



# BABYLON

"IN HER WAS FOUND THE BLOOD OF PROPHETS AND OF SAINTS"

## Mystery Babylon

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Near the end of Revelation are two chapters about two cities, Babylon and the new Jerusalem, two sides of a single story. They are about the concluding events of the Christian era and the ultimate future of two totally different groups of people: all the lost and all the souls redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

*1. Revelation 18, mystery Babylon, is a figurative picture of the apostate Church, the lost, the world's ungodly systems and of all those who profit thereby.*

*2. Revelation 21 is a figurative picture of the new Jerusalem and all the redeemed, both Jew and Gentile.*

**Revelation 18:1-3** “And **after these things** (*so this is a later vision about a different Babylon than that of Revelation 17*) I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory (*this is no ordinary angel, this is the Lord Jesus*). And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great (*the apostate Church*) is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (*so it is a very worldly Church*), and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (*throughout the Christian era, established churches have aided or supported the world’s political and economic systems. During the Dark and Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church had the most powerful political and military organization on the planet*).

**Revelation 18:4** “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” *(The reformed groups of the Christian era)*

*This parallel verse is also about true believers, both Jew and Gentile, during the Christian era:*

**2Corinthians 6:16** “**Wherefore come out from among them**, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

*So the Lord’s true servants are commanded to separate themselves from apostate church organizations, which they have been doing ever since the 2nd century: the Donatists, Bogomils, Albigensians, Waldenses, Huguenots, Mennonites, Hussites, the list is almost endless!*

## COLLAPSE OF THE WORLD'S MATERIALISTIC SYSTEMS

**Revelation 18:5-14** “For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day (*one year*), death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire (*the final end of the apostate Church*): for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her

And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in **one hour** (*15.44 days in prophetic time*) is thy judgment come.

**Revelation 18:5-15 continued . . .**

“And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and . .

**Revelation 18:15-20 continued . . .**

“decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.”

## BELIEVERS TAKEN OUT OF THIS PRESENT WORLD

**Revelation 18:21-24** “And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle . . .”  
*(Greek: λύχνος, lookh'-nos, literally a lamp) . . .*

**(Psalms 119:105** “*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*”)

“shall shine no more at all in thee *(so God's Word will no longer be in Babylon)*; and the voice of the bridegroom *(the Lord Jesus)* and of the bride *(believers, both Jew and Gentile)* shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries *(Greek: φαρμακεία, pharmakeia, literally pharmacy or medications, by implication, magic or science)* were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of **prophets** *(Christian era Jews)*, and of **saints** *(the Gentile Church)*, and of **all** that were slain upon the earth.”

Babylon is primarily spiritual.  
Every man, throughout all time,  
is either part of Babylon  
or destined for the  
new Jerusalem.

*The blood of **All** God's people,  
Old Testament and New, is found in Babylon  
so this is a figurative "city"  
composed of the multitudes of people  
who throughout time  
have hated God and willfully turned away  
from the Savior of the World!*

*Babylon isn't a physical place  
like New York, Moscow, Paris, or Rome.  
It is the world's satanic systems  
and those within them who love wickedness  
(beginning with Cain who slew his brother Abel)  
on down through time until the last  
faithful saint, standing steadfast for Jesus,  
gives his life for the Lord.*



χίλιοι  
INDEFINATE PLURAL OF THOUSAND

χιλιάς *chilias*, one thousand - χίλιοι, *chilioi*, a plural form of *chilias*.

## The so-called “Thousand” Years

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Revelation 20 is one "A" of the second chiasm. Both "A's" are fulfilled during the Christian Era.

<b>A</b>	ch.12	Woman with 12 Stars:	<b>Israel</b>
<b>B</b>	ch.13	Leopard-Bear-Lion Beast:	Satanic Religion
<b>ba</b>	ch.14	144,000 & The Gospel:	Jesus' Followers
<b>C</b>	ch.15	Song of Moses and Lamb:	Redeemed Glorified
<b>C</b>	ch.16	Bowls of Wrath:	Wrath on the Wicked
<b>B</b>	ch.17	Seven-Headed Beast:	Satanic Kingdoms
<b>ba</b>	ch.18	Babylon:	Satan's Followers
<b>A</b>	ch.20	<b>The Thousand Years:</b>	<b>All Israel (Jew &amp; Gentile)</b>

Once we recognize Rev 20's position in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chiasm as parallel in time and subject to Rev 12, we can then realize that Revelation 20 must be a figurative picture of the Christian Era. Rev 20 will be quoted in its entirety. Supporting verses and comments are inserted in **red**.

# The Context of Revelation 20 is Figurative

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## THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST

**Revelation 20:1-2** “And I saw an angel come down from heaven . . .

This angel is Jesus. "Who hath ascended into heaven and descended?" and Rev 10:1 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire . . ."

having the key of the bottomless pit . . .

Jesus has been given the keys of Hades, Rev 1:18

“and a great chain in his hand . . .

This chain is God’s Word in the Church combined with the prayers of the saints. Mat 16:19 “And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil.

"Now the ruler of this world shall be cast out," Joh12:31, spoken before the Cross.

“and Satan, and bound him . . .

“How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his property unless he first bind the strong man?" Mat 12:29. When we were lost in our trespasses and sins we were Satan's property, and in his kingdom. Jesus is now plundering Satan's house through the church.

### **THE CHRISTIAN ERA**

“a thousand years . . .

The Greek word translated thousand, here and through the rest of Revelation 20, is χίλιοι, chilioi, an indefinite plural of χιλιάς chalias, one thousand. Chilioi can mean one thousand, but it also can mean many thousands. Premillennial theologians make a definite doctrine out of a definitely indefinite plural.

**Revelation 20:3** “And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more . . .

This binding is scripturally limited to deceiving the nations. Through the whole Christian Era, the western nations have been nominally Christian. Kings have been crowned and deposed in Jesus’ name and wars have been fought in Jesus’ name. Thus the nations were not deceived that Jesus is Lord.

“till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

See Rev 12:12 for another mention of this "little season." From context we can pin the beginning of this "little season" to 1948-1967. Since 1948-1967 the western nations have turned away from the Lord. Satan has now been loosed and the church allowed it. As a result, the Church is in a state of apostasy unequalled during the Christian Era.

**Revelation 20:4** “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them . . .

1Peter 2:5,9 and Revelation 1:6 & 5:10 all declare that we reign with Christ right now, today in His spiritual kingdom, Ephesians 1:19-23.



Rev 20:2-6  
 The Kingdom of Jesus  
 THOUSAND YEARS



Satan Loosed  
 1948-1967

Rev 20:7-9  
 Nations again Deceived  
 GATHERED TO BATTLE



Great White Throne  
 Rev 20:10-15

That Jesus' kingdom began in the 1st Century is provable by Rev 1:6 and 5:10 "He hath made (*past tense*) us kings," and Rev 1:9, "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in . . . the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ . . ."

*The definite article, τή appears in the Greek text in Rev 1:9 and 5:10.*

## **Revelation 20:4, continued . . .**

“and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus . . . ,

Thousands of saints were beheaded early in the Christian Era and many believers are suffering that same fate today, see Fox's Book of Martyrs.

“and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands . .

Satan is the beast, and he has struck his mark on the foreheads of his servants throughout time.]

“and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Do we not reign with Christ right now, 1Pe 2:5-9, Rev 1:6, 5:10?

**Revelation 20:5** “But the rest of the dead [*the unsaved*] lived not again until the thousand years [*the Christian Era*] were finished. This is the first resurrection.

How many resurrections are there? Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the Life." Jesus is the firstborn of the dead, and there is not another resurrection in Scripture.

**Revelation 20:6** “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power . . .

Blessed indeed are those who have part in the resurrection of Jesus our Lord! They are the born again, and over them the second death has absolutely no power.

“but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Rev 1:6 and 5:10 both state that we have been made priests and reign with Jesus, right now!

**Revelation 20:7** “And when the thousand years . . .

As an indefinite plural, this "thousand" can refer to the Christian Era regardless of how many millennia it may take.

“are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison . . .

## THE END TIMES

**Revelation 20:8** “And shall go out to deceive the nations . . .

Since 1948 and 1967 there is a general falling away of the church unprecedented in the Christian Era. We have the second rise of the Islamic states. Parallel the following verse with other descriptions of Armageddon in Rev 6,9, 12, 14 & 19.

“which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog to gather them together to battle . . .

How many Armageddons and fulfillments of Eze 38-39 are we going to have? Note the details of this battle here parallel other descriptions of Armageddon in the Bible. When we understand the repetitive chiasmic structure of Rev, these repeats are understandable.

“the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”

Rev 9:16 states twice myriads myriads – probably the Moslems who have been fighting the Gospel and murdering God’s people for over 1300 years.

**Revelation 20:9** “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city . . .

Is this not parallel to Joel 2-3, that all consider to be a description of a final battle, probably a spiritual battle and figurative.

“and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

#### **THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD**

**Revelation 20:10** “And the devil that deceiveth them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Revelation 20:11-12** “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life . . .

There are two sets of books in Revelation 20:11-12. The book of deeds, and the book of life. When the Lord blotted out our transgressions, that wasn't just rhetorical, what do you suppose He blotted them out of? The book of the deeds, of course! Since all of our righteousness is as filthy rags, if even one of our deeds (no matter how "good" or "sanctified" we may think it to be) remains in that book we are going to the lake of fire. To eat of the tree of life, our names must first be written in the Book of Life . . . "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to His Cross." Colossians 2:14.

"and the (*spiritually*) dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

**Revelation 20:13-15** "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

**Colossians 1:13-17** "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE "MILLENNIUM"

Besides the last trumpet, there are many verses that call the premillennial view into question. According to that view, when Jesus returns for His 1000-year reign, He will rule from Jerusalem in all His power and glory. During the 1000 years, we (*all believers*) are presumed to be ruling with Him in our new glorified and sinless bodies. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is somehow supposed to deceive these rulers (*now sinless us*) for a short season. If that happens, then we would again be in sin, which would result in our again being separated from the Lord . . . a supposition that is contrary to 1Thessalonians 4:17 which states . . .

**1Thessalonians 4:17** "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall ever be with the Lord."

Saints will never be separated from the Lord (*Mat 28:20*)! Second: "How can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless He first binds the strong man," Mat 12:29? When Jesus asked that question, He was in the act of casting out demons. The Lord was plundering Satan's house then, and He is still doing so today through the Church.

**Colossians 1:13**, "For He delivered us from the domain [*kingdom, KJV*] of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

Jesus permitted Himself to be bound once, at the Cross, but it will never happen again. When Jesus returns to Jerusalem, He will be ruling in all His power and glory. It will be Jesus' kingdom. He will be the "strong man"! Released or not, Satan could only plunder Jesus' kingdom if he could again bind Jesus. What a blasphemous concept! Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. He is King of kings and Lord of lords and will remain so forever!

**Ephsians 1:20-21** "...when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."

That age to come would have to include any future time that Jesus is on Earth, and beyond. When the Lord returns at the end of this age, He will rule absolutely. .. and He will rule forever!

## A Literal Interpretation Goes Awry

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**Isaiah 11:1-5** “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: *(figurative and all conservative theologians understood this to be a prophecy about the earthly ministry of Jesus, the coming Messiah)* And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; *(the seven spirits of God of Rev 1:4, 3:1, 4:5 and 5:6)* And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: *(Hebrew poetic parallelism)* But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth *(figurative for the Word of God)*, and with the breath of his lips *(figurative)* shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins *(figurative again)*, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins” *(again a Hebrew poetic parallelism)*.

*So Isaiah 11:1-5 predicts the coming of Jesus the Messiah.  
The passage is figurative and everyone knows it!*

*Then Isaiah 11:11 tell us about the establishment  
of the new nation of Israel in 1948AD.*

**Isaiah 11:11** “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people (*the first restoration came at the end of the Babylonian captivity in 536BC as recorded in the book of Ezra*), which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.”

*Verses 1-5 are a figurative prophecy of Jesus in 30 A D.*

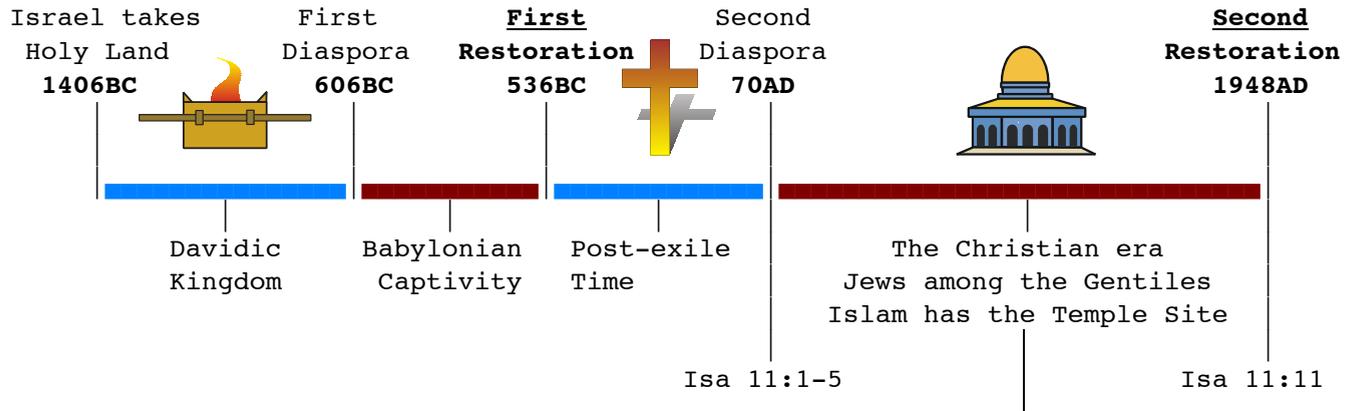
*Verses 6-10 come next*

*Followed by verse 11, which is about 1948 A.D.*

*So when should verses 6-10 be about?*

# Context Determines Interpretation

**Isaiah 11:11** “And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left.”



So when should Isa 11:6-10 be about?

Verses 6-10 can only be about the time  
in between the 30 A.D. and 1948 A.D.  
So it must be a figurative picture of the Christian era!

**Isaiah 11:6-10** “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb (*the robber will live in the same town as the saint*), and the leopard shall lie down with the kid (*the warrior lives with the shopkeeper*); and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child (*Jesus*) shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox (*Hebrew poetic parallelism*). And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp (*the innocent believer will witness to the murderer*), and the weaned child (*Jesus*) shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den (*shall despoil Satan's kingdom, Mat 12:29*). They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse (*Jesus*), which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek (*the Gentile Church*): and his rest shall be glorious.”

*Interpretive Principle:  
Is the Context Literal or Figurative?*



**MESSENGERS TO THE CHRISTIAN ERA**

# The Christian Era

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## THE JEWISH PEOPLE DURING THIS ERA

**Revelation 14:1-5** “And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand (*figurative number for all the Jews of the Christian Era*), having his Father's name written in their foreheads (*This mark is on Jews of the Christian Era, but God's mark is also on the redeemed of every age*). And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters (*many people, Rev 17:15*), and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins (*figurative: not defiled by the whore of Babylon*). These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men being the firstfruits (*Israel*

Revelation 14:1-21 continued . . .

*and the Jewish people are the first fruits, the Church is adopted into Israel, Eph 2:12-13)* unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” *(not because they are perfected in the flesh, but because they have the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, Rom 4:24).*

#### THE FIRST ANGEL, ALL BELIEVERS

**Revelation 14:6-7** “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people *(the Gentile Church during the Christian era)*, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

## Revelation 14:1-21 continued . . .

### THE SECOND ANGEL, THE UNSAVED OF ALL TIME

**Revelation 14:8-13** “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon (*Babylon: the unsaved world, from the time of Cain on down to the last wicked person on earth. Rev 18:24, “And in her was found the blood of prophets [Old Testament believers], and of saints [Christian era believers], and of ALL that were slain upon the earth.”*) is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

### THE THIRD ANGEL, ISLAM

“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the (*Leopard-Bear-Lion*) beast and his image (*new Jihad or possibly the Ka’aba Stone*), and receive *his (spiritual)* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and . . .

## Revelation 14:1-21 continued . . .

“brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever name *(Note the “forever and ever” so torment for those in Islam will continue on into eternity)*: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast *(contextually, the Leopard-Bear-Lion, i.e., the Islamic hegemony)* and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God *(Jews during the Christian era)*, and the faith of Jesus *(the Gentile Church)*. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth *(probably refers to time after the Islamic takeover of the Holy Land, from 639 to 1967 A.D.)*: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

## Revelation 14:1-21 continued . . .

### THE CHRISTIAN ERA

**Revelation 14:14-20** “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap (*the believers of this age, both Jew and Gentile*): for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe (*Fullness of the Gentiles is come in, Rom 11:25*). And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

“And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar (*the altar is a type of the Cross so this “angel” is again Jesus*), which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that

**Revelation 14:1-21 continued . . .**

“had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth (*the unsaved*); for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God (*judgment of the wicked*). And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs” (*Gr., Stadia, probably figurative for time rather than distance, addressing the physical wars and great spiritual trials taking place in the Holy Land and the surrounding countries during the Christian era*).



IN THE AIR

# The Apantesis

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When a king or another important dignitary visited a city, the people of that city would go out to him singing and dancing and accompany him back into the city. That cultural practice was called an apantesis, (*Greek: ἀπάντησις, apantesis*).

1. The first apantesis recorded in Scripture is when David went out to meet the Ark of the Covenant and singing and dancing returns with the Ark into Jerusalem, 2 Sam 6:14-15.
2. The next recorded apantesis is when Jesus entered Jerusalem that final time and the people of the city came out greet to Him singing, “Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord . . . Hosanna in the highest,” and then return with the Lord Jesus into the city, Mark 11:9-10.
3. The next scriptural apantesis is when Paul goes to Rome and the Christians of that city go out to apantesis him at the Appii forum, Acts 28:15.
4. The next is when we apantesis the Lord at His return, 1Thes 4:16-17

*So when the Lord Jesus returns and we “meet” Him in the air, 1 Thess 4:16-17 states it will be an apantesis. If it is, then singing and rejoicing we will immediately return to Earth with the Lord.*

## THE APANTESIS AS RECORDED BY PAUL

**1Thessalonians 4:16-17** “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet (*Greek: ἀπάντησις, apantesis*) the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

## AS SEEN BY GOD THE FATHER

**Revelation 19:10-21** “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore (*the apostate church*), which did corrupt the earth with her fornication (*with the unsaved world*), and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia . . .

**Revelation 19:1-21 continued . . .**

“And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders (*Elders of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles*) and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters (*all the redeemed, both Jew and Gentile*), and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife (*all the redeemed, both Jew and Gentile*) hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (*which actually is the imputed righteousness of Jesus because all our righteousness is as filthy rags, Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 4:24*).

## Revelation 19:1-21 continued . . .

“And He saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse (*figurative for Jesus' power and authority*); and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God (*John 1:1*). And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean (*all the redeemed*). And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword (*the Word of God is Jesus' only weapon*), that

## Revelation 19:1-21 continued . . .

“ . . . with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun (*Jesus, Mal 4:2*); and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven (*all the redeemed who meet the Lord in the air, 1Th 4:17*), Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh (*the riches*) of kings, and the flesh (*the riches*) of captains, and the flesh (*the riches*) of mighty men, and the flesh of horses (*The horse was a weapon of war so this probably refers to weapons of war*), and of them that sit on them, and the flesh (*the riches*) of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the (*LBL*) beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies (*Satan's servants*), gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army . . .

## Revelation 19:1-21 continued . . .

“And the beast (*in this verse, probably the Scarlet beast, which from Rev 12:3 is Satan himself*) was taken, and with him the false prophet (*Muhammad*) that wrought miracles before him (*in his presence*), with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the (*Islamic*) beast, and them that worshipped his image (*The reawakened Islam of today or possibly the Ka’aba stone*). These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword (*the Word of God*) of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls (*God’s beloved children of all time, both Jew and Gentile, for whom He gave His only Son*) were filled with their flesh (*riches*).”



RESTORATION

# The Restoration

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**2 Peter 3:3-4** “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”

*Is this not the world's attitude today?*

**2 Peter 3:5-6** “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being **overflowed with water**, perished:”

*So the antediluvian world was destroyed by a flood.*

**2 Peter 3:7** “But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, **reserved unto fire** against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

## This Present Earth is Reserved for Fire.

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2 Peter 3:10-12 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the **heavens** (*Greek, ουρανός, oo-ran-os', the sky, the air; only heaven by implication*) shall pass away with a great noise, and the **elements** (*ungodly principles, not the physical elements of the earth like carbon, oxygen, iron, etc.*) shall melt with fervent heat, the **earth** (*Greek: γή ghay, the Earth's dirt, the soil, the ground, but not necessarily the whole planet*) also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** “**elements,**” In Greek: στοιχείον, *stoy-khi'-on*, defined as “element, principle, rudiment.” only appears four other times in Scripture, Gal 4:3, 4:9, Heb 5:1, 6:10. In each, *stoy-khi'-on* is about the **fundamental principles of God, of Christ or of this world.** *Stoy-khi'-on* is not used anywhere to describe physical elements! As a result, it is reasonable to interpret *stoy-khi'-on* in 2 Peter 3:10-12 as spiritual elements of this world rather than its physical elements.

So just as God destroyed  
the first world “by water,”  
but did not destroy the planet,  
in like manner, God may cleanse  
the surface of the Earth “by fire,”  
that the planet itself  
may remain.

**Acts 3:21** “Jesus, whom the heaven must receive until the times of **restoration of all things**, whereof God spake by the mouth of His holy prophets that have been from of old.”

*God is the Creator of all things, Satan the destroyer.  
So from Acts 3:21, isn't it likely that God will  
restore His creation to what it was  
before sin caused the fall.*

**Revelation 21:1-21** “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven (*Gr., oranous, sky, only heaven by implication*) and the first earth (*Gr., ge, the soil. It is unlikely that God intends to destroy His creation, only the sin within it*) were passed away; and there was no more sea (*of the various nations, Rev 17:15*). And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride (*the bride herself, i.e., all the believers of all time, not just the dwelling place of the bride*) adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle (*dwelling place*) of God is with men . . .

**Revelation 21:1-21 continued . . .**

“and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”

**Revelation 8:1** “And when he opened the seventh seal, there followed a silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.”

*Why is the final Seal a half-hour and how long is  
this half-hour in day-years?*

**Revelation 21:1-21 continued . . .** “ And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and . . .

## Revelation 21:1-21 continued . . .

sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels *(this is not Jesus, but indeed a messenger)* which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride *(Not the dwelling place of the bride, but the bride herself)*, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain *(figurative)*, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem . . .

*So the New Jerusalem is NOT a physical city,  
but the sum total of God's elect, Old Testament and New.*

*We've been looking at this holy city  
from a humanistic standpoint.*

*Sovereign God is not making a city where man may dwell,  
but a city where He will dwell, composed of  
all the souls His Son redeemed!*

## Revelation 21:1-21 continued . . .

descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal (*the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ*);

And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels (*messengers*), and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel (*To enter this city through these gates you must be a spiritual descendant of Israel*): On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (*representing all the Gentile believers who are in Israel by adoption, Gal 4:5*).

And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed (*a spiritual measure, first appears in Ezekiel and always used figuratively*), twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and* forty *and* four

## Revelation 21:1-21 continued . . .

cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel (*figurative number, actually the total of the redeemed, both Old Testament and New*). And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass.

And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald, the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass." (*The beauty of the imputed righteousness of the Lord Jesus in which all of God's servants are clothed*).

## The Two Books

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**Revelation 20:11** “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead (*spiritually dead, those who belong to the Lord are “alive in Christ”*), small and great, stand before God; and the books (*of the deeds*) were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the (*spiritually*) dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea (*Rev 17:15, all the lost people who have ever lived*) gave up the (*spiritually*) dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the (*spiritually*) dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works (*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus . . .” so we are not included in that group*). And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

## His Mansions

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**John 14:2-3** “In my Father's house ARE many mansions (*The Lord Jesus isn't up in heaven building castles for us, God's mansions are already there!*): if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you (*So where did Jesus have to go to prepare a place for us? To the Cross, because if Jesus had not gone to the cross we could never spend eternity with so holy a God*). And if I go (*to the Cross*) and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

*So where are God's heavenly mansions?*

*Well, did the Lord made this vast Universe  
with billions of galaxies and trillions of stars  
to no purpose?*

A vibrant nebula with blue and orange colors and many stars. The nebula is the central focus, with a mix of bright blue and glowing orange-red regions. It is surrounded by a field of stars, some of which are bright and prominent, while others are smaller and fainter. The background is a deep black, making the colors of the nebula and the points of light stand out sharply.

HIS MANSIONS

## EPILOGUE

I'm now 87 years old, a WW II vet who during his lifetime has pretty much seen it all. It's been a pretty good life despite my many failings, but now, as I watch our country fall, I'm overcome by an oppressive sense of foreboding that I'm unable to shake – and I'm not alone! Many fellow Christians feel the same way. The final “hour of trial” is upon us, beginning probably with the total collapse of the world's economic systems, followed by anarchy . . .

**Ezekiel 14:13-14** "Son of man, if a country sins against Me by committing unfaithfulness, and I stretch out My hand against it, destroy its supply of bread, send famine against it and cut off from it both man and beast, even though these three men, Noah, Daniel and Job were in its midst, by their own righteousness they could only deliver themselves,' declares the Lord GOD."

Isn't the above also true today, as we see natural disasters increasing everywhere? Not only in our land, but around the world? We were once the richest country on Earth, but not anymore. Are not the next few verses also about us, and are not these days here as well?

**James 5:1-6** (NASB) “Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. **It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!** Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.”

For many years I lived just like the above, caring little about anyone but myself. Now I anguish over the wimpy social clubs our churches have become. I weep as I see our children led astray by an immoral media, godless teachers and false religions. I agonize over how spiritually blind we as a people have become. America was once the Christian lighthouse of the world, but that's all over. In 535 B.C., a Bible prophet saw the following . . .

**Zechariah 11:16** "For behold, I am going to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for the perishing, seek the scattered, heal the broken, or sustain the one standing (*godless leadership*), but will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hoofs . . ."

Because the spiritual hoofs have been torn off our people by self-serving church leaders who know not God, we no longer know how to walk the Christian walk.

It wasn't always that way. Many Christian brethren died at Bunker Hill. Two thousand more, freezing, ill clothed and starving, died at Valley Forge. Untold numbers died in the Civil war, the Spanish-American war, in both World

Wars, in Korea, in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan . . . and for what? They died for what we used to be, not for what we have become. We are not worthy of their deaths.

Instead of repenting, we worry about how to protect our assets when the dollar goes belly up or the stock market crashes, as they surely will. Just before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C., the godly sighed and groaned over the abominations committed in their midst, but do we?

**Ezekiel 9:4** “The LORD said to him, ‘Go through the midst of the city. . . and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.’ And to the others (*angels*) he said in mine hearing, ‘Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary.’ Then they began at the ancient men (*the church leaders*) which were before the house” (*of the Lord, i.e., the Church*).

Do you believe sovereign God, Creator of the Universe, is going to act differently now, just because you go to your spiritually dying church on Sunday, know the four spiritual laws, and have said the sinners prayer?

As He did in Israel so long ago, the Lord is once again putting His mark on His remnant. If you have that mark, you know it, because you recognize the lateness of the hour. How late? It's almost time to obey . . .

**Isaiah 26:20-27:1** (NAS) “Come, my people, enter into your rooms and close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while until indignation runs its course. For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; and the earth will reveal her bloodshed and will no longer cover her slain. In that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword (*the word of God*), Even Leviathan the twisted serpent; and He will kill the dragon (*Satan*) who lives in the sea (*of people*).”

Several years ago, a godly old pastor told me with a sigh, “I don’t see the Holy Spirit working in the hearts of the unsaved like I used to.”

“And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always  
strive with man.” **Genesis 6:3**

*It’s not going to be easy for us from here on out . . .*

**Amos 5:18-20** “Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD (*comes during a time of spiritual*) darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the LORD (*come during a time of spiritual*) darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?”

*Night no longer cometh when no man can work, it is here.*

**John 9:4**

*If you’re not crying inside, you should be. I certainly am.*

All of Revelation that needed to be fulfilled  
before the Lord's return has already been fulfilled.

*"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"*

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