

Introduction to the study of the End-Times (Book of Revelation)

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Because of the complexity of the Book of Revelation that requires a lot of detail, cross-references and confirmation, I have molded this on-line version of my normal seminar teaching into a number of Parts. Each part will contain references to chapters in the Book of Revelation (as well as cross-references to Ezekiel and Daniel). They are grouped into “parts” so as to maintain the meaning and thought patterns that those groups of chapters are addressing.

In short, the Book of Revelation can only be correctly understood by “chapter grouping”. The right approach to this Book is to read and study the chapters in this grouping: 1-2-3, 4-5-6, 7-8-9, 10-11-12-13, 14-15-16, 17-18-19 and 20-21-22. If you read the Book straight through from Chapter 1 to Chapter 22, you will probably get lost, for the context jumps around (back and forth, contextually & time-wise) from group to group! In the groupings shown above, we will explore the meaning of each group or “part” and show the relationship to the other groups.

Keep in mind that these pages are NOTES that are used in a Seminar setting. In a live seminar, each chapter in a Part would be read and then the notes would be used to go back and help explain any hidden or confusing meanings in that chapter. So, rather than my putting the whole text from the Bible into this study, just open your Bible (your choice of version – KJV preferred), read the text and go back and use this guide in regard to the various verses and the meanings.

I know – all this sounds complicated, BUT if you follow the study guide, you will receive the “revelations” that have been hidden (sealed) for the past 2,000 years! Now, if you think that is a superbia statement, the Book of Daniel has the following words (Daniel had a very similar vision (description) of the End of Times, and here is his response):

“Although I (*Daniel*) heard, I did not understand. Then I said, “My Lord, what *shall be the end of these things?*” And he said, “Go *your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*” (Daniel 12: 8, 9). I believe that, given all that is happening in the world today, and the advanced knowledge imparted to mankind during the past 100 years, we **are** near the time of the end! Consequently, those things that could not be understood thousands of years ago are now opened to OUR understanding.

The following are some **situations and terms** that need to be realized:

The Rapture ?

The church **must** go away because *our prayers* will prevent the anti-Christ from accomplishing his prophesied evil deeds on the earth! The word rapture does not appear in the Scriptures,

however, in the New Testament a similar word is found: *anabaino*, which means, “to go up” or “arise”, and is used 12 times in the Book of Revelation alone! See my “Rapture” posting: <http://www.kingswayministries.org/archives/2262>. This word is used in chapter 4, verse 1, the occasion of the sounding of the trumpet, etc.

Jesus temporarily takes His Body (the bride of Christ) out of the world.

In Jewish tradition, the groom comes after his bride sometime during the night. The bride must be ready and waiting for him. He takes her away with himself. The ‘honeymoon’ lasts seven days after which the groom brings his bride back and presents her to the public as his wife.

The church is not mentioned after the 3rd chapter of Revelation but is present with Jesus (in chapter 19) as He returns to earth after the seven years (seven *days?*) of the Tribulation. The Tribulation begins with a TRUMPET blast in the first verse of the 4th chapter, as He removes (*anabaino*) the Church. Jesus takes us up to check out our new Heavenly home!

Ref: In 1 Thess. 4:16-17 the Lord calls us (the Church) up to Him with the sound of a TRUMPET.

End-Time Occurances, For The Believer

1. The Rapture (‘snatching away’) of the Church (1 Thess.4:16).
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ [2 Cor. 5:10] (the honeymoon) where we are purified by seeing our works, and our rewards are given to us for the good works we have done.
3. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7) where the bride (church) appears in PURE white linens (which stands for the righteous acts of the saints). Our sins were forgiven at the cross and our works awarded at the Judgment seat, and we are perfect and pure before Him. He would not marry (have as a bride) any less.
4. After the wedding, we return with the Bridegroom to the ‘housing’ He has arranged for His bride, in accord with Jewish customs (the 1000 year reign of Jesus on the earth).

SIMILE –

“A figure of speech that expresses a resemblance between things of different kinds (usually formed with ‘like’ or ‘as’)”

In the King James Version of the Book of Revelation, there are 110 occasions of the use of “as” or “like”, in trying to describe things that John, the visionary, could not identify. How many of us who have seen UFO’s have described what we had seen with “it looked LIKE a flying saucer” (or “LIKE a cigar”, etc.)?

This is a common procedure; associating what we cannot identify with something that we DO know about.

Tanks, helicopters, guns, submarines – none of these things were known to John, so he identified them as best he could. This would explain some of the unusual descriptions that John gave as he looked into the future, since many of those things he saw had not even been invented then! Many times he used animals or mythical creatures in his descriptions. This study will attempt to more accurately identify those items, especially as they relate to the Battle of Armageddon.

Part I – Chapters 1,2,3

Chapter 1: vs 1,2,3

“The Revelation of JESUS CHRIST” – theme of the Book

“God gave ... to show” – the source and purpose

“sent ... by His angel” – sent by an intermediary

“to His servant John” ... the recipient and scribe

From the Father, to the Son, to Christ’s special messenger (the angel), to John, to US !!

vs 3 – God promises that you’ll be blessed if you study the Revelation and heed the instructions in the Book.

THESE ARE THE TIMES TO UNDERSTAND GOD’S REVELATIONS (Daniel 12: 8-10)

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vs 4,5,6 (The “seven spirits” represents the many works of the Holy Spirit – seven means perfection – completeness) – – – (Spirits), who are before His throne.

vs 5 ” ... firstborn of the dead” – Jesus was the first to be permanently resurrected from the dead – of many who will be resurrected !

vs 6 – a priest represents men before the throne of God – speaking to God on behalf of others – and speaking to men about God (Exodus 19:6)

vs 7,8 – clouds of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1), 1 Thess. 3:13, Jude 14: Jesus will return with multitudes of saints (in the clouds).

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THERE ARE PICTURES OF TWO MESSIAHs, ONE SUFFERING (Isaiah 53) AND ONE CONQUERING (Isaiah 9: 6-7).

The Jews will mourn Jesus’ return at the end of Armageddon since they will recognize Him as the ONE THEY REJECTED nearly 2000 years ago.

vs 8 – Jesus is Omnipotent (Col. 1:17) and holds all things together.

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vs 9,10,11 – John was in exile for preaching.

vs 10 – he was in the spirit (relating with God), oblivious to all other things going on around him

vs 11 – the seven churches represent all classes of churches and situations that they are in, even today

vs 12-18 – the seven lampstands represent the churches (the Menorah - Jewish candlestand). Jesus, the Light, is in the center.

Golden vest – Priest & Judge, with long robe and sash.

Head and Hair – purity and mature wisdom

Flaming eyes – pierce right through the unrighteous person

Bronze feet – symbol of judgment

vs 19,20 – ” ... have seen” – the vision of Jesus as in Chapter 1 ” ... the things which are” – situation regarding churches (ch. 2 & 3) up to time Jesus .comes back for the church [Rapture] ” ... things which shall take place” – the Tribulation, up to the second coming of Jesus, at the end of Armageddon.

vs 20 – shows that all symbolism in the book of Revelation has definite meanings (which we will explore throughout our study).

Chapters 2 & 3

1. Ephesus: duty without love. Seaport, rich, used magic, well-taught. Outwardly warm – inwardly cold. Legalists – need pure motives.
2. Smyrna: poor and persecuted, but rich! A city of temples – faithful – devoted. They are overcomers !
3. Pergamos: compromise with world system. Learned, but tolerated evil teachings – had pagan temples.
4. Thyratira: the counterfeit. In the cloth industry – had fortune tellers, female priests, those who associate with occult will die. Stop, and no other burdens will be added. A remnant of their holdout believers will rule with Jesus in the Millennium !
5. Sardis: dead orthodoxy – a few of the people will be with Jesus. They are living in the past – wake up – revitalize what you got going . May relate to some churches from the Reformation era.
6. Philadelphia: revival and evangelism – keep up the good work. Filled with promises of rewards!
7. Laodicea: Apostasy – falling away from God. Has compromise and is lukewarm. Like the church of today, changed to conform to the influences of the world. He urges the true

believers to stand up and respond to God's love. Churches de-spiritualize Jesus to the role of a mere man.

ONLY TWO CHURCHES, SMYRNA AND PHILADELPHIA, WERE NOT REBUKED BY JESUS, BUT WERE ENCOURAGED TO HANG IN THERE !

Chapter 3: 19-22 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock ..." Jesus is willing for all to repent and be saved.

End Of Part I

Revelation 4-5-6

Part Two

Chapter 4 **The Rapture & Glimpse into Heaven**

v. 1 A trumpet sounded and John was **called up to Heaven** so that he could view from overhead the things that were to happen on the earth. Unlike the former three chapters, the Church is never mentioned or seen again, until – – – .

v. 2 John was in the Spirit. Heaven is a Spiritual place and one can only enter “by the Spirit” (no fleshly bodies).

v. 3-11 These verses give a brief description of Heaven and the “cast of characters” found there – such as the 24 elders. There is no indication as to who these elders are but it is obvious that they hold positions of authority – seated on thrones with God.

The “four living creatures” are also a mystery but have *some* characteristics of the two cherubim as installed on the Ark of the Covenant (Exo. 25:18). They constantly bring forth praise and worship to the Godhead.

Notice that before God ALL creatures are overwhelmed by His presence and enter into a period of worship.

Chapter 5 **The Book of Judgments and the 7 Seals**

vs. 1-5 The scroll (book) contains “instructions” for the deployment of the prophetic judgments that had been planned for the end-time tribulation on the earth. The *seals* contain the actual curses that will be released at the appropriate time.

Consider the seals as “boxes” or containers that, when opened, will release and set into motion the effects of the enclosed contents.

Vs. 6-14 Jesus steps forward as the only one worthy who can take the scroll and place into motion the Tribulation (open the seals). Because of His sacrifice, He is the only one who can do this.

Jesus (the Lamb of God) appears as with “seven horns, seven eyes”. This relates back to Chapter 1 and the seven angels that were placed over the seven churches mentioned. In short, Jesus is representing His Church (the believers). Horns are symbolic of power and authority. Eyes signify insight, watchfulness, and comprehension.

It is exciting to see that **nothing** takes place in Heaven (by those in “authority”) except after a time of *intense* worship of God, the Father, and Jesus, the Son of God!

Chapter 6 **Release of the First 6 Seals**

This chapter describes in an *overview* (not in detail) the release of the various curses contained in the seals. Each curse will be described with much detail in a later Part, as a “flashback”.

Seal seven is held back for now because of its uttermost devastating effect upon the earth!

After opening the fifth seal (vs. 9-10), the saints who were slain during the Tribulation (and obviously had gone to Heaven) appealed to Jesus with the question “How long – – – ?” until their deaths are avenged. They were given white robes for their martyrdom and told they should wait (rest) a little longer.

This is an indication to us that a “multitude” of unsaved people who remain after the Rapture of the Church will seek and receive salvation, and will eventually be martyred (killed) for making this choice. More on that later.

Vs. 17 “For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”. This refers to all those “left behind” on earth – the unsaved. This is also a message to *us* who **are** saved and will be in Heaven with Jesus to get our friends and family saved so as to avoid the Tribulation.

End of Part 2

Revelation 7, 8, 9

Part Three

Chapter 7 Flashback

The Jews, as God's people (evidenced in Isaiah, the Dead Sea Scrolls, etc. – from 200 BC – 900 AD), they are:

1. To receive & write God's Word
 2. To serve as the human family (line) of the Messiah (shown in over 300 prophecies).
 3. To protect and preserve the purity of God's Word
 4. To bring the world to God (through the 144,000 in the end time)
- v. 1-3 The interlude before the destruction of the Earth.

The judgments are delayed until these 144,000 Jewish people can be sealed; i.e., protected supernaturally.

- v. 4-8 God raises up His people to be witnesses (see Gen 35:9-12).

Seals imply possession and ownership. The 144,000 individuals sealed during the Tribulation are the possession of God. Attempts to represent them as the church are futile in light of their reappearance in the midst of the 24 elders in ch. 14. The text is to be taken as it naturally reads. God still has for Israel a program to which He will be faithful. Israel is loved and treasured by God because of God's faithfulness to His promises. The Lord has marvelous last-day purposes for Israel. The 144,000 Jews (12,000 from each tribe) will be wonderfully converted to Christ during the Tribulation after the Rapture of the church. Not only does the text clearly maintain this, but also the care in listing each of the tribes adds validity to the interpretation (vv. 5-8). The peculiarities of the listing are these: (1) inclusion of Levi (v.7), doubtless because of the cessation of O.T. priesthood; and (2) the substitution of Manasseh for Dan (Rev. 7:6), the latter omitted possibly because of its idolatrous history.

- v. 7-9 A great multitude. This multitude is composed of many racial and geographic groups who will be redeemed during the Tribulation. In these difficult days, many will find Christ as Savior.

Gentiles are also among those converted during the Great Tribulation. John now sees an innumerable multitude from among all nations, arrayed in white and standing before the throne. Were they the church, John would have no reason for perplexity. He would certainly have recognized some of them. He is informed by one of the elders that they are those who had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb (v.14). Further, they had come out of the Great Tribulation

v. 9-17 Arrival in Heaven of those witnessed to and were saved through the work of the 144,000.

Chapter 8 The Seventh Seal – Seven Trumpets

v. 3-5 [Jesus interceding?] Censer (container for burning incense) is filled with prayers from God's people – prayers concerning the Earth and its state of affairs.

The prayers likely petition God to judge evil and to inaugurate His kingdom quickly. A token judgment follows.

v. 7-12) The opening of the seventh seal initiates the trumpet judgments, just as the sounding of the seventh trumpet calls for the outpouring of the bowls of God's wrath. The general significance of these trumpet judgments in ch. 8 may be indicated as follows: The initial four trumpets reveal unprecedented natural calamity involving immense electrical storms, devastating hail, volcanic upheaval including pollution of ocean waters, and cosmic destruction of stars and other natural lights (vv. 7-9). The third trumpet may involve atomic warfare or some other nuclear catastrophe, which, after taking multitudes of lives, contaminates the waters and thus brings about the demise of many more (vv. 10, 11).

Apparently the judgments announced by the trumpets follow chronologically those of the other seals.

1st Trumpet – hail & fire destroys 1/3 of the Earth – trees & grass (grain, bread). “Hail” could be missiles, Star Wars, etc. which cause fire & destruction.

2nd Trumpet – Great mass of fire thrown into the sea (hydrogen bomb?) – 1/3 of the seas destroyed. Fish, boats, all sea life in 1/3 of the oceans.

3rd Trumpet – (Matthew 24:29) A star fell into rivers and springs and polluted it (wormwood – oleander). Could be nuclear radiation.

4th Trumpet – one third of the sun, moon and stars were darkened – throws day & night into confusion. Possibly pollution clouds and/or dust storms from land made barren.

v. 13 Another chance for repentance is offered.

Chapter 9 Trumpets, Continued

v. 1-6 5th Trumpet – [“Star of Morning”- Isa 14:12] Satan is released to torment the Earth. He releases demonic forces on the unsaved people. They will be tortured & tormented for 5 months and they will hope to die.

1: “Fallen” is in the perfect tense, which in Greek emphasizes a past action with results continuing into the future. The tense aids in establishing the identity of this “star” which had long ago been ejected from the heavenlies. The star is Satan, whose pre-cosmic fall continues to

afflict the human family (cf. Isa. 14; Ezek. 28). He is given a key (the power of release) to the bottomless pit. This “abyss” (Lit. shaft of the abyss) is apparently a place of confinement for fallen spirits (fallen angels).

v 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. Suicide, though desirable, will be impossible.

v. 7-11 A mighty army (helicopters, nerve gas) is prepared for war (Joel 2). Abaddon, meaning ‘destruction’ – a fierce demon – is their leader.

v. 8:11 Wormwood. Many species of wormwood (a woody herb) grow in Palestine, and all have a strong, bitter (but not poisonous) taste, which causes the plant to be used as a symbol of bitterness, sorrow, and calamity. This plague will make a third part of the fresh water supply of the Earth unfit for human consumption.

[The translation of the Ukrainian (Russian) word *Chernople* is “wormwood”.]

In this country we have poisonous trees and plants, like oleander, hemlock and nightshade.

v. 11 The “king” or angel who rules over these dissident spirits is also assigned a name which is characteristic of his work. The Hebrew word abaddon and the Greek term apollyon both signify “destruction.” However, this should not be understood as annihilation. The word apollyon arises from *luo* (Gk.), meaning “to loose,” and *apo*, a preposition indicating movement away. The idea is that the destruction caused by Satan and sin is, in effect, the loss of all meaningful existence and is due to being loosed forever from God.

v. 12 This could mean that the 24-hour cycle of day and night will be shortened to 16 hours or that the power of the sun, moon, and stars will be reduced by one-third.

v. 13 6th Trumpet – War (four most wicked angels) is released to destroy 1/3 of the world’s population.

These four angels (demons) are released in order to kill one-third of the remaining population of the Earth. Added to the one-fourth who were killed under the fourth seal judgment (6:4) these two judgments alone destroy one-half of the population, not including those who are killed by wars, famines, and diseases. The hour (v. 15). Lit., this *particular* hour.

v. 16 The army from the East (China) – 200 million men strong – at the river Euphrates – with tanks (heads of lions).

The 200,000,000 creatures who compose this supernatural cavalry may be human beings or demons or demon-possessed humans. For other supernatural armies, (see 2 Kings 2:11; 6:14-17; Rev. 19:14).

v. 19 Power in their mouths & tails – shooting shells, missiles, rockets.

v. 20-21 After 1/3 of the world was destroyed – still the people would not repent of going the way of the world – worshiping demons, idols of gold, silver, brass, stone & wood (treasures of the world) – murder, magic, immorality & thievery.

(1) Murder – Abolition of death penalty, lack of training

(2) Sorceries, magic – (pharmakeia) [drugs] – sorceries. i.e., magical arts, potions, and poisons (see Gal. 5:20; Rev. 18:23; 21:8; 22:15). From the Greek word, we derive the English word “pharmacies.” This chapter shows the reality and some of the activity of the unseen world of Satan and demons and the hardness of human hearts.

(3) Immorality (porneia) – sexual activity outside of marriage

(4) Thievery – increases in events of robbery, home invasion, etc.

v. 20 Nothing more astonishing could be concluded about the two woes thus far revealed than the disastrous trumpet judgments. There are two specific categories of un-repentance mentioned: heretical worship (v. 20) and the immorality of men (v. 21). This is the failure of men of theology. The purpose of the Great Tribulation is to demonstrate, over a seven year period, the consequences of living under the judgment of God. The goal of such an appeal is to encourage men to repent in light of the certainty of God’s eternal vengeance, foreshadowed by the seven tragic years of physical wrath. The result of this last appeal in terms of judgment demonstrates the essential corruption of man. With full awareness of the judgment of God, men still do not repent.

This completes Part Three.

Revelation 10, 11, 12, 13

Part 4

Chapter 10 Judgments Continue

v. 1-7 A mighty angel with God's anointing came down from Heaven.

A. Cloud – God's vehicle for visitation

B. Rainbow – God keeps and remembers His judgments (promises)

C. Sun – Glowing from the presence of God

D. Feet of Fire – (Forerunner of Jesus) By Divine judgment, taking possession of the Earth

v. 2 The "Book" represents title-deed to the Earth.

v. 3-4 The sequence of judgments continues. Following the seals and trumpets, seven thunders utter their voices. John is about to record this message, in accord with previous instructions, when he is prevented from doing so by the intervention of a voice from heaven. He is told that the awesome message of the seven thunders must be sealed up. The intent of this event is to remind John and his readers that as devastating as the judgments of seals, trumpets, and bowls are, they are not exhaustive. The wrath of the period of the Great Tribulation is ultimately unimaginable.

v. 6 The word translated "delay" (chronos, Gk.) is illuminating. The fact that numerous events do in fact follow suggests that the angelic proclamation does not announce the end of chronological time, but rather the end of any further delay. Events of the Great Tribulation will now pass swiftly, moving inevitably toward the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.

v. 8-10 The precise content of the bittersweet book is uncertain. That the book contains the words of God concerning end-time matters is evident. Eating the book has to do with the assimilation of the message of the book. The judgments of God are sweet in that they bring evil to the proper end. On the other hand, the book is also bitter because the wrath of God is devastating as it falls upon the unrepentant recipients.

v. 11 Give yet another warning – another chance for repentance & salvation.

Chapter 11 The Two Witnesses

v. 1 Five distinct temples are alluded to by the Scriptures. Solomon's temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C. Antiochus Epiphanes pillaged and consecrated to Jupiter the temple of Zerubbabel in 168 B.C. Herod's magnificent temple was reduced to ashes by Titus in A.D. 70. The fourth temple, the edifice described in this chapter, is to be the focus of attention during the

Great Tribulation. Finally, the fifth temple will be the millennial temple described in Ezek. 40-47. In the measuring of this tribulation temple, the court is not measured because it is given to the Gentiles (or nations) for a period of 42 months, a period which corresponds to one-half of Daniel's Seventieth Week (cf. Dan. 9:24). This is also presented as a period of three and one-half prophetic years and as 1,260 days. Apparently the Antichrist will enter into covenant with Israel, a covenant which he will ruthlessly break after only three and one-half years. The remaining 42 months will be a time of incredible suffering for Israel during which the city of Jerusalem will be occupied by Gentiles.

v. 3-6 The two witnesses (see Zech 4:3, 11, 14) preach for 3½ years. They have great power.

v. 3-10 Identification of the two witnesses (see Mal 4:5, 6) has produced a host of interpretations. Those who follow a spiritual or allegorical approach have identified them as the O.T. and N.T., others as Elijah and Moses because of the similarities in activity, and still others as Elijah and Enoch since these never experienced death. A better interpretation would seem to be that the two witnesses represent two last-day prophets who perform their ministries in the spirit and power of Elijah and Moses. These names are not provided, and they should not be identified with any previous biblical character. The place of the execution of these witnesses is Jerusalem. The remarkable effectiveness of their ministry may be observed in the universal rejoicing which follow their deaths (v. 10).

The identity of the two?

Elijah will return "Hold back the rain," his famous O.T. miracle.

Moses turned the water into blood.

Both were removed before their ministry on earth was finished (Elijah in a chariot of fire).

Moses couldn't enter the promised land; but may stand and preach right in the middle of Jerusalem.

Elijah ran in fear from the heathen queen, Jezebel; but may shake his fist under the nose of the anti-Christ.

v. 7-14 Anti-Christ has them killed. Their bodies lie in street for three days (i.e., crucifixion, resurrection).

v. 9 The whole world will look on them (by satellite TV?). Just 100 years ago everyone considered instant world-wide viewing as impossible!

v. 10 The world has a "satanic celebration."

v. 11-13 They arise, go to Heaven on a cloud and 7,000 are killed in an earthquake. Many are converted as a result of this and give glory to the true God!

v. 15-18 The last (seventh) trumpet sounds – The last Judgment. The host of Heaven rejoices & worships God. Then there is the release of the devil onto the Earth (shown in Chapter 12).

v. 19 shows a mirror image in Heaven of the temple which will be on Earth, including the Ark of the Covenant.

Chapter 12 **A Review of History**

v.1 The woman clothed with the sun cannot be the church. Christ gave birth to the church, not the church to Christ. The 12 stars upon her head are a certain indication that she should be identified as Israel. The Child which she delivers is the Christ (v. 5). The dragon who drew a third of the stars, probably a reference to the angelic hosts, from heaven is Satan (v. 4). Thus, a panorama of messianic history from the birth and the ascension of Jesus to the three and one-half years of persecution of the nation of Israel is revealed.

v. 3-4 Red dragon is Satan. Red = blood. Fallen angels.

v. 6 The Ascension. Jews are scattered.

v. 7-10 Final attempt by Satan to take over Heaven – he is banished to Earth.

v. 11: Several promises in the book focus on those who overcome. The method of “overcoming” is the atonement of Christ and the testimony concerning His sacrifice. Only He is sufficient to expel Satan. The saved on Earth defeat the devil “by the word of their testimony.” They are prepared for death – ‘martyr’ means a form of witness. There are martyrs today (see Matt 24:16,17).

v. 13-14 Wilderness place is Petra. The eagle represents air-lift? There is a flood of soldiers which are swallowed up by the earth. There is an all-out attack against the Jews.

Chapter 13 **The Rising of the Anti-Christ**

v. 1-3 The appearance of the beast rising out of the sea is the same figure as Daniel’s fourth beast (Dan. 7:7, 24-27). A revival of the ancient Roman Empire, greatly expanded, is in view. In ch.17 the scarlet woman sits upon this beast and is said to have seven heads which are seven mountains, a clear allusion to Rome. This revived western confederacy combines the characteristics of the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Macedonian empires. One of the heads is wounded, obviously fatally; yet the wound has been healed (v. 3), and the head is miraculously revived. As the chapter proceeds, the description of the beast becomes more personal. The Antichrist himself will sit at the helm of this coalition.

v 1-10 The anti-Christ rises out of a sea of world unrest.

The horns represent political power (10 nations) (see Daniel 7 & 8). Four world empires rise and fall: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. The new Europe (European Economic

Community) comes out of the fourth. Seven nations, with crowns, willingly follow the beast; three will join unwillingly and will follow the 'Roman' leader.

The Greeks struck their foes like a leopard, quickly, silently. Medo-Persia was like the bear, powerful, unstoppable. The beast will be 'unstoppable.'

Babylon was like the King of the Beasts (lion), in royal splendor. Has royal tricks, like rising from the dead, solves poverty problem, hunger and war. There is a time of peace & prosperity.

The world will follow the resurrected beast. He blasphemes God for 3½ years. People worship the anti-Christ as God, except those whose names are still written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Satan directs the anti-Christ to wage war against the Christians and they are martyred.

v.11-18 The Beast will come out of the Earth (the land of Israel). The false prophet and all the power of the anti-Christ becomes more ruthless and enslave the minds and souls of people.

The first beast has political (crown) power. The second has religious (uncrowned) power. He will merge all religions into one (hence, "false prophet"), including the Jews. Doctrines of Jesus Christ will have disappeared.

The unholy trinity: the first beast proclaims himself as God. The second masquerades as Messiah. And the liberated demons imitate the Holy Spirit (Rev 16).

The False Prophet:

1. Exercises unlimited authority (v. 12).
2. Forces people to worship the (Roman) anti-Christ (v. 12).
3. Performs great miracles (v. 13).
4. Deceives the population (v. 14).
5. Forces people to worship anti-Christ's image in God's Temple (v. 14).
6. Murders all non-conformists (v. 15).
7. Forces people to receive the 'mark of the beast' (v. 16).

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

There will be no buying or selling of anything without the mark.

All 'beast worshippers' will be required to accept the mark of the beast, which may be accomplished by: tattooing the right hand or the forehead [possibly with ultra-violet ink] or, more likely, with an implanted micro-chip or some other sensor device, placed under the skin of

the hand or the forehead, which would be activated by a scanner and would emanate the code number. The latter method is now being used to track animals in the wild!

Since the mark of the beast is associated with the number “666” (Chapter 13, v. 18) it may possibly be three sets of six digits.

(Note:) current national credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, etc.) have 16 digits. This would enable everyone in the United States to have a credit card. To incorporate all the people *in the whole world* to come under a common numbering system, there must be 18 digits; 6+6+6.

{“666”} In Bible numerology, six represents man (humanity). Three is the number for God (the Trinity). Three sixes represent man trying to be (God) the Trinity.

See a detailed description in my posting: ***What IS the Mark of the Beast – – “6-6-6” ?***

This concludes Part IV.

Revelation 14, 15, 16

Part 5

Chapter 14 Jesus Prepares For His Return!

v. 1-5 There is rejoicing in the earth by the 144,000 Jews during the Tribulation - songs of miraculous and preserving grace of God through the horrors of the Tribulation period.

Vs. 1 The 144,000 first pictured in ch. 7 are now presented in heaven in the presence of the elders and the four living creatures. They are redeemed from the earth but are distinct from the 24 redeemed elders. They are the first-fruits of the new era which began with the translation of the church. The description accorded to them, “virgins,” probably means that these had abstained from the pollution of earth, and not necessarily that they had never married.

v. 6-11 Three angels are permitted to preach to people on the Earth. Angels were never allowed to preach before. (See 1 Peter 1: 12).

v. 8 Babylon was viewed with special disfavor by the Hebrews due to the humiliation of the 70 years of captivity, the gross immorality and idolatry of the Babylonians, and the influence of the Babylonian mystery religions. The Christian community came to view the capital city of Rome as the new Babylon, oppressive and immoral. Soon Babylon became the Christian code for Rome. The repetition of the verb form “is fallen” emphasizes the utter desolation of that city’s downfall.

v. 11 To worship the Beast (by accepting his ‘mark’) is to receive eternal damnation.

v. 12-13 The alternative to going to Hell (by accepting the mark of the beast) is to “die in the Lord” (be martyred).

v. 14-15 Angels divide the believers from the unbelievers, supervised by Jesus. This is done just prior to Jesus’ return. **The Day of Grace ends at this time**; there will be no more opportunities to be saved.

v. 17-20 There is a judgment of the armies against God, at Armageddon. Jesus avenges the attacks against Jerusalem. There is blood 200 miles wide and 5½ feet deep!

Chapter 15 The Closing of the Earthly Sanctuary

v.1 The seven angels administer God’s divine judgment on Satan’s kingdom and the power of the Beast (it is ‘finished’).

v.2 – 3 The martyrs sing the song of Moses, praising God for His faithfulness and deliverance (Ex. 15 and Deut. 32) and magnifying God’s holiness and righteousness. The martyrdom of the saints is vindicated. There is triumph in death! There are songs of victory, praise and worship; which answer the questions (in Chapter 6:10) “*how long?*”

v. 5 – 8 This is the Heavenly Tabernacle – the Day of Atonement – The Ark & Mercy Seat – the Shekinah glory of God (see Hebrews 9:1 -5).

The three items from the Ark signify man's rejection of God and His Divine Guidance.

It's time now for the Judgment Seat of Christ.

THE SANCTUARY IS CLOSED – IT'S TOO LATE TO PRAY!

Chapter 16 The Battles Leading to Armageddon

v. 1 These are angels in priestly robes. The bowls are the same as used in offering prayers up to God.

v.2 Incurable skin disease (radiation ?). A loathsome and malignant sore. Lit., foul and evil sore. Probably a plague of ulcers. The brief descriptions of these last seven judgments (vv. 2-12, 17-21) may suggest that they occur in rapid succession upon a world already badly battered and bloodied.

Though there are similarities between the bowl judgments and some of the trumpet judgments in chaps. 8-9 there are differences as well, the bowl judgments being more intensive and extensive. Thus it is best not to see the bowls as repeating the trumpets but as a distinct series of judgments following the trumpets.

v. 3 EVERYTHING in the sea dies (see 8:9)! Imagine the hunger, stench and disease that will accompany this event.

Until now, the judgments against the earth and man have increased gradually (measured), but now all stops are removed and its full-speed ahead!

v. 4 – 7 ALL fresh (drinking) water is polluted by blood. "They have shed the blood of the saints, now, let them drink it!" Though drinking bloody **salt** water would be **toxic**, drinking bloody fresh water, though disgusting, would not be.

v. 8 – 9 Scorching heat might indicate radical alteration of atmospheric conditions on earth (severe, immediate "Global Warming") or intense nuclear explosions on the sun OR ON EARTH . Even these suggestions do not exhaust the possibilities. Side effects of this scorching heat will drastically affect the climate, possibly including excessive evaporation and melting of the great ice areas of the world.

The heat of the sun scorches the earth, because of the damaged ozone layer/atmosphere, but there is no water to cool off. Still they won't repent of their sins.

v. 10-11 These are plagues of darkness, similar to those of Egypt (Moses). Troops move into place for the final battle.

v. 12-16 Like the 6th trumpet in Chapter 9. The Kings of the East (Joel 3:12, 14)

v. 12 The kings from the east. Lit., the kings from the rising of the sun. The armies of the nations of the Orient will be aided in their march toward Armageddon by the supernatural drying up of the Euphrates River.

v. 13 Three unclean spirits, like frogs, are the unholy trinity. Three unclean spirits, as though it were a pseudo-trinity, emerge from the mouth of the dragon. Their express purpose is to inject the spirit of unrest and retaliation in the kings of the earth, gathering them together in a place called Armageddon (vv. 14-16). The Valley of Megiddo, or Armageddon, is located about 15 miles southeast of modern Haifa. Apparently this becomes the center of the strife of Armageddon, but it must be understood that the conflict necessarily rages over an even larger area.

v.14 Performing signs to gather them together for the war – the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. The war will consist of several battles, beginning with Antichrist’s campaign into Egypt (Dan. 11:40-45) and including a siege of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:2) as well as the final battle at Armageddon (v. 16).

v.16 Har-Magedon, or Armageddon. Lit., Mount of Megiddo, near the city of Megiddo at the head of the plain of Esdraelon. This area was the scene of many OT battles, notably those of Barak with the Canaanites (Judg. 4) and of Gideon with the Midianites (Judg. 7).

v.15 A call to surviving believers to watch and be alert. The clothes of a guard caught asleep on duty were taken from him, leaving him naked and disgraced.

THE SIX STAGES OF THE BATTLE

Stage 1: An Arab-African Confederacy (Daniel 11:40) “King of the South” attacks Israel

Stage 2: (Joel 2:1-10, 20) A full scale invasion against Israel by Russia (Daniel 11:40-45) “The King of the North” – Gog & Magog. They then go through to Egypt and take it over.

Stage 3: “Rumors from the East & North” (Daniel 11:44b- 45) Russia moves back to Israel, near Jerusalem, to fight off an attack from the East (China).

Stage 4: Russia is destroyed by the anti-Christ’s forces from Rome (Daniel 11) (Ezekiel 38). Zech. 14:12 shows the Russian army is destroyed by (nuclear blast?). “A rain of hail, fire & brimstone” (Eze. 38:22).

Stage 5: The 200 million man army of China (East) prepares to attack the anti-Christ in Israel (Rev. 16:12)

Stage 6: All the armies of the world led by the anti-Christ prepare to go against the army of China at the Plain of Armageddon (Rev. 16: 13, 14).

v. 17-21

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

(Zech. 14:1 – 15) (Rev. 14: 20) Three hundred **million** soldiers slaughter each other.

Every city in the world will be leveled -“shaking of the earth”- the land will be ripped apart.

One hundred pound hailstones fell on the people.

v.19 The “**great**” city, could be either Jerusalem (11:8; cf. Zech. 14:4) or Babylon (18:2).

v.20-21 The topography of the earth will be drastically changed, and unbelieving survivors of the hailstorm **will curse God** instead of turning to Him.

This is the end of Part Five

5. Greece (idolatry)
6. The fallen Roman Empire (of John's day) (occultish religions like Babylon)
7. Revived Roman Empire w/10 horns (nations) (EEOC – Common Market)

v.12 ...ten kings. The 10-nation federation that will form in the West (EEOC) and will be headed by the Antichrist. One hour – i.e., *for one purpose* [“for such a time as this”] (as in Luke 22:53).

v.16 ...these will hate the harlot. The political power headed by Antichrist will overthrow the false church organization (probably at the midpoint of the Tribulation).

v.14-18 The Harlot (Rome) will be turned back on by the anti-Christ and will self-destruct.

Chapter 18 The Economic System Fails

Babylon is rebuilt as a great commerce center (Zech. 5:5 – 11)

The ephah – the measure of a bushel – is a symbol of commerce.

Shinar is another name for Babylon.

Rome is the temporary location of the new Babylon (religion) but when things get hot in and with the anti-Christ, occultism returns to its original base site of Babylon.

v. 8 ...in one day. The judgment will be consummated in a single day, as happened once before to Babylon, when it was taken by Darius (Dan. 5:1, 3-5, 30).

v.20 God has pronounced judgment for you against her – i.e., God has judged her for her treatment of you. Heaven and the martyrs may now rejoice.

v.22-23 No music, no worker, no machinery, no light, no happiness shall be found in Babylon anymore.

Chapter 19 The Champion Returns!

v. 1 – 6 (Ties back to the end of Chapter 16 – see Matthew 24:21, 22)

There is a preparation in Heaven for Jesus to return to earth (a Jesus rally).

Hallelujah – is a *command* and literally means (you) praise the Lord. The word occurs only in this chapter in the entire NT. It does appear as a brief doxology in several psalms, e.g., 150:1, 6. The praise is for salvation (v. 1), for righteous retribution (vv. 2-3), for God Himself (vv. 4-5), and for His reign (v. 6).

v. 7-10 An invitation to a wedding reception. The ancient custom include:

1. Marriage contract – “betrothal”
2. At the age of maturity, the groom prepares and presents their home (dowry & gifts)
3. Wedding feast – celebration of the union

The Christian parallel:

1. Salvation – a contract with Jesus
2. Rapture – takes the bride away, to show the new home
3. Wedding feast – (from a clue in Matt. 26: 29) perhaps celebrating the beginning of the millennial reign on earth

v. 8 the righteous acts of the saints. The good works of believers will constitute the wedding garment when the congregation of the faithful are joined to Christ in marriage (cf. 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:26-27).

v. 10 “Worship only God!”

The angel says that every aspect of prophesy is a testimony about Jesus (His Spirit fills all prophesy).

v. 11-16 JESUS RETURNS !

v. 11 Heaven opened. This is the second coming of Christ to the earth—during the war of Armageddon, in which He will be the Victor and in which all who oppose Him will be slain (vv. 19, 21). Faithful and True. These terms have been used previously of Christ (1:5; 3:7).

Zechariah (14: 4a) predicted 500 years *before* Jesus was born just **how** and **where** He would return.

There is a geological fault under the Mount of Olives.

Bloodstains – winepress - see Isaiah 63:1- 4

Jesus will not come again as a *suffering* Messiah. He will come as the **Conquering** King, coming to reclaim His kingdom. The crowns on His head are *diademata* (Gk.), or kingly crowns (v. 12), in contrast to the *stephanous* (Gk.), or victors’ crowns, of the elders (v. 4:4).

v.20 The beast and his false prophet will be the first occupants of the lake of fire; other unbelievers, now in hades, will join them at the end of the Millennium (20:14).

v.17-21 The anti-Christ & the false prophet are judged – they go directly to the ‘second death.’

v.17-18 This return of Christ at the close of the Great Tribulation culminates in a call to the birds and scavenger animals to gather themselves for a feast at the supper of the great God. He destroys (kills) all who are against Him. The beast and the false prophet attempt to join the conflict only to discover themselves banished to the lake of fire. Those remaining of the forces of the Beast are killed and the fowl feed on their bodies.

The ‘sheep and the goats’ are separated – all persons saved during the Tribulation period that remain alive and the 144,000 Jews are spared by Jesus.

This ends Part Six.

Revelation 20, 21, 22

Part Seven

Chapter 20 The Millennial Reign of Jesus

Chapter 20 introduces the glorious reign of Christ known as the Millennium. Mille (Lat.) means “thousand,” while annum (Lat.) means “years.” These are the characteristics of that reign: (1) the binding of Satan in the abyss, i.e., “bottomless pit” (vv. 2, 3); (2) the reigning of previously glorified saints along with Christ (v. 4); and (3) the monumental reversal of the curse of sin upon the earth (cf. Isa. 2:1-5; 11:1-9; Jer. 31:31-34; Joel 3:17-21; Amos 9:11-15; Mic. 4:1-5; Luke 1:31-33; 1 Cor. 15:24-28). The purposes of this kingdom age may be summarized as follows: (1) to fulfill the prophecies of the O.T. and the N.T. which prophesy such an era; (2) to demonstrate the blessings of God when the conditions of His economy are met; and (3) to demonstrate that even under utopian conditions with Satan himself bound, men born during the Millennium demonstrate the innate sinfulness of the human heart, and at the conclusion of the age rebel against a good and merciful God.

v. 4 The occupants of the thrones are not identified. Some think they are the 12 disciples (Luke 22:29-30), others that they are the church saints (1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12) the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus. These are the martyrs of the tribulation days who will be resurrected to share the joys of the millennial kingdom.

v. 5 The rest of the dead. The wicked dead will be raised and judged after the Millennium. the first resurrection. Refers back to the end of verse 4. This resurrection includes all the righteous (the resurrection of life, John 5:29, and the resurrection of the righteous, Luke 14:14), who will be raised before the Millennium begins.

v. 7 The release of Satan enables that evil spirit to mount one final offensive against the Lord of life. Gog and Magog, mentioned in Ezek. 38, indicate a confederation which, though vast and powerful, is still no equal to God. Fire from heaven ends the rebellion, and Satan follows the beast and false prophet into hell.

Children will be born to those (living) saved survivors of the Tribulation . Satan will be released to tempt **them** (as he did with each of us!) , and *those* children will have to choose between right or wrong (offered salvation).

v.11-15 Final judgment for unbelievers occurs at the Great White Throne. “Books” (plural form) refers to the cataloging of the thought- and action-life of all men. “Book” (singular) is a reference to the Lamb’s Book of Life in which the names of all the redeemed are recorded. The event is for the purpose of demonstrating the perfect justice of God in His judgments. This is accomplished by revealing to men the essential sinfulness of their acts and thoughts and by further reminding them of their tragic failure to respond properly to the atoning grace of Christ.

The consequence of these failures is that unbelievers join Satan, the beast, and the false prophet in hell, i.e., the lake of fire.

Chapter 21 The Three Heavens

v. 1-5 There are clearly three “heavens” to which the Scriptures refers: (1) the firmament (Gen. 1:8), pertaining to the earth’s atmosphere; (2) the stellar universe in its expanse (Ps. 19:1); and (3) the unique dwelling place of God (Heb. 4:14). The latter place, an actual location prepared for God’s people, is in view in the remaining chapters of the Apocalypse. John 14 describes clearly a real place uniquely prepared for believers. Heaven is viewed as a place where God will always be with His people (v. 3), a place lacking sorrow, death, pain, and other crises of life in this dispensation (v. 4), a place of pristine and immaculate beauty (vv. 9-26), a place free from sin or defilement (v. 27), a condition of perpetual life (22:1,2), and the province of God’s eternal reign (22:5). Strange notions of heaven often distort the beauty of this Christian doctrine. Heaven is a place of ceaseless activity and meaningful responsibility, without the limitations of the space-time-mortality continuum. Christians will reign forever (22:5), which involves activity and responsibility.

The present creation will be destroyed so that it may be cleansed from all the effects of sin (2 Peter 3:7, 10, 12). There will be no more seas because climatic and human conditions and needs will be completely different.

v. 2 New Jerusalem functions as the focal point of worship and activity for all eternity. The renovation of the heavens and the earth (v. 1; 2 Pet. 3:10, 11) indicates a continuing place for the entire universe in the plan of God. But the incomparable New Jerusalem will preside as the capital and heart of the heavenly kingdom.

v. 3-4 People will enjoy a new intimacy with God and the elimination of those sorrows that sin brings.

v. 8 Those whose lives can be characterized in these ways will be cast into the lake of fire, because they have shown themselves to be unbelievers. Brimstone = sulfur.

v.16-17 Jesus is gracious because (1) He gave the book of Revelation to the churches, (2) as the son of David He will fulfill Israel’s promises, (3) He is the morning star, the forerunner of the new day, and (4) He offers the water of life freely.

v. 18 The colors of the foundations of the city are arresting even by mere description. Although interpreters are uncertain about the exact identification and color of each stone mentioned, the following will give an approximation: jasper = green; sapphire = sky blue; chalcedony = green copper silicate; emerald = greenest of all stones; sardonyx = white; sardius = blood red; chrysolite = gold; beryl = sea green; topaz = transparent greenish-gold; chrysoptase = yellow-green; jacinth = violet; amethyst = blue or purple.

The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

v. 24 Whether these nations and kings are millennial people or resurrected people in the eternal state is unclear. In either case, only the redeemed will be allowed to enter the city (v. 27).

v. 27 As in v. 8, all that would defile the city are excluded. No one whose name is not recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life is admitted.

Chapter 22 The NEW Jesusalem

v. 1-2 These descriptive phrases indicate fullness of life and continuous blessing in the New Jerusalem.

v. 12 Salvation is not of works but rewards **are** dispensed for your works on earth.

v. 14 Manuscript readings favoring the translation of "do His commandments" are inferior and highly questionable on theological grounds. The better manuscripts are also theologically consistent with the scriptural teachings of salvation by grace appropriated by faith, and read "blessed are those who wash their robes". The washing of robes refers to the cleansing by the blood of Christ to which the believers submit.

v. 17 Appropriately, the Revelation of the Lord concludes with an invitation. Indeed, the book was not written merely to comfort suffering Christians, as some interpreters say; but, like the Bible as a whole, the book was written with a view to the conversion of the lost. The last hymn of appeal features a trio consisting of the Spirit, the bride or the church, and those who hear, as they all issue an appeal to come and "take the water of life freely." Even in a book weighted with awesome judgments, the merciful and loving heart of God manifests itself in this concluding invitation to lost men.

v. 18-19 Early Christian writers understood these verses as warnings to false teachers who would tamper with or alter the content of the Apocalypse. Such individuals by their actions reveal their unregenerate state and, therefore, are cursed with judgment (v. 18) and excluded from heaven (v. 19).

v. 20 Yes, I am coming quickly. The third occurrence of this promise (see vv. 7, 12). The believer's reaction is, "Do come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

AMEN!