"Howbeit, in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments ofmen."



What is the Mark of the Beast?

Revelation 13:14-17 "And (*The Beast with Two Horns*) deceive them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles (*Greek word:* σημεϊον, *say-mi'-on, significant works perceived as miracles*) which he had power to do in the sight of the (*Leopard-Bear-Lion*) beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image (*or likeness*) to the (*Islamic*) beast, which had the wound by a sword (*at the Battles of Tours & Vienna*), and did live (*the new Jihad*). And he (*Two Horns*) had power to give life unto the image of the (*Islamic*) beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

And he *(the Leopard-Bear-Lion)* causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a **mark** in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might **buy or sell**, save he that had the mark, or the name of the *(Islamic)* beast, or the number of his name."

So if you don't have the Leopard-Bear-Lion's mark, (in other words, if you are not in Islam), you will suffer economic bondage!

Below is how the Koran says Moslems should treat people of other faiths . . .

Sura 9:29 "Fight those who believe not in God [*Allah*] and his apostle [*Muhammad*], nor acknowledge the religion of truth [*i.e., Islam, even if they are*] of the people of the book [*i.e. Jews and Christians*], until they pay jizya [a *humiliating tax*] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued [*enslaved*]."

Sura 9:29 exactly fulfills Revelation 13:17. Isn't that what Christians and Jews in Islamic lands have always suffered?

Both Quotes below Are about the Fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. *One writer sees a mark while the other doesn't.*

THE WRITER OF CHRONICLES SEES THIS . . .

2 Chronicles 36:17 "Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand."

EZEKIEL SEES THIS...

Ezekiel 9:4 & 6 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof... 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 which were before the house *(of the Lord)*."

Why the difference?

The author of Chronicles
was a historian
who wrote about visible events
in the material world.

Ezekiel was a prophet who in a vision saw into the spiritual world!

The author of Chronicles did not see the mark because it was a spiritual mark, seen only in the spiritual world!



Mark on Israel During the Christian Era

Revelation 7:1-3 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east (Jesus), having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels (of Rev 6:1-8 & 9:14-16), to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." (Christian era believers, both Jew and Gentile)

IDENTIFYING THE MARK ON ISRAEL

Revelation 14:1 "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."

Mark on Christians During the Christian Era

All Christians are sealed (*i.e., marked*) by the Holy Spirit, but that mark is only visible in the spiritual world!

- 2 Corinthians 1:22 "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."
- Ephesians 1:13 "In whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."
- Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

The above is the Christian's spiritual condition as seen by angels in the spiritual world.

Since God's spiritual mark on the saints is invisible in the material world, wouldn't Satan's mark on the lost be invisible in the material world?

Of course, but how about the mark being a Credit Card or a Computer Chip?

Think it through . . .

People do not go to Hell because of something that happens in the flesh, but because of something that did not happen in the heart!

Now We Can Understand...

Revelation 14:9-11 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the (Leopard-Bear-Lion, i.e., the Islamic) beast and his image (the new Jihad), 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 brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

"The Lord knows those who are His," and seals them accordingly.

In like manner, Satan knows those who belong to him and seals them with his satanic mark.

These marks are visible in the spiritual world to both holy and fallen angels.

Satan marks servants all over the world, but the "Mark of the Beast" of Revelation 13:18 is religion specific!

It's the mark of the Leopard-Bear-Lion Beast, so it is on the lost souls in Islam!



ANTICHRIST

So who is Antichrist?

Well, what was the purpose of John's gospel and three epistles? Why was he inspired to write them at the very end of his life, circa 95 to 105 A.D.? What had happened to the Church during his lifetime?

Acts 20:29 "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

Had the Apostle Paul's prophecy of the church's future already come to pass while John was alive? A few 1st and 2nd century heresies....

Dualism (two gods), Gnosticism (Jesus not flesh), Montanism (additional revelation), Judaism (legalism), Asceticism (monasticism), Nocolaitanism (false apostles), Balaamism (merchandising the Gospel). Seeds of all appeared in the First Century.

So it appears that John wrote when he did to expose false leaders and false doctrines that were already in the church.

Confirmed by John 1:1-14, 2 Ti 3:6-8, Rev 2:2, 2:14-15, 2:20

So who is Antichrist?

Did you know there are ONLY 4 VERSES in Scripture that mention "antichrist" by name?

1John 2:18, "Children, it is the last hour; and just as <u>you have heard</u> that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last time." (NAS)

1John 2:22, "Who is a liar but the one that denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is THE (*Gr. definite article "te"*) antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father." (NAS)

1John 4:3, "And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which <u>you have heard</u> that it is coming; and now it is already in the world." (NAS)

2 John 7, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is **THE** deceiver and **THE** antichrist." (NAS)

SO DO THOSE VERSES SAY THERE'S GOING TO BE A FUTURE ANTICHRIST, OR IS JOHN JUST EXPOSING ANOTHER HERESY? LOOK AT WHAT'S TAUGHT IN THE CHURCHES TODAY.

- **1**. Antichrist will appear during the last 7 years of this era.
- 2. Rule as good leader 3 ½ years.
- 3. Rule as bad leader 3 ½ years.
- 4. Help the Jews rebuild the temple.
- 5. Reinstate animal sacrifices.
- **6**. Build a "talking" image on the temple mount.
- **7**. Stop sacrifices.
- **8**. Destroy the temple during his last 3 ½ years.
- **9**. Turn against the Jews.
- **10**. Persecute Christians during a "seven year" tribulation.
- **11**. Start Armageddon.
- **12**. Be Satan in human form.

Guess what?

Not a single one of those popular end-time doctrines can be directly supported by the Bible.

All are guesswork theology!

Dating Thessalonians

Most biblical historians believe the Thessalonians books were written by 52 A.D., but a couple of verses in 1Thessalonians 2 make that view questionable.

1Thessalonians 2:14-16 "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

So to what "wrath" do you suppose Paul was referring?
The "utmost" calamity that happened to the Jews in the 1st century
was the destruction of their Temple in 70 A.D..
So both Thessalonian books may have been written later than 70 A.D..

But why is that important?

Because during the Christian era, God's Temple is not a physical building on Mount Moriah!

LOCATION OF THE TEMPLE OF GOD DURING THE CHRISTIAN ERA

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"
- 2 Corinthians 6:16 "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
- Ephesians 2:22 "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

2 Thessalonians 2:2-4 "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (Satan is called a "man" in Isaiah 14:16 and elsewhere in Scripture); Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called god (Satan and fallen angels do that), or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

So where is the temple of God during the Christian era?

In the believer's heart!

So the "he" of 2Thessalonians 2:3 is not a human!

He is a demon or Satan attacking the minds of Christians by masquerading as the Holy Spirit, 2 Cor 11:14

All because the spirits are not tested as commanded by 1 John 4:1-3.

The Command We Have Forgotten

1John 4:1-3 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try (*Greek*, δοχιμάζω, *dok-im-ad'-zo: to test, try, discern or examine. This is a command, not just a suggestion.*) the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

The Lord already warned us, "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light," 2Cor 11:13. We forget it to our peril!

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let (i.e., "restrains will restrain", NAS), until he be

taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked *(spirit)* be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

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

FALSE CHURCH DURING THE END-TIMES

1 Timothy 4:1-2 "... in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron ..."

2 Timothy 4:3-4 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths."

For a more detailed explanation of antichrist, please refer to the files on the subject on the www.fishhouseministries.com site.



ישָׁבֻּ'עִים shab-uim' שָׁבָּ'עִים shib-eem'

With the 70 Year captivity over, Gabriel tells Daniel ...

Daniel 9:24-26 "Seventy weeks (שֵׁבְעִׁים שֵׁבְעִׁים, actually seventy sevens) are determined upon THY PEOPLE and upon THY HOLY CITY,

The addressees are stated! This prophecy was written while the Jews were captive in Babylon. It is in the Old Testament, in Hebrew, so who do you suppose it is about?

It's about the Jews and their Holy City,

It is not to or about the Church.

"... to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." (All but one fulfilled by the Cross)

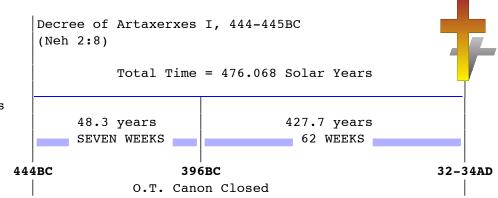
"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (Artaxerxes decree, 444-445 B.C.) unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks (שֹבְעִים, shavuim, the male plural form of seven so these "weeks" or "sevens" are not ordinary 24 hour days.), and threescore and two weeks (שׁבֹעִים, shavuim): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times (fulfilled in Neh 2:8). And after threescore and two weeks (שׁבֹעים, shavuim) shall Messiah be cut off (i.e., killed), but not for himself: and the people of the (satanic) prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood (of foreign people, Rev 17:15), and unto the end of the war (between God and *Satan*) desolations are determined."

Note: "Shavuim" is used only four times in the Old Testament, all in Daniel. Three in the 70 Weeks and once in Daniel 10.

69 "Weeks" Point to the Cross

536BC Daniel's Vision

Both ends of this prophecy were in Daniel's future!



69 x 483 Hebrew years when converted is 476 solar years. 476 - 444 = 32-34AD, the Crucifixion right to the year!

444BC - 48.3 solar years = 396BC. Close of the O.T. 396BC - 427.7 solar years = 32-34 A.D. The Cross.

The 70th "Week" Is Different

John H. Darby of the Plymouth Brethren invented the Seven-Year-Great-Tribulation from this verse!

"And he (the above satanic prince, possibly Satan) shall confirm the covenant with many (Jewish people) for one week (שֵׁבְּוֹשִׁ shavua, a different word, the singular form of seven, so this week is not the same as the prior 69): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate (make what desolate?), even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Daniel 9:27

A Different "Seven"

The Hebrew word for seven used for the 69 weeks is $(\mathfrak{U}, shavuim)$ which is **different** than the word used for the 70th week (שַבְּרָעַ, shavua) so the 70th week is . . .

different in kind than the 69!

If the same word had been used, then each "day" of the 70th week would also be a year, but since the word is different, the 70th week must be viewed in a different way. The 70th week must be describing a time other than seven years!

But how long can this "week" be?

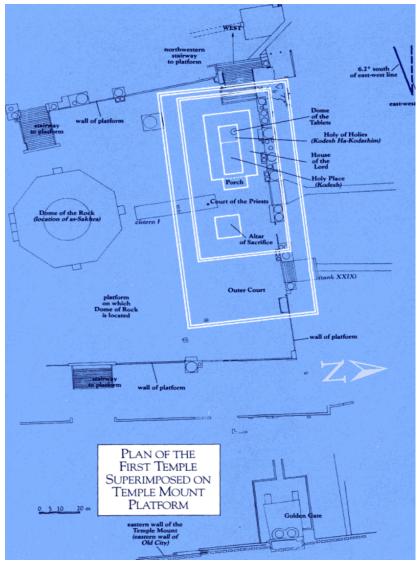
Daniel 9:26-27 (Green's Interlinear) "And its end with the flood (of foreign people, Rev 17:15) and until end war are determined desolations and he shall confirm a covenant with the many week (מַבְּרַעַ, shavua**) one and in the half of the week he shall make cease sacrifice and offering and upon a wing abominations (בּעַעָּבָּע, shiqquts) a desolator (בַּעַעָּבָּע , shiqquts) a desolator (בּעַעָּבָּע shaw-mam) even until end and that which was decreed shall pour out on the desolator."

** The Hebrew word for seven used in this verse, שֵׁבְּעִּים, shavua, is different than the שֵּבְעִּים, shavuim of the prior 69 weeks (and 69 carrots are not the same as one onion). In like manner, the 70^{th} week is different in kind! Since each day of the 69 weeks represented a year, then each day of 70^{th} week cannot be a year, but must be either seven literal 24 hour days or symbolize a much longer period of time.

Now Here is a Believe It or Not!

THE TRANSLATORS OF THE NIV GOT IT RIGHT

Daniel 9:26-27 (NIV) ". . . and its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. But he will confirm a covenant with many for one seven, but in the middle of that seven, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering, and one who causes desolations will place abominations on a wing of the temple, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.



"In the middle of that seven, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering, and one who causes desolations will place abominations on a wing of the temple."

Daniel 9:27, NIV

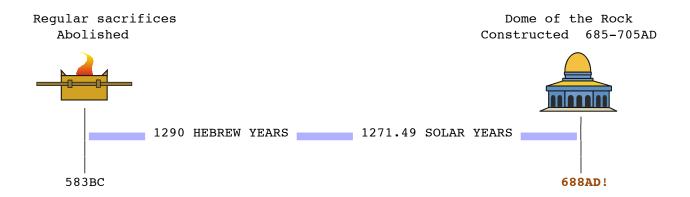
Look where the Dome of the Rock is: "on a wing of the temple" in the Court of the Gentiles!

Illustration from Biblical Archeology Review, Vol. IX, No.2, March-April 1983, shown by permission.

Here is Daniel 12:11 Again

Daniel 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

We already know this abomination to be the Dome of the Rock!



SHIQQOTS HA SHAMEN

- 1. The Hebrew word translated "abomination" is שׁקוּצִם shiqquts (Strong's No. 8251).
 - 2. The Hebrew word translated "desolation" is מַשׁמֶּם shaw-mam (Strong's No. 8074).
 - **3**. In Dan 12:11 we find the Abomination that maketh Desolate is "Shigguts ha Shaw-mam."
 - **4**. Since "shiqquts and shaw-mam" in Dan 12:11 is the Dome of the Rock, then "shiqquts and shaw-mam" in Dan 9:27 should also be the Dome of the Rock!

So it appears the 70th Week stretches into the past and future from the construction of the Dome in 688AD.

Once we recognize that Daniel's 70th week is actually about the Dome of the Rock, all support for a future *Seven-Year Tribulation* goes up in smoke, because Daniel 9:27 is the **ONLY** verse in the whole Bible from which that idea could have been concocted. The identification of the Dome of the Rock as the Abomination that maketh Desolate is confirmed by the day-years of Rev 11:2-3, 12:6, and 13:5. The historic date of its construction is accepted by all, and the mathematics is irrefutable.

Since the 70th Week doesn't appear to be about John Darby's Seven-Year -Great-Tribulation invention, what can it really be about?

We need to stand in Daniel's shoes and view this prophecy from <u>his Jewish</u> perspective!

Daniel, a godly Jew, was immersed in the Law of Moses. He fully understood the Levitical Code!

THE LEVITICAL CODE

1st: One seven of years.

2nd: Followed by six more sevens of years.

3rd: A final unique Jubilee year with 360 Sabbaths.

DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS

1st: Seven sevens of weeks, 7 Shavuim.2nd: Followed by 62 more sevens of weeks, 62 Shavuim.3rd: A final unique week, a Shavua.

The numerical progression in the Levitical Code and the Seventy Weeks is the same.

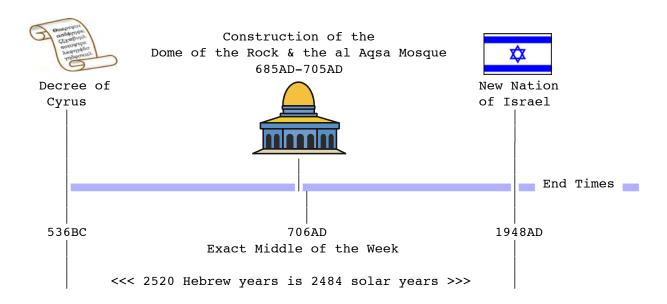
One seven, a multiple of sevens, with a unique time at the end.

- 1. The Levitical Code, had a 50 year cycle, which ended with a year of the Jubilee with 360 Sabbaths.
 - 2. The 70 Weeks also ends with a unique seven, each year of which should also have 360 Sabbaths!

So should this last unique "shavua" be multiplied by 360?

Daniel's 70th Week

Since contextual weeks require multipliers and a Jubilee year has 360 Sabbaths, could the multiplier for the 70^{th} Week be 360? If so, 360 x 7 = 2520 prophetic years or 2484 Solar years.



The mathematical probability of this prophecy predicting - right to the year an event that was

(with the Dome of the Rock in the middle)

2484 years in the future

is ZERO unless it is the correct interpretation.

The to-the-year accuracy of the time-lines in both Daniel and Revelation are beyond comprehension, were it not that the Spirit of God inspired them.

So Lets Read that Verse Again

This final Seven was Fulfilled in 1948 by the new nation of Israel, Which "seals up this vision and prophecy."

Daniel 9:27 (NIV) "But he (a satanic prince) will confirm a covenant with many (Jewish people) for one seven (2520 prophetic, i.e., 2484 solar years), but in the middle of that seven, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering (by making the temple mount spiritually desolate), and one who causes desolations (the satanic spirit behind Islam) will place abominations (the Dome of the Rock) on a wing of the temple, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Now doesn't that fit Scripture and recorded history a whole lot better?

Introduction to the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls

The book of Revelation is the two-sided scroll given to Jesus in Rev 5:1-7. The 1st chiasm (chs 2-11 read by Jesus) contains four parallel prophecies and two parenthetics: They are God the Father's view of the <u>spiritual conditions</u> on Earth during the Christian era.

The "little book" of Revelation is handed to John in Rev 10:9. John then reads the 2nd chiasm (chs 12-20), The leopard-bear-lion beast, the scarlet beast, the bowls of wrath and the "thousand" years. The 2nd chiasm is primarily about the <u>material world</u>, i.e., the holy land and the surrounding nations, during the Christian era.

The seals, trumpets and bowls are not explained earlier because their messages are difficult to understand unless the day-years and chiasmic structure of Revelation are covered first. Though various interpretations of these parallel prophecies are possible, all three are figurative and all are fulfilled during this era.



Greek: $\dot{\epsilon}\pi\tau\alpha$ (hepta) seven — Greek: $\sigma\phi\rho\alpha\gamma\dot{\varsigma}$ (sphragis) seals

The Seals are in the 1st Chiasm

		Ркорнесу 	Subject
A	ch. 2-3	The Seven Churches	The Church
В	ch. 6	The Seven Seals	Christian era trials
C	ch. 7:4-8	The 144,000	12 Tribes of Israel
C	ch. 7:9-14	A Great Multitude	Gentile Church
B	ch. 8-9	The Seven Trumpets	Christian Era trials
A	ch. 11	The Two Witnesses	The Church

Revelation's prophecies are concurrent. All are fulfilled during the Christian era. The four horsemen are <u>God the Father's</u> figurative view of the spiritual conditions on Earth during the Christian era.

THE FIRST HORSEMAN

Revelation 6:1-2 "And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow (Jesus' weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, so this is not Jesus); and a crown was given unto him (ungodly governmental leaders that people gladly followed throughout the Christian era): and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."

THE SECOND HORSEMAN

Revelation 6:3-4 "And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth *(enmity between peoples throughout the Christian era)*, and that they should kill one another *(murders, genocide, etc. during the Christian Era.)*: and there was given unto him a great sword."

THE THIRD HORSEMAN

Revelation 6:5-6 "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand *(for counting money or goods, i.e., the materialistic system)*. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, 'A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny *(Greek,* $\delta\eta\nu\alpha\rho\iota\nu$, a denarion, actually a day's wage for the working man. Food will be expensive for the poor throughout the Christian era); and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." *(Only the rich could afford oil and wine. So the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, ain't we got fun?)*

THE FOURTH HORSEMAN

Revelation 6:7-8 "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale *(green)* horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." *(Includes all the deadly diseases. Only 1/4 part killed by this angel because the other three angels killed the other 3/4's of the people).*

THE DEAD IN CHRIST DURING THE CHRISTIAN ERA

Revelation 6:9-11 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar (*figurative of the Cross*) the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held (*both Jew and Gentile believers*): And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes (*the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ*) were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

THE END TIMES

Revelation 6:12-17 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair (*The brilliant righteousness of the Lord Jesus is hidden by the gross sin on Earth*), and the moon became as blood (*the moon has no light of its own, all it can do is reflect the light of the sun, so this is the church*); And the stars of heaven (*fallen angels or apostate church leaders*) fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a . . .

mighty wind (figs are Israel, both physical and spiritual, Jer 24:1-10, so church leaders not teaching sound doctrine). And the heaven (in Gr: oranous, actually the sky) departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places (even strong Bible churches fall away because of false doctrine). And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; (all figurative; people refuse to face the reality of God's soon-coming judgment on the world) And said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne (people totally reject any knowledge of God), and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come (the return of Jesus, Rev 19:11-16); and who shall be able to stand?'"

The Seventh seal does not open next.

A full count of Christian era believers,
both Jew and the Gentile, must be taken first.

Chapter 7, the First Parenthetic

THE 144,000

Revelation 7:1-10 "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth (*The same four horseman in Rev 6*), holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east (*Jesus*), having the seal of the living God (*beginning of the Christian era*): and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads (*an invisible spiritual seal, seen only in the spiritual world*). And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand (*a figurative number*) of all the tribes of the children of Israel. (*Redeemed of physical Israel during the Christian era*)

"Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed . . .

twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand (the tribe of Levi is included because during the Christian era, all believers are kings and priests and the Levitical priesthood was done away with in Christ, 2Cor 3:14, Rev 1:6, 5:10. The tribe of Dan is not included in this list. Dan was the first tribe to fall into idolatry so there may be no godly Danites left)."

THE GENTILE CHURCH

Revelation 7:11-17 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues *(the Church)*, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, 'Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

Revelation 7:11-17 continued . . .

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, 'What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?' And I said unto him, 'Sir, thou knowest.' And he said to me, 'These are they which came out of great tribulation (the Christian era), and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (i.e., the Gentile Church). Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

The Seventh Seal Isn't Opened until after the Account Of the 144,000 and Gentile Church. Why?

Because all of the redeemed need to be counted before the Lord closes the Christian era.

THE CLOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."

Revelation 8:1

Half an hour is about a week in day-years.

And how long did it take the Lord to make the first heaven and Earth?

About a week.

So shouldn't it take the Lord about a week to make the new heaven and new Earth?

Important Note: Revelation 7 and Revelation 10 are parenthetics. Both tell of events that must be fulfilled <u>just before</u> the end of Creation as we know it. They appear right before the 7th Seal and 7th trumpet because both events signal the end of the Christian era and all believers of this age are included in the eternal kingdom of God.



REVELATION'S TRUMPETS ARE IN THE FIRST CHIASM

		Ркорнесу 	Subject
A	ch. 2-3	The Seven Churches	The Church
В	ch. 6	The Seven Seals	Christian era trials
C	ch. 7:4-8	The 144,000	12 Tribes of Israel
C	ch. 7:9-14	A Great Multitude	Gentile Church
В	ch. 8-9		
D		The Seven Trumpets	Christian era trials
A	ch. 11	The Two Witnesses	The Church

Revelation's trumpets are concurrent, six have already been fulfilled during the Christian era.

But understanding Old Testament typology is key to understanding Revelation's Seven Trumpets!

Introduction to the Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8:2-6 "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel (*Jesus*) came and stood at the altar, (the Cross) having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense (Incense is a Levitical figure for prayer, and Jesus continually prays for the saints, Heb 7:25), that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth (a figure of the Crucifixion (Luke 12:49), so this places the sounding of the First Trumpet at the beginning of the Christian era!): and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."

The Fall of the Coptic Church

There used to be three major branches to the Christian Church:

- **1.** The Coptic, founded by James, headquartered in Jerusalem, spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa.
 - **2.** The Eastern Orthodox, once centered in Constantinople, now centered in Athens. In Greece, the Balkans and Russia.
 - **3.** The Roman or Western Church spread throughout the Western World by various denominations.

Though a few small isolated pockets remain, Islam virtually destroyed the great Coptic Church!

The first four Trumpets are repetitive pictures of how God the Father sees the Christian era.

The First Four Trumpets

Revelation 8:7-11: Repeated pictures of spiritual conditions in the world during "the time of the Gentiles."

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth (same type of figurative language used by Peter in Acts 2:19-20 to describe the crucifixion, so this is a figurative picture of the Cross): and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." (Shortly after the Cross, the church in the Middle East falls into false doctrine).

"And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea (of people, Rev 17:15): and the third part of the sea became blood (false doctrines); And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died (spiritually); and the third part of the ships (churches) were destroyed." (There were three branches to the church: the Roman, the Byzantine and the Coptic. The Coptic Church centered in Jerusalem becomes idolatrous.)

Revelation 8:7-11 (continued)

"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star (stars are messengers, Rev 1:20) from heaven (as foretold by Jesus in Luke 10:18, so this is Satan), burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters (the true Gospel); And the name of the star is called Wormwood (a poisonous tree): and the third part of the waters (of the Gospel) became wormwood (false doctrine of Islam taught); and many men died (spiritually) of the waters, because they were made bitter" (the false doctrines being taught could not save souls).

"And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten (The error of Islam was so gross that the brilliant light of the Lord Jesus could no longer be seen in the Middle East), and the third part of the moon (the Churches destroyed by Islam), and the third part of the stars (the messengers, i.e., the pastors, priests and preachers are replaced by Islamic imams); so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise."

"And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice,

Woe! Woe! Woe!

to the inhabiters of the earth
by reason of the other voices of the
trumpet of the three angels,
which are yet to sound!"

The First Woe

Revelation 9:1-12 "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth (Jesus did not fall, He ascended and descended, so this falling angel is Satan, Luke 10:18): and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke (false religions) out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun (this "Sun" is Jesus, Mal 4:2) and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit (The brilliant light of the Gospel could no longer be heard in the Middle East because of the smoke of the false doctrine of Islam). And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth (militant Islamic *Jihadists*): and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power (to spiritually poison unto death). And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; (Islam was not permitted to spiritually mislead the people who really belonged to the Lord)

Revelation 9:1-12 (continued)

"but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads (those who would remain unsaved even if they heard the Gospel). And to them it was given that they should not kill (spiritually destroy) them (the Church), but that they should be tormented five months (Five months is 152 years. It was 152 years from the beginning of the First Jihad until the Islamic Khalifah, Haroon al Rashid, made peace with the western nations): and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it *(men* who did not convert to Islam were made slaves while their women were put in harems); and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle (the Jihadists were primarily a cavalry army); and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold (they wore golden turbans), and their faces were as the faces of men."

Revelation 9:1-12 (Continued)

"And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions (extremely fierce warriors). And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses (Islamic armies were made up of large cavalry units) running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails (a spiritual death as they converted people to Islam): and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel (messenger) of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon (Destroyer, i.e., a Satanic angel or Satan *himself*), but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter."



The Second Woe

Revelation 9:13-15, KJV "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates (This gives us a geographic location: the Middle East. The Euphrates begins in Syria and runs between Iraq and Iran). And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

But these four angelic "messengers" are not identified right away...

A Parenthetic Comes First

Revelation 10 now foretells the close of the Christian era. John is handed the "little book" of Revelation, but does not start to read the other side of the two-sided scroll (the second Chiasm) until the total of the redeemed are counted in the "Two Witnesses," Ch.11. The redeemed are then taken to be with the Lord at the last trumpet, Rev 11:15 (which ends time as we know it).

Revelation 10:1-11, "And I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, arrayed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire (matches the description of Jesus in Rev 1 so this "angel" is Jesus); and he had in his hand a little book open (the little two-sided book of Revelation, given to Jesus by God the Father at the beginning of the Christian era, Rev. 5:1-7): and he set his right foot upon the sea (of people Rev 17:15), and his left upon the earth (physical creation, showing Jesus has total authority over both); and he cried . . .

with a great voice, as a lion (of Judah) roareth: and when he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying, Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not (sealed because Rev 10:1 is foretelling the return of Jesus and God does not want to prematurely reveal events that are going to take place in His eternal kingdom).

"And the angel (Jesus) that I saw standing upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his right hand to heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created the heaven and the things that are therein, and the earth and the things that are therein, and the sea and the things that are therein, that there shall be **time** (Greek: χ 0óvo ζ 0, chron'-os: defined time. A Greek word for delay from the same root is χ 00vi ζ 0, chron-id'-zo. If God intended this verse to be about delay, He used the wrong Greek word to express it.)

no longer (in other words: at the second coming, time as a natural phenomenon will be nonexistent for the redeemed and we will instantly be in timeless eternity): but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound (Greek: $\sigma\alpha\lambda\pi$ iζó, sal-pid'-zo, the sound of a trumpet), then is finished (Greek: $\tau\epsilon\lambda\dot{\epsilon}\omega$, tel-eh'-o, brought to a final and complete end) the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets (no prophets excluded, so all prophecy relating to this age will be fulfilled at the last trumpet).

"And the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard it again speaking with me, and saying, Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel that standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. (So Jesus who has opened the seven seals, hands the book of Revelation to John) And I went unto the angel, saying unto him that he should give me the little book. And he saith unto me, Take it, and eat it up...

(figurative, i.e., study it carefully); and it shall make thy belly bitter, but in thy mouth it shall be sweet as honey (understanding the word of God is sweet to believers, but the trials and troubles these scriptures foretell bring sadness to the soul).

"And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and when I had eaten it, my belly was made bitter. And they say unto me, Thou must prophesy **again** (*Greek:* $\pi \acute{\alpha} \lambda \iota v$, pal'-in, defined: go back or repeat once more, i.e., turn over the scroll and read the other side) over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings." (So John is commanded to read the other side of this two-sided scroll – the second chiasm beginning in Rev 12 – and it will be about peoples, nations, languages and rulers of the world as known to the prophet, i.e., the Middle East.)

Now Back to Those Four Angels

Revelation 9:13-15, KJV "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns (Rev 4:6-7) of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound (through prayer, the Church bound the works of Satan, Mat 16:19) in the great river Euphrates (This gives the geographic location, the Middle East. The Euphrates begins in Syria and runs between Iraq and Iran. But when the Coptic Church went into apostasy and no longer spiritually bound Satan, he and his angels were loosed to attack the holy land). And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men."

The second woe is fulfilled by those four angels, but what did they do?

Time ends when the Last Trumpet blows in Rev 11:15, so these four angels must be released between Rev 9:14 and Rev 11:15!

But if they were released during the Christian era, when did it happen?

Searching Rev 9:13 through Rev 11:15. Do you see those angels anywhere?

Take a look ... Yes? No?

Oops, no four angels, but there is another clue to their identity . . .



The hour, day, month and year.

Revelation 9:14 ... "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

The Euphrates river runs through the Middle East so these angels are released from within Islam!

Revelation 11:2 ... Gentiles tread under foot the holy city for forty-two **months**.

Revelation 11:3 ... Witnesses prophesy in the Gentile world for twelve hundred and sixty **days**.

Revelation 11:13 ... in that **hour** there was a great (*spiritual*) earthquake.

These three "messengers" relate to Islam in the Holy Land, but where is the Year?

Spiritual Results of the Angels Loosed

Revelation 9:17-19 "And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone; and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed *(before)* the first Jihad, there were three major branches to the Church, the Coptic centered in Jerusalem, the Eastern Orthodox centered in Constantinople and the Roman Church headquartered in Rome. Islamic armies virtually destroyed the Coptic Church, and thus was "a third part of men" killed) by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, (all figures of the false religion of Islam) which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt."

Army of the Enemy

Revelation 9:16 "And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand (in Greek: δύο μυρίας, doo-o moo-ree'-as moo-ree'-as, defined as: two times innumerably many) and I heard the number of them."

So who are these Horsemen?

The almost 2,000,000,000 Muslims who have been a plague on the rest of the world ever since the days of Muhammad.

Islam is God's Judgment on the Church

Revelation 9:20-21 "And the rest of the men which were not killed (the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Churches) by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood (we have different "idols" today, TV, a new car, a bigger home, a power boat, a better job . . . different material things but they are idols just the same): which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders (the Roman church killed millions during the Middle Ages), nor of their sorceries (in Greek: φαρμαχεία, pharmakea, defined medication, i.e., drug abuse, be it alcohol or any other mind-altering substance), nor of their fornication (divorce, remarriage and casual sex), nor of their thefts."

But the Year, where is it?

Hidden in hemera (ἡμέρα), an ambiguous koine` Greek word that can be translated moment, day, time or YEAR, depending on the context. In the NAS, ἡμέρα (Strong's 2250g) is translated year in twelve verses.

If $3\frac{1}{2}$ hay-me'-ra are $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, then $3.5 \times 365.24 = 1278.34$ day-years.

From Dome of the Rock to a free Jerusalem is exactly 1278.34 years.

Viewed in that way, we can now understand the rest of Revelation 11.

Revelation 11:8-11, NAS (*Excerpts*) "And their dead bodies (Greek: πτώμα , pto'-ma, by definition: a fall, a ruin, the carcass, the bones, *i.e.*, the empty churches.) will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified (*[erusalem*). And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations (the Moslems in the surrounding lands) will look at their dead bodies (the empty churches) for three and a half days (Years of day-years, i.e., from 688AD to 1967AD) and will not permit their dead bodies (the empty churches) to be laid in a tomb (to be torn down). And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets (the Christians and Jews) tormented those who dwell on the earth" (it is torment for the lost when the gospel is preached and they refuse to repent).

Spiritual Death of the Witnesses

Revelation 11:7 "And when they (*The Two Witnesses*) shall have finished their testimony (*among the Gentile nations, 1948-1967*), the beast (*Satan*) that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make (*spiritual*) war against them, and shall overcome them (*spiritually with materialism, false doctrine and the cares of this world*), and kill them" (*spiritually*).

Isn't that verse an accurate picture of the spiritual condition of the Church in the West today?

Luke 18:7-8 "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

In every age, God has given the Church it's most effective message for that particular times.

John Huss: "The Bible should be the only source for doctrine."

The Bohemian revival

Martin Luther: "The just shall live by faith."

The Reformation in Germany

John Calvin: "The kingdom of God."

The Reformation in Switzerland

The Puritans: "Christians should live a righteous life."

The Reformation in England

John Knox: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel" Beginning of foreign Missions

All great revivals began with a new opening of God's Word.
The same is true today, but most churches are
bound by lethargy or tradition.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ or you are going to spend eternity in a Lake of Fire" doesn't work very well in this hedonistic, materialistic, TV oriented society because most people don't believe the Bible anymore.

However, when people see how the Bible predicted major events during the Christian era and that the end of all things is at hand, you don't need to beat them over the head with the Gospel. They ask exactly what Paul's prison guard asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Revelation is God's end-time evangelistic tool for the Church...it's the greatest opening of God's Word since the New Testament was written!



We need to reach these lost people for the Lord and Bible prophecy can do that.

The Third Woe

Revelation 11:11-19 "After the three and a half days the breath of life (after Jerusalem was freed of Gentile control in 1967) from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; (In new Israel, God's people are again welcome in all of Jerusalem's synagogues and *churches*) and great fear fell upon those (Moslems) who were beholding them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.'" (Saints, both Jew and Gentile, taken to be with the Lord. . . still future! Compare with the "Come up here" of Rev 4:1) and they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them. And the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. And the seventh angel sounded; (the Last *Trumpet*) and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the . . .

Revelation 11:11-19 (continued)

"kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (It seems there is no "Seven Year Great Tribulation" or "1000 year Millennium" following the Last Trumpet! Instead, we are instantly translated into the eternal Kingdom of God, just as Revelation 11:15 and the following verses plainly declare.)

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD

"And the four and twenty elders, (the twelve sons of Jacob and the twelve apostles) which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying..."We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets (physical

Revelation 11:11-19 (continued)

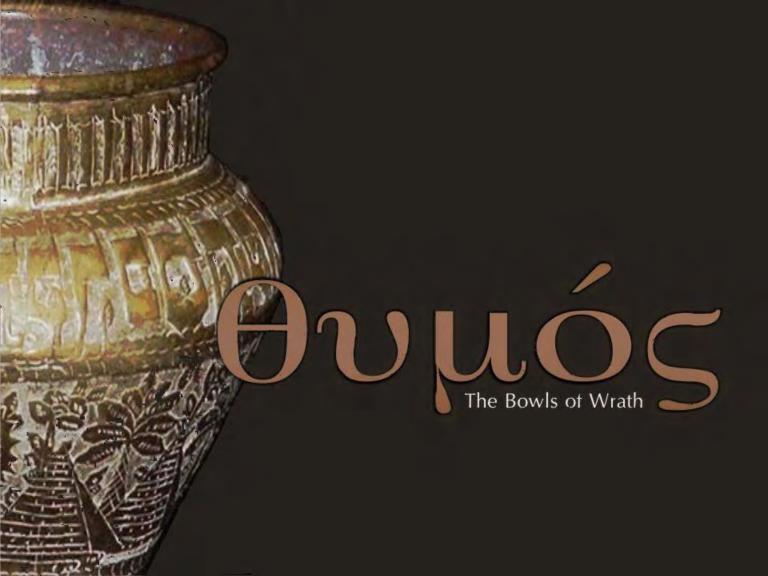
seed of Israel), and to the saints (the Gentile Church), and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

*Jesus has now read the 1st Chiasm, chapters 2-11.*A figurative picture of the spiritual trials that would

take place on Earth during the Christian era.

John reads the 2^{nd} Chiasm, chapters. 12-20.

A figurative picture of the "many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." who would rule over the holy land during the Christian era.



$\theta \upsilon \mu \stackrel{'}{o\zeta} \textit{Gr., thumos,}$ fierceness, indignation, wrath

THE BOWLS OF WRATH ARE IN REVELATION'S 2ND CHIASM

A	ch.12	PROPHECY Woman with 12 Stars	Subject_ Jews during this Era
B	ch.13	Leopard, Lion, Bear Beast	Satanic Kingdom
ba	ch.14	144,000 & The Gospel	All the Redeemed
C	ch.15	Song of Moses and Lamb	Jew & Gentile Redeemed
C	ch.16	Bowls of Wrath	Wrath for the Wicked
B	ch.17	Seven Headed Beast	Satanic Kingdoms
ba	ch.18	Babylon	All the Lost
A	ch.20	The Thousand Years	Gentile Church Era

The Song of Moses and the Lamb show the salvation of all the redeemed, both Jew and Gentile.

The Bowls of wrath tell of God's judgment on those in Islam.

In context with the Leopard-Bear-Lion, these bowls are fulfilled in the Middle East.

Revelation 15:1, NAS "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished."

These plagues are "the last" so they take place after the Leopard-Bear-Lion is in Israel.

The Seven Bowls are of the same nature as the Seven Trumpets, but they are an intensification thereof.
In other words, spiritual conditions worsen as the Christian era nears its end.

FIGURATIVE PICTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA

Revelation 15:2-8 "And I saw something like a sea of glass" mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast (Satan's Leopard-Bear-Lion beast, whose throne is in the Middle East, probably at the Ka'aba Stone in Mecca) and his image (the second lihad) and the number of his name (666), standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God (Jews during the Christian era still under the Levitical code), and the song of the Lamb (New Testament Christians), saying, 'Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

"After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels (messengers) who had the seven (last) plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests (high girding of authority) with golden sashes. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple (the new Jerusalem, because it remains uninhabited until the return of Jesus) until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished."

The Seven Bowls

Revelation 16:1-21 "Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.""

BOWL NUMBER ONE

"So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant (*spiritual*) sore on the people who had the mark of the (*Leopard-Bear-Lion*) beast and who worshiped his image" (*the second Jihad*).

BOWL NUMBER TWO

"The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea (of people, Rev 17:15), and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing (soul) in the sea died" (no saved people in Islam).

BOWL NUMBER THREE

"Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters (the Word of God); and they became blood (the Gospel corrupted with the false doctrine of Islam). And I heard the angel (messenger) of the waters (Gospel) saying, 'Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints (Christians) and prophets (Jews), and You have given them blood (of false doctrine) to drink. They deserve it.' And I heard the altar (a figure for the Crucifixion so this is Jesus at the Cross) saying, 'Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.'"

BOWL NUMBER FOUR

"The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun (Jesus, Malachi 4:2), and it was given to it to scorch men with fire (the word of His mouth, "Is not my word like a fire?"). Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory."

BOWL NUMBER FIVE

"Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast (in the Middle East, perhaps at the Ka'aba stone), and his kingdom became (spiritually) darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of (their spiritual) pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds."

BOWL NUMBER SIX

"The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates, (between Iraq, Iran and Syria so this is in the Middle East); and its water was dried up (Spiritually, the whole Middle East is in Islam), so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east (The major Islamic countries are East of Israel so this is still about them).

"And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon (*Satan*) and out of the mouth of the beast (*Islam*) and out of the mouth of the false prophet (*Muhammad*), three unclean spirits like frogs (*the Leopard-Bear-Lion*, *a.k.a. Islam*); for they are spirits of demons . . .

Bowl Number Six continued . . .

performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, (*Islam is no longer a Middle Eastern religion. It is spreading into the rest of the world*) to gather them together for the (*spiritual*) war of the great day of God, the Almighty (*The last trumpet and the Great White Throne, could both happen at any time*).

(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.)

And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon." (*Understood to be a place of war and judgment*).

BOWL NUMBER SEVEN

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, 'It is done.' (The Last Trumpet now Sounds) And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake . . .

Bowl Number Seven continued . .

such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.

The great city was split into three parts (Christians, Jews and Muslims), and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great (the lost of all time) was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. And every island (of isolated people) fled away, and the mountains (the so-called great churches) were not found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each (the warheads on Katusha rockets weigh about 100 pounds), came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe."



Mystery Babylon

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.

"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:* $\lambda \dot{\nu} \chi \nu \sigma \varsigma$, *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: φαρμαχέια, 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.



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

The so-called "Thousand" Years

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

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

Once we recognize Rev 20's position in the 2nd chiasm as parallel <u>in time and subject</u> 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 <u>red</u>.

The Context of Revelation 20 is Figurative

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 $\chi(\lambda \iota o\iota)$, chilioi, an indefinite plural of $\chi \iota \lambda\iota a\varsigma$ chilias, 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 . . .

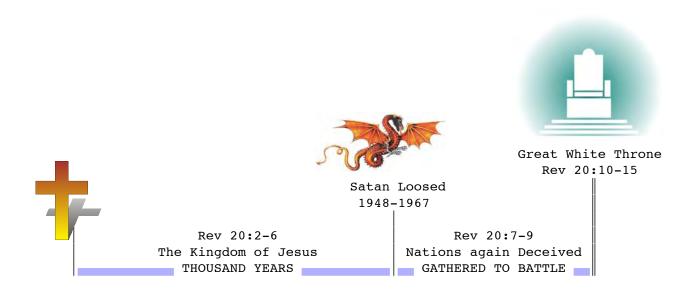
This binding is scripturally limited to deceiving the nations. Through the whole Christian Era, the western nations have been nominally Christian. Kings have been crowned and deposed in Jesus' name and wars have been fought in Jesus' name. Thus the nations were not deceived that Jesus is Lord.

"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 unequaled 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.



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

The definite article, $\tau \dot{\eta}$ 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 \ldots ,

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 – 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, <u>and thus we shall ever be with the Lord</u>."

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, <u>but also in the one to come</u>."

That <u>age to come</u> 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

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."

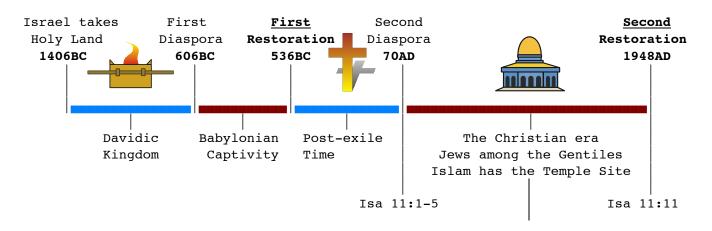
Verses 1-5 are a figurative prophecy of Jesus in 30 A D. Verses 6-10 come next

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

So <u>when</u> 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 <u>the second time</u> 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?



The Christian Era

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

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."

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 <u>ALL</u> 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 . . .

"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."

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

"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).



The Apantesis

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:* $\alpha \pi \alpha \nabla \theta$).

- **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 Appli 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:* ἀπάντηό $\hat{\mathbf{co}}$, *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 . . .

"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).

"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

"... 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 . . .

"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)."



The Restoration

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 Era is Reserved for Fire.

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.

It appears that God wills to

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, made from all the souls His Son has 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, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel (So to enter this city through one of these gates you need to be either a physical or 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 of 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

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

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house <u>ARE</u> 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?

Did the Lord made this vast Universe with billions of galaxies and trillions of stars to no purpose?



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 . . .

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 . . ."

Zechariah 11:16 "For behold, I am going to raise up a

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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