Eschatology:
A Biblical Study of End Times

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1. **Bird’s-Eye View to Understanding the Bible**

   A. **An abbreviated chronology**

   1. Creation of the Heaven and Earth, *Genesis 1*.
   2. Earth prepared for man, *Genesis 1*.
   4. Satan’s rebellion, *Genesis 3*.
   5. Man’s failure through sin, *Genesis 3*.
   6. The whole of mankind sins, *Genesis 6-7*.
   8. Israel becomes God’s chosen nation, *Genesis 12* and following.
   10. First Advent of the Messiah, *Gospels*.
   12. Church is called up to meet the Lord in the air, *1 Thessalonians 4*.
   15. Second Advent of the Messiah, *Revelation 19*.
   17. Israel is again God’s chosen nation and Christ is her King, *Revelation 20*.
   19. Earth is destroyed by God and all the lost are judged, *Revelation 20*.
B. God’s timeline for the future of the Church

1. The Church age which will conclude at the Rapture of the Church, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, i.e. the Resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15.

2. The Church will be judged for their works, 1 Corinthians 3. The Church (also seen in Heaven as the 24 Elders) will be rewarded and cast their crowns at the throne of God. The Church (the bride of Christ) will celebrate the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, Revelation 19.

3. We will return with Jesus to the Earth to reign for the Millennial (1000-year) Reign of Christ, Revelation 20.

4. We will be with Christ during His Eternal Reign when the New Heaven and New Earth are created, Revelation 21-22.

C. God’s timeline for the future of the rest of the world


2. A peace treaty will be signed between Israel and a determined confederacy. The Antichrist or prince will lead the world into a contract which will begin the Tribulation. Daniel 9:27.

3. The Tribulation is recorded in Revelation 6-19. It will last 7 years. The Seven Seals are unleashed on the world.

4. The 7-year Tribulation is divided in two. The second 3½ years is known as the Great Tribulation, Matthew 24:21. The Jews will build a third temple and begin sacrifices again during the Tribulation. The Abomination of Desolation will start the second half of the Tribulation when the Antichrist enters the Jewish Temple declaring that he is God. Jesus calls this act the Abomination of Desolation. Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27.

5. The battle at Armageddon will conclude the Tribulation, Revelation 19.

6. The Millennial reign of Christ will begin, Revelation 20; Isaiah 11, 65.

7. A final war against Christ and His capitol Jerusalem will end the Millennial Reign. Jesus will destroy all who make war against Him and Christ will destroy the Earth, Revelation 20:7-10.


9. The New Heaven and New Earth will be created by our Creator. God’s eternal, perfect plan for all believers will begin, Revelation 21-22.
2. Terms and their Definitions relating to Eschatology (Last Days)

Eschatology – The study of the last days.

Rapture – Literally a catching up, based on the Latin word used in the Vulgate version of 1 Thessalonians 4:17. It refers to the catching up to the clouds of Christians who are alive at the coming of Christ, an event immediately preceded by the resurrection of Christians who have already died.

Judgment Seat of Christ – The judgment for believers which will occur at the return of Jesus Christ and when the saints will receive their reward for what they have done in Christ.

The Last Days – This Biblical term is used in Joel 2 and Acts 2 to describe an extended time period in which God reveals the world’s spiritual condition before the Resurrection of the Church until the New Heaven and New Earth.

Tribulation – This is a seven-year period on Earth which God will unleash His Seven Seals of judgment on the Earth. These seven years are Biblically divided into the first 3½ years and the second 3½. The second 3½ begins as the Antichrist enters the Temple and desecrates it by proclaiming he is God and making the sacrifices cease.

Apostasy – A spiritual falling away, i.e., a rebellion, as described in 2 Thessalonians 2.3.

Antichrist – The false Messiah, energized by Satan, who will arise in opposition to God, Christianity, and Israel just prior to Christ’s Coming, 2 Thessalonians 2.3-10.

Day of the Lord – This is a future period in which God will pour out His wrath on the world in order to destroy the lost and preserve true believers. Isaiah 13:6.

Armageddon – Easton defines Armageddon: Occurs only in Revelation 16:16, as symbolically designating the place where the “battle of that great day of God Almighty,” Revelation 16:14, shall be fought. The word properly means the “mount of Megiddo.” It is the scene of the final conflict between Christ and Antichrist.

Second Coming – Also “Second Advent.” The return of Christ in glory, as differentiated from His first coming in humiliation. Christ will return in bodily form to destroy His enemies and establish His Millennial Reign, Acts 1:11, Matthew 24.

Abomination of Desolation – An abomination is something hateful and disgusting. To desolate is to ruin or lay waste. This biblical event will happen when the Antichrist declares himself to be God in the temple of God in Jerusalem. It is prophesied to occur in the middle of Daniel's 70th Week, Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15.
**Antichrist** – The world leader who will rise to power out of the fourth beast kingdom as prophesied in Daniel 7. He will confirm a covenant with Israel and then, after 3½ years, he will put a stop to the sacrifice and offering in the temple when he declares himself to be God. During the Great Tribulation he will receive power from Satan as he deceives the world and attempts to destroy the people of God.

**False Prophet** – A member of the unholy trinity: Satan, Antichrist and the False Prophet. This trinity dominates the Earth during the Great Tribulation. The False Prophet is the second beast of Revelation who comes out of the earth and sets up the system that uses the Mark of the Beast, Revelation 13:11-18.

**Daniel’s 70th Week “The Tribulation”** – This non-biblical term refers to the last seven years of Daniel’s 490-year prophecy. To date 483 years of the 490 years have been completely fulfilled. One seven-year period is still outstanding and will be fulfilled during the end times. This seven-year period begins with a covenant confirmed with Israel by the Antichrist.

**Millennium** – The one-thousand-year period during which Christ will reign on Earth after His second coming, and during which Satan will be bound, Revelation 20.

**Great White Throne Judgment** – This is the final judgment of all the lost. This will take place after the thousand-year earthly reign of Christ. The White Throne Judgment is the judgment of unbelievers. All who stand before Jesus Christ at this judgment will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all of eternity.
3. The Last Days 1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 3

To understand the flow of Prophecy throughout the Scriptures it is good to know how God highlights the subject through His Word. The Old Testament emphasizes the Millennial Reign of Christ. The Gospels emphasize the Second Coming of Christ. The general Epistles emphasize the Rapture. The Revelation Emphasizes the Tribulation.

To understand Prophecy, one must take the Scriptures literally not figuratively. The Bible can be studied to see the literal patterns for interpretation. We are not to look for secret codes or deep hidden meanings. The Word is to be taken literally until clear symbolism is being taught.

Today’s liberal teachers will not teach on eschatology because they do not believe there will be a Rapture, Tribulation or Millennial Reign.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know that in the Last Days, is a phrase that teaches us that we are to know the details of the Last Days. Here is a list of details related to this study so that you will KNOW the truth as given in the Word of God.

2. We are in the Last Days already, 1 John 2:18-19; Hebrews 1:1-2.
3. The Church age does not fulfill the Last Days. Israel is quite involved with the prophecies related to the Last days. We do not hold to a replacement Theology. This term means the Church replaced Israel and all prophecies related to Israel will now be fulfilled by the Church.
4. The Last Days are not limited to the Church age but continues through the Tribulation and on through the Millennial Reign of Christ. The destruction of the Earth and Great White Throne Judgment will complete the Last Days. 2 Peter 3:3-18; Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 2:2.

A. 1 Timothy 4:1-6

1. Verse 1 gives the message from the Holy Spirit. In this verse God reveals there will be a falling away from the faith by some. This is known as apostasy. How this will happen is further explained. New doctrines will be given by Satan. Seducing spirits are impostors or those who will mislead by deceiving lost people in their lie, see 2 John 1:7; 1 John 4:6. The phrase doctrine of devils is the teachings and instructions inspired by demons. The work of these evil spirits is here especially concerned with striking at the true teaching which underlies godliness.

2. In Verse 2 God reveals they will be speaking lies. False doctrines, which are completely opposing clear Biblical teachings. The word hypocrisy means to act under a feigned part. They will hide their true motives and agendas. Their conscience is seared or insensitive to the truth.
3. In Verse 3 we are told that there will be a prohibition of marriage and meats. These ascetic tendencies had already begun in the early Church but God reveals they get worse the closer we get to the rapture Titus 1:14-16; Colossians 2:8; 1 John 4:3. God has clearly taught that marriage and meats are both approved by God. 1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Corinthians 8:8. Our text goes on to approve meats that have been provided by God. We are to thank God for the meat and to receive it with thanksgiving. God’s Word declares both clean.

B. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

1. In Verses 1 and 2 we see again the heart of the lost world in the Last Days. Perilous or dangerous, troublesome times will increase, Matthew 8:28. Selfishness will abound, and the love of money along with greed and an unsatisfied mind will grow more intense. Boasters or braggars driven by their pride will be seen. Men will blaspheme, which means to speak evil and slander. Children will be disobedient to their own parents. Man will have no gratitude. They will be unholy in their actions and thoughts.

2. In Verse 3 we are told that mankind will lose their natural affections. This can be seen today through abortion. They will be truce breakers. This means that they will break their agreements and treaties or won’t make one in the first place. The false accusers are people who go about slandering and exciting contention and quarrels, NEWS MEDIA. Incontinent means without self-control. Fierce or savage like actions will happen. They will despise good people.

3. In Verse 4 men will betray one another. Heady is not a word we use. It means man will be ready to do anything without deliberation or concern for the consequences. They People’s minds will be puffed up by being high minded. The love of pleasure and not God will increase. They have a form of godliness by deny the power of God to regenerate and sanctify them. We are told to turn away from them.
4. Rapture Ready

The word rapture does not exist in the Bible, but the meaning of this word stands out abundantly. Rapture means, the carrying of a person to another place. That is what will happen according to the Scriptures. Jesus will take us to be with Him in Heaven, John 14:1-6. This is known as the resurrection of the Church. We will study many Scriptures to prove without a doubt this important doctrine.

A. Biblical proof of the Rapture

1. 1 Thessalonians answered the questions the early Church had for the Apostle Paul, 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18.
2. The Church at Corinth had those who taught there is no resurrection at all. Paul proved the fallacy of their teaching and proved in many ways the truth of the resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15.
3. Other Scriptures that teach the rapture of the Church are: Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; Revelation 22:20. This is not an exhaustive list.

B. What the Rapture accomplishes

1. It is a public declaration of Christ’s victory over death for all who believe. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
2. It is the fulfillment of prophecy.
3. It is to unleash the Antichrist and the work of Satan, 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8.
4. The rapture shows the power of God, Matthew 22:29.
5. The rapture ends the Church age. The Church is not mentioned in Revelation 4-18. She is mentioned again at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in Revelation 19.
6. The rapture is to bring comfort to the Church, 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11.
7. The rapture gives the Church hope. The hope of finally being like Christ, 1 John 3:1-3.
8. The rapture brings our final and permanent state for all eternity. We have the privilege to serve the King of Kings for all eternity, Revelation 1:4-6.
5. **Ezekiel 37 – The Valley of Dry Bones**

The history behind these chapters goes back to Israel's failure to obey God by keeping Him as their one and only God. Idolatry had entered the hearts of the Jews, and they began intermarrying with the non-believing Gentiles.

God's judgment came upon Israel and the captivity for 70 years began. Many times, the prophets of God would tell them of this judgment but would also tell them of their restoration which happened under Ezra and Nehemiah.

This restoration was both a physical restoration and more importantly a spiritual restoration. This physical and spiritual restoration will again happen when Jesus comes back to Earth to establish His Millennial Reign.

Many believe that when Israel became a nation in 1948 the physical restoration began and will be fulfilled spiritually when Jesus comes back to Earth again.

1. **Ezekiel 37:1-14** – The prophecy of life from that which was dead. The nation of Israel is restored to ONE land.

2. **Ezekiel 37:15-20** – Two sticks become ONE. These two sticks were Israel and Judah, the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom.

3. **Ezekiel 37:21-28** – The united kingdom will have ONE Shepherd.
6. Ezekiel 38 – The Call to War

Those involved in this call to war are from the North and South of Israel, but the leadership behind the war is from the North. We see the North as Russia, with Meshech, (Moscow), as its Capitol, see Verse 2. This is seen as Gog and Magog. The Northern part of Africa will also be part of this battle, Ethiopia and Libya. Another important Nation is Persia; we know this area as Iran.

The Nation of Israel is the Nation under attack, Ezekiel 38:16; “And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land.”

The start of this war is instituted by God by putting a hook in their mouth like a horse to make it turn in the direction the Lord wants Russia to go. This direction is toward the South, into the land of Judea. This will happen in what God calls: “The latter Years”, “In that Day”, “In the latter days”, “In those days”. See Verses: 8, 14, 16, 17, 19.

There are several purposes for God to do this. First, to show all the Nations that He is God, Verse 23. Secondly, this is one of the reasons why many scholars believe the Battle of Ezekiel 38 inaugurates the 70th Week of Daniel rather than taking place at its end. During the Great Tribulation (the last half of Daniel’s 70th week) God’s evangelistic effort will be to bring His people into a New Covenant relationship to save them.

But Gabriel told Daniel a Temple would be rebuilt early in the 70th week, meaning that the Jews would first return to Him through the Old Covenant. The Temple must be in place before the middle of the week to be desecrated by the Antichrist (Daniel 9:27 and 2 Thessalonians 2:4) kicking off the Great Tribulation. Daniel’s prophecy also implies that the Antichrist will be involved in getting permission for Israel to build the Temple. This means that the Battle of Ezekiel 38 prepares the world for His entrance. And finally, the Battle of Ezekiel 38, having turned God’s focus back to Israel, means the Age of the Church has ended. And the event that ends the Church Age is the Rapture. For that reason, the Rapture must happen before or no later than during Ezekiel’s battle.
7. Ezekiel 39 – God's Judgment Against Gog and Israel's Victory

1. Ezekiel 39:1-7 explains the following concepts:
2. God is against Russia, Ezekiel 39:1.
3. God moves them to the mountains of Israel, Ezekiel 39:2.
4. God strikes their weapons out of their hands, Ezekiel 39:3.
5. The birds will eat their dead bodies which are strewn on the ground, Ezekiel 39:4-5.
6. The first reason behind this action of God is for Magog to know that Jehovah is God, Ezekiel 39:6.
7. The second reason is for the nation of Israel to know that God's holy name is to be known amongst the Israelites, Ezekiel 39:7.
8. Ezekiel 39:8-10 tells us that Israel will burn the weapons of Russia for seven years. They will live on the spoil of their enemies.
9. Ezekiel 39:11-16 tells us that those who came down from the north will not return. They will die in the land of Israel. The grave diggers will attempt to bury as many bodies as possible.
10. Ezekiel 39:17-20 tells us the birds will cleanse the earth from the rest of the dead bodies lying throughout the land.
11. Ezekiel 39:21-29; the following verses reiterate that God will make His name known among the heathen and Israel. He also teaches that He will protect Israel from her enemies and restore the land. The key phrase in the book of Ezekiel is "they shall know that I am the Lord".
8. The Revelation

The word revelation comes from the Greek word apocalypse, which means: prophecy of Divine things to come. Most times it is used to describe any widespread or universal destruction. This is the Revelation (singular) of Jesus Christ. The author is the close disciple of Jesus named John. He is the writer of 5 books of the New Testament. He is the young disciple who Jesus loved. He was the chosen vessel to write down the most detailed book of the future for the Church age, the Tribulation, the Millennial Reign of Christ and Eternity.

The correct interpretation of the Revelation will give a healthy and Biblical world view. It is more interesting to us as believers than ever before due to the new world order we see arising. Chaos, drugs, wars and mass killings have occupied the news each day. The question of the one world currency, one world government and one world religion are all described and answered in this book. It appears to be a book of doom and gloom, yet, this is a book of HOPE for the believers. We read the back of the book and we WIN!!

Our intent in this study is to give an overview of each of the chapters. We will go back to the beginning as we reach the end of each chapter to remind ourselves of the overall flow of the book. We will have a detailed study of the Last Days as taught throughout the Word. We will give clarity to the resurrection of the Church body at the coming of Christ for His bride. A clear chronological order of the end times will be given regularly.

There are many views on how the Revelation is to be understood:

1) John was only writing about events during his time.
2) This is a symbolic book which has been fulfilled through Church history.
3) The book is an allegory and not to be taken literally.
4) The view we hold to is that the Revelation is a detailed prediction of events which will surely come to pass. There is symbolism throughout the book, but we take the Revelation literally other than the clear types and symbolic texts we will study, Revelation 1:1-3. Verse 1 lays out the theme of the book. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is about His personal plan for the Church age and thereafter.

Verse 1 teaches the Father gave this revelation to Jesus, Jesus gave it to an angel, the angel gave it to John and John wrote it down for us.
9. Revelation 1:1-3 – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Verse 1 lays out the theme of the book. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. It is about His personal plan for the Church age and thereafter.

1. **Verse 1** teaches the Father gave this revelation to Jesus, Jesus gave it to an angel, the angel gave it to John, and John wrote it down for us.

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2. **Verse 2** helps us to understand that these are not John’s words, but the very Word’s that God inspired him to write. He wrote down what he saw.

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3. **Verse 3** reveals the importance of the content of this book. Three things are to be done with the Revelation which will be a blessing to those who do them.

a. Read it; both publicly and privately as we are doing.

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b. Hear it with one’s heart. Listen to it with an open-heart knowing it is these are the very Words of God.

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c. Keep the Word. Barns commentary says, “Keep in mind those things which relate to the future; and obey those things which are required as truth and duty. The blessing which results from having in possession the revealed truth of God is not merely in reading it, or in hearing it: it results from the fact that the truth is properly regarded, and exerts a suitable influence over our lives, Psalm 19:11; “And in keeping of them there is great reward.”

4. The time is at hand. This phrase shows that the Revelation is imminent. We should have Christ’s return in mind at all times. We should be prepared for what is about to happen.
10. Revelation 1:4-8 – The seven Churches addressed

In Verses 4-8 God, reveals the seven Churches that will addressed in Chapters 2-3. He secondly gives important teachings about himself in light of the Revelation. Our position as His Church will connect our work we will be doing for Him during the Kingdom is described. His promise of returning in the clouds for the Second Coming is also predicted.

1. Verse 4 mentions for the first time the seven Churches located in Asia Minor, better known as Turkey. The Eternal Father and His supreme being is seen in the phrase, He is, He was, and will be. This embraces all duration, past, present and future. This is the first time a common number is given which is throughout the Revelation, the number SEVEN. It is the number of perfection or completeness. The seven ministries, or nature, of the Holy Spirit are revealed here and Revelation 4:5.

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2. In Verse 5 God reveals the Son of God. He was faithful to His Father and to the world by testifying to the Word of God. He secondly witnesses who He is through the resurrection from the dead. Thirdly, He shows His authority when he explains He is the ruler of the kings of the Earth.

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3. In Verse 6, our position and work are shown early in the Revelation. We are part of the Kingdom of God. We as His Blood-bought Church will be kings and priests for Jesus.

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4. **Verse 7** John predicts the Second Coming of Jesus. In *Matthew 24:30*, Jesus predicted He will come in the clouds. All the Earth will see Him. This is the reason most see this as Second Coming and not the rapture. The fact that the earth will wail is also a different reaction than that of the rapture.

5. **Verse 8** is a great verse showing the Deity of Christ. The phrase Alpha and Omega is said several times in this book. It means the beginning and the end. The originator and the one who ends all things. Then the same phrase given to the Father is given to Jesus Christ, He is, He was, He always will be. The Almighty God.
Chapter 1 concludes with several subjects. The first, John describes the occasion surrounding the Apocalypse. The second is the revealing of the seven Churches. The third is the vision of Jesus and His interaction with the seven Churches.

1. In Verses 9-10 John tells why he is on the island of Patmos. He was faithfully witnessing and preaching the Word of God. Emperor Domitian of Rome imprisoned John. John was under the control of the Holy Spirit when God revealed His Revelation to Him.

2. In Verses 11-17 Jesus gives a detailed description of himself.

3. In Verse 11 He is again calling himself Alpha and Omega. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He names the seven Churches for the first time.

4. In Verse 12 John sees seven candlesticks which represent the seven Churches.

5. In Verse 13 Jesus is seen in the midst of the candlesticks. Jesus is telling the Churches that He is always present with them. His apparel is that of a High Priest, Exodus 28:2-4.

6. In Verse 14 Jesus hair is white which represents the wisdom Jesus owns; See Daniel 7:9. His eyes are seen as a flame of fire. This represents His judgment and wrath that will come.

7. In Verse 15 Jesus feet are described as fine brass. His feet will crush the enemy and man will pay homage to Him by falling at His feet; see Psalm 2:12; Hebrews 10:13; Psalm 110:1. The power of the Word of Christ is represented in the many waters it is compared to; see Revelation 19:15; Hebrews 4:12.

8. In Verse 16 John saw a two-edged sword. Just as we read in Hebrews 4:12 the sword is the Word of God bringing His wrath; see Revelation 19:15, 21. Jesus’ face shined brighter than the noonday sun. This represents His glory. Jesus has the seven stars in His hand. These are either the pastors of the Churches or angels who were messengers to them.

9. In Verse 17 John falls down before Him in total fear. Jesus, as he does many other times in the Scriptures says “fear not”.

11. Revelation 1:9-20 – The Attributes of Jesus Christ
10. In Verse 18 Jesus reveals His authority. He is the first and last, this shows He is the creator and the one who ends all things at His will. He is the one who lives, which points to His resurrection. Jesus died which points to the cross. He is alive forever, which proves He is God. Lastly, Jesus reveals He is in control of death and hell by controlling the key to hell’s door.

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11. In Verse 19 John is commanded to write down what he just saw, the things that are happening and the things he will see. Again, God speaks of all three points of time, past, present and future.

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12. In Verse 20 Jesus explains that the seven stars are the seven angels and the seven candlesticks picture the seven Churches.
12. Revelation 2:1-7 – The Church at Ephesus

In Revelation 2-3 God records His message to the seven Churches spread throughout Turkey. These Churches had a unique message given to their leaders to be taught to their people. The pastors would have an important role by influencing the people to repent from their sin or encourage them to continue their good works.

The first Church is Ephesus. You can see her history by reading Acts 18:18 through Chapter 19. It became the great center of influence when Paul was in Asia teaching for three years. You can read of Paul’s fight while in Ephesus in 1 Corinthians 15:32: “If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.” You can also read the letter written by Paul to this Church to see the doctrines and exhortations he gave them.

1. In Verse 1 Jesus addresses the minister to the first Church. He reveals again the seven stars are the seven pastors. These seven are in the right hand of the Savior. He is their authority, power and protector.

2. In Verses 2-3 a key phrase is given “I know thy works”. Jesus knows what every Church is doing. He knows their motives and works. He specially knows if they are in love with Him. He commends them for four things:

3. They were hard workers, and patient.

4. They have tested those who said they were Apostles and found them to be impostors and liars. The Nicolaitans were influencing them and they rejected the doctrine, Verse 6.

5. They were doctrinally sound.

6. They were applauded for patiently enduring suffering for the name of Jesus Christ.
7. The rebuke Jesus gives them is in Verses 4-5. Their relationship with Jesus had changed. They stopped loving Him the way they once did. We call this backsliding. They had deserted Him and replaced Him with something else. They were called to return back to the heights they had before they had fallen and return to the works they did when they were in love with Jesus. The failure to return would result in the local Church being removed by Jesus. (Very thought provoking!) Can and will Jesus remove Churches if their love for Him ceases? Yes, He has this authority. He did eventually remove them in the 5th century.

8. In Verse 6, Jesus said He hated the works of the Nicolaitans and applauded the Church for doing the same.

9. Verse 7 gives another key phrase, “he that hath and ear, let him hear”. This means to listen and take heed to what has been said. A blessing would be given to those who have victory over the failures Jesus revealed to them. Those who have overcome are believers in Jesus as Savior, 1 John 5:4-5.
13. Revelation 2:8-11 – The Church at Smyrna

The Church at Smyrna is known as the persecuted Church. There is no mention of this Church in other Scriptures outside of the Revelation. Historians believe it was started by the Church at Ephesus. It is only 35 miles away from Ephesus, so it would make sense that the Church was involved with its conception. There is no condemnation to this Church from Jesus Christ, only encouragement.

1. Verse 8 is another confirmation to this Church that Jesus, who is the first and last, who also died for them and rose from the dead is watching them and that He cares. Nothing happens to His Church from the outside, or within His Church, without Him knowing.

2. In Verse 9 God reveals their problems.
   a. They were working diligent. The Greek word is Ergon, which means to toil, perform deeds, and to labor because their circumstances.
   b. There tribulation is also mentioned. This means to be burdened, or to be in anguish, afflicted and persecuted. This is not in reference to the Great Tribulation.
   c. Their poverty is also seen. They were losing their jobs, being robbed and punished for being Christians. Jesus says they are physically poor but spiritually rich, 2 Corinthians 6:10. As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing and yet possessing all things, 2 Corinthians 8:9. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.
   d. Satan was using those pretending to be Jews to blaspheme the Church. The word blasphemy means to speak evil of someone, railing, or to vilify.
3. In Verse 10 Jesus fortifies the Church by telling them the harm they will go through. He tells them not to fear. The ten days of persecution will take place, but they were reminded to be faithful to Him. Even if their lives were taken. If they did become martyrs, they would receive a special reward. Christians are rewarded with Christ’s richest rewards when we suffer for Him. Matthew 10:28; “And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

4. In Verse 11 Jesus again calls out to the Churches to listen to His words and obey them. The first mention of the Second Death is given here. No true Christian will be sent to the Lake of Fire after the Great White Throne judgment as described in Chapter 20.
14. Revelation 2:12-29 – The Church at Pergamos (Pergamum)

This next Church is a ministry most likely started by the Church at Ephesus. Pergamum was a city known for its huge library of nearly 200,000 volumes. It was also known for its idolatry. Zeus, Athena, and Caesar are just a few names of those the people worshiped. Persecution happened to anyone who would not worship them. Satan had made his seat there. He was firmly established. Satan brought persecution to the Church, but he also moved in the Church to cause it to compromise their stand on the Word of God. Morality was no longer held by this Church. Jesus both applauded them for their stand during this persecution but also rebuked them for giving in to the philosophies of the Nicolaitans.

1. In Verse 12 Jesus Christ identifies himself as the one with the two-edged Sword. Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, Revelation 19:15-17 all teach that Sword is the Word of Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Sword shows Christ’s authority and justice He will bring to them who compromise, See Verse 16.

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2. In Verse 13 Christ recognized they lived where Satan is at work. The Church had not denied Jesus name, nor did they deny the faith. They went through persecution as illustrated by the martyr Antipas. He died standing faithfully for the name of Jesus and Jesus’ teachings. For these, Jesus commends them.

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3. In Verse 14 Jesus brings two rebukes to the Church for their compromise. The first was that they tolerated the doctrine of Balaam. This prophet was asked by Balak the King of Moab to curse Israel. God stopped him three times. God even used a donkey to stop him in one of those occasions. Balaam finally caused Israel to fail God by marrying the lost Gentiles who lived around them. This spiritual compromise caused Israel to go into idolatry and immoral practices.

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4. In Verse 15 Jesus reveals the second thing He had against the Church at Pergamum. They tolerated the philosophy of the Nicolaitans. These people professed Christ but believed in freedom to live without any moral law.

5. In Verse 16 Jesus calls them to repentance or else He would fight against the Church. Jesus shows His authority over the Church and that He will judge her with righteousness according to His revealed Word. Those who compromise, Jesus will judge.

6. In Verse 17 Jesus gives three promises to those who conquer these sins. The first is hidden manna; Jesus is the bread of life. This is the spiritual nourishment all believers need. The second is a white stone. This refers to our acceptance by Jesus and declaring us righteous in His sight. The third is a new name. This also is a promise of an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus.
15. Revelation 2:18-29 – The Church at Thyatira

The Church at Thyatira received both encouragement and rebukes from Jesus Christ. They as many of the other Churches had allowed compromise to take place within it teachings. They left the sound doctrines established by Jesus and the Apostles. God shows His character when He tells the Church that He had given her time to repent but she would not. The history of this Church is not found in Scriptures, but we know that Lydia was saved along with others in her household and baptized by Paul and Silas. This is recorded in Acts 16 while Paul was in Philippi. They may be part of the Churches conception.

1. In Verse 18, Jesus is seen as the Son of God with eyes of fire and feet of brass. The title Son of God is a title of His Deity. The Fire and brass refer to His judgment that He will bring and the authority He has over the Church.

2. In Verse 19, Jesus commends them for four things. The four are: their love for Jesus Christ, sacrificial service, faith in God, lastly their patience in the midst of their trials.

3. In Verses 20-23, Jesus rebukes some within the Church that left the good teachings of Jesus. They allowed a self- proclaimed prophetess to begin teaching Baal worship. This idolatry was known for its sexual immorality and feasts with the food that was offered to Idols. There were some within the Church that embraced idolatry. Jesus gave them time to repent but they loved the darkness more than the Light. The result was that Jesus with His eyes of fire and feet of brass would put her in a bed of death instead of her bed of immorality. Those who followed her would also die with her (You can study more about Jezebel in 1Kings 16; and 2 Kings 9.)
4. In Verses 23-28, Jesus addresses the rest of the Church that had not fallen away. Jesus encouraged them to hold fast until Jesus returns for His Church. This is Jesus promise of the resurrection. Those who overcome these temptations will be given the authority to rule with Christ during the Millennial Reign. Secondly, they are promised the Lord Jesus himself who is the Morning Star. This is the brightest star over the Earth just before the dawn of a new day.

5. In Verse 29, Jesus calls out yet again to the Churches to listen and obey to what He has to say to the Churches.
16. Revelation 3:1-6 – The Church at Sardis

The Church at Sardis is known for being alive physically but dead spiritually. This Church is not applauded for good, only rebuked for their compromise. It is not recorded in Scriptures how this Church had begun or who its leaders were, but we do know it is the capital of the Lydian kingdom. They were known for being idolatrous.

1. In Verse 1, Jesus addresses the messenger at this Church. Jesus identifies himself as the one who has the seven ministries of the Holy Spirit on Him. He also reminds this Church that He controls the leaders of the Churches by holding them in His hands, Revelation 2:1. The spiritual life and death is many times governed by the leader. The Churches work is always known by Christ. He knew they appeared to be alive but were spiritually dead. There was no evidence of spirituality in most of them.

2. In Verse 2 He instructs the Church how to overcome their spiritual condition. First, WAKE UP! They were to wake from their inactive spiritual state and revive themselves. Secondly, they were to strengthen that which remained. They were ready to die, yet they could remove the false teachings and replace them with Scriptures. They could change the leadership and change the unbiblical practices along with the meaningless activity. They should have gone back to the basics of the Word of God and prayed.

3. In Verse 3, Jesus tells them to remember how they started. They were to return to the right doctrines. They were to hold fast to them and repent of their sin. Failure to repent would bring Jesus’ judgment on them. Jesus would take them away just as a thief would rob in an unknown hour. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega; therefore, He can start a work and end it.
4. In **Verse 4**, Jesus addresses those who were faithful to Him. These few did not compromise with the city they lived in. Their garments were not filthy from blending in with the world.

5. In **Verse 5**, Jesus gives them three promises. First, white raiment. This pictures purity and righteousness. Secondly, their names are in the registry in Heaven and will never be erased. Our names are written in this book when we are saved. Thirdly, Jesus will announce their names before the Father. This is seen also in Matthew, **Matthew 10:32-33**; “Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in Heaven.”

6. In **Verse 6**, Jesus cries out again to listen and obey. This Church which was dead truly needed to listen to the message Jesus had for them.
17. Revelation 3:7-13 – The Church at Philadelphia

The Church at Philadelphia is encouraged by Christ for its commitment to Him. The background of this Church is unknown. It was located not far from Sardis. It was known for its earthquakes since it was built on a volcanic mountain range. It was a rich fertile land which produced grapes and other goods. The lost worshiped the god Dionysus and would hold many pagan feasts. The Church was not moved by their community to cave in and compromise. They were the Church of brotherly love – Philadelphia.

1. In Verse 7 Jesus describes himself in 3 ways. He is holy. This means Jesus is set apart and pure. Secondly, He is true. This distinction shows Jesus trustworthy and reliable. This also means that Jesus words are accurate and is the source of all that is true. Thirdly Jesus says He possesses the key of David, See Isaiah 22:20-22. The one who had the key had the authority and power. Jesus has the authority and power over the kingdom of David. No man could reverse it.

2. In Verse 8 Jesus knew the works of the Church and commends them for the difficult task. Jesus gave them an open opportunity to witness the plan of salvation. They had little strength because their numbers were few, but they were strong in God’s grace, therefore kept the WORD of God and would not deny Jesus name. He gave them an open door, Acts 14:27; “And when they were come, and had gathered the Church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles,” 1 Corinthians 6:19, “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries. 2 Corinthians 2:12, “Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, Colossians 4:3; “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
3. In Verse 9 Jesus reveals that this Church was being persecuted by Satan just like the Church at Smyrna. Satan was attempting to corrupt the Church through Jewish impostors. The Church will see the day when these would pay for their sin and bow the knee before them and confess they were right for worshipping Jesus as Lord.

4. In Verses 10-13 Jesus assures them of several things. He promises to protect them from the judgments that will be coming to the world. This may refer to the Great Tribulation according to Levy. Jesus also promised to return for the Church quickly. This is promised other times in the Revelation. He told them that when they are victorious they will become pillars in God’s temple. This pictures their salvation, spiritual stability and security. God told them He would seal them by writing His name and the name New Jerusalem on them in order to identify himself with them.
18. Revelation 3:14-22 – The Church at Laodicea

There is a close connection between the Church at Laodicea and Colossae. The letter given to Colossae was to be read to the Church at Laodicea. It is mentioned in Colossians 4:16. Epaphras was a leader to both Churches and may have had a part in their establishment. It was well known for its banking and money exchange. It had a medical school which was famous for its eye salve. It was destroyed in 60 A.D. by an earthquake.

1. In Verse 14 Jesus needs to remind this Church of His authority over them and His character. He is the Amen, which means truthful, certain and trustworthy. He is the faithful witness, which reflects on His suffering and revealing of the truth. He is also the creator of all things. Colossians 1:16-17 also highlights this truth about Jesus

2. In Verses 15-16 Jesus gives His first condemnation to them. He tells them that they are lukewarm. They are not hot (saved), nor cold (lost). As the waters that came through the hot springs to their city were lukewarm, they too were lukewarm spiritually. Many see them as lost not carnal, See Verse 20. Jesus was predicting their removal from existence as a Church, which was the meaning of Jesus words, “spew thee out of my mouth”. He was rejecting them.

3. In Verse 17 Jesus informs them that they are spiritually bankrupt. Smyrna was told that they were spiritually rich, a huge contrast to this Church. They were called: wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.
4. In Verse 18 Jesus calls them to receive the true riches that can only be found in Him. If they would receive Him by faith, they would be spiritually healed. They would be clothed in righteousness; eye salve would be administered in order bring healing from their spiritual blindness.

5. In Verse 19 Jesus reveals His love for them. The rebuke was motivated by His love and His desire for them to repent.

6. In Verse 20 Jesus is reaching out to them to open the door of their heart in order to receive Him for salvation. They needed to open the door because Jesus never forces himself into their lives.

7. In Verse 21 Jesus offers them, and all who are victorious, a position with Him when He rules the Earth during the Kingdom. A joint reign with Christ is promised several times throughout the Revelation. This is the greatest reward promised to believers.
8. The last verse of Chapter 3 and the last words to the Church are commanded to be obeyed. Listen to Jesus’ words and obey them in order to have the promises laid out through the messages to the seven Churches.
19. The Twenty-Four Elders

Throughout Church history, the hymn writers and most who study Scriptures see the 24 Elders as those who were saved during the Church age and are seen in Heaven during the seven-year Tribulation. This would include those saved from the Churches conception in Acts 2 through the time the Rapture takes place. This would exclude the Old Testament Saints and the Tribulation Saints.

Why I see the 24 Elders in the Revelation as those who represent the entirety of the Church.

1. There is distinction of the Elders from the angels in Heaven and the Tribulation Saints. This makes them a unique group of people, Revelation 7:11-14. They cannot represent the Jews since the Jews won’t believe till the end of the Tribulation at Christ’s return, Romans 11:26.

2. The Church is not mentioned after Chapter 3 of the Revelation until the Wedding Feast in Chapter 19:8. This tells us that the Church is not on the Earth during the Tribulation, therefore they must be in Heaven.

3. The term Elder is used many times in the general Epistles as the leaders of the Churches.

4. They are wearing crowns. Crowns are not promised to the angels or the Old Testament Saints. This reward is promised to the Church. If you went through the 16 discipleship books, the crowns for believers are found in book 16. This shows the Church has already been judged and rewarded for their works on Earth.

5. The Elders are in Heaven during the time of the Tribulation.

6. Some believe the number 24 is given because it is the number of completion of the priesthood found in 1 Chronicles 24:7-18. The Church is called a Royal Priesthood in 1 Peter 2:9. I have not come to a clear reason for the number 24. I guess we will find out in Heaven.
20. Revelation 4 – The Great Revelation of God’s Throne and Preparation for the Tribulation in the Throne Room of God

1. The Apostle John is taken to Heaven. This is proof of the Church age ending and the transition to the Tribulation time period. The key word is “hereafter”.

2. The Persons involved in this chapter are: God the father on His throne, John, the twenty-four Elders, and the four beasts.

3. In Verse 1 John is taken to Heaven.

4. In Verse 2-6 God is revealed on His throne. There is a great description of those who are present with Him and the purpose for their permission to be there.

5. In Verse 7 a description of the four beasts is given. Compare this vision to that of Isaiah 6.
6. In Verses 8-10 the twenty-four Elders and the four creatures break forth into worship.
21. Revelation 5 – The Seven-Sealed Book and the One Worthy to Open It

1. The dramatic and unfulfilled call for one who is worthy to open the Seven Seals, Revelation 5:1-4.

To demonstrate the uniqueness of the Son of God as the only one worthy to open the Seven Seals and take back possession of the Earth, God commands an angel to call out for anyone who is worthy to open the Seven Seals. When no one is found, Jesus steps forward.

2. The presentation of Jesus as the Lamb of God who alone is worthy to open the scroll with the Seven Seals and take back possession of the Earth, Revelation 5:5-7.

3. Jesus is the Lamb of God who is worthy because He died on the cross to save people from their sins. He appears as a slain Lamb to emphasize His death as the sacrifice that showed His worthiness to judge mankind and rule over them as the God-man.

4. The celebration of the worthiness of the Lamb followed by praise and worship of God the Father and God the Son, Revelation 5:8-14.

This shows that God is in control and this is all part of His plan. That what is about to take place is for His glory and honor. Judgment has come!
22. Revelation 6 – The First Six Seals

1. In Verse 1 God reveals the Lamb opening the First Seal. This has begun as a result of the covenant between the Antichrist and Israel as found in Daniel 9:24-27.

2. In Verse 2 the one who is riding the white horse should not be confused with the one riding in on a white horse in Chapter 19. The rider in Chapter 19 is Jesus himself. The one in Chapter 6 is the imitator, the Antichrist.

3. In Verses 3-4 we are shown the Second Seal and the second rider on the red horse. The color red represents bloodshed and death. Even the color of the dragon found in 12:3 is red. This is another event which the Antichrist will be permitted by God to accomplish death on the Earth. Those killed are the unsaved of this world during the Tribulation.

4. In Verses 5-6 the Third Seal and third rider are revealed. He is riding a black horse. Black in this text is associated with famine. The denarius was a day’s wage in Biblical times. God explains that an entire day’s work will only produce enough money to buy bread which would feed one person. The rationing of wheat for each family proves how tough the economy will become due to this famine. Oil and wine will be for the rich only.
5. In **Verses 7-8** the **Fourth Seal** and fourth rider are revealed. The rider is on a pale horse which brings more death. The **Fourth Seal** will affect a fourth of the population on the Earth. **Ezekiel 14:21**; “For thus saith the Lord GOD; How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the noisome beast, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?” Famine is often associated with war. The wild beasts will feast on mankind and multiply on the Earth.

6. Remember that these are the **First Four Seals** which Jesus Christ will open. All **Seven Seals** are God’s judgment on the Earth. He uses Satan to enforce His will on the Earth.

7. The **Fifth Seal** is opened in **Verses 9-11**. The souls under the Altar are the Tribulation Saints who have given their lives for the cause of Christ. This text teaches us a number of important concepts which will happen both in Heaven and on Earth.
   
   a. There will be people saved during the Tribulation.

   b. Many of these believers will die for their faith, therefore becoming martyrs for the Lord.

   c. Those in Heaven do understand what is happening on Earth. They have compassion on those still on Earth and therefore pray for them.

   d. Prayer takes place in Heaven. There is a place for prayer, under the Altar. This Altar is probably the Altar of incense.
8. These Saints are given white robes, representing their righteousness, salvation and victory which they have accomplished while on Earth.

9. The **Sixth Seal** is opened in Verses 12-17. The earth as well as the atmosphere will begin to collapse. The scene which Jesus gave in **Matthew 24** begins to unfold. There will be earthquakes, the sun darkened, the moon turns to the color of blood, meteors fall to Earth, and the firmament will change due to God moving all the elements.
23. Revelation 7 – The Sealing of the 144,000

1. The Judgment pauses. The four winds symbolize the four directions, north, south, east and west. The wrath coming from the Lord stops for the sealing of the 144,000.

2. Who are these 144,000? The literal interpretation would clearly show us that they are Jews which God selected to preach the gospel to the world. As you compare this text with Revelation 14, you will see the details of these witnesses.

3. While we know thousands will be saved during the tribulation, we also learn that these believers will be not only persecuted but many will become martyrs for their new faith in Jesus Christ.

4. The tribulation saints will have their new life in Heaven. Their new job will be to lead in worship. Their protection and provisions will come from the Lord. They will be comforted by the Lord Himself.
24. Revelation 8 – The Silence in Heaven

1. **Chapter 8** begins with the opening of the *Seventh Seal*. There are **Seven Trumpets** that come from this *Seventh Seal* and eventually **Seven Vials**.

2. The silence in Heaven is not a peaceful, quiet rest, but it’s as if all Heaven was reverently waiting for the development of the *Seventh Seal*. They know what is about to take place on Earth and are standing in awe.

3. The altar of incense shows the symbolism of the prayers of many saints which are ascending from all believers from Heaven and Earth to the throne of God. These prayers are offered by the angels with the incense. The angels are not interceding but only offering these prayers to the throne of God.

4. In **Verse 5** I see an answer to these prayers shown by the angel taking the censer putting fire in it and casting it to the Earth. **Fire represents judgment and wrath**. This wrath is about to come from God to Earth just as the censer was cast from Heaven to Earth. We see familiar terms used: thunder, lightning and earthquakes, which symbolize the authority and sovereignty of God.
5. The **Seven Trumpets** are judgments coming from God to Earth. Some have thought that the people on earth at that time will interpret this phenomenon as coming from UFO’s, or some extraterrestrial beings. We know that this is the wrath that is predicted to come from God, *I Thessalonians 5:1-11*.

6. Some of these **Seven Trumpets** bring calamities to the Earth that are similar to those God brought to Egypt during the Exodus of Israel from Egypt. These **Seven Trumpets** are not to be confused in any way with the trumpet that sounds during the rapture of the Church. The **First Trumpet** affects the food supply on Earth. There will be hail and fire mingled with blood. The fruit trees, vegetation, grass for the livestock, are all going to be burned up. One third of these important elements on Earth will be destroyed.

7. The **Second Trumpet** will affect the oceans. Again, we see that one third of what lives in the sea will be killed and the sea creators and those on ships will be destroyed by this incredibly large meteor. It is compared to the size of a mountain which is burning with fire.

8. The **Third Trumpet** affects the fresh drinking waters on the Earth. This star falling from the sky is given a name, Wormwood. As Levy explains it "it is a strong smelling and extremely bitter; tasting plant that grows in the Middle East". This calamity will bring bitterness to those on Earth. We again are taught that one third of the drinking water will be tainted by this star. Many will attempt to drink the water due to their dehydration and will die because of drinking the water.
9. Judgment continues. In **Verse 12** the **Fourth Trumpet** sounds. The major contributors to our atmosphere; sun, moon and stars are all affected by this **Fourth Trumpet**. The temperature will quickly drop as the sun is darkened by $1/3$ of its normal output. This will affect the energy supplies and the living creatures which need the warmth.

10. Climate will suffer. Also, the vegetation growth will be stunted, which will hurt the food supply.

11. After the **Fourth Trumpet** there is a cry of **Three Distinct Woes**. The **Three Woes** are an introduction to the severity of the **Last Three Trumpets**. Those who are still living on the greatly damaged Earth will experience yet more devastation to their lives and the Earth’s stability. The phrase "**inhabiters of the Earth**" speaks of the lost who are dwelling on the Earth.
25. Revelation 9 – The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

1. The First Woe, or Fifth Trumpet, sounds in this chapter. An incredible chain of events takes place in Verses 1-12. First, who is the one in control of the bottomless pit? I’m thinking an executive angel of God is given this task. Second, who is Abaddon, or Apollyon? We know his name means destroyer. I think he is a leader of the demons held in the pit and not Satan himself since he won’t be cast into Hell until Chapter 20. What are these locusts? I see them as demons that have been kept in chains since the time they rebelled against God. 2 Peter 2:4; “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

2. We know these facts about the demons who come out of the pit:

3. In Verses 13-21 we hear the Sixth Trumpet, or Second Woe, sound. We need to remember that the Seventh Seal contains the Seven Trumpets of which the Last Three Trumpets are the Three Woes. The Third and Last Woe, or Seventh Trumpet, reveals the Seven Vials. The intensity of the judgments coming from God increases as each one unfolds. By the time of the Seven Vials the Great Tribulation will be at its highest wrath poured out by God. The greatest judgments happen right before the Second Coming of Christ.
4. The **Sixth Trumpet** starts with the prayers of vengeance. The prayer is answered, and four highly powerful demons are released from the Euphrates River.

5. They have been kept in bondage and released at a specific time for a designated task.

6. Their purpose is to kill men not to merely hurt them. They will kill 1/3rd of the population during those days.

7. This land invasion will include 200 million horsemen which are all lead by the four evil angels. The horses, not the men riding them, will kill by fire which proceeds out of the mouths and the sting of a scorpion comes from their tails. The victims will die by being burned and by suffocation.

8. We will need to notice the similarities between their judgments and hell itself. The torment they received on Earth which killed them was a precursor to what they will experience for all eternity. They will get a taste of Hell before going to Hell.
9. Yet those who were not killed will not repent. Remember the words of Christ: “as in the days of Lot, as in the days of Noah”. These texts show us the hardening of the heart of lost mankind during their days and what will happen to the hearts of man in the Great Tribulation.

10. There are five great sins revealed. Idolatry, murder, sorceries, fornication, and theft are the reasons why they would not repent. They will love their sin and see no wrong in doing them.
26. Revelation 10 – The Little Book

Before the Third Woe we have an interlude between Chapters 10:11-14. You will remember how the Revelation is not in chronological order. Revelation also goes between the scenes of what is happening in Heaven and back to what is happening on Earth. Here in Chapter 10 we have an interlude explaining other events happening around the judgments coming from God. Levy explains they are to bring comfort to the believers by showing God’s sovereign control over the earthly events.

1. In Chapter 10 we have a mighty angel with a little book in his hand. We see in Verse 1 the beginning of the description of this angel. He is seen clothed with a cloud. This is often connected with the bringing of judgment by God. He has a rainbow upon his head which represents God’s covenant with the world. His face as the sun represents a radiant glory. His feet of fire symbolize the coming wrath of God.

2. In Verse 2 he holds the little book with his feet on the earth and sea. This shows God’s possession and sovereignty over the entire Earth.

3. In Verses 3-5 we have the angel roaring as a lion. This is a voice of authority. These are followed by the voices of seven thunders. It is not disclosed what these voices say.
4. In Verse 6 we see the angel proclaiming that there will no longer be any delay. This is the interpretation of the phrase that there will be time no longer. The things that about to happen will come quickly.

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5. We are now shown the last 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. The little book will reveal the mystery of it.

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6. In Verse 8-11 we see how John was commanded to take the little book and eat it. The two effects of eating the book are sweetness and bitterness. It represents God's Holy Word which is sweet to the believer but once understood brings the harsh news of bitter judgment to those who do not believe.

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27. Revelation 11 – The Two Witnesses

You remember that the Revelation is not written in chronological order. This book goes back and forth between Heaven and Earth as well as the events happening during the first 3½ years and the second 3½. In Chapter 11, the interlude between the Sixth and Seventh Trumpet is over, and the Seventh Trumpet is about to be revealed. The chapter is divided into the following subjects: the measurement of the Temple, the two witnesses and the Third Woe.

1. God puts the attention back onto Jerusalem and the temple in Verses 1-2. The measurement of the temple is given to show there will be a literal Temple built again on the Temple Mount. The Temple was built after the pattern of the Temple in Heaven, and therefore measurement reveals it is God’s Alone!

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2. This text brings us to the second 3½ years of the Tribulation. This text brings light to Daniel 9:27 and Matthew 24:15-21. The time period of 3½ years is seen in the following texts: Revelation 13:5 and Revelation 12:6,14.

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3. The Time of the Gentiles will end when Jesus Christ returns to rule on the Earth. Until that happens the Temple and Jerusalem will be taken over by the Antichrist for the 3½ years. Jerusalem will become a city like Sodom.

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4. Before this happens, God will send two witnesses to Earth for a witness to the Jews as well as the world. Let us view their characteristics and who will kill them.

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5. The two witnesses will show the Jews their desired sign by rising from the dead the third day.

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6. Verse 14 takes us back to Heaven to show the severity of the seventh trump which will bring the pouring out of the Seven Vials. This will happen in Revelation 16:1. The 24 Elders again worship and thank God for His Attributes and Sovereignty over the Universe, Psalm 2.
28. Revelation 12 – The Dragon and the Woman

To me the key to understanding the conflicts during the Tribulation is this chapter. It is here we find Satan agenda is against Israel and her God. His goal is to destroy the Jews and overturn the plan God has for Israel.

1. The Woman described is none other than the nation of Israel. Many have tried to make her out to be the Church or even Mary, the mother of Jesus, but these make no sense within the text itself. She is seen as a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. Possible reference to Joseph’s vision God gave to him. The sun is Jacob, the moon is Rachel and the twelve stars are the twelve sons or tribes of Israel, Genesis 37:9-11.

2. In Verse 2 Israel travails in birth pains. As Jesus came through Israel she brought Him forth with great sorrow. Herod’s attempt to destroy all the sons born during Jesus childhood was Israel’s horrific pain.

3. The Dragon is introduced in Verse 3. It is clear this is Satan. He took 1/3rd of the angels in Heaven with him in his rebellion against God while he was yet in his authoritative rule.

4. Satan is seen having seven heads. See 17:3. the seven heads on which the woman sits are seven mountains. Levy sees them as seven evil Empires.
5. The ten horns represent a ten-nation confederacy. The seven crowns represent Satan’s authority over all the nations.

6. First of all, observe that we are plainly told that the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns is Satan. Therefore, the beast with 7 heads and 10 horns in Revelation 13 and 17 also involve Satan. Now, notice the 7 heads in Revelation 12 wear crowns! This is because the reign of the 7 heads has concluded, and is in the past, but the 10 horns have no crowns (these are the same 10 horns as in Revelation 17) since they are yet future. The timeframe for Revelation 12 is after the reign of the 7 heads, and during the reign of the 8th, who is "of the seven":

7. In Verse 6, God provides protection and provision for Israel as she fleas into the wilderness for 31/2 Years. Satan the Dragon will attempt to genocide the Jews.

8. In Verses 7-12 God reveals the spiritual battle with takes place in Heaven.
   a. Michael and his angels fight against Satan and his angels
   b. Satan is cast out of heaven and will no longer be able to accuse the believers.
   c. There are 2 reactions to Satan being cast out.
      i. Those in heaven rejoice.
      ii. Woe to those that dwell on the Earth.

9. In Verses 13-17 Israel will flea into the wilderness (Petra) and will be protected by God from the attack of Satan. Psalm 83
The Kingdoms and King Nebuchadnezzar

The King of the Babylonian Empire, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream about a statue with four parts. God revealed the dream and its meaning to the prophet Daniel. Daniel was a captive from Israel who served as an official in King Nebuchadnezzar’s palace. The statue represented four kingdoms (the first is Babylonia). Each would eventually be replaced by an inferior kingdom. However, the fourth kingdom would be replaced by the eternal Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:5-45).

63 years later, Daniel had a vision about four great beasts (a lion with wings, a bear, a leopard with four heads, and a terrifying powerful beast with 10 horns). This vision has a similar meaning to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. In Daniel’s vision God takes away the power of the beasts. The “son of man,” Jesus Christ, is given all authority and sets up the everlasting kingdom Daniel 7).

### The Statue (Daniel 2)

**Head (Fine Gold)**
The golden head of the statue represents the kingdom of Babylon which God gave King Nebuchadnezzar to rule (Daniel 2:37-38).

**Chest and Arms (Silver)**
The silver chest and arms of the statue represent the kingdoms of Media and Persia, which is the second power that would rise after Babylon falls. (Daniel 2:39, Daniel 7:5)

**Belly and Thighs (Bronze)**
The bronze belly and thighs of the statue represent the kingdom of Greece. This third kingdom would rule over the whole earth. (Daniel 2:39)

**Legs (Iron)**
The fourth kingdom would be strong as iron and would break, smash and crush things.

**Feet (Iron and Clay)**
The fourth kingdom would be divided, different from the others, both strong and weak. This kingdom would have a mixture of people who are not united. (Daniel 2:41-43; 7:23)

### Daniel’s Vision (Daniel 7)

**Lion With Wings of an Eagle**
In Scripture, Nebuchadnezzar is compared to both the lion (Jeremiah 4:7; 50:44) and the eagle (Ezekiel 17:3, 11, 12). Images of lions with eagle’s wings were popular in Babylonian architecture and currency. (Daniel 7:4)

**Bear With Three Ribs on Its Mouth**
The bear was raised on one side, which may illustrate the dominance of Persia over Media. The three ribs in its mouth may illustrate the three major empires Persia conquered. The bear is commanded to devour much flesh, which may be a reference to Persia’s military expansion through the ancient world. (Daniel 7:5)

**Leopard With Four Wings and Four Heads**
The leopard represents the kingdom of Greece. The wings might illustrate the speed of Alexander the Great’s conquest. The four heads might represent the division of Alexander’s kingdom into four provinces after Alexander’s death. (Daniel 7:6)

**Beast With Iron Teeth and Ten Horns**
The terrifying beast is also reference to a major kingdom. Many scholars suggest this to be the Roman empire. The beast’s ten horns are ten kings that would rise from this kingdom. After them, another king (the “little horn”) would rise, speak against God, and persecute God’s people. It is during the reign of this king when God would set up his everlasting kingdom. (Daniel 7:7-8)

### The Kingdoms (Daniel 2, 7, and 8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BABYLONIA</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Nebuchadnezzar to Belshazzar</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>MEDO-PERSIA</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>539BC – 332BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Cyrus</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Darius III</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Greece</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>332BC – 63BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander the Great and the Four Divisions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>A Divided Kingdom</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many scholars believe this kingdom to be Rome. Rome occupied Jerusalem in 63BC and was still in power at the time of Jesus. (Luke 2:1)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>The Everlasting Kingdom of God</strong></th>
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In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14, 27)

29. Revelation 13 – The Unholy Trinity

Chapter 13 reveals the unholy trinity. Satan imitates God in every way since he purposes to be God; therefore, he will design a trinity of his own to receive glory from the power and abilities he gives them.

The Dragon in this text is of course Satan. The first Beast which comes out of the sea is the Antichrist and the Beast which comes from the earth is the false prophet. Therefore, we see the unholy trinity which are; Satan as the Dragon, the Antichrist as the Beast out of the sea, and the false prophet coming from the earth. The chapter spends time on the Antichrist and his power, seat (throne), and authority.

1. The first beast comes from the sea. The sea in Scriptures is symbolic of the gentile world. This gives evidence of the Antichrist’s characteristic. The Beast is a man, raised by Satan for his own glory.

2. The seven heads and ten horns are symbolic of seven empires and ten kings. Levy and others believe these are successive World Empires with Rome being the last one, and ten kings of the confederacy. Revelation 17:12

3. The appearance of the first Beast is the same description as in Daniel 7:3-8.
4. The Beast will receive all his power, seat and authority from the Dragon. We learn then that the Beast is powerless by himself. Satan empowers the Antichrist to do miracles we see take place through this chapter and the control of the world’s economy in the last part of this chapter.

5. We are introduced to the second Beast in Verse 11 who is the false prophet. His purpose Satan has designed him for is seen in Verses 12, 18. The false prophet will be the key player in deceiving the people, through Satan’s power, to draw the world’s worship to Satan.

6. The nation Israel who brought the Christ into the world in under attack by Satan in Verses 6—17. This happens during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation. God protects her in the wilderness. Satan attacks Israel because she brought forth the Christ who will come to rule and reign over all the Earth and will defeat Satan and bind him for one thousand years.

7. God uses Michael the archangel to protect Israel. Michael is victorious and casts Satan from Heaven. This will end Satan’s ability to approach God in order to accuse the believers. A great song of victory will be heard in all Heaven, Verses 10, 12.
8. Satan’s removal from Heaven will bring havoc to those on Earth. He will especially be after Israel since he hates her for being used by God to bring the Messiah and the fact that they are God’s chosen people.

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9. Satan’s one last effort to destroy Israel will be in the wilderness of Edom. He will send a flood to destroy her, but God opens the earth to swallow the waters and again saves His elect people, Verses 14, 17.

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30. Revelation 14 – Blessings and Destruction

This chapter can be broken down into two main subjects. The blessings to the redeemed: destruction of those who received the mark of the Beast. The Redeemed are sealed by God and those who receive the mark are damned. This chapter gives a clear view of the future of the lost during the end of the Great Tribulation.


   a. The Lamb is over the Redeemed and the Beast is over the damned.
   b. God’s name is on the Redeemed while the mark of the Beast is on the damned.
   c. The Redeemed sing a song only they know while the damned will cry in misery.
   d. The redeemed are pure, while the damned are defiled.
   e. The Redeemed followed the Lamb, but the damned followed the Beast.
   f. The redeemed will speak the Truth, but the damned will believe the lie.
   g. The Redeemed will find rest, but the damned will find none.

2. This chapter is an account of the end of the Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns at the battle at Armageddon. In Matthew 24:14, Jesus taught that the gospel will be taught throughout the world. His mercy will be extended to the Earth as the first angel warns of God’s wrath, but the majority of the world will choose Satan the Dragon.

3. The second angel announces the coming destruction of Babylon.
4. The third angel warns of God’s undiluted wrath.

5. The fourth angel Commands the sickle to be thrust into the earth to harvest the earth.

6. The fifth angel is the angel which gathers the cluster and vines to be cast into hell.  

7. The sixth angel comes from the Altar (incense) to also command that the earth be harvested.

8. The righteous will be avenged and come through the Tribulation with a great victory!
31. Revelation 15 – Preparation for the Seven Vials

The Lord gives us another vision of Heaven. The preparation of the final judgments to be poured out on Earth during the end of the Great Tribulation is seen. Seven angels will deliver the intense anger of God. This scene in Heaven again shows the tribulation Saints singing and worshipping God. Lastly, we see God's glory in Heaven.

1. In Verse 1 we are introduced to the seven angels chosen to pour out God's wrath. The plagues are in the Seven Vials. The contents of these Seven Vials are not revealed until Chapter 16. The Seven Vials are the Seventh Trumpet. See Revelation 9:13 for the Sixth Trumpet.

2. In Verses 2-4, we see the vision of those who were victorious over the Beast while they were on Earth. These would again be Tribulation Saints who were possibly martyrs, 13:7-18. The Saints who were victorious did not take the mark of the Beast, nor did they take his number, (666). They stand on a sea of glass which also has fire mingled in it. The glass is a picture of the glory of God. The fire symbolizes the judgment of God. These Saints gave glory to God for giving them the victory. The Songs they sing are from Exodus 15 and Deuteronomy 32, the songs Moses sang when God gave them victory over their enemies. Glory is given to the Lamb of Heaven to give Him glory for their deliverance from the Beast during the Tribulation.

3. Verses 5-7 reveal the seven angels with the Seven Vials. They are described as holy and righteous by having white apparel. The golden girdle was given them to show they are God's representatives just as the priests wore the same thing in the Old Testament. They come from the Temple, showing they are sent from God to fulfill God's mission for them.
4. In Verse 8 the glory of God is seen in the smoke and separation from man. It is though God is separating himself so that no man intercedes to change the mind of God in what He is about to do through the last great plagues.
32. Revelation 16 – Vials of God’s Wrath

The Seven Vials are the final judgments of God on the Earth which are at end of the seven-year Tribulation. There are again seven angels which will individually pour out their judgment one at a time. These seven judgments follow the Seven Trumpets of God. Levy sees the Seven Vials as divided into two groups. The first four are to target nature which will affect all mankind. The second three will target the kingdom of the Beast.

1. Verses 1-2 reveals the First Vial. It is targeting only those who took the Mark of the Beast. They will receive horribly painful boils, or ulcers, upon their bodies. See also Exodus 9:8-12

2. Verse 3. The Second Vial can be compared to Exodus 7:17-25 when Moses and Aaron polluted the waters of Egypt. Here the sea is contaminated and all that lives in those waters die. See also 8:8-9, the Second Trumpet.

3. Verse 4. In John 4, Jesus talked about living waters that He could give which would quench the thirst of any person. In the Revelation man chose to refuse Jesus' water and took the Mark of the Beast. Now God takes away their temporary water supply and gives them a taste of Hell. Luke 16:23-24 “And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” The Second Vial affects the sea water, while this Third Vial affects the fresh waters of the Earth.
4. **Verses 5-7** Teaches that Jesus Christ is right in taking these actions. He is the world's creator. He is the world's Savior. He is the only one able to set in order righteousness on the Earth.

5. The **Fourth Vial** is poured out in **Verses 8-9**. A horrible scorching from the sun will affect non-believers who refused to believe God. These who are burnt by the unnatural heat coming from the sun will blaspheme the name of God. They will blame God.

6. The fifth angel pours out the **Fifth Vial** in **Verses 10-11**. The place where Satan's power is where God targets the **Fifth Vial**. This plague is compared to the **Fifth Trumpet** and the ninth plague in **Exodus 10:21-23**. A mental pain will happen to the lost as God sends an eerie thick darkness that will cause such pain the people will chew on their tongues. Yet, they will not repent.

7. The sixth angel pores out the **Sixth Vial** in **Verse 12**. The **Sixth Vial** will dry the great 1800-mile river called the Euphrates. This will enable the armies to pass through the dry river banks to come to the battle at **Armageddon**.
8. God teaches us about three unclean spirits in Verses 3-16. They come from the mouth of Satan. Levy feels these three represent the unholy trinity. That would be Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet. The miracles performed will deceive the lost and will cause them to be led to the battle at the end of the Tribulation. Mount Megiddo overlooks the 200-mile battle field. This all precedes the coming of Jesus Christ and Jesus destruction of the lost in 19:15. The saved are called to holiness until Jesus returns to Earth in Verse 15.

9. The Seventh and Last Vial is the most intense vial and judgment of all. In Verses 17-21 God reveals His ultimate wrath. It is done, comes from the voice of Christ. The earth will quake, resulting in destroying the cities all around, Babylon will drink of God’s Wrath and Jerusalem will be affected. This will fulfill Zechariah 14:4 and Acts 1:11. Flooding, earthquakes, and 100-pound hail stones will impact the earth. Yet again the lost will not repent. They again blaspheme God.
33. Revelation 17 – The Rise and Fall of Babylon

1. The Beast, who is Rome/Babylon, revives. The Beast (Antichrist), reflects world government, not another individual who will take over. Daniel 7:1-28 will be fulfilled at that time. These seven heads, or Empires, are fulfilling the seven Empires seen throughout history, which are; Egypt, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Rome, and Revived Roman/Babylonian. There is an eighth head that emerges in Verse 11. Levy says that the eight head is the Antichrist which comes out of the seventh head.

2. Next, we see ten horns. These ten represent ten kings, Verse 12. These ten are appointed by the Antichrist to rule over the world at one time, not successively. This will last 3½ years according to Revelation 13:5.

3. The woman will be destroyed by the ten horns. They will be fulfilling what God has made them to do. They will kill the religion so that the Antichrist and his one world religion can take over the world. The woman is the religion of the world until the second half of the Tribulation.
34. Revelation 18 – The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 18 reveals that God will be behind the fall of Babylon. Babylon will be the religious, idolatrous leader of the world's worship up to the time when the Antichrist takes over the world's worship. It reveals the lamentations which will come from the world that profited from her. It also shows those in Heaven will rejoice over her destruction because of her persecution of many prophets and Apostles.

1. Who is Babylon? See Genesis 10-11 for her original vision and sin. Babylon represents the pride of man, rebellion against God and an idolatrous religion. They wanted to be self-sufficient and be independent of God.

2. An angel comes from God to reveal the glory of God and to announce the fall of Babylon in Verses 1-2.

3. Babylon's influence on the world is seen in Verse 3. Her riches and luxuries are passed on to leaders of the world. They have an intimate relationship with her.

4. There is a call to believers to leave her so that they do not receive the judgment that was about to come. In Verses 4-8 her many sins are revealed which she committed against God.
5. In **Verses 8-16** the world will cry over her destruction. They will be in awe of her success being taken away. They will cry because she made them rich. They enjoyed her wealth.

6. **Babylon** will be destroyed in a very quick manner. The world leaders will step away from her for fear they will receive the same judgment in **Verses 17-19**.

7. The opposite reaction is happening in Heaven. Rejoicing is taking place because of her fall. The reason is her involvement in persecution of the Apostles and prophets in **Verses 20-24**. There is a millstone cast down, symbolizing what is happening with Babylon.
35. Revelation 19 – Heaven Rejoicing and Christ’s Second Coming

As the news is told in Heaven that Babylon is eternally destroyed, all of Heaven begins to worship God for His Power to overcome the enemy. This chapter also gives the beautiful details of the marriage of Christ and His Church. Lastly, the advancement of Jesus Christ from Heaven to Earth to fulfill His purpose to rule and reign over all the Earth at His Second Coming is recorded here.

1. **Revelation 19:1-6** gives the account of what all of Heaven will do as a result of Babylon's fall. The twenty-four are part of this worship (the New Testament Church). The four living creatures are also part (the Cherubim). All those in Heaven will praise God for Babylon's fall.

2. The praise to God is for: Salvation (deliverance) from evil, God avenged the innocent lives that she took the fact that her judgment is eternal, and the Master God is the All Powerful King.

3. **19:7-10** tells us of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb. The Lamb is obviously Jesus Christ. The bride in the text is the New Testament Church. See Ephesians 5:22-33; John 14:1-6; 2 Corinthians 11:2. The guests are believed to be the Old Testament Saints and the Tribulation Saints.
4. **19:11-21** gives the details of Jesus Second Coming to Earth. Christ will come to Earth to destroy the goats (unsaved on Earth at that time who took the mark of the Beast) and cast the Antichrist and false Prophet into the Lake of Fire. He will establish His Kingdom on Earth with Jerusalem as His capitol. We will see this as a 1000-year reign as Satan is bound for the 1000 years in **Chapter 20**.
36. Question: What are the Times of the Gentiles?

Answer: In Luke 21:24, Jesus speaks of future events, including the destruction of Jerusalem and His return. He says that “Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (ESV). A similar phrase is found in Romans 11:25, which says, “A partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in” (ESV). Does the Bible tell us what the phrase “times of the Gentiles” means?

The Old Testament does not contain this exact phrase, but there are references that seem to match up. Ezekiel 30:3 points to “a time of doom for the nations” in connection with the Day of the Lord. Daniel’s series of visions deals with Gentile world powers and their role in God’s plan for the Earth. Nebuchadnezzar’s image of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay, Daniel 2:31–45, represents successive Gentile kingdoms that will dominate until Christ returns and establishes His reign. Daniel’s vision of the four beasts, Daniel 7:1–27, likewise speaks of four kings, or nations, which will dominate for a time until Christ comes to rule forever. The vision of the ram and the goat, Daniel 8:1–26, gives more detail about these Gentile rulers and the time involved in their dominion. In each of these passages, the Gentiles have dominion over the world, including the Jewish people, for a time, but God will ultimately subdue them all and establish His own kingdom once and for all. Each prophecy culminates with a reference to Christ's kingdom, so the “times” of these Gentile rulers would be all the years between the Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzar and the glorious return of Christ to establish His kingdom. We are now living in “the times of the Gentiles,” that is, in the era of Gentile domination.

When we examine the book of Revelation, we find similar references to the time of Gentile dominion ending with the return of Christ. In Revelation 11:2, John indicates that Jerusalem will be under Gentile rule, even though the temple has been restored. The armies of the Beast are destroyed by the Lord in Revelation 19:17–19, just before the millennial reign of Christ is initiated.

Looking again at Luke 21:24, we see that Jesus mentions a time in which Jerusalem is under the dominion of Gentile authority. Nebuchadnezzar’s conquest of Jerusalem in 588 BC began that period, and it has continued through the present time. Romans 11:25 gives us a hint as to God’s purpose in the times of the Gentiles: the spread of the gospel throughout the whole world. The organization and inventions of the pagan world powers have actually aided the evangelism of the world. For example, in the first century, it was the widespread use of the Greek language and the network of Roman roads that allowed many people in far-off lands to hear the gospel.
One theme of Romans 11 is that, when the Jewish people rejected Christ, they were temporarily cut off from the blessings of a relationship with God. As a result, the gospel was given to the Gentiles, and they gladly received it. This partial hardening of heart for Israel doesn’t preclude individual Jews from being saved, but it prevents the nation from accepting Christ as Messiah until His plans are finished. When the time is right, God will restore the entire nation, and they will come to faith in Him once again, ending “the times of the Gentiles,” Isaiah 17:7; 62:11–12; Romans 11:26.

Information from: https://www.gotquestions.org/times-of-the-Gentiles.html
37. Matthew 24 – The Second Coming

Maybe one of most misused and misunderstood portions of Scripture used by teachers is this chapter, Matthew 24. In my early Christian life, I heard this text used to illustrate the rapture and the signs of the times we live in now. Others believe this was already fulfilled by 70AD when Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. My goal is not to harm these well-meaning pastors and teachers but to give a clear definition of the text by using the rest of Scriptures, both Old Testament and the Revelation to understand the subjects Jesus taught.

1. I would like to share when I see this text fulfilled. It will be fulfilled during the seven-year Tribulation and when Jesus returns to the Earth at the end of the Tribulation. There were no blood moons and darkening of the sun when Rome destroyed the Jewish Temple. Jesus did not come back as lightening. The Antichrist did not enter the Temple to declare himself as God. None of these signs are spoken of or will be accomplished when the Church is resurrected. These will be done as recorded in Daniel, Matthew 24 and the Revelation during and at the end of the Tribulation.

2. I would like to explain who is being addressed in the text. The people addressed in this chapter are the believing Jews who will be in Jerusalem and the area of Judea during the Tribulation. In Verses 15-20 Jesus addresses them. He tells those who are Judea to flee from the area and go to the mountains for shelter. They are to do this when the Abomination of Desolation takes place. Daniel 9 tells us that a covenant will be made by many. A peace treaty amongst the nation. But a third Temple will be built and the Antichrist will cause the Jewish sacrifices to stop. He will enter into that third Temple and proclaim that he is God, Isaiah 14:12-14 will be completed by Satan through the Antichrist during the Tribulation. This will happen in the middle of the week, another way of saying the middle of the Tribulation.

3. What has happened to the Jews over the past 70 years makes this all possible. In 1948 the Jews became a nation again. The first time since 70AD. They have land, a government, and a constitution for the first time since 70AD. For the first time since 70AD there are more Jews living in Jerusalem than there are living in other parts of the world. The Jews are planning a third Temple. They are just waiting for the ability to put the Temple and its furniture on the Temple mount where it belongs. I believe the battle spoken of in Ezekiel 38-39 will cause the peace treaty to be signed and the mount will be open again for the Jews to begin sacrificing on the mount in their own Temple. If not that battle, somehow the Jews will have a Temple functioning during the Tribulation in order that the Antichrist can desecrate it.

Verses 1-3 give the reason for the chapter. Jesus gives a prophecy about the future of the Temple. Jesus was leaving the Temple to go over to the Mount of Olives. His disciples stop Him to admire the beauty and enormous stones the buildings around the Temple and the Temple itself were made of. We know this is the second Temple which was built under Ezra and Zerubbabel. Jesus prophecies that these stones which weighed tons will be overturned and that
none would be on top of each other. This prophecy was fulfilled as we know in 70AD when Rome crushed the buildings along with the Temple.

In Verses 3 the ultimate questions come to Jesus. Please notice there are 3 questions. When will it the destruction happen? What are the signs of your return? When is the end of all ages as we know them? These are all related subjects. Jesus goes into great detail in His answer.

In Verses 4-13 Jesus tells the world’s condition during the days before His return: self-appointed Messiah’s, wars and rumors of them, pestilence and a list of other extreme conditions that will happen uniquely from other generations. All these happen now, but during the time before Jesus Second Coming it will be in a more devastating fashion.

We can begin to clearly see Jesus is not teaching about the rapture of the Church but rather the events taking place on Earth before the Second Coming of Jesus to Earth. As you search the New Testament, each time the resurrection is described and prophesied about there are NO signs or conditions given. An imminent return for His bride the Church is spoken of in the Epistles. When Jesus comes at the end of the Tribulation time period the events that are described in this chapter are seen fulfilled in the Revelation. I will give a list of these texts and their cross reference as we go on.

In Verse 13 Jesus speaks of those who will endure to the end will be saved. What will they endure through and what will they be saved from. Those who endure the teachings of the false prophet, from taking the mark of the beast, survive persecution and live by faith in Jesus Christ till Jesus returns will be delivered from eternal death and will rule with Jesus during the Millennial Reign of Christ.

In Verse 14 the gospel will be preached around the world. All will know but most will not believe. All nations will hear the gospel through the 144,000 Jewish men who will be saved and called to go throughout the nations and preach the death and resurrection of Christ.

In Verse 15 the abomination of desolation is predicted. Jesus quotes Daniel 9:27. This has not been fulfilled yet. It will be in the middle of the seven-year Tribulation. Daniel 9:27 says in the middle of the week this will happen. See also Daniel 12:11.

In Verses 16-20 Jesus tells the believing Jews what to do when this happens. Flee! Get out of Judea! The believing Jews will have the New Testament. They will be guided by the Words of Christ. They will know what to look for and what to do. They also know that God will protect His elect people Israel. They are to get off their rooftops and flee without taking anything out of their house that would slow them down. They are to trust God will provide for them in the wilderness. Just like Elijah was to live by the brook for God to provide for him. God used a gentle widow to provide for him. God sent food by an angel to provide for him. For 3½ years God provided all his needs. God will do the same for 3½ years for the fleeing Jews. The journey was going to be long and hard. A pregnant woman would have great difficulty. Jesus tells them
it would be more difficult to travel in the winter. Then He adds an important dynamic in Verse 20, the Sabbath day. Why would Jesus address the Sabbath day if He was addressing the Church age? Why would He address the Sabbath day if He was talking to the Gentiles? He brings this up because He is addressing the Jews in Jerusalem and those in Judea. The Sabbath day’s journey was limited to about a mile. This was not far enough for the Jews to escape the Wrath of God that was going to take place during the second half of the Tribulation. Jesus is about to call this the Great Tribulation. This is written for the Jewish believers who will be living during the Tribulation.

In Verse 21 Jesus reveals the intensity of the second 3½ years of the Tribulation. He says it has never been a more severe judgment coming from God to the world. It will be greater judgment than the flood in Genesis, or Sodom and Gomorrah. There have always been earthquakes, wars, pestilence and deceivers who say they are the Messiah. Putting them all together cannot come close to matching the destruction God will cause through the Seven Seals of the Revelation.

In Verse 22 Jesus says the days will be shortened for the elect. The intensity of the judgment from God had to be limited or else no one could survive. The elect ones are the believing Jews. There will be many Gentiles saved also throughout the tribulation, see Revelation 7:9-17. Jesus focus in this text is on the Jews.

In Verses 23-24 Jesus warns them of false prophets and those who will say they are the Christ. They will know when Jesus himself arrives! The false prophet and Antichrist along with others will be doing deceitful signs and wonders to deceive the lost. The false prophet and the Antichrist will also perform miracles to deceive the lost people. See 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10, Revelation 13:13-14. God will have His own witnesses who will perform miracles. Revelation 11 tells us His two witnesses will perform miracles just like Moses and Elijah.

In Verse 25 Jesus tells why He is teaching this to the disciples. It is a forewarning to the Jews who live during the Tribulation. It will instruct them about what to expect, how not be deceived and what to do during the Tribulation.

In Verse 26 Jesus again warns about false teachers and those who Satan will use to deceive the lost people. The Jews who are looking for Messiah will know that it is NOT the true Messiah because when Jesus appears there will be no doubt or question if it is really Jesus their coming King.

In Verse 27 Jesus tells that He will come suddenly. He will come as a lightning bolt.

In Verse 28 Jesus describes here what is reveled in Revelation 19:11-19. Armageddon!
In Verse 29 Jesus describes what will happen in Revelation 8:12. This is also the completion of Joel 2:30-32, Acts 2:19-21. The prophecy was partially fulfilled in Acts 2 but will be completely fulfilled during the Tribulation right before Jesus returns to the Earth.

In Verse 30 Jesus explains Zachariah 12:10 and 13:6. The eyes of the Jews will see Jesus. Literally! They will cry because they will then know that they crucified their own Messiah.

In Verse 31 Jesus will gather the Jews (elect) from all directions to return to Jerusalem for God to protect them from harm and save them from the enemy.

In Verse 32-33 Jesus uses a fig tree to illustrate their ability to know the change of seasons. See also 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2. Jesus is teaching them that they will be able to see the sign of His return to Earth. NOT rapture! This text is teaching about the Day of the Lord.

Verse 34 Jesus explains that that generation who sees these things happening will to see it come to pass. We know the Tribulation is seven years from the signing of the peace treaty. We know the half-way point is when the Antichrist enters the Jewish temple to desecrate it. We know the second half of the Tribulation will bring the harshest of God’s wrath. Those who see the last signs will live to see Jesus return.

In Verse 36 Jesus gives another prophecy. Heaven and Earth will pass away. At the end of the Tribulation, the earth will be transformed by God, see the Millennial Reign of Christ. He will destroy it all himself at the end of the Millennial Reign. See 2 Peter 3:10-15, Revelation 20:7-10, Revelation 21:1. Jesus also says that all the words of His prophecy will take place. All of them!

In Verse 36 Jesus tells them that will not exactly the time only the signs that it is near. See also Acts 1:6-7. Even the disciples were confused about the timeline of eschatology. They were told that no one knows the exact time except God.

In Verses 37-41 Jesus uses Noah to illustrate His return to Earth. This is one of the most misused texts by pastors that I have seen. In this text Jesus is not describing the rapture but His second coming back to Earth. Those in Noah’s day describe what will happen when Jesus returns back to Earth. In Verse 39 Jesus tells us that those “taken away” were the unbelievers who were killed by the flood waters. Those who were “left behind” were the believers who inherited the Earth and were given the command to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the Earth. In this text you don’t want to be the one taken away. Those taken away go to Hell. Those who remain are rewarded for their faith. The two in the field explains this concept. One is taken the other left. Two women will be grinding, the one will be taken the other left behind. The believers will inherit the Earth for the Millennial Reign of Christ.
In **Verses 42-43** Jesus again reminds them that they will not know the exact time this will happen. He tells them that He is coming as a “thief in the night”. See **1 Thessalonians 5:2**. The Day of the Lord will come as Jesus returns to **destroy** the lost. The Antichrist and the false prophet are sent to the Lake of Fire, **Revelation 19:20**. Jesus will also **save** the believing Jews. The Day of the Lord accomplishes these two things.

In **Verse 44** Jesus calls the Jews to be ready. They won’t know the exact time, so be ready!

In **Verse 45-47** Jesus tells of the reward for those who are faithful through the Tribulation. They will be in positions of authority during the Millennial Reign of Christ. This is a promise for those who survived the Tribulation and those who were martyrs.

In **Verses 48-51** Jesus tells what will happen to those who do not believe the message of the gospel during the Tribulation. They will be cast in Hell.

There are several reasons why Jesus is addressing the Jews:

1. The Jews are awaiting the return of the Messiah.
2. **Daniel 9** is targeting the Jews not the Gentiles.
3. Those who are called to flee Judea would be the Jews living there.
4. Only the Jews would be concerned with a Sabbath day journey, **Verse 20**.
5. The Jews are called the elect of God, **Romans 11**.
6. The Jews require signs as seen in this chapter, see **1 Corinthians 1:22**. Satan is attempting to deceive the Jews and cause them to take his mark, the mark of the Beast. God shows His own signs to cause them to believe the gospel.
7. **Zachariah 12:10** and **13:6** are clearly addressing the Jews, not the Gentiles.

The questions asked by the disciples in **Verse 3** are answered. They are not inquiring about the rapture of the Church. They are questioning Jesus return to Earth to fulfill the hope of Israel, the return of their Messiah. These are the signs Jesus gives for His return to Earth. There are zero signs given by God for the rapture of the Church. His return in the air for His bride is imminent.

The three answers are:

1. When will this happen? Only the Father knows, see **Verse 36**. It is also a time which is unexpected, See **Verse 44**.
2. What are the signs? The signs are the list of events and miracles Jesus lists in this text.
3. When is the end of the ages as we know them? The end of the Tribulation period will end the Time of the Gentiles. Israel will be the Capitol. The nations will be under Jesus rule. Creation will be transformed. Jesus will rule and reign forever. The Church’s resurrection does not end the ages, Jesus return to Earth will.
38. Millennial Kingdom

A. The Duration of the Kingdom
1. After the rapture of the Church, after the seven-year tribulation, and after the second coming, Jesus Christ will reign in His kingdom.
2. This dispensation will last 1000 years. Revelation 20:1-15
3. It will begin at the time Jesus Christ returns to the Earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.
4. Satan is bound for this time and will be released at the end of the millennium.

B. The Restoration of the Kingdom
1. The binding of Satan will eliminate the ultimate deceiver from his influence on mankind that will dwell on the Earth, Revelation 20:2-3.
2. The animal kingdom will be at peace, Isaiah 11:6-9.
3. Life expectancy will increase, Isaiah 65:20-25.
4. The end of wars, Micah 4:3; Isaiah 2:4; Jeremiah 23:5-6.

C. The King of the Kingdom
1. Jesus will be the King of kings, Psalm 2; Revelation 19:15; Matthew 19:28.
2. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and the place Jesus will rule, Ezekiel 43:7.
3. All Nations will come to see Christ and His Glory and will keep the Feast of Tabernacle, Zechariah 8:20-23; 14:16-19; Isaiah 11:10. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious.

D. Who will live on the Earth during the Millennial Reign?
1. There will be distinct groups occupying the Earth during the Millennial Kingdom—those with glorified bodies who are the Church, and those with earthly bodies who lived through the Tribulation and on into the Millennial Kingdom.
2. The Old Testament Saints who have been given the promises and covenants from God will also return to the Earth in a resurrected body.
3. According to Matthew 25:31-46, Christ will separate the sheep from the goats.
4. Believing Gentiles, Israel, and resurrected/raptured believers/the Church (all of whom have glorified bodies) will occupy the Earth. It should be noted, however, that believers with glorified bodies will not be reproducing. There is no marriage after this life, Matthew 22:30.
5. Remember the fact that children will be born during this one-thousand-years. These will need to become believers in Christ. They are not born saved. The sad truth is that many will not believe. These unbelievers will become the rebels found in Revelation 20:7-10. See Isaiah 65:20.

E. The Temple and the Law kept
1. The temple of the millennial kingdom is described in detail in Ezekiel Chapters 40-44.
2. The glory of the Lord will fill the temple, Ezekiel 43:5.
3. The law given by God through Moses will still be kept including the sacrifices, Ezekiel 43:19-27.
4. The Levites will still minister in the temple, Ezekiel 44:9-11.
5. The laws and statutes delivered by Moses will be obeyed, Ezekiel 44:24.
6. Ezekiel 44:25, 31 show further evidence that some death of people and animals can and will occur in the kingdom.
7. The Sabbaths and feasts of the Israel will still be kept including the Passover, the feast of unleavened bread, Ezekiel 45:21, and the feast of tabernacles, Ezekiel 45:25.

F. The Dead Sea
1. New life for the dead sea.
2. A prophecy found in Ezekiel reveals that even the Dead Sea will be transformed and will be able to sustain life like the Mediterranean Sea, Ezekiel 47:8-11.

Revelation 20 can be broken down into two major subjects. We learn first about the Millennial Kingdom of Christ from Verses 1-10. The second subject we will study is the last judgment for mankind. This is the Great White Throne judgment for all the lost, Verses 11-15.

1. This chapter is the clearest on the details of the return of Christ to reign for one thousand years on Earth. We see by this text that we are to believe Jesus returns before the millennium not after as some would teach.

2. Satan will be incarcerated for these one thousand years so that he will not be able to interrupt the peace that will be taking place on Earth.

3. There are two resurrections mentioned in Verses 5-6. The first is the resurrection of believers of the Old Testament and Tribulation to dwell on Earth for the thousand years. The second is the resurrection of the lost to be judged at the Great White Throne by Jesus Christ.
4. The Millennial ends with destruction of the world by Jesus Christ. Jesus will do this because Satan will be loosed to deceive the nations at the end of the thousand years and the nations will revolt against King Jesus. 2 Peter 3:10-13 also speaks of the melting of the Earth with fire just before the new Heavens and new Earth. At this time Satan will join the Antichrist and False Prophet in the lake of fire.

5. The Great (because of its intense purpose and that all the lost will be there), White (because of Jesus purity), Throne (Jesus seated to judge them) will judge the lost for their works that they did while living on Earth. The recordings of all the works of man are being recorded by God in Heaven for this judgment. No one is exempt from this judgment. The book of life has the names of the saved. Since their names are not written in it they are destined to go to the Lake of Fire for all eternity. Matthew 25:41 “Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”, Luke 10:20 “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in Heaven.”
40. Revelation 21:1-6 – A New Beginning

This chapter takes us beyond all that was known by mankind. Pain, sorrow and death have been around since the fall of man. All the past will be forgotten. God reveals to us what man always desires, eternal life, with no more effects of sin to be found. This is what God also desires. Perfect fellowship with man without anything hindering it. This chapter opens to us what Jesus goal was by dying on the cross. All believers from the beginning of time will inherit this perfect city, new Heaven and new Earth with Jesus on His righteous throne ruling the universe. God will forever dwell with man.

1. **Verses 1-3, Isaiah 65:18-19, 2 Peter 3:12-13 and Revelation 21:1-3** all confirm this oath which God has promised believers. Heaven and Earth will be destroyed by God. God will create them new or renovate the existing making them new.

2. There will be no more sea in order for more land mass to exist for man to be able to populate it. The sea will also be gone because there will not be a need for the sea to sustain life. The sea will not be a barrier between the nations to travel to one another.

3. The third important place mentioned is the New Jerusalem which will descend from the third Heaven to hover over the New Earth. This New Jerusalem will be the capitol of the world. It will also fulfill God's promise to tabernacle (dwell) with man.
4. **Verse 4 - 5**, Death and pain are erased from the memories of God's people. All tears will be wiped away. God tells of multiple things that have been known to man which will never be again. Death, sorrow, crying, pain will never be experienced again by anyone. This is the promise of God to believers. God promises He will make this happen by making all things new.

5. In **Verse 6**, God said that man will never thirst again. The spiritual thirst will be satisfied for all eternity. God will satisfy all needs for all people for all eternity.
41. Revelation 21:7-22:5 – A New Jerusalem

As we continue the study of Chapter 21 we see a warning to those who have not believed. Their heart and actions are revealed by God in Verses 7-8. Secondly, the description of the New Jerusalem is given in great detail in Verses 21:9-22:5.

1. In Verse 7 God describes the heart and actions of believers. 1 John 5:4-5 describes the one who overcomes and how it is done. It is done by faith in Jesus Christ. In Verse 8, although the Great White Throne Judgment has already been revealed in Chapter 20, God points back to those who lived on Earth that refused to believe in Jesus Christ and reminds them of their actions while in unbelief. These are the things which hinder man from believing.

2. In Verse 21:9-22:5 God gives the details of the New Jerusalem. This is the promised place given to the Church by Jesus in John 14:1-6. This is the place Moses looked for, Hebrews 11:10. The New Jerusalem is for all too freely enter and leave since the twelve gates are always open, 21:25.

3. There is plenty of room for all believers to dwell. One man estimated the city to be 1,896,876.41 square miles.

4. The beauty of the place is described throughout this chapter. The stones on the wall, gates of pearl, golden streets are just part of the beauty.
5. A list of things we know well will be no more. No more first Heaven and first Earth, No more sea, No more tears, No more death, No more mourning, No more pain, No more temple, No more sun and moon, No more barrier – The gates of Heaven are never shut.
42. Revelation 22:6-21 – The Conclusion of Revelation

The Revelation ends much like it begins. It honors Jesus Christ by giving His titles of honor and power. Jesus explains He will be coming back speedily with His reward for the believers. The Revelation closes with blessings and grace that flows from the Savior.

In Verses 6-7, the angel gives the validity to all that has been revealed to John.

In Verses 8-11, John is overwhelmed with all that has been shown to him and mistakenly falls down to worship the angel. He is quickly rebuked and told NOT to conceal this information.

Verses 12-15 Jesus gives His promise to return for the Church. He promises to reward believers at His return. He also explains again His honored titles. Lastly, He promises, reminds us that there is a blessing for keeping His commandments and that nothing will ever enter into His glory that will defile the Temple of God and Heaven itself.

In Verses 16-21, Jesus goes to two familiar titles given by the Old Testament prophets. The Root of David and the Bright Morning Star. These are proof that He is the one and only Messiah. The invitation comes to join the Church and drink of the living water in Verse 17. There is a curse to anyone who touches God’s Word in Verses 18-19. John leads us in prayer by calling on Jesus to come back quickly. The last words of God’s Word are grace from Jesus to the Church. Malachi closes with a curse, while the New Testament closes with grace.
32.5 Revelation 17 – The Rise and Fall of Babylon

In Chapter 17, John predicts the rise of an Empire that did not exist during his days. Babylon was always a name associated with idolatrous, humanistic people. From Genesis through the Revelation, Babylon represented a people who defied God and sought their own fame and formed their own religion. The details of the rise and fall are predicted in Chapters 17 & 18.

1. The religious system begins sometime at the beginning of the Tribulation. The woman reflects the religion of the world during the first half of the Tribulation.

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2. In verses 1-2, we have the description of the woman sitting on many waters. Waters is symbolic of nations around the world.

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3. In verse 3, we see the allegiance she has to the Antichrist. The Church & State join.

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4. In verse 4, she is seen riding a Beast with a cup in her hand.

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5. The woman has a name that is written on her forehead to identify who she is and what her character is all about.

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Seven Churches of Revelation

1 Ephesus  Loveless Church
2 Smyrna  Persecuted Church
3 Pergamum  Compromising Church
4 Thyatira  Corrupt Church
5 Sardis  Dead Church
6 Philadelphia  Faithful Church
7 Laodicea  Lukewarm Church
Appendix B

1. What We Know About the Demons Who Come Out of the Pit:

   A. They are limited in whom they can hurt. They cannot touch the 144,000.
   B. They torment man, but they will not kill them.
   C. They have a king leading them whose name means destroyer.
   D. They have great power as a horse.
   E. The gold crowns show they have great authority.
   F. Their faces are as men and shows their intelligence.
   G. They have the teeth of a lion, which shows they will destroy.
   H. They have a breastplate of iron, which shows how indestructible they are.
   I. Their tails are like scorpions. This shows they will torture man.
   J. The sound of wings will bring fear, as the sounds scares the people.
Appendix C

1. Why the Church Will Leave Before the Tribulation Begins

A. There is no mention of the New Testament Church on Earth after Revelation 3. We are seen in Heaven in Chapter 19 at the Wedding Feast, which takes place in Heaven.

B. In Revelation 4:1, John is taken up to Heaven where he hears a voice resembling a trumpet. The voice came from Heaven and told him to come to Heaven. He was told that he would be shown the things which will take place after the current age is completed. Revelation 1:19

C. We understand that the 24 Elders represent the Church in Revelation 4:4, 10; 5:10. These are seen in Heaven prior to the opening of the Seven Seals. They have crowns upon their heads and therefore have already been judged and rewarded for their works done while they were on Earth.

D. There are no more prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Resurrection of the Church. It is an imminent event.

E. The Resurrection is never connected with destruction and chaos. The Second Coming is. The Day of the Lord has many signs and wonders associated with it. I Thessalonians 5:1-11. The rapture does not.

F. We have NOT been appointed to go through the wrath that is coming from God to the Earth. I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9. We will be delivered from going through it by the rapture.

G. I Thessalonians 2:7-8 explains that those who are holding back the Antichrist will be taken away in order for him to be revealed. The Holy Spirit empowers the Church to restrict the work of Satan. Once the Church is gone, there will be no hindrance for the Antichrist to be revealed to the world by Satan. The Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Church is resurrected. Therefore, we will be gone by the time of the signing of the peace treaty and the Seals are opened by Christ.