth, “***the rest of mankind***”, were not killed and continue in their idolatrous lifestyle and brazen disobedience to God.

## Chapter Six

### *The Secrets of the Separate Scroll*

#### *Revelation 10*

*1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.*

*2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,*

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
**3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.**

**4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."**

**5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven**

**6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that**

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
***are in it, that there  
should be delay no  
longer,  
7 but in the days of the  
sounding of the seventh  
angel, when he is about  
to sound, the mystery of  
God would be finished,  
as He declared to His  
servants the prophets.***

Now that the Lamb has opened the seven seals of first scroll, another scroll (“little book”) is delivered to John by a mighty angel resembling the Son of Man. The fact that this angel had “***his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land***” might serve to indicate that he was turning John’s attention to distant continents. Hebrew writings contemporaneous to Revelation use the word “land” when referring to the Promised Land. “Sea” refers to the Gentile nations. One of the secrets in this section of Scripture is the utterance of the seven thunders. We will

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll have to wait until heaven for the words of the thunders to be revealed, since John was instructed not to write them down.

The second secret is the mystery that will be finished in the days prior to the sounding of the seventh angel. We are told in Verse 7 that a "**mystery of God**" has been prophesied by the servants of God, and that it will be "**finished**" just as the seventh trumpet is about to sound.

***Revelation 10 cont.***

***8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."***

***9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And***

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
**he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."**

**10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.**

**11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."**

Taking the little book and eating represents John's "digestion" of the message and of its consequences. Independent of the scroll of the Lamb, the little book just received refers to the words of God that are about to be given to John.

## The Secrets of the Separate Scroll

In this separate section we find a re-telling of the Jews spiritual plight; and, new prophecy; to different people, and other kings. ***“Prophecy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings”***.

***The Temple and the Two Olive Trees***

***Revelation 11***

***1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.***

***2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.***

One of the first prophecies of John is that the Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. It

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll has been noted by many that the outer court has been given to the Gentiles, who ***“tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.”*** (Revelation 11:2) Today, the golden dome of the Shrine of the Rock, is the most prominent landmark on the Holy Temple Mount. It speculated by many that Herod’s Temple (the Temple of Jesus’ day) was located to the north of the Shrine. A small stone gazebo, called the Arch of the Spirits, covers an outcrop of bedrock, in line with the ancient Eastern Gate to the Temple. If a temple is constructed, so as to locate the Holy of Holies over the Arch of the Spirits, there would be enough room for the temple to be dimensioned according to God’s instructions. However, the space outside the Holy Place, referred to as “the outer court”, cannot be re-built, because it is currently occupied by the Dome of the Rock structure; thus, ***“it has been given to the Gentiles”***.

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
***Revelation 11 cont.***

***3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."***

***4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.***

***5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.***

***6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they***

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
***have power over waters  
to turn them to blood,  
and to strike the earth  
with all plagues, as  
often as they desire.***

In Verse 3 we are introduced to the two witnesses that are later martyred for their stand against evil. Power from on high is bestowed upon these prophets. And these two speak the word of God in humility (clothed in sackcloth). Just as the term “forty-two months” was given above, the “1,260 days” is given as the term of the two prophets’ service. These numeric equivalents of a three and one-half year period indicate that these events take place in the “End Times”. Verse 4 further identifies the prophetic duo as the two olive trees spoken of by Zechariah. Bible scholars assume that these two prophets are people, with the supernatural abilities associated with Moses and Elijah. This is the obvious interpretation of this verse. The bodies of both of these prophets were

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll never found, according to the Bible. In fact, Jesus was seen talking to Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration hundreds of years after these men walked the earth.

**Luke 9:28-36**

**<sup>28</sup> Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>**

**As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. <sup>30</sup>**

**And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at**

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
*Jerusalem.* <sup>32</sup> **But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.** <sup>33</sup>  
*Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.* <sup>34</sup>  
*While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud.* <sup>35</sup>  
*And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear*

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll  
***Him!”<sup>36</sup> When the voice  
had ceased, Jesus was  
found alone.***

Peter makes the following certification concerning the Mount of Transfiguration experience.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:16-18***

***<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup> For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” <sup>18</sup> And we***

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***heard this voice which  
came from heaven when  
we were with Him on the  
holy mountain.***

Furthermore, one of Moses' most memorable miracles was turning the waters of the Nile into blood. Likewise, Elijah's miracles include holding back the rain. So it is anticipated that the Two Witnesses will be none other than Moses and Elijah, or at least men with similar abilities.

But let us consider the possibility that they are, instead; nations. The first point we will establish is to recognize that, in the Bible, beasts represent nations. Just as in Jesus' parables, in which leaven, birds and seeds, have a consistent interpretation, we find that beasts represent nations in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. These beasts/nations, which first appear as various animals, are

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll sometimes referred to later by using the personal pronoun “he”.

Daniel 7:3 describes four great beasts coming up out of the sea. The vision continues, “**The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings.**” (Daniel 7:4) “**A second, like a bear.**” (Daniel 7:5) “**And there was another, like a leopard**” (Daniel 7:6). “**A fourth beast... had ten horns.**” (Daniel 7:7) We are later given the interpretation of these beasts as kingdoms. The description in Revelation 13 seems to coincide with Daniel 7 in its description of “**a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns**” (Revelation 13:1). This beast also has animal-like characteristics, appearing “**like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion.**” (Revelation 13:2) This chapter immediately refers to this beast as “he”. The beast coming up out of the earth who had two horns like a lamb in Revelation 13:11, becomes the false

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll prophet, also referred to in Revelation 19:20. So, if a nation/beast is equated with the false prophet, then the two witnesses/prophets might also be equated with two nations. Now that we have established at least one other instance of equivalency between prophets and nations, let us go on to further identify these nations.

From the description in Zechariah, we see that the two witnesses are instrumental in the rebuilding of the temple. Also, it is obvious from the detail given regarding their self defense, that they are surrounded by hostile nations. It stands to reason that these enemy nations are antagonistic toward the success of the temple project. As of the writing of this book, there are two such nations found defending Israel, and increasing in their alienation from the rest of the world. Just as is said about the beast in Chapter 13 Verse 4, "***Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?***", these two

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defenders of Israel are invincible, with the exception of "***the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit***" (Revelation 11:7). The expressions, "***fire proceeds from their mouth***" (Revelation 11:5) and "***to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire***" (Revelation 11:6), could easily be describing gunfire and aerial attacks. Amazingly, news has been released that scientists have been successful in altering weather phenomena. The ability to turn waters into blood could be describing some type of chemical warfare. The reference to spiritual Sodom and Egypt, where Jesus was crucified, is obviously referring to Jerusalem. So it might be that two Israeli leaders are seen as commanders over the world forces that are 'restraining.' On the other hand, all of these powers might be literally executed, as in the cases of Moses and Elijah. We shouldn't dismiss the possibility that these prophets are actual people, bestowed with supernatural powers by the hand of God.

**Revelation 11 cont.**

**7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**

**8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.**

**9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their**

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***dead bodies to be put  
into graves.***

***10 And those who dwell  
on the earth will rejoice  
over them, make merry,  
and send gifts to one  
another, because these  
two prophets tormented  
those who dwell on the  
earth.***

***11 Now after the three-  
and-a-half days the  
breath of life from God  
entered them, and they  
stood on their feet, and  
great fear fell on those  
who saw them.***

***12 And they heard a  
loud voice from heaven  
saying to them, "Come  
up here." And they  
ascended to heaven in a  
cloud, and their  
enemies saw them.***

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***13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.***

When we consider the posture of the nations of our day, the United States of America and Great Britain are the best candidates for the role of the two witnesses. There would appear to be a great conflict for the United States to be both a witness of God and defender of Israel; and, also to be the Great Harlot. However, remember the reaction of John in Revelation 17:6, "***And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement***", and the answer of the angel to John, "***Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her,***" (Revelation 17:7). The

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll answer to the puzzle may lie in Verse 7 of Chapter 11, "***When they finish their testimony***". In the Old Testament, God refers to Judah and Israel as adulteresses because they were once committed to God, but yet they turned away and were disloyal to Him. Could it be, then, that the United States "finished her testimony"; and that God allowed her to be judged similarly to the captivity of Judah and Israel? Perhaps the strongest indication that one of the witnesses, and the Great Harlot are one-in-the-same, is that the beast that comes up from the bottomless pit, is responsible for the destruction of both. In Verse 7 we are introduced to the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit. Formerly, in Chapter 9, Verse 11, we see the authority governing the demonic locusts, and are told he is "***the angel of the bottomless pit***", and he bears the name of Satan. In Chapter 11, Verse 7, "***the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit***" must refer to the nation

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll that he rules, and is identified with his name.

***Revelation 11 cont.***

***14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.***

Verse 14 tells us that Chapters 10 and 11, up until Verse 15, is a parenthetical discourse. We are reminded by Verse 14 of the trumpet sequence. The second woe is synonymous with the sixth trumpet. This trumpet releases the four angels who lead the final campaign on a third of the earth, by means of two-hundred million troops.

***15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the***

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**kingdoms of our Lord  
and of His Christ, and  
He shall reign forever  
and ever!"**

**16 And the twenty-four  
elders who sat before  
God on their thrones fell  
on their faces and  
worshiped God,**

**17 saying: " We give  
You thanks, O Lord God  
Almighty, The One who  
is and who was and who  
is to come, Because  
You have taken Your  
great power and  
reigned.**

**18 The nations were  
angry, and Your wrath  
has come, And the time  
of the dead, that they  
should be judged, And  
that You should reward  
Your servants the  
prophets and the**

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***saints, And those who  
fear Your name, small  
and great, And should  
destroy those who  
destroy the earth.”***

***19 Then the temple of  
God was opened in  
heaven, and the ark of  
His covenant was seen  
in His temple. And there  
were lightnings, noises,  
thunderings, an  
earthquake, and great  
hail.***

The setting for the seventh trumpet is the heavenly throne room; and, just as the Lord Jesus announced that the kingdom of God was at hand, the heavenly heralds and the twenty-four elders proclaim that the day of the Lord is about to fall on the kingdom of man. As a poem of thanks for God's omnipotence, and the announcement that the day of God's judgment upon nations is recited, a

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll heavenly percussion section gives its accompaniment with "***lightnings, and noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail***"

***The Dragon Pursues God's  
Chosen People***

Chapter 12 takes us outside of time with a heavenly vision (sign), in which we zoom out in our perspective. Just as we were taken back to the end of the seven churches of Asia Minor and covered the ages up until the end of the earth as we know it, Chapter 12 covers a time period from before the birth of Christ through the era of persecution, represented by the fifth seal of the scroll, opened in Revelation 6:9.

***Revelation 12***

***1 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on***

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*her head a garland of  
twelve stars.*

*2 Then being with child,  
she cried out in labor  
and in pain to give birth.*

*3 And another sign  
appeared in heaven:  
behold, a great, fiery red  
dragon having seven  
heads and ten horns,  
and seven diadems on  
his heads.*

*4 His tail drew a third of  
the stars of heaven and  
threw them to the earth.  
And the dragon stood  
before the woman who  
was ready to give birth,  
to devour her Child as  
soon as it was born.*

*5 She bore a male Child  
who was to rule all  
nations with a rod of  
iron. And her Child was*

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***caught up to God and  
His throne.***

***6 Then the woman fled  
into the wilderness,  
where she has a place  
prepared by God, that  
they should feed her  
there one thousand two  
hundred and sixty days.***

The entirety of Chapter 12 is a stand-alone allegory in which the key representations are the “**woman**”, the “**dragon**”, the “**Child**”, and “**the rest of her offspring.**” The “**woman**” in Verse 1, clad with the sun, moon, and twelve stars, is easily identified as the nation of Israel when we recall the interpretation of Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37:9, “**Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, ‘Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’**” This interpretation is further validated in Verse

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5, in which the life of Christ on earth is encapsulated. The “**dragon**” is also a sign representing Satan. Verse 4 tells us that his full following of demonic angels had been deployed on the earth. We learn from the account of Christ’s birth in the gospels that Herod did make attempts to “**devour her Child**”, which caused Joseph to take his family to Egypt for a time. Herod was so overcome by Satan’s influence that he murdered countless infant males who were born around the time of Jesus’ birth. Once the long-awaited Messiah had come and completed His ministry, “**the woman fled into the wilderness**”. Verse 6 describes the expulsion of the Jews from Israel (the Diaspora) and the absorption of Jews into the surrounding nations. The reference to “**1,260 days**” in Verse 6 indicates that a flight of the Jews will also occur during the End Times.

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***Revelation 12 cont.***

***7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.***

***9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.***

***10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God,***

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***and the power of His  
Christ have come, for  
the accuser of our  
brethren, who accused  
them before our God  
day and night, has been  
cast down.***

***11 And they overcame  
him by the blood of the  
Lamb and by the word  
of their testimony, and  
they did not love their  
lives to the death.***

***12 Therefore rejoice, O  
heavens, and you who  
dwell in them! Woe to  
the inhabitants of the  
earth and the sea! For  
the devil has come  
down to you, having  
great wrath, because he  
knows that he has a  
short time."***

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Jesus, as the second person of the Trinity, has always had authority over all creation, including the most powerful of angels. It would appear that when the Jews were chased into the wilderness, Satan and his angels were also ejected from heaven. But the earth has not yet experience the full force of Satan's fury. Likewise, believers still have an advocate in heaven, Who is defending us against the accusations of Satan.

***1<sup>st</sup> John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.***

Although these events were foreshadowed in the first century and then

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll again in WWII, they must be pointing to a future fall of Satan. The spiritual battles faced by today's Christian continues to be wrought with temptations of condemnation over passed sins. The knowledge that Jesus is there in heaven, defending us against Satan's accusations is essential for our victory over guilt.

Satan's banishment brings a bittersweet effect for believers. The accuser of the brethren is no longer heard in the heavenlies, but the faithful on the earth suffer persecution unto death. Verse 12 echoes this bittersweet blessing, "**Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!**" So not only do the believers suffer because of Satan's predicament, but the inhabitants of the earth suffer as well.

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***Revelation 12 cont.***

***13 Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.***

***14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.***

***15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.***

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***16 But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.***

***17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***

Because Chapter 12 takes us back to the time of Christ, it seems reasonable to consider that the rest of the chapter covers the years from the time of Christ to the end. The "**woman**", who is the nation of Israel, was persecuted by Rome and fled into the wilderness during the time that the New Testament was written. But

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the use of the phrase "**for a time and times and half a time**" in Verse 14 indicates further persecution during the "End Times".

It is interesting how well the description of the "**flood**" in Verses 15 and 16 relate to the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. The Jews had been dispersed into the "**wilderness**" being scattered throughout the world. The "**flood**" that was sent forth by Satan may be describing the armies of Hitler. In the Book of Daniel we read in Chapter 9, Verse 26, "**And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.**" And, in Daniel 11:22 we read, "**With the force of a flood they shall be swept away from before him and be broken, and also the prince of the covenant.**" In both of these verses, the "**flood**" represents an unstoppable military force. Revelation 12:15 states the serpent's

The Secrets of the Separate Scroll intentions, "**that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.**" Here, "**to be carried away**" implies being annihilated. Satan's efforts were thwarted when the world defeated Hitler's armies, and in Verse 16 we read, "**But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.**" These Scriptures could be describing the Holocaust of the Second World War. Or perhaps both; the Diaspora, and the Holocaust of the Second World War, are foreshadowing a persecution yet to come. Verse 17 describes Satan as, intensely frustrated, because of the survival of the Jews. His final attack comes upon the believers in Jesus Christ. This persecution agrees with the persecution during the first part of the Great Tribulation, and the persecution during the fourth and fifth seals era.

## **Chapter Seven**

### ***The Beasts of Power and Deception***

#### ***The Nature of the Beasts***

Here we must pause and consider whether the beast we have been introduced to is actually some monstrous creature, or whether we are still discussing a nation. God has already established the correct interpretation of these beasts and horns, if we use the Biblical interpretation rule of “first mention”, as was previously discussed. We conclude that none of the beasts in Daniel were literal creatures, just as the horns were not literal horns. It is true that John’s visions in Revelation have been romantically interpreted in the past. For instance, the word “antichrist” is not found in the Book of Daniel, or in the Book

The Beasts of Power and Deception of Revelation. This term is used in I John to define a spiritual principality. ***“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”*** (I John 4:1-3) This “***spirit of the Antichrist***” is responsible for false gospels, and cult religions that deny the incarnation of God as Jesus Christ. This Scripture points out that, “***many false prophets have gone out into the world.***” Jesus made a distinction between false christs and false prophets, and John, although familiar with the term “***Antichrist***”, is led by the Holy Spirit to

The Beasts of Power and Deception call the leader of the beast from the earth, the “**false prophet**”.

The Greek word for antichrist is antichristos. Anti means: instead of, or, against. Christos is the Greek name for The Anointed One of Israel, The King. The Greek word used in Revelation for false prophet is psuedoprophetou, and obviously means one who speaks the word of God falsely. There is a great deal of difference between a liar and a king. Using an incorrect interpretation elevates the status of this End Time character, and promotes the glamorization of this miserable deceiver.

A complete reading of the Book of Revelation reveals that the beast is called a “**beast**” throughout the text. Thus, we must consider the strict interpretation, which consistently renders this beast as a people, or nation; not a person, or supernatural gargoyle. This beast is ultimately judged and sent into the “**lake**

The Beasts of Power and Deception **of fire**", or perdition. It is difficult for us, who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to grasp such a universal judgment, until we remember that Jesus spoke of the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-41:

***Matthew 25***

***"31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.***

***32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.***

***33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.***

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**34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

**35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you have Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;**

**36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'**

**37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?**

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**38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?**

**39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’**

**40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’**

**41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’”.**

Here Jesus used the analogy of sheep and goats to represent a distinction between the nations that would be saved,

The Beasts of Power and Deception and the nations that would face eternal judgment. This is not the only time in Scripture that nations are judged. When Abraham and his descendants were given the Promised Land, they were not allowed to conquer it immediately. The Bible tells us that the Canaanites were to bring God's wrath to its fullness through ever increasing wickedness. God told the Israelites to completely destroy the Canaanites and inhabit their land. The Canaanites were on the brink of extinction anyway, because they had begun to kill their own babies. God considered the sacrifice of their children to the heathen gods of the surrounding nations to be the final sin that brought His wrath to its fullness. In the days of Noah, God brought judgment upon the entire earth except for Noah and seven of his relatives. So we must consider that this nation, or federated world union, represented by the beast in John's vision, might be judged by God as a whole. Even so, we know from Revelation 20:11-15, that all Christ-

The Beasts of Power and Deception rejecting souls will be judged individually at the Great White Throne Judgment:

***Revelation 20***

***“11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.***

***13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and***

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***Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.***

***14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.***

***15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”***

### ***The Beast of the Sea***

Before we study Chapter 13, it is necessary, once again, to review the Biblical interpretation of beasts, horns, and heads. Daniel 7:23 expressly refers to the fourth beast as a fourth kingdom. ***“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.’”***

Horns are interpreted as kings, as in Daniel 8:20, which reads, ***“The ram which you saw, having the two horns – they are the kings of Media and Persia”***, and in Revelation 17:12, which reads, ***“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings”***.

Heads are interpreted as mountains, as in Revelation 17:9, ***“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.”*** Because most walled cities were

The Beasts of Power and Deception built on hills in Bible times, the heads could also be synonymous with cities.

### ***Revelation 13***

***1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.***

***2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.***

## The Beasts of Power and Deception

As we begin to study the beast rising up from the sea, it is important to understand that this is the same beast upon which the Great Harlot resides. Chapters 17 and 18 fill out the details of the identity, and fall, of the “**woman**” and “**the beast that carries her**”. Because Chapters 13, 17 and 18 discuss the same beasts and events, we will also study these chapters in a parallel fashion.

In the Books of Daniel and Revelation, we find examples of nations, “**beasts**,” that are later referenced by their leaders. These transitions are easy to follow because these leaders have previously been referred to as “**horns**”. As we began Chapter 13, the beast is obviously a kingdom or nation. We are able to locate the beast by taking note that John stood on the edge of the sea, and he was obviously gazing toward the sea in order to see the beast rising up out of the sea. In Chapter 17, Verse 1, the Great Harlot is said to sit “**on many waters**”.

## The Beasts of Power and Deception

In Revelation 17:3, John must be carried away ***“into the wilderness”*** to see ***“a woman”***, who is the Great Harlot, ***“sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”*** The word ***“wilderness”*** in this verse means a remote place, or a place that sits alone. This implies that the beast is located far away from the places known during John’s day. Chapter 17, Verse 15, states, ***“The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”*** The beast is clearly a melting pot for the peoples of the world. One last hint is given which describes the beast, and it is found in Revelation 16:18-20. ***“And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the***

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***nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceeding great.***” As a result of the greatest earthquake known to man, Babylon the Great was “***remembered before God***” as the islands flee and the mountains are removed. This verse implies that Babylon the Great is an island, and is sunk as a result of the great earthquake. Note that this removal by water takes place during the time of God’s wrath; and that the previous destruction of Babylon the Great, which occurred before the time of God’s wrath in Revelation 14:8, was the result of fire, “***And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.***” Therefore, in summary, this beast is a

The Beasts of Power and Deception nation surrounded by water, in a place far away from the civilization that John knew, and was a melting pot of peoples from all over the world.

The beast from the sea is continually referred to as having “**seven heads and ten horns**”. We find the first occurrence of such a beast in Daniel 7:7. Here we find the beast with ten horns is “**dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong**”. Throughout the Bible, horns are used as a symbol of power. As we have already quoted from Daniel 7:24, “**the ten horns are ten kings**”. The seven heads of the beast from the sea are seven hills or cities. Several cities are known to be built on seven hills. The one most commonly identified is Rome, but Jerusalem and Shiloh were also built on seven hills.

The animal characteristics found in Revelation 13:2 are a conglomeration of separate beasts from the sea, also found in Daniel 7:3-6.

***“3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. 5 And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: ‘Arise, devour much flesh!’ 6 After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on***

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***its back four wings of a  
bird. The beast also had  
four heads, and  
dominion was given to  
it***".

One was like a lion, one was like a bear, and another like a leopard. Then Daniel sees the fourth beast with the ten horns which was different and greater than the former three. ***"After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns"*** (Daniel 7:7). The beast from the sea in Revelation has the characteristics of all four of the beasts in Daniel's vision.

We understand from the fulfillment of Daniel's vision concerning the Roman

The Beasts of Power and Deception Empire and its conquest over the other "beasts", that John's beast is probably a type of the Roman Empire. Rome was a different type of empire. This beast, like no other, was ruled from Rome, a city which sits on seven hills. The beast rising up out of the sea had similar characteristics to the Roman Empire. These characteristics included having partially sovereign city-states, with a federal command center and a republican senate. We find a mystery in how this beast is connected with the other nations. Because it is represented by the leopard, the bear, and the lion, it would appear that the multi-state nation of the beast from the sea is part of a larger and similar world federation.

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and***

The Beasts of Power and Deception  
***his deadly wound was  
healed. And all the  
world marveled and  
followed the beast.***

Revelation 13:3 describes an event that may be the same as the first attack on Babylon the Great, which occurs in Revelation 14:8, and is described in Revelation 18:2. We know that the destruction of Babylon the Great takes place in two phases. The warning to “***Come out of her, my people***” comes between a preliminary attack, and the total destruction in one hour; where “***the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore***” (Revelation 18:21). There would be no reason for the warning to “***Come out***” to be given with only minutes left to respond before the destruction. And, there would be no reason for the warning to “***Come out***” to be given after the destruction had already occurred. Here in Revelation 13:3 we see that one of his heads had been wounded

The Beasts of Power and Deception in such a manner that the victim would usually have died. Just as the beast was described by various animals, it is also described with a personal pronoun. But if we are faithful to the definitions of beasts, horns and heads, then Verse 3 may mean that a hill or city was struck with a nearly fatal blow.

Could this be describing the attack on the twin towers, which resulted in the world questioning the survival of the world's trading capital? Some of Wall Street's operations were damaged, and the market was closed for several days. It must have appeared to the rest of the world that the United States of America's survival was in jeopardy. The United States stock market had just reached a crescendo, and it looked like she was destined for another Great Depression, at the least. But at the writing of this book, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has regained its all-time high. The Pentagon, in Washington D.C., was also struck. The Pentagon was

The Beasts of Power and Deception presumed to be impenetrable. For several hours, the citizens of the United States, as well as the rest of the world, were left to wonder if the command post of the United States military had been disabled. More than one hundred Pentagon workers were killed, but the ability to control the armed forces was not diminished. ***“And his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.”*** (Revelation 13:3)

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”***

***5 And he was given a mouth speaking great***

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***things and blasphemies,  
and he was given  
authority to continue for  
forty-two months.***

***6 Then he opened his  
mouth in blasphemy  
against God, to  
blaspheme His name,  
His tabernacle, and  
those who dwell in  
heaven.***

***7 It was granted to him  
to make war with the  
saints and to overcome  
them. And authority was  
given him over every  
tribe, tongue, and  
nation.***

When the United States of America was humbled by civil and world wars, the nation submitted to the authority of our Creator. Today the United States has rejected the authority of God and submitted to the authority of Satan, not

The Beasts of Power and Deception entirely, but in the majority. Although Christians 'join' their religion by placing personal trust in Jesus and His sacrificial death on the cross; other religions around the world believe they are members of their faith from birth. Based upon the picture of American life presented by global media, the world views Christians as decadent and libertarian. The United States has become the predominant source of pornography, sexual immorality, and capitalistic greed. The world "**gave authority** (yielded) **to the beast**". The worship of the beast was the acknowledgement that this nation was like no other nation, thus the statement, "**Who is like the beast?**". The acknowledgement that no one was able to wage war with this nation confirms the fact that the wound was not inflicted upon a person, but upon a nation. Nations wage war, but individuals are killed.

Verse 5 once again confirms the assertion that the beast from the sea is a kingdom

The Beasts of Power and Deception and not a king. First of all, people do not come up out of the sea, do not resemble various animals, do not have mountains or cities or kings, and do not need to be given a mouth. The ability to communicate with the rest of the world was perfected first in the United States of America. In only a few years, communications advanced from the telegraph to mass media; and even the internet. Unfortunately, the media has begun to promote ungodly philosophies and lifestyles. The blasphemy currently spoken by radio and video images goes beyond the ridicule of God, "***His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven***" (Revelation 13:6).

The next verse reveals a time to come; inevitably a very short time. Soon persecution against Christians could become a reality in the United States of America, as the majority of its citizens may be convinced that the way to peace, is the rejection of all "radical" religions. The

The Beasts of Power and Deception authority of the United States over all the rest of mankind has already become a reality. The worldwide persecution of the saints is one of two remaining prophecies to be fulfilled before the destruction of Babylon the Great.

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

***9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.***

***10 He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword.***

The Beasts of Power and Deception  
***Here is the patience and  
the faith of the saints.***

Once the earth sees the beast persecuting believers all over the world, and being helpless to wage war, a situation will exist similar to the regime of Hitler. The worship of the beast will be a fear void of respect. (The saints themselves will always, and only, worship the Lord God of Israel; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.)

***“If anyone has an ear, let him hear.”***  
The verse that follows this command would seem to be some sort of riddle if these words had not already been given application in a previous Scripture. We find in Verse 10 a paraphrasing of verses found in Chapter 15 of Jeremiah. Authentic Bible study suggests that we look at the “first mention” of any word, phrase, type or symbol. The context of Jeremiah 15 is the warning of God’s people to leave the Promised Land, and to cooperatively be led into captivity by the

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Assyrians. God was bringing chastening upon the land of His people because they had turned away from Him to follow after loathsome idols, and customs that God deemed detestable. In the following verses from Jeremiah, God clearly casts His people out.

***“Then the LORD said to me, ‘Even if Moses and Samuel stood before Me, My mind would not be favorable toward this people. Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth. And it shall be, if they say to you, ‘Where should we go?’ then you shall tell them, ‘Thus says the LORD: Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the***

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***famine; and such as are  
for the captivity, to the  
captivity.’ ‘And I will  
appoint over them four  
forms of destruction,’  
says the LORD: ‘the  
sword to slay, and the  
dogs to drag, the birds  
of the heavens and the  
beasts of the earth to  
devour and destroy.’”***  
(Jeremiah 15:1-3)

God's answer to their question, "***Where should we go?***" was to offer three undesirable choices, along with the choice to obey God's plan; which was captivity. It is also noteworthy, when considering the Bible study principle of "first mention", that under the symbol of the pale horse in Revelation 6:8 the plagues taking place at this point in time are the killing "***with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth***". It follows then, due to the placement of the warning to go

The Beasts of Power and Deception into captivity, along with the plagues that God would bring on those who chose to remain; that these situations could both occur at the same time in the “End Times”.

The direct translation of Revelation 13:10a in the Greek is, “***if anyone has captivity, he will go away; if anyone is with the sword, it is necessary for him to be killed.***”<sup>1</sup> This instruction to “***go away***” once again echoes the call of Revelation 18:4 to “***Come out of her, my people***”. The authorities during the years of Jeremiah’s warnings accused him of being a traitor and a discourager of the people of Israel. Revelation 13:10b offers further instruction and consolation. The decision to respond by those who have an “***ear to hear***”, will require great patience and great faith. Just as in the day of Israel’s captivity, the choice to move one’s family and belongings to a foreign country will indeed require much faith. Patience (endurance) will also be necessary to discern the timing of God’s command.

***The Beast of the Earth***

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.***

***12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.***

***13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.***

## The Beasts of Power and Deception

John now sees a second “**beast coming up out of the earth**”. We are expressly instructed that the two horns of this beast do not represent two kings, but they cause this beast to resemble a lamb. A lamb has little horns, and in Daniel 7:8, “**a little one**” was raised to power, and this horn had “**the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words**”. Unlike the beast from the sea, the beast from the earth could also refer to a person. And it is in agreement with the former prophecy of Daniel. It will be revealed later in Revelation that this person is the “**false prophet**”. Even though the beast from the earth is said to have the same authority as the first beast, it must operate under the oversight, (“**in the sight**”), of the first beast. Somehow, the second beast causes all of the other nations to “**worship the first beast**”. The word, “**worship**”, means to give worth or acknowledge worthiness. Apparently, the beast from the sea is lauded because of its recovery

The Beasts of Power and Deception from a would-be deadly wound. Once again, in Verse 13, we find a nation with the ability to make ***“fire come down from heaven on the earth”***. Because the second beast is exercising the same authority as the first beast, we must assume that the beast from the sea is also able to make fire come down from heaven. John could have easily been describing aerial bombardment, as was stated before in reference to the two witnesses.

***The Image of the Beast***

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.***

***15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not***

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**worship the image of  
the beast to be killed.**

The beast from the earth tells all “**who dwell on the earth to make an image to, (or in the likeness of), the beast**”. Here we know that we are talking about the first beast because it is the one that had been wounded. Since we have already established that the beast is a kingdom or government, we must investigate the possibility that the image is an intangible replication. The most significant feature of the beast from the sea is its Roman-like form of government. We remember from the book of Daniel that the ten-horned Roman beast was different from all the other beasts. The other beasts were kingdoms; and Rome was a republic. Rome had representatives, or senators, and the other beasts/kingdoms were ruled by royal sovereigns. The representational type of government, or democracy, was resurrected after the French Revolution and was fully developed and incorporated

The Beasts of Power and Deception in the United States of America. The premise that this form of government was the beast's distinguishing trait, is supported by the statement, "***the beast that was, and is not, and yet is***" (Revelation 17:8). In this verse, the literal Greek translation of "***and yet is***" is actually "***shall be present***".<sup>2</sup> This Roman form of government prevailed during the life of John but was not an acceptable form of government for over a thousand years, and yet is present at the time of the end in John's vision.

Let us take a critical look at these two forms of government: kingdom vs. democracy. It will be difficult, or impossible, for the reader who has not submitted to our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ, to receive the truth of the following statements. Submission to authority carries the connotation of oppression to those who have not studied the many verses on submission found in the New Testament. This submission begins with

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obedience to the gospel. Jesus said, "***all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.***" (John 5:23) Just as God the Son submitted to God the Father, we must submit to Jesus, the Son of God. This requirement is an integral part of obeying the gospel. The Bible not only commands us to submit to Jesus, but also tells us we must submit to one another. There are at least seven sections of Scripture in six books of the New Testament that discuss submission. God's Word also tells us that we must be subject to kings and their agents.

It is more palatable to consider the act of submission when we realize the truth regarding authority and submission. In reality, we are all under authority. The Bible teaches that children are to honor and obey their parents, wives are to submit to their husbands, servants (employees) are to obey their masters

The Beasts of Power and Deception (employers), and everyone is to obey the king and his officials. The king and his officials are responsible to God, and all the rest obey God by submitting to the authorities that He has placed over them. Consider Romans 13:1-5:

***“1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do***

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***what is good, and you will have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. 5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.***

So we see that God claims responsibility for the authorities that He allows to rule over us. We see this again, in I Peter 2:13-24:

***“13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for***

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***the Lord's sake,  
whether to the king as  
supreme, 14 or to  
governors, as to those  
who are sent by him for  
the punishment of  
evildoers and for the  
praise of those who do  
good. 15 For this is the  
will of God, that by  
doing good you may put  
to silence the ignorance  
of foolish men- 16 as  
free, yet not using  
liberty as a cloak for  
vice, but as  
bondservants of God.  
17 Honor all people.  
Love the brotherhood.  
Fear God. Honor the  
king. 18 Servants, be  
submissive to your  
masters with all fear,  
not only to good and  
gentle, but also to the***

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**harsh. 19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His steps: 22 'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He**

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***suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed.***

One might ask, "What about suffering under an unjust government?" I Peter 2:21 told us that some are called to suffer. As Christians we are to trust God; and wait for heaven. This is not to say that the world should stand aside and let a wicked king slaughter his citizens. In fact, it is the duty of the other kingdoms of the world to take action, and put an end to his unrighteous reign. Indeed, we see from history that such corrective actions have been taken. We must conclude, then, that

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the Christian should be satisfied with the  
kingdom form of government.

Now let us look at the democratic form of government in light of the Scriptures. Jeremiah, the prophet, said in Jeremiah 17:9, "***The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?***" Romans Chapters 3-5 teach us that all men have inherited a sinful heart, which includes the propensity for sin, and a certainty that sin will be performed. Romans 3:23 concludes by saying, "***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***" Only faith in Jesus can redeem the heart of a man from its fallen state. However, Jesus taught us that few would be the ones who would pass through the narrow gate. Simple logic tells us that the majority of any given population will have hearts ruled by their sin nature. In a democracy, the sinful majority will seek to, and will be successful to, undermine any authority established on God's moral standards. In the end, it is

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better to be ruled by a righteous king, than  
by a majority of fallen men.

The deception to be perpetrated, referred to in Revelation 13:14, might be to convince the world that the entire earth should be cast after the image of the Roman (democratic) type of government. It will be easy for the beast from the earth to convince the world that a democracy would always be better than kingdom-rule. In these last days, kingdoms might be prohibited. The unbelieving world might ignore the fact that a kingdom-government is "the image" of the Heavenly Kingdom. And fallen man would rather sin than submit. He prefers lawlessness, rather than deliverance from sin and its chains of addiction. So, if the United States of America is the beginning of the beast, we need to consider if an equally powerful world-wide organization has been created in its likeness. Could it be the United Nations; or some yet-to-be-created form of government by-the-people of the world?

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Proverbs 14:12 reads “***There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.***” It does seem right that mankind should govern itself, however the outcome will be total lawlessness; just what fallen man has always wanted. The truism, “Absolute power corrupts absolutely” is just as true for the masses as for the potentate. The False Prophet will cause the whole world to copy, and replicate, the model of self-rule exemplified by the beast from the sea. Just as a mouth was given to the beast from the sea, the image of the beast is also given the ability to broadcast on the same grand scale.

At some point, the image of the beast will either be represented by some tangible form; or else, the chief characteristics of the “beast” will be memorialized. This is necessary in order to fulfill the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:15, “***Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet,***

The Beasts of Power and Deception ***standing in the holy place***". With today's technology, it would be a simple thing to make a multi-media tribute to this end-time Roman Empire. Walking, talking, robotic presenters are already in use in places like hi-tech amusement parks and museums.

There is another application of "setting up" the image in a place of governmental authority. Israel's survival as a Jewish state is just as precarious as a Christian democracy in the United States. The only way that Israel can demand that all of her citizens be Jews or proselytes, is to have an authoritarian form of government. The ultimate government of Israel will take the form of the Son of God ruling from Mount Zion. It could be, that in a last attempt to purify the nation of Israel, that she would attempt to appoint a king. If the image of the beast (democracy) is the only form of government considered worthy in the last days, the beast may require his image to be set up in Mount Zion; denying Israel

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the right to adopt a kingdom form of  
government.

***The Mark of the Beast***

***Revelation 13 cont.***

***16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,***

***17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.***

***18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.***

## The Beasts of Power and Deception

The practice of marking, or sealing, someone is not new. On the night of Passover, the doorposts were marked with lamb's blood to protect the Jewish residents from the angel of death. Ezekiel was told to mark those who wept over Jerusalem so they would not be killed by God's judgment on those who had turned away from Him. And the Letter to the Ephesians tells Christians that they are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, for the day of redemption. The mark of the beast will be a qualification to do business on earth, but a disqualification from sharing in God's eternal inheritance.

We are familiar with the requirements of giving our bank card number, and other forms identification, to make a purchase. It would almost appear that the financial engineers are following the script of the Scriptures. In an attempt to eliminate identity theft, to eradicate illegal immigration, to inhibit tax evasion, and for national security purposes, it may soon be

The Beasts of Power and Deception necessary to identify people with some type of implanted device. The requirement of wearing some type of identification will be an acknowledgement of citizenship in the beast's domain. Also, it is not difficult to imagine that the mouth, and the image, given to the beast are merely computerized audio and video images.

At this point in time, taking the "mark" identifier might seem to be logical and even innocent. God's warning that the mark will bring His wrath isn't announced until after the fall of Babylon the Great.

**8 "And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 Then a third angel followed**

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***them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.'"***  
(Revelation 14:8-10)

We previously observed that the United States of America must first enter into the persecution of believers, in order to be positively identified as Babylon the Great. The second, and final, act that will positively identify the United States will be

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the standardized implementation of some  
type of personal identifier.

Verse 18 begins by stating that wisdom will be required to determine the meaning of the beast's number. The one who has understanding will use some sort of calculation to arrive at its significance. If Chapters 8 and 9 of Revelation are describing the destruction of the Great Harlot, then her number would be one-third because of the continual reference to the destruction of one-third of: the population, the sky concealing the sun and moon, and the waters. The calculation of dividing three into two (two-thirds), yields .666. Therefore, the number, or portion, of the beast remaining after the destruction of the Great Harlot would be two-thirds, or .666. This is a decimal rather than an integer. It is not a natural number, but a man-made number, (the number of a man).

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The following verses from the book of Zechariah, provide significant support for the conclusion that 666 is the fraction .666. A case might also be made that one-third of mankind will experience the trouble in this world that many people call the first half of the Tribulation.

### ***Zechariah 13***

***7 “ Awake, O sword,  
against My Shepherd,  
Against the Man who is  
My Companion,”  
Says the LORD of hosts.***

***“ Strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be  
scattered;  
Then I will turn My hand  
against the little ones.  
8 And it shall come to  
pass in all the land,”  
Says the LORD,***

***“ That two-thirds in it***

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***shall be cut off and die,  
But one-third shall be  
left in it:***

***9 I will bring the one-  
third through the fire,  
Will refine them as silver  
is refined,  
And test them as gold is  
tested.***

***They will call on My  
name,  
And I will answer them.  
I will say, 'This is My  
people';  
And each one will say,  
'The LORD is my God.'"***

In Old Testament writings, the phrase "the land" refers to the Promised Land. We don't see in Scripture, or in the fulfillment of prophecy, an instance when two-thirds of the Jews "in the land" are stuck. But God has made a distinction between the Nation of Israel, and, the people of God. Paul, the redeemed rabbi, says the Elect

The Beasts of Power and Deception of God now includes all who are saved through the election of grace: ***Romans 11:5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. 7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.*** This is not “replacement” theology, (a teaching wherein all prophetic references to God’s people are said to point to the Christian church). But it is unification theology where there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles. Israel, as a nation, and particularly Jerusalem, is the object of its own prophecies; that is the government and geography of Israel. As far as the election of people is concerned, the church is one body made up of believing Jews and Gentiles. ***14 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have***

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***been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (Ephesians 2:14-16)***  
And what God has joined together, let man not separate.

The prophet Malachi states that the time of refining, foretold by Zechariah above, would occur on the Day when the Lord returns; obviously indicating the end times.

### ***Malachi 3***

***2 “ But who can endure  
the day of His coming?  
And who can stand***

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***when He appears?***  
***For He is like a refiner's***  
***fire***  
***And like launderers'***  
***soap.***  
***3 He will sit as a refiner***  
***and a purifier of silver;***  
***He will purify the sons of***  
***Levi,***  
***And purge them as gold***  
***and silver,***  
***That they may offer to***  
***the LORD***  
***An offering in***  
***righteousness.***

The one-third that is brought "through the fire" could be those who experience the fiery trial spoken of by Peter; ***"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you"***,. The people who refuse to take the mark of the beast will suffer the fiery trials of starvation, exposure, and death by

The Beasts of Power and Deception beheading. But “through the fire” might also be speaking of the bema judgment that all Christians will experience, referred to in 1 Corinthians **3:12** ***Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***

The two-thirds, however, will be “cut off, and die”. By the words, “cut off”, we conclude that these will be rejected by God. In the words of Jesus; Matt 7:13 ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because***

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***narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.***” So we see that the majority will rebel and the minority will experience refinement, but live. As Satan attempts to copy God's Kingdom of Heaven, in which two-thirds of the angels remain faithful to Him; the kingdom of earth will be comprised of two-thirds of the world's population; (although another one-fourth will die shortly thereafter).

Another fascinating interpretation of the mark has been revealed by Wallid Shoebat, a converted Arab Christian. The last three letters of Rev. 13:18 are the symbols X ξ ζ. They are three different symbols; therefore cannot be www as some have posited. Wallid insists that God was showing John three Arabic symbols X ع س . These symbols would need to be rotated somewhat, but from right to left they read, " In the name of, Allah and Islam". He also suggests that

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"mark" means "badge of servitude", such as an arm band. How about a headband or ball cap? Search the web and watch the video!

## Chapter Eight

### *Approaching the Time of God's Wrath*

#### *Revelation 14*

*1 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.*

*2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I*

Approaching the Time of God's Wrath

***heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.***

***4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.***

Approaching the Time of God's Wrath

**5 And in their mouth  
was found no deceit, for  
they are without fault  
before the throne of  
God.**

Although Chapter 14 begins with the picture of a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, we learn from the verses that follow that we are seeing another heavenly sign. The 144,000 who are sealed with His father's name are singing "**before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders**" that abide in the throne room of heaven. Just as we saw the multitudes from the nations in heaven in Chapter 7 of Revelation, so now we find the 144,000 who were sealed in Chapter 7 joining the others who have come out of the great tribulation.

***Revelation 14 cont.***

***6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—***

***7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”***

Jesus foretold that the preaching of the gospel to the whole earth would be the final event before the end. ***“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached***

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***in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.***" (Matthew 24:14) Proverbs 1:7 states, "***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge***", so the evangelical angel begins to explain the gospel with the command "***Fear God and give glory to Him***" (Revelation 14:7). Because of God's great love for each and every soul, He sends His angel to give a final opportunity for anyone who might choose to repent and be reconciled to Him. It is one thing to be told that God will judge the acts of those who have been given a free will; but the reality that the "***hour of His judgment has come***" (Revelation 14:7) will instill an urgency to secure peace with God.

Paul, the apostle, once stated the gospel most succinctly in I Corinthians 15:1-4 where he writes:

***"1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the***

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***gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”.***

The way to peace with God comes only through the knowledge that Jesus died as a sacrifice for our sins, making a substitutionary atonement for the death sentence that fallen man deserves. It is

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necessary for each and every soul to acknowledge that a portion of the sin placed upon the Lamb of God, was that soul's own personal sin. Isaiah 53:6 says, "**And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**" II Corinthians 5:21 says, "**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**" Although the Bible tells us that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, a conscious and deliberate commitment is required, for an individual to respond to God's covenant of grace. This salvation by grace is not an earned redemption, but is a right-standing in God, received by faith in Christ's redemptive work on the cross. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is God's proof to us that Jesus' sacrificial offering has been accepted, as payment in full for our sin. Those who inhabit the earth in the final hours before God's judgment will have the opportunity to choose their eternal destiny. It only

Approaching the Time of God's Wrath takes a moment to speak a humble prayer of repentance that will assure our acceptance into God's kingdom. A basic example of such a prayer is given in Romans 10:9, "***if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.***" Believing in your heart is; knowing that Jesus took your personal sins, and understanding that you now have a place in heaven, where you are blameless, in Christ. Romans 10:13 promises us, "***whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***"

### ***Revelation 14 cont.***

***8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made***

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***all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”***

***9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,***

***10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.***

***11 And the smoke of their torment ascends***

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***forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.***”

In Verse 8 an angelic messenger announces that Babylon the Great has “***fallen***”, literally “***felf***”<sup>3</sup> in the Greek. The timing of the fall of Babylon the Great is crucial in understanding the application of the command to “***Come out of her, my people***”, found in Revelation 18:4. In Revelation Chapters 17 and 18, John is carried away to a remote place, and shown in detail, the fall of this Mystery Babylon. Verse 8 of Chapter 14 also brings to our attention, that she involved all other nations in her adulteress behavior. The adultery of a nation, in Biblical terms, occurs when people who belong to God turn their hearts away from Him.

## Approaching the Time of God's Wrath

The angelic voice in Verse 8 spoke the words "***Babylon is fallen,***" but the angel with the message of the gospel in Verse 6 spoke with a loud voice, obviously to the peoples of the world. The message of the third angel in Verse 9 once again heralds his message with a loud voice, speaking his message to the inhabitants of the earth. We are given an example of God speaking by angels to the children of Israel in Judges 2:1-4:

***“1 Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: ‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. 2 And you shall make no covenant with***

Approaching the Time of God's Wrath  
***the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars. But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?'*** 3 ***Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'*** 4 ***So it was, when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept."***

By the tearful repentance of the people of Israel, we know that they heard the voice of God loud and clear. We don't know if the people saw the Angel of the Lord in the form of a man, and we don't know if

Approaching the Time of God's Wrath the people heard an audible voice, but somehow the message was communicated to all the people of Israel. Here in Verses 9-11, specific instructions are given to all mankind. The angel uses the punishment of Babylon the Great as an example to those who would become citizens of the world-nation of the beast. Anyone who "**worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,**" (Revelation 14:9) shall also receive the same punishment as Babylon, which has now fallen. We can conclude from this statement, that the citizens of this city-state, had already worshiped the beast and his image, and received his mark. Therefore, the third angel is warning the rest of the world, that they, also, will receive the wrath of God in full strength if they submit to the beast, as Babylon the Great had done.

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***Revelation 14 cont.***

***12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.***

***13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."***

The "***patience of the saints***" refers to their steadfastness and perseverance in the face of impossible circumstances. God has now spoken that receiving the mark will bring His wrath. Yet without the mark, no one will be able to obtain the necessities of life. As of the writing of this Second Edition, more that three million

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American consumers have agreed to be identified by using biometrics. Biometrics uses the unique dimensions of a person's fingerprints or eyes and then compares them to a computerized file. These places on the body could be considered the hands and the forehead. This method of identification does not require a mark. It is, however, an indication that this kind of identification is already becoming a reality. But Verse 13 contains consolation for those who keep the faith, and obey God in the face of death. It is interesting that, rather than having an angel speak these words of consolation, these words are written, at the instruction of God, here in Verse 13. Those saints who must endure this time on the earth will read these words, written centuries before, "***Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.***" *'Yes', says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them'*". Because the warning against taking the mark, and this

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consolation to accept death, are not given  
before the destruction of Babylon the  
Great, it is possible that grace may be  
given to those who take the mark in  
ignorance, before Babylon's destruction.  
The safe course of action will be to obey  
God's Word to "**Come out**"! Isaiah 48:20-  
22, assures us He will care for our needs if  
we will separate ourselves from the  
wicked, who are soon to be punished:

***20 Go forth from  
Babylon! Flee from the  
Chaldeans! With a voice  
of singing, declare,  
proclaim this, utter it to  
the end of the earth; say,  
"The LORD has  
redeemed His servant  
Jacob!" 21 And they did  
not thirst when He led  
them through the  
deserts; He caused the  
waters to flow from the***

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***rock for them; He also  
split the rock, and the  
waters gushed out. 22  
“There is no peace,”  
says the LORD, “for the  
wicked.”***

## Chapter Nine

### *The Wrath of God*

In case the reader is unfamiliar with God's Word, and perceives a contradiction between the love of God, and the wrath of God; let us review some Scriptures that explain God's righteous indignation. ***“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”*** (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) Ephesians 5:5-6 reads, ***“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one***

## The Wrath of God

***deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*** “Disobedience” refers to disobedience to God’s new covenant. Romans 3:23 assures us that “***all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***”. God’s covenant of grace extends forgiveness of sin, and reconciliation to Himself; through the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. God’s wrath will be poured out on those who have chosen to remain alienated and unreconciled to God. In the Old Testament, the coming of God’s kingdom is referred to as “***the day of the LORD***”. Malachi 3:2 asks the question, “***But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap.***” Those who would scoff at God’s plan, and His love for every soul, need to hear the words of Peter in II Peter 3:3-10:

The Wrath of God

***“3 Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’ 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for***

The Wrath of God

*fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works*

The Wrath of God  
***that are in it will be  
burned up.***

So let us rejoice in the words of Jesus,  
***“For God so loved the world that He  
gave His only begotten Son, that  
whoever believes in Him should not  
perish but have everlasting life.”*** (John  
3:16)

Now begins the time of God’s wrath, which is generally equated with the last three and one-half years of the seven years that represent the “End Times”. See *figure four*. The account of God’s wrath being poured out on the earth begins in Revelation 14:14, and continues through the end of Chapter 16. These verses follow.

***Revelation 14 cont.***

***14 Then I looked, and  
behold, a white cloud,***

The Wrath of God

***and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.***

***15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."***

***16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.***

***17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.***

***18 And another angel came out from the altar,***

The Wrath of God

*who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."*

*19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.*

*20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.*

**Revelation 15**

**1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**

**2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.**

**3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of**

The Wrath of God

**the Lamb, saying:  
“Great and marvelous  
are Your works, Lord  
God Almighty! Just and  
true are Your ways, O  
King of the saints!**

**4 Who shall not fear  
You, O Lord, and glorify  
Your name? For You  
alone are holy. For all  
nations shall come and  
worship before You, For  
Your judgments have  
been manifested.”**

**5 After these things I  
looked, and behold, the  
temple of the tabernacle  
of the testimony in  
heaven was opened.**

**6 And out of the temple  
came the seven angels  
having the seven  
plagues, clothed in pure  
bright linen, and having**

The Wrath of God  
*their chests girded with  
golden bands.*

*7 Then one of the four  
living creatures gave to  
the seven angels seven  
golden bowls full of the  
wrath of God who lives  
forever and ever.*

*8 The temple was filled  
with smoke from the  
glory of God and from  
His power, and no one  
was able to enter the  
temple till the seven  
plagues of the seven  
angels were completed.*

## **Revelation 16**

*1 Then I heard a loud  
voice from the temple  
saying to the seven  
angels, "Go and pour  
out the bowls of the*

The Wrath of God

**wrath of God on the earth.”**

**2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

**3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.**

**4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.**

**5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is**

The Wrath of God  
***and who was and who is  
to be, Because You  
have judged these  
things.***

***6 For they have shed  
the blood of saints and  
prophets, And You have  
given them blood to  
drink. For it is their just  
due.”***

# The Wrath of God






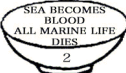


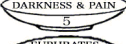

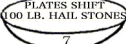
DEATH	CRY FOR JUSTICE	CATASTROPHIC DESTRUCTION	CHRIST'S RETURN
			
<p>1/4 EARTH KILLED;            • SWORD            • PESTILENCE            • WILD BEASTS</p> <p>PROBABLY THE RESULT OF THE JUDGMENT OF MYSTERY BABYLON: LAWLESSNESS, PILLAGING, DISEASE, WILDERNESS, SURROUNDING THE DEVASTED ONE -THIRD OF THE EARTH</p>	<p>SEVEN LAST PLAUGES</p> <p>BOWLS OF THE WRATH OF GOD:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>1 SORES</p>  <p>2 SEA BECOMES BLOOD ALL MARINE LIFE DIES</p>  <p>3 ALL OTHER WATER NOW BLOOD</p>  <p>4 SUN SCORCHES MEN</p>  <p>5 DARKNESS &amp; PAIN</p>  <p>6 EUPHRATES DRIES UP KINGS GATHER FOR ARMAGEDDON</p>  <p>7 PLATES SHIFT 100 LB. HAIL STONES</p> </div>	<p>MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB</p> <p>BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON</p> <p>DEFEAT OF BEAST, FALSE PROPHET</p> <p>SATAN BOUND FOR 1,000 YRS.</p> <p>MILLENNIUM REIGN: JESUS &amp; SAINTS</p> <p>SATAN DECEIVES AND GATHERS FOR WAR</p> <p>SATAN CAST INTO LAKE OF FIRE</p> <p>EARTH &amp; HEAVEN FLEE AWAY AND MELT</p> <p>WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT</p> <p>DEATH/HADES IN LAKE OF FIRE</p> <p>NEW; HEAVEN, EARTH, JERUSALEM &amp; TEMPLE</p>	

Figure 4

The Wrath of God

**7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."**

**8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.**

**9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.**

**10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they**

The Wrath of God

***gnawed their tongues because of the pain.***

***11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.***

***12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.***

***13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.***

***14 For they are spirits of demons, performing***

The Wrath of God

***signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

***15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."***

***16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.***

***17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"***

***18 And there were noises and thunderings***

The Wrath of God

***and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.***

***19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.***

***20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.***

***21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God***

The Wrath of God  
***because of the plague  
of the hail, since that  
plague was exceedingly  
great.***

Notice in Verse 13; the unclean spirits come out of the mouth of the dragon, which is Satan, and out of the mouth of the beast, which is most likely a world government, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. The beast of the sea continues to be referred to as a beast. When the Lord Jesus comes to reign on the earth, the people left on earth will gather to make war against Him. Revelation 19:17-21 describes this battle.

***“17 Then I saw an angel  
standing in the sun; and  
he cried with a loud  
voice, saying to all the  
birds that fly in the  
midst of heaven, ‘Come  
and gather together for  
the supper of the great***

The Wrath of God

**God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.' 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

## The Wrath of God

***These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.***

Revelation 19:19 specifically mentions "***the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies***". We know that this beast is described as having ten horns (or ten kings). So, most likely, the beast still describes a union of nations. Revelation 19:20 tells us the beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire. The dragon (Satan) is cast into the lake of fire later in Revelation 20:10. Because we have already been told that the citizens of the beast, who have received the mark, will experience the wrath of God, and be tormented with fire and brimstone; we

## The Wrath of God

must conclude that these people, that gathered for war, were considered to be part of the beast, because there is no separate mention of the masses being thrown into the fire. Once again, we find support for the assumption that the beast is a world-nation, of which, every citizen is condemned.

## Chapter Ten

### *Babylon the Great*

Revelation 17 and 18 take us back to a time before the wrath of God. Revelation 17:2 is written in past tense, even though John is seeing a vision of times that have not yet come to pass; even today. We have already discussed many of the events in Chapter 17, so we will save our commentary for the end of this chapter.

#### ***Revelation 17***

***1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment***

Babylon the Great  
***of the great harlot who  
sits on many waters,  
2 with whom the kings  
of the earth committed  
fornication, and the  
inhabitants of the earth  
were made drunk with  
the wine of her  
fornication.”***

***3 So he carried me away  
in the Spirit into the  
wilderness. And I saw a  
woman sitting on a  
scarlet beast which was  
full of names of  
blasphemy, having  
seven heads and ten  
horns.***

***4 The woman was  
arrayed in purple and  
scarlet, and adorned  
with gold and precious  
stones and pearls,  
having in her hand a  
golden cup full of***

Babylon the Great  
**abominations and the  
filthiness of her  
fornication.**

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

**6 I saw the woman,  
drunk with the blood of  
the saints and with the  
blood of the martyrs of  
Jesus. And when I saw  
her, I marveled with  
great amazement.**

**7 But the angel said to  
me, "Why did you  
marvel? I will tell you  
the mystery of the  
woman and of the beast  
that carries her, which**

Babylon the Great  
**has the seven heads  
and the ten horns.**

**8 The beast that you  
saw was, and is not, and  
will ascend out of the  
bottomless pit and go to  
perdition. And those  
who dwell on the earth  
will marvel, whose  
names are not written in  
the Book of Life from  
the foundation of the  
world, when they see  
the beast that was, and  
is not, and yet is.**

**9 "Here is the mind  
which has wisdom: The  
seven heads are seven  
mountains on which the  
woman sits.**

**10 There are also seven  
kings. Five have fallen,  
one is, and the other  
has not yet come. And  
when he comes, he**

Babylon the Great  
***must continue a short  
time.***

***11 The beast that was,  
and is not, is himself  
also the eighth, and is  
of the seven, and is  
going to perdition.***

***12 "The ten horns which  
you saw are ten kings  
who have received no  
kingdom as yet, but  
they receive authority  
for one hour as kings  
with the beast.***

***13 These are of one  
mind, and they will give  
their power and  
authority to the beast.***

***14 These will make war  
with the Lamb, and the  
Lamb will overcome  
them, for He is Lord of  
lords and King of kings;  
and those who are with***

Babylon the Great

***Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”***

***15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.***

***16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.***

***17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.***

***18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns***

Babylon the Great  
**over the kings of the  
earth.”**

We have already discussed the likelihood that the Roman Empire is the beast which **“was, and then is not, and yet will be”**. Because the Bible does not teach the annihilation of the soul, the fact that it **“is not”**, for some period of time, rules out the possibility that this beast is a person. The fact that seven mountains, mentioned in Verse 9, have seven kings supports the theory that these seven “heads” are actually city-states. The five that have fallen may refer to five of the members of the old Roman Empire that are no longer in existence. **“One is, and the other has not yet come.”** One of these city-states exists at the time of John’s writing. **“And the other has not yet come.”** This one who had not yet come could very well be speaking of the United States of America because it was unknown to John. The fact that Babylon the Great is titled a **“mystery”** in Verse 5 indicates that the

## Babylon the Great

city-state's identity was not yet revealed at the time of John's vision. "***And when he comes, he must continue a short time.***" If the judgment of the Great Harlot occurs soon, the United States will have continued "***a short time***", in comparison to the old world nations. Verse 16 states that even though the Great Harlot is part of the beast, the ten-horned majority will hate the Harlot. The reason for the world's hatred of the Great Harlot is given in Verse 18. Because this great city-state is so powerful that no single nation can "***make war with her***", the rest of the world must join together to overpower her.

### ***Revelation 18***

***1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.***

**2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**

**3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."**

**4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you**

Babylon the Great  
*share in her sins, and  
lest you receive of her  
plagues.*

*5 For her sins have  
reached to heaven, and  
God has remembered  
her iniquities.*

*6 Render to her just as  
she rendered to you,  
and repay her double  
according to her works;  
in the cup which she  
has mixed, mix double  
for her.*

*7 In the measure that  
she glorified herself and  
lived luxuriously, in the  
same measure give her  
torment and sorrow; for  
she says in her heart, 'I  
sit as queen, and am no  
widow, and will not see  
sorrow.'*

*8 Therefore her plagues  
will come in one day—*

Babylon the Great  
**death and mourning and  
famine. And she will be  
utterly burned with fire,  
for strong is the Lord  
God who judges her.**

**9 “The kings of the  
earth who committed  
fornication and lived  
luxuriously with her will  
weep and lament for  
her, when they see the  
smoke of her burning,**

**10 standing at a  
distance for fear of her  
torment, saying, ‘Alas,  
alas, that great city  
Babylon, that mighty  
city! For in one hour  
your judgment has  
come.’**

**11 “And the merchants  
of the earth will weep  
and mourn over her, for  
no one buys their  
merchandise anymore:**

Babylon the Great

**12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;**

**13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.**

**14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you**

Babylon the Great  
*shall find them no more  
at all.*

*15 The merchants of  
these things, who  
became rich by her, will  
stand at a distance for  
fear of her torment,  
weeping and wailing,*

*16 and saying, 'Alas,  
alas, that great city that  
was clothed in fine  
linen, purple, and  
scarlet, and adorned  
with gold and precious  
stones and pearls!*

*17 For in one hour such  
great riches came to  
nothing.'*

*Every  
shipmaster, all who  
travel by ship, sailors,  
and as many as trade on  
the sea, stood at a  
distance*

*18 and cried out when  
they saw the smoke of*

Babylon the Great

*her burning, saying,  
'What is like this great  
city?'*

*19 "They threw dust on  
their heads and cried  
out, weeping and  
wailing, and saying,  
'Alas, alas, that great  
city, in which all who  
had ships on the sea  
became rich by her  
wealth! For in one hour  
she is made desolate.'*

*20 "Rejoice over her, O  
heaven, and you holy  
apostles and prophets,  
for God has avenged  
you on her!"*

*21 Then a mighty angel  
took up a stone like a  
great millstone and  
threw it into the sea,  
saying, "Thus with  
violence the great city  
Babylon shall be thrown*

Babylon the Great  
*down, and shall not be  
found anymore.*

*22 The sound of  
harpists, musicians,  
flutists, and trumpeters  
shall not be heard in  
you anymore. No  
craftsman of any craft  
shall be found in you  
anymore, and the sound  
of a millstone shall not  
be heard in you  
anymore.*

*23 The light of a lamp  
shall not shine in you  
anymore, and the voice  
of bridegroom and bride  
shall not be heard in  
you anymore. For your  
merchants were the  
great men of the earth,  
for by your sorcery all  
the nations were  
deceived.*

Babylon the Great

**24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”**

Not only does the phrase “**is fallen, is fallen**” bring to mind the fall of the twin towers, but it also alludes to a two phase destruction of the Great Harlot. Phase one takes place in Verse 2 where Babylon the Great is described as “**fallen**”. The first mention of “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen!**” is found in Isaiah 21:9, and is a prophetic warning. The subsequent fall of Ancient Babylon did not occur until a generation had passed from the time of the warning. Jeremiah again echoes this warning, “**Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed**”. Jeremiah 51:8. But, the actual fall of Babylon did not occur until the lifetime of Daniel. So it stands to reason that the first reference to the fall, found in the detailed account, Revelation 18:2, would also be an

Babylon the Great  
advanced warning of a future sudden  
destruction.

John writes that Babylon “**has become a dwelling place**” of demonic agents, indicating that they didn’t always dwell there. As was previously stated, Biblical harlotry depicts turning away from God and turning to idolatry. Verse 3 records that the other nations were not only oppressed and intimidated by Babylon the Great, but they were also polluted and enriched by her. Two reasons are given in Verse 4 to “**Come out of her**”.

The first reason is, so God’s people would not be involved in her sins. First John 3:8b proclaims “**For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**” Instead of turning to Jesus for deliverance from sin, the people of this nation are bounding headlong into sin. Jesus declared the Holy Spirit would have a tri-fold mission. “**And when He has come,**

## Babylon the Great

***He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.***" (John 15:8-11) The

conviction of sin is essential in both; causing a discomfort with sin that makes us run to Christ; and invoking an appreciation of Christ, who is our effective sacrifice for sin. The Holy Spirit magnifies the depravity of our sin, and He uses the law to make sin "exceedingly sinful". (See Romans 7:13) When the laws of a nation contradict the laws of God, that nation is fighting against the work of the Holy Spirit, Who is God Himself. Even a casual review of the Bible reveals that God is against: premarital sex, adultery, homosexuality, and the killing of babies. If these are all legalized, the conscience is dulled to actions that should bring about deep guilt and shame. God calls His people to come out in order to separate

Babylon the Great

themselves from the sins of **THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

The second reason given to “**Come out of her**” is to avoid the plagues that are about to come upon the Great Harlot. From our earlier discussion, these plagues could very well be the trumpet plagues of Chapters 8 and 9 that destroy one-third of the earth. It is logical for a Christian to consider that it might be better to die with the Great Harlot, because of the turmoil that will rule the earth until the “End Times” are completed. However, we ought to obey our Lord. Jesus said, “**And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.**” (Matthew 10:22) So then, we should preserve our life until the time that the mark of the beast is required, and only at that time will the words “**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on**” (Revelation 14:13) be applicable.

## Babylon the Great

The final attack of Mystery Babylon will come suddenly, and the window of escape will be shut. ***“And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”*** (Revelation 18:8) If the fall of the twin towers is, indeed, the beginning of the fall of the great city-state that currently rules over the kings of the earth, then we are living in the time before the destruction of the United States of America.

Yet, there are two prophecies that remain unfulfilled at the writing of this book.

One is; the persecution of Christians, to the shedding of blood. Sinners hate to be confronted by the ones who are able to live righteously by the power of the Holy Spirit, and they also despise the Word of God that exposes and convicts them of their lawlessness. All that is needed for their anger to turn to bloodshed is for a violent generation to arise.

## Babylon the Great

Another possibility has now emerged. What if a majority of US citizens embraced a religion that already openly persecutes God's people, both Christians and Jews? (This seemed impossible five years ago at this book's first writing.)

The second prophecy is; the marking, or embedding, of some identifier, that would enable the citizens of the United States to buy and sell.

In conclusion, the Christians of the United States of America should be watchful, and unless they are called by God to stay and minister, they should prepare to “**Come out**” at the first sign that these final prophecies are being fulfilled.

Please read the entire  
Book of Revelation.  
See the Appendix for  
Chapters 1-5 and 19-  
22.

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### ***The Book of Revelation*** **Chapters 1 - 5**

#### ***Revelation 1***

*1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. 4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and*

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*from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." 9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it*

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to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.” 12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write

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*the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

### **Revelation 2**

*1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,*

*'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:*

*2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I*

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*have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. 6 But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” 8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9 “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the*

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*crown of life. 11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. 17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will*

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*give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.”*

*18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, ‘These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you*

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*according to your works. 24 “Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 ‘ He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’— as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

### **Revelation 3**

*1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not*

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*found your works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. 4 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. 6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." 7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make*

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*those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. 13 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” 14 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I*

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*could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""*

**Revelation 4**

*1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living*

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*creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. 8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."*

**Revelation 5**

*1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the*

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*throne. 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: " You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: " Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I*

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*heard saying: “ Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” 14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*

Appendix  
**The Book of Revelation**  
**Chapters 19 - 21**

**Revelation 19**

*1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many*

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waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no

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one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war

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*against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

### **Revelation 20**

*1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after*

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*these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of*

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*the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And*

*anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

## **Revelation 21**

*1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I*

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am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” 9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. 12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of

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*the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. 14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. 18 The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth*

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beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. 22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Revelation 22**

*1 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. 6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." 8*

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*Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and*

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*idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen*

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