

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART ONE: The Introduction (1:1-8)

A. The revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1-3)

1. Notice that this is the revelation of Jesus Christ, not the riddle of Jesus Christ. It is a message not a mystery. It was given to communicate to us, not to confuse us regarding the future. When interpreted in a plain and normal sense, this book makes sense instead of nonsense. The use of a plain and normal method of interpretation does not rule out symbols but when they are used, there is an obvious plain and normal meaning to them. This meaning is largely found in the book itself or in a few instances in other parts of scripture. The words “like” and “as” emphasize how they appeared to John. Finally, to best understand and benefit from this book, avoid speculation and stick to revelation (cp. 2 Timothy 2:23; 2 Corinthians 10:5).
2. God gave this revelation to Jesus Christ who sent it by an angel to John, Christ’s servant who was to show it to Christ’s servants, i.e. believers. The Greek word for the words, “shortly” or “soon” do not mean that the event is happening in the near future. It simply means that it is going to happen quickly when it does happen at some point in the future. In Luke 18:8, it is translated “quickly” or “speedily (1:1).”
3. John’s responsibility: He testified to God’s word, of Jesus Christ and of what he saw, i.e. what God revealed to him (1:2).
4. God’s blessing rests upon those who hear or read the book of Revelation and obey its teachings. This is the first of several beatitudes (see 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14) in the book of Revelation. The words “near” or “at hand” simply mean the event is imminent but not necessarily going to occur immediately. Imminent means that the time could start at any moment (1:3).

B. Message to the 7 churches in the Roman province called Asia which is the Asian part of modern Turkey (1:4-11)

1. Grace and peace for the believers of these 7 churches come from 3 sources:
 - a. God the Father: “Him who is and who was and who is to come” (1:4).
 - b. The seven Spirits who are in front God’s throne. The Amplified Bible translates this the seven-fold Holy Spirit as do the NLT, CJB, LB, EXB and the footnote to the NIV. In support of this the 7 Spirits are co-equal with the Father and Son as the source of grace and peace. This would not be true of angels or any other spiritual entity. Isaiah 11:2 gives the identity of the Holy Spirit in His seven aspects (1:4).
 - c. God the Son: Jesus Christ (1:5a).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

2. The greatness of Jesus Christ (1:5b-7):
 - a. The faithful witness (1:5) to: the evil of this world (John 7:7), His true identity (John 8:14), and the truth (John 18:37).
 - b. The firstborn of the dead (1:5). While Christ was the first person to be permanently raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:22-23), this title emphasizes His lordship over the living and the dead (Romans 14:9).
 - c. ruler of the kings of the earth (1:5) – see Matthew 28:18. He will sit on His rightful throne when He returns in glory with His angels (Matthew 25:31).
 - d. His continual love for us (1:5).
 - e. He washed (older manuscripts “released”) believers from their sins by shed blood (1:5).
 - f. Christ made believers to be a kingdom of priests to God the Father (1:6).
 - g. Glory, dominion belong to Christ forever (1:6).
 - h. Christ is coming with the clouds and will be visible to everyone even those who put Him to death (1:7). All the tribes of the earth will mourn (cp. Matthew 24:30). Christ left earth visibly went into a cloud and will appear in the same way (Acts 1:9-11).
3. The greatness of God the Father (1:8)
 - a. He is the first and the last. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This agrees with Isaiah 44:6 and shows that God has always existed and always will exist (Psalm 90:2). He is the one who keeps on existing, kept on existing, and is to keep on coming.
 - b. God is the almighty or all-powerful God.
4. John the writer of the book (1:9-11)
 - a. His relationship (ours too) to other believers in what he shares (1:9):
 - (1) sufferings that are part of being in Christ.
 - (2) participating in the kingdom of Christ.
 - (3) perseverance or endurance that is in Christ.
 - b. He was confined to the island of Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Christ (1:9).
 - c. John is in the spirit that is out of the body on the Lord’s day (1:10).
 - (1) This concept is spoken of in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4.
 - (2) The Lord’s Day may mean that this occurred on Sunday or that it meant John saw the future Day of the Lord in this vision.
 - d. John heard a voice like a trumpet which is a call for action (1:10).
 - e. John is commanded to write what he sees in a book and send it to the seven churches of the Roman province of Asia (Asian part of modern Turkey) which were located at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea (1:11).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART TWO: The Things Which You Have Seen (1:12-20)

A. What John saw (1:12-17a)

1. John saw the 7 churches represented by 7 golden lampstands (1:12,20).
2. John saw someone in the midst of the churches, someone who looked like the Son of Man (a title for Jesus emphasizing his humanity and his prophetic office). The verses that follow show that what looked like Jesus was in fact Him (1:13a).
3. Description of Christ (1:13-16):
 - a. A robe that reached to His feet (1:13).
 - b. A golden sash wrapped around His chest (1:13).
 - c. His head and hair were white like wool and snow (1:14).
 - d. His eyes were like a flame of fire (1:14). This is repeated in 2:18 and we see in 2:23 that they search the minds and hearts of people. Christ knows what we think and feel.
 - e. His feet were like burnished bronze glowing in the furnace (1:15). This is repeated in 2:18 and we see in 2:23 that it refers to judgment based on deeds. Christ is our judge (2 Corinthians 5:10) and He will judge the world (Acts 17:31).
 - f. His voice was the like the sound of many waters (1:15) showing that His word is powerful (Hebrews 4:12; Jeremiah 23:29).
 - g. Christ held 7 stars in His right hand (1:16) which are the messengers of the 7 churches according to 1:20. The Greek word translated angels sometimes clearly refers to human messengers as in James 2:25; Luke 7:24. Since John was to write to these messengers, it is most likely that they were men as normally people would not write messages to angels.
 - h. A sharp two edged sword comes out of the mouth of Christ (1:16). This is the word of God (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17).
 - i. His face was like the sun shining in its strength (1:16). This is an outshining rather than a reflection of God's glory (Hebrews 1:3) which shows in Christ's face (2 Corinthians 4:6).
4. John's reaction was to fall at Christ's feet lying there like a dead man (1:17a).

B. What John heard (1:17b-20)

1. Jesus commanded John (and all believers) not to be afraid (1:17b).
2. Christ calls Himself by the title of first and last as the Jehovah of the Old Testament (1:17c cp. Isaiah 44:6).
3. Christ refers to Himself as the one who was dead for a point of time but is now continually and forever alive (1:18).
4. Christ declares He continually has the rule (pictured by the keys) over death and Hades. He took this from Satan at the cross (1:18 cp. Hebrews 2:14).
5. Jesus tells John the outline of Revelation: The things you have seen, The things that are, and the things which shall take place after these things (1:19).
6. Mystery – defined – Truth revealed in the New Testament previously concealed in the Old Testament. 7 stars = 7 messengers of the 7 churches; 7 lampstands = the 7 churches (1:20). Angels, see A 3 g above.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART THREE: The Things Which Are: The seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 2:1-3:22)

Churches > Points of Comparison V	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyritira
Christ	Holds the 7 messengers, walks among the churches	The first and the last, dead but now alive	Has the word of God	All knowing and judge
Strengths	Deeds, toil, perseverance, Not tolerate evil men, test for false Apostles, hate deeds of lawless	Suffer, poor but rich, tribulation	Hold fast Christ's name, not deny faith even facing death.	Deeds, love, faith, perseverance, growth
Problems **	Left 1 st love for God	<u>Blasphemy by false Jews, prison even death, testing</u>	Eat idol sacrifices, sex immorality, some lawless, <u>live at Satan's HQ</u>	Tolerate false prophetess/teacher who promotes Immorality, eat idol sacrifices, some into deep things of Satan
Solution	Recall where been, repent, do deeds done at 1 st	Not fear, be faithful for reward-crown of life	Repent	Repent for sinful, hold fast for loyal
Warning	Removal of local church	None	Christ using His word against them	Sickness for her, death for her kids, suffering for adulterers
Overcomer*	Eat of tree of life in God's paradise in heaven	Not hurt by second death	God's bread, i.e. benefits of Christ's death, Be justified with new identity	If they also keep Christ's work until the end, will share rule over nations with Christ, & have His illumination ***

* One becomes an overcomer the moment He trusts Christ for salvation (1 John 5:4-5; Romans 8:37; Revelation 21:7-8).

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." = Let the one who knows what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches have understanding of it as well.

** Under Problems: Not underlined items are sins while underlined items are persecution or bad circumstances.

*** See 2:28. Christ Himself is the morning star (22:16) who at His coming will give us full illumination or understanding in our hearts (1 Corinthians 13:12; 2 Peter 1:19).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART THREE: The Things Which Are: The seven churches of Revelation (Revelation 2:1-3:22) continued

Churches > Points of Comparison V	Sardis (3:1-6)	Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Laodicea (3:14-22)
Christ	Has the 7-fold Holy Spirit, holds messengers	Holy, True not false, authority of David, open & closes doors	Genuine, faithful & true witness, source of creation
Strengths	Deeds, A few people who have shown new life by good deeds (unsoiled clothes)	Deeds, kept Christ's word, humble, opportunity, i.e. open door. not denied Christ's name	None
Problems **	Church appears alive but dead, deeds not complete/lack faith, soiled clothes, i.e. lack good works	<u>None noted except opposition from false Jews.</u>	Lukewarm actions, pride, self-deceived
Solution	Wake up, strengthen what's right, remember & obey God's word, repent	False Jews made to bow down at Christ's 2 nd coming. Like all true believers they will be kept out of the 7 year tribulation.	Heavenly riches, decisive in good deeds, & seek spiritual understanding. Be open to fellowship with Christ.
Warning	Christ's return will be unexpected	Hold fast your present spiritual level so no loss of reward	Love of Christ means discipline & rebuke.
Overcomer*	Name not erased from book of life, clothed in white garments (deeds which show His true faith), Christ will confess our name before God & angels.	Honor in heaven, will not depart from heaven, written on with new name or identity in relation to God, Christ's new name and God's city New Jerusalem	Share authority with Christ. See note below concerning Christ.

Note: Revelation 3:21 makes it clear that Christ sat down with the Father on the Father's throne. This means that He is not presently seated on a throne of His own. Matthew 25:31 makes it very clear that Christ will not sit on His own throne until He returns. This, of course, is David's throne from which Christ will rule forever (Luke 1:31-33 - 1000 years on earth and then for eternity).

Note: Revelation 3:10 states that those who have kept the word of God's perseverance, i.e. true believers (John 8:51; 1 John 2:29; 3:7-10) will be kept from the hour, i.e. time of the 7 year tribulation. Salvation is God's perseverance not ours (Philippians 1:6).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART FOUR: THE THINGS WHICH SHALL TAKE PLACE AFTER THESE THINGS (4:1-22:5)

A. The scene in heaven following the rapture of the church (4:1 – 5:14)

1. The glory of God the Father (4:1-11)

a. John (4:1-2a)

(1) John saw an open door in heaven (4:1).

(2) The voice he had heard that sounded like a trumpet in 1:10 (which was Jesus Christ according to 1:12-13) invited him to heaven to be shown what would happen after these things, i.e. the things of the churches (4:1).

(3) John was caught up in the spirit (i.e. not in the body as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4) into heaven (4:2a).

b. God is on the throne. We know this is the Father from verse 4:10-11 cp. with 5:6-7 which distinguishes Him from the lamb (=Christ) and cp. 4:5 which distinguishes Him from the 7-fold Holy Spirit which is called the 7 spirits of God (4:2b).

c. God's appearance was described as being like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance and a rainbow like an emerald surrounded His throne. Ezekiel 1:28 would suggest that this was the glory of the Lord. Furthermore, Exodus 33:20 and Timothy 6:16 would tell us that God cannot be seen by anyone and live. Exodus 28:16-20 show the sardius stone (NKJV) for the first tribe Rueben and the jasper stone for the tribe of Benjamin. Some have suggested that God's faithfulness to Israel is implied by the combination of the rainbow and these two particular stones (4:3).

d. The 24 elders represent the church based on the following (4:4):

a. with crowns (Greek stephanos) which speaks of being rewarded. Crowns as rewards are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:27; 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4.

b. clothed in white garments which is said to be the righteous deeds of believers in Revelation 19:8.

c. sitting on thrones for reigning with Christ (Romans 5:17; Revelation 5:8-10; 22:5) and judging the world and even angels (1 Corinthians 6:2-3).

e. Sounds (thunder) and sights (lightning) of impending judgment (4:5a cp. 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).

f. The 7 lamps burning in front of the throne represent the 7-fold Holy Spirit (4:5b).

g. Something like a sea of glass like crystal was in front of the throne (4:6a).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- h. Four living creatures each with 6 wings praise God for His holiness, almighty power and eternality day and night without ceasing (4:6b-8). A comparison with Isaiah 6:1-3 identifies them as the Seraphim, a special order of angels.
 - i. When the 4 seraphim give God glory, honor and thanks as sovereign and eternal, the church represented by the 24 elders will fall down in front of God, worship Him (in the sense of expressing submission) as eternal, cast their crowns in front of the throne and say that God is worthy to receive glory honor and power for His creation and sustaining of everything because of His will (4:9-11).
2. The glory of God the Son (5:1-14)
- a. A book of what proves to be judgments with 7 seals was in the hands of God the Father who was seated on the throne (5:1).
 - b. A strong angel inquires loudly as to who is worthy to open the seals of this book (5:2).
 - c. No one was found in heaven or on earth or in hades who was worthy to open this book of judgments (5:3).
 - d. Because of this, John began to weep greatly but was stopped by one of the church represented by the elders explained that an individual known as the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David had overcome to open the book and its 7 seals (5:4-5).
 - (1) The lion is associated with the tribe of Judah in Genesis 49:10 and is obviously the same as the lamb in verses 5:5-6.
 - (2) Christ is the root and offspring of both David (Revelation 22:16) and David's father Jesse (Isaiah 11:1, 10).
 - a. Christ as God is their root.
 - b. Christ as man is their offspring or shoot.
 - (3) Christ was worthy to be the one to open the seals of God's judgment because He had overcome the angelic rulers including Satan at the cross (Colossians 2:15).
 - e. Christ (symbolized by the lamb, John 1:29) stands between the throne of God the Father with the seraphim (pictured by the 4 living creatures) and the church (pictured by the 24 elders). Christ appears to have at some point been slain. From the rest of scripture we know that His resurrection body had wounds (Luke 24:39-40; John 20:20, 24-27). The 7 horns picture Christ's perfect power and the 7 eyes picture the 7-fold Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2) who is upon Christ and sent out into all the earth to convict the world (John 16:8-9) of the sin of unbelief in Christ (5:6).
 - f. Christ comes and takes the book out of the hand of God the Father who is seated upon the throne (5:7).
 - g. In response the 4 seraphim and the church fall down before Christ. Each one of the church(=24 elders) are holding harps and the prayers of believers (pictured by the golden bowls full of incense cp Psalm 141:2) to be presented to God (5:8).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- h. The 4 seraphim and the church sing a new song praising Christ as worthy to break the seal of the book because He was slain and purchased for God with His blood every people and nation and has made these ones He purchased a kingdom and priests now and in the future, these same ones that He purchased will reign on the earth (5:9-10).
- i. Then an innumerable group of angels around the throne and the seraphim (=living creatures) and the church (=elders) say with a loud voice that Christ who was slain is worthy to receive our power, our riches, our wisdom, our might, our honor, our glory and our blessing (5:11-12).
- j. John then hears the whole creation in heaven, on the earth and sea and even those under the earth are heard saying this praise to God the Father sitting on the throne and to Christ that all blessing, honor, glory and dominion belong to them eternally (5:13-14).

B. The Seven Seals (6:1-8:6)

- 1. Seal 1 events (6:1-2)
 - a. event 1: The going forth of the Antichrist pictured by rider on white horse.
 - b. event 2: A victor's crown (not a ruler's crown) was given to him.
 - c. event 3: He was successful in conquering others without war.
- 2. Seal 2 events (6:3-4)
 - a. event 4: Peace is removed and war breaks out pictured by rider on a red horse.
 - b. event 5: Men are killing each other in large numbers pictured by a great sword.
- 3. Seal 3 events (6:5-6)
 - a. event 6: A great famine or food shortage occurs pictured by the black horse, the pair of scales showing one quart of wheat for a day's wages and 3 quarts of barley for a day's wages.
 - b. Event 7: The olive oil and the wine, the products of the rich, are not harmed at this time.
- 4. Seal 4 events (6:7-8)
 - event 8: War, famine, epidemic diseases and wild animals will kill one-fourth of the world population pictured by the ashen horse with death taking the bodies and Hades taking the souls.
- 5. Seal 5 event takes place in heaven (6:9-11)
 - event 9: souls of believers martyred during these early days of The Tribulation because of Christ who is called the Word of God (John 1:1, 14) and because of their testimony (1 John 5:10-12) cry out to God asking how long it would be before He judged and avenged their deaths and they are given white robes (suggests an intermediate body) and told to rest a while longer until the full number of their fellow-believers were martyred.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

6. Seal 6 events (6:12-7:17)

- a. event 10: Great earthquake moving every mountain and island out of their places (6:12,14).
- b. event 11: The sun became black as sackcloth, the moon turned blood red, meteor stars fall to the earth, and in some way the sky was split apart (6:12-14).
- c. event 12: People of all socioeconomic classes hide in caves and among the mountain rocks wanting to be hidden from the presence of God and from the wrath of Christ. This event announces that the great day of the wrath of God and of Christ has come. This is the beginning of the Day of the Lord (6:15-17).
- d. Event 13: Four angels who restrain the wind from the four directions are keeping the wind from blowing on the earth, sea or trees and are designated to harm the earth, sea and trees. This will occur in the first four trumpet judgments in Revelation chapter 8, They are restrained until the 144,000 Jews from 12 tribes of Israel (12,000 from each tribe) are sealed on their foreheads. According to Revelation 14:4, these are the first converts pictured by the term "firstfruits," (see Romans 16:5 and 1 Corinthians 16:15 for a similar use) during the tribulation period. (7:1-9).
- e. Event 14 takes place in Heaven: A large group of people from all parts of the world stand in front of God's throne and Jesus Christ and praise them for salvation. All the angels standing in front of the throne, the elders (picturing the church), Christ's spiritual body, and the four living creatures, who are the seraphim, worship God. This large group of people came out of the great tribulation (obviously martyred) having been given the righteousness God requires (pictured by the white robes) by the blood of Christ (Romans 4:3-5; 23-24 cp. Isaiah 61:10). We see that heaven during this intermediate state prior to their resurrection will be a place of God's presence, service, guidance, protection, provision and comfort in God's temple there. The wording about the robes and eyes suggest some type of intermediate body (7:9-17).

7. Seal 7 events are primarily in heaven (8:1-6)

- a. Event 15: One half hour of silence in heaven (8:1).
- b. Event 16: The presentation of trumpets to the 7 angels who stand in front of God (8:2).
- c. Event 17: An angel with a small shovel offers incense with the prayers of believers upon the golden altar in front of God's throne (8:3-4).
- d. Event 18: The angels uses the small shovel to fill it with fire from the altar and throw it to the earth causing: noises, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake (8:5).
- e. Event 19: The 7 angels prepare to sound the trumpets of judgment.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

C. The Seven Trumpets (8:7-12:17)

1. The first trumpet events (8:7)
 - Event 20: Hail and fire mixed with blood thrown to the earth and burns one-third of the trees and grass were burned up (8:7).
2. The second trumpet events (8:8-9)
 - Event 21: Something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea resulting in one-third of the sea being polluted with blood, one-third of the sea creatures dying and one-third of the ships being destroyed (8:8-9).
3. The third trumpet events (8:10-11)
 - Event 22: A great star named after a bitter plant wormwood falls from heaven burning like a torch. Keep in mind the term “star” is used for any object in outer space other than the sun or moon which could include a meteorite or comet. It falls on one-third of the rivers and springs causing people to die because the water is bitter and poisonous (8:10-11).
4. The fourth trumpet (8:12).
 - Event 23: One-third of the sun, one-third of the moon and one-third of the stars were so affected that there was darkness one-third of the day and one-third of the night. We are not told how long this lasts. It could be for the remainder of the tribulation or for just a few days. See Luke 21:27.

Note: Revelation 8:13 states the word “woe” three times. The last 3 trumpets sounded by the angels are each called a woe (see Revelation 9:12; 11:14 and 12:12).

5. The fifth trumpet – first woe (9:1-12)
 - Event 24: Locust-like demons are loosed by the angel of the bottomless pit or Abyss. Smoke will come out of the bottomless pit and darken the air and the sun. The angel of the bottomless pit is called Abaddon (Hebrew) and Apollyon (Greek) which many believe to be another name for Satan. He is king over them which shows these are not actual locusts (see Proverbs 30:27). They are permitted to torment but not kill unsealed people for five months. They are not permitted to harm the grass, trees or any green thing. People will seek death during this time but not be able to find it (9:1-12).
6. The sixth trumpet – second woe (9:13-11:14)
 - a. Event 25: Four angels bound at the Euphrates River are released and empower an army of 200,000,000 soldiers to use 3 plagues of fire, smoke and brimstone to kill one-third of the earth’s population. People still will not change their mind to trust Christ because they are involved with demons, have substitutes for God, murder or stealing (9:13-21).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- b. Event 26: An angel comes from heaven to earth with a little book in his hand and put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. He kept John from writing what the seven thunders had revealed to John. He announced that there would be no more delay and that in the time period during which the seventh angel sounds his trumpet the mystery (=New Testament truth not revealed in the Old Testament) would be brought to a conclusion. A voice from heaven tells John to get the book from the angel who made the announcement and eat it. The book was sweet in John's mouth and bitter in his stomach. God's word of prophecy is both pleasant and unpleasant. He was told that he would giving more prophecy (10:1-11).
- c. Event 27: The apostle John is made an actor in this event. He is commanded to measure the temple (=holy place and the most holy place), the altar and those who worship in it. The outer court is not measured because it will be given along with the city of Jerusalem to Gentile control for 42 months. The city will not return to Jewish control until Jesus Christ returns. The measuring is a picture of God's judgment and the fact that God will not be pleased with the temple building, its altar or its worshipers during the first half of the tribulation (11:1-2).

Back ground to event 28: The first half of the tribulation which will last three and a half years which equal 42 months or 1260 days. 360 days equal one Bible year. During this time the two witnesses will testify. They will have power like Moses and Elijah for fire to proceed from their mouth and kill their enemies, hold back rain during that time, turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with plagues as they desire(11:3-6).

- d. Event 28: The antichrist will come out of the abyss, i.e. raise from the dead and will war with the two witnesses, overcome them and kill them (11:7).
- e. Event 29: The bodies of the two witnesses who evidently were involved in bringing plagues on the largely unbelieving people on the earth will lie unburied causing great celebration and gift giving. Then God will raise them bodily from the dead, stand them on their feet and scare the onlookers badly. They are then taken up in a cloud to heaven in view of their enemies (11:8-12).
- f. Event 30: In that same hour there was a great earthquake destroying one-tenth of Jerusalem and killing 7,000 people. The rest of the people (those who were not enemies were terrified so much that they gave glory to God. This indicates they turned to Christ (cp. Revelation 16:9). This event ends the 2nd woe which is 6th trumpet.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

7. The seventh trumpet – third woe (11:15-12:12)

- a. Event 31: Loud voices in heaven announce that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of the Lord God and His Christ, i.e. anointed King and that Jesus would have an eternal reign. The church represented by the 24 elders gives thanks to God for using His great power to begin to assume control. They give thanks for His wrath in the face of the rage of the nations, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for the rewarding of the prophets and believers who fear His name and to bring to ruin those who are bringing the earth to ruin.
- b. Event 32: The temple of God in heaven (this will not disappear until after the 1000 year reign of Christ – Revelation 21:22) will be opened showing the real ark of the covenant of which the ark in the earthly tabernacle was a copy (Hebrews 9:21-24). Along with this, there was lightning, thunder, an earthquake and a hailstorm on earth.

Background to Event 33: In 12:1-2 the nation of Israel, who is to give birth to the promised Messiah (Isaiah 9:6; Romans 9:4-5), is pictured by a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet (Genesis 37:9-11). In this illustration the 12 stars obviously represent the 12 tribes of Israel. Satan is pictured as a dragon with 7 heads, ten horns and 7 diadems or rulers crowns (Revelation 12:9). Satan had taken one-third of the angels pictured by stars with him (cp. Revelation 1:20; Job 38:7; Isaiah 14:12 with Isaiah 40:26). As soon as the Messiah was born, Satan was intent on destroying Him (12:4). The nation of Israel gave us the Messiah who is destined to rule the nations with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:7-9; Revelation 2:27. Following the Messiah's death and resurrection which are not discussed in this passage, He leaves the earthly scene to ascend into heaven (12:5).

Explanation of the other symbols: The ten horns are ten kings which are associated with Satan and the Antichrist pictured as a beast (Revelation 17:12). These ten kings give their power to the Antichrist (Revelation 17:12, 16-17). Daniel 7:24 states that when the Antichrist arises that he will subdue 3 of the 10 kings which leaves 7 diadems or ruler's crowns that he would have. According to Revelation 17:10 the 7 heads represent 7 kings, 5 previous to John's writing, 1 present at the time of John's writing and finally 1 final one after the time of John's writing.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- c. Event 33: Israel pictured by the woman flees into the wilderness (12:6). The wilderness area is the south part of Israel and is also very mountainous. Jesus described the event that causes this as the abomination of desolation predicted by the prophet Daniel (Matthew 24:15). The people of Judea are commanded by Jesus, when that time comes, to flee to the mountains located in the wilderness area (Matthew 24:16). Jesus said this would be a time of great tribulation worse than anytime in the past or future (Matthew 24:21). This abomination of desolation is the Antichrist seating himself in the temple and presenting himself as God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).
- d. Event 34: The scene shifts to heaven where war breaks out and results in the defeat of Satan and his angels by Michael, the archangel, and his angels. Satan and his angels no longer had access to heaven, were thrown down and resulted in Satan no longer being able to accuse believers (12:9-10 cp Job 1:8-11). A pronouncement is made in heaven that the kingdom of God and the authority of Christ have come (12:10). People at that time and even now experience victory over Satan because of Christ's shed blood, the word of their testimony and not loving their lives so much that they were willing to die for Christ (12:11). The people in heaven are called upon to rejoice while those on earth are warned that they can expect great woe because Satan has come down to them. This full-time presence of Satan on earth concludes the third woe or 7th trumpet judgment.

Note: Satan obviously has personality because he has thoughts and emotions according to 12:12. His wrath shows emotions and his intellect is shown in knowing that his time is short.

D. Satan goes to work (12:13-13:18)

- 1. The campaign against the Jewish people (12:13-17)
 - a. Event 35: Satan institutes a persecution against Israel (12:13).
 - b. Event 36: Israel goes deeper into the wilderness to its place by God's supernatural deliverance pictured by the wings of an eagle (12:14 cp. Exodus 19:4).
 - c. Event 37: Satan will pour a large army pictured by a flood of water (Jeremiah 47:2; Isaiah 8:7-8; Psalm 144:7) to go after Israel, and God will cause the earth to supernaturally swallow this army (12:15-16).
 - d. Event 38: Satan will be enraged with the nation of Israel and will then make war with the rest of the Jews, who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus (12:17).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

2. The Antichrist pictured by the beast from among the people pictured by the sea in Revelation 17:15 (13:1-10).

Note: Symbolism of Revelation 13:1-2. According to 17:12, the ten horns represent 10 kings receive authority as kings with the Antichrist for a time period and give their power and authority to him (17:13; Daniel 7:24). The 10 diadems or rulers' crowns represent the Antichrist's authority over them. According to 17:10, the 7 heads represents 7 kings: 5 previous to John, 1 at the time John was living, and future to the time John was living 1 who apparently is the Antichrist. The blasphemous names on each head, i.e. king show that all of them were in opposition to the true God. The Antichrist was like a leopard which pictures the Greek empire of Alexander the Great (Daniel 7:6 cp 2:32, 39). Feet like a bear represents the Persian Empire of Cyrus (Daniel 7:5 cp. 2:32, 39) and the mouth of the lion represents the Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 7:4 cp. 2:32,38). The idea is that the Antichrist will embody all the strength of these empires.

- a. Event 39: Satan gives the Antichrist his power or strength, his control and his authority 13:2). See note c on the Antichrist on top of page 13.
- b. Event 40: Satan had obviously raised the Antichrist from the dead (13:3 cp. 13:12, 14). The resurrection time is when He comes up out of the abyss and defeats and kills the two witnesses (11:7). As a result the people of the earth are in awe of and follow the Antichrist. (13:3).
- c. Event 41: People direct their worship to Satan pictured by the dragon and to the Antichrist pictured by the beast. The beast is worshipped for his uniqueness and for his great power to make war (13:4).
- d. Event 42: The Antichrist is allowed a mouth speaking arrogant words and insults toward God which were directed at His name, His tabernacle and those who dwell in heaven (the holy angels, the church in resurrection bodies and the souls of tribulation believers). The Antichrist is allowed 42 months to act (13:5-6).

Note: This is one way how we calculate the number of years in the tribulation period of time. The two witnesses function for 1260 days according to Revelation 11:3. A Bible year is 360 days which would make this time period 3½ years or 1260 days. The 42 months mentioned in 2 d. above would equal 3½ years. Adding the 2 time periods together we come up with a total of 7 years for the tribulation period.

- e. Event 43: The Antichrist is allowed to make war against the believers and to defeat them. He acquires authority over all people and every nation. All the people who are unbelievers (name not in the book of life from the creation of the world) will worship the Antichrist. People destined to be killed will be killed and people destined to lose their freedom will lose it. This will challenge believers living during the tribulation to persevere and to live by faith (13:7-10).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. The false prophet pictured by the second beast (13:11-18)

Note: The second beast is a false prophet because we see this in a comparison of 13:13-14 with 19:20. He comes up out of the earth showing that his spiritual origin is not heaven like Christ (John 8:23) but of this world. He had the appearance of Christ in two horns like a lamb which pictures Christ, but he had a message like Satan pictured by the dragon (12:9).

- a. Event 44: The false prophet exercises all the authority of the Antichrist in his presence. He makes the people of this earth worship the Antichrist who was killed by a wound and healed. He glorifies the Antichrist just like the Holy Spirit is said in John 16:13-14 to direct all glory to Christ (13:12).
- b. Event 45: The false prophet will perform great signs in the presence of people such as making fire come down out of heaven (probably the atmospheric heaven or possibly the heaven of the stars but not the heaven where God dwells). He uses signs performed in the presence of the Antichrist to deceive the people who dwell on the earth (i.e. the unsaved, cp. 13:8) and to tell them to make an image to the Antichrist who was wounded with the sword and had come to life (13:13-14).
- c. Event 46: The false prophet was allowed to give breath to the image of the Antichrist so that the image of the Antichrist was able to speak and to cause those who would not worship his image to be killed (13:15).
- d. Event 47: The false prophet will cause all classes and groups of people to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead so that no one could buy or sell without that mark with the Antichrist's name or number (13:16-17).

Note: The number of the beast, i.e. Antichrist in 13:18 is stated to be 666. Unknown to us now but later on in the 7 year tribulation, this number will play an important role in identifying the Antichrist. People have tried to use 666 to identify various characters of history which make all of these schemes unreliable.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

E. The scene from heaven prior to the final judgments (14:1-16:1)

1. Event 48: The 144,000 are obviously in heaven standing on Mount Zion with Christ who is pictured by the lamb (John 1:29). Mount Zion obviously speaks not of the earthly Mount Zion but the heavenly Mount Zion (Heb. 12:22). The contrast between the two places is mentioned in Galatians 4:25-26. Note that Mount Zion is the same as Jerusalem (see Isaiah 2:3). These are the ones who were sealed on their foreheads in 7:3-4. A new song is sung before the throne of God where the Seraphim pictured by the four living creatures are also and the church pictured by the elders. They are said to be purchased or bought from the earth. They have not been defiled in any way by women which shows these men had not been married or involved in immorality. They were the first fruits (=first converts, Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:15) to Christ during the 7 year tribulation. The only way that they could be in heaven at this time would be if they were martyred. They having left this life are now blameless and not involved in lying or any other sin (14:1-5).

Note: Many have wondered how evangelism would occur during the 7 year tribulation if all believers are raptured (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). It would appear that the two witnesses start the evangelism and that the 144,000 Jewish men are the first converts. They in turn carry the gospel to the Jewish nation (which will turn to Christ by the end of the tribulation) and perhaps even to the non-Jewish people who become believers.

2. Event 49: The everlasting gospel is announced by an angel flying in mid-heaven (reference to the atmospheric heaven as in Ezekiel 38:20 not the heaven where God dwells as in Nehemiah 9:6). This will fulfill Matthew 24:14. To trust Christ, God must be feared, taken seriously because the time of His judgment is coming. Also people must give God glory by recognizing that they are wrong and God is right. They must see God and not some other being as the creator of the area outside the earth, the earth itself and the springs of water (14:6-7).
3. Event 50: A second angel followed the first angel announcing the fall of Babylon who has been indulging in spiritual and probably actual immorality and spreading it to the nations. This is the announcement (14:8) before the event which will take place during the seventh bowl of judgment (16:19). Babylon = Rome of the time of the tribulation, see Revelation 17:1-6,15,18.
4. Event 51: A third angel, following the first and second angels, announces that those who both worship the Antichrist (pictured by the beast) or the image of Antichrist and receives the mark of the Antichrist on his forehead or on his hand will experience God's wrath full strength. The angel's announcement goes on to explain that God's wrath means that they will be tormented with fire and brimstone and without rest day or night in the presence (=view) of the holy angels and of Christ. This torment will be forever on these people who failed to trust Christ and showed by their worship and by receiving the mark. Special blessing is announced for those die from this point forward in the tribulation having trusted Christ for salvation whose deeds will follow them to show their true faith. Believers are urged to persevere in their faith in Christ and in obeying His commandments (14:9-13).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

5. Event 52: The destruction of the armies around Jerusalem is pictured. There will be a siege of Jerusalem connected with Christ's second coming to earth which will involve all nations (Zechariah 14:1-5). These armies will be gathered there and all the way to Armageddon 65 miles to the northwest of Jerusalem. Christ described as one like a son of man (cp. Revelation 1:13) and another angel will each have a sharp sickle and cause bloodshed on the earth around the area of Jerusalem. The slaughter of all these armies is pictured as using sickles to cut clusters of grapes. The blood from the slaughter will run for 200 miles from the city and will be so deep in some spots that it will be up to the bridle of a horse (about 4½ feet). It would appear John is receiving a preview of what will happen after the bowl judgments. Another idea is that this slaughter may be connected to the Antichrist's campaign against the ruler of the South and the clashing of their armies in Daniel 11:40-43. In this second idea, the battle of Armageddon would occur a short time later (14:14-20).
6. Event 53: Seven angels are presented who have the 7 last plagues of the 7 year tribulation period and will conclude God's wrath for that time period. The martyred believers of the tribulation will be standing on this sea of glass in their intermediate bodies in heaven holding harps of God. They will sing a hymn entitled, "The song of Moses" or "The song of the Lamb", i.e. Christ (cp. John 1:29). This song will praise God as almighty for His great and marvelous works, for His just and true ways, for being king of the nations (both N.U. text and majority of Greek manuscripts read "nations" while the Textus Receptus the basis of the KJV and NKJV reads "saints"). Finally God will be praised for His unique holiness and the revealing of His righteous acts. The hymn calls on people to fear and glorify God's name or reputation and prophesies that all nations will come and worship before God (15:1-4).
7. Event 54: The temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven is opened. The seven angels who had the seven plagues come out of the temple. One of the 4 seraphim, referred to as the 4 living creatures, hands the 7 bowls which are full of the wrath of the eternally living God to them. The glory of God and the power coming from it fill the temple in heaven with smoke and no one was able to enter this temple until the seven plagues were finished. God issues the command from the temple in heaven to the 7 angels to go pour out the 7 bowls of His wrath on the earth (15:5-16:1).

F. The seven bowl judgments

1. Event 55: The first angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath causing harmful and painful sores to break out upon people who had the mark of the Antichrist and who had worshipped his image (16:2).
2. Event 56: The second angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath causing the sea to be polluted with blood like that of a dead man causing all living things in the sea to die (16:3).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. Event 57: The third angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath causing the rivers and water springs to become blood (16:4). The angel who is charge of these waters praises God as righteous, as the one who is (literally, "will be") and the one who was (literally, "kept on being"), and as holy because He judged the people of the earth for killing believers and the prophets by giving them blood to drink (consider Galatians 6:7). The altar (probably those early tribulation martyrs mentioned in Revelation 6:9-11) praises the almighty God for His true and righteous judgments (16:4-7).
4. Event 58: The fourth angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath causing people to be scorched with severe heat from the sun. In response people chose to blaspheme the name of God who had authority over these plagues. They did not choose to change their mind to give glory to God by trusting Christ. How many of us have heard that if people could just have a small sample of what hell is like, they would change their mind and trust Christ? This shows that people's problem is not knowing the truth but their will (16:8-9).
5. Event 59: The fifth angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath upon the throne of the Antichrist and his kingdom became darkened (cp. Matthew 24:29; Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 3:15). The people were in great pain and had sores but refused to change their mind about what they were doing to trust Christ. Instead they blasphemed God because of their suffering (16:10-11).
6. The sixth angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath (16:12-16).
 - a. Event 60: The Euphrates River was dried up so the way would be prepared for the kings of the east (16:12). Daniel 11:40-45 indicates that the Antichrist will be facing war with the king of the north and the king of the south. Evidently the Antichrist will knock the king of the south out of the war but have to abandon that campaign to deal with threats from the north and the east.
 - b. Event 61: Three demons, i.e. angels of Satan, will proceed from Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet. They will do miraculous signs to gather the kings of the earth together for the great day of the almighty God to a place called Armageddon (16:13-14, 16).

Note: In Revelation 16:15 believers living during the tribulation are called upon to stay spiritually alert and keep their garments (which picture their good deeds cp. Revelation 19:8 cp. Titus 3:8) so they are not spiritually naked of good works and people see them living shamefully. The same idea is true for us who await the return of Christ for His own. We are called upon to be alert in 1 Thessalonians 5:6 and to abide in fellowship with Christ in 1 John 2:28 so that we will not be ashamed when Christ returns.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

7. The seventh angel poured out His bowl of God's wrath (16:17-21)
 - a. Event 62: God announced from the temple that it is finished (16:17 cp. 15:8). There were flashes of lightning and sounds of thunder followed by an unprecedented earthquake (16:18 cp. Hebrews 12:26-27; Haggai 2:6).
 - b. Event 63: The great city (= Jerusalem, 11:8) was split into 3 parts, the cities of the nations fell.
 - c. Event 64: God's wrath falls on the great city Babylon (=Rome, 17:9,18). Details concerning the background, prosperity and judgment upon the Rome of the tribulation will be given in Chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation. See the chart below.
 - d. Event 65: Every island and every mountain will vanish (16:17-20). In the previous severe earthquake, they did not vanish but were moved out of their place (6:14).
 - b. Event 66: 100 pound hailstones came down upon people who blasphemed God because of the severity of the plague of hail. Whether this is hail made of ice because of vast environmental changes during the tribulation or whether this is some type of debris from outer space is not known.

***Notes on event 64:
Details on the great city Babylon (=Rome of the end times)
and the Antichrist = beast (17:1-18:24)***

A. Symbolism

1. *The woman harlot (17:1) = The great city that rules over the peoples and nations of the earth (17:15) and sits on 7 mountains or hills (17:9) which was Rome when John wrote this.*
2. *The 7 heads – meaning 1 (17:3 cp. 17:9) = The 7 hills on which the city (woman) was located.*
3. *The 7 heads – meaning 2 (17:3 cp. 17:10) = The 7 kings, 5 previous to John, one ruling when John wrote this and the one to come, i.e. the Antichrist.*
4. *The 10 horns (17:3, 12) = ten kings or rulers allied with the Antichrist.*
5. *The waters (17:1, 15) = The peoples, nations, multitudes and languages.*

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Notes on event 64.... continued:
Details on the great city Babylon (=Rome of the end times)
and the Antichrist = beast (17:1-18:24)*

B. Comparison chart of Revelation chapters 17 and 18

Many very excellent commentators have held the view that Revelation 17 refers to a false religious system while Revelation 18 refers to a political system that works with it and is in rebellion against God. Based on comparing these two chapters, it appears that both chapters refer to the same city until its destruction at the end of the tribulation..

Verses	Chapter 17	Verses	Chapter 18
5	<i>Babylon the Great</i>	2	<i>Babylon the Great</i>
18	<i>Great city</i>	10	<i>Great city</i>
4a	<i>Dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls</i>	16	<i>Purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls</i>
4b	<i>Cup in her hand</i>	6	<i>Her own cup</i>
2	<i>The wine of her adulteries</i>	3	<i>The wine of her adulteries</i>
6	<i>The blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus</i>	24	<i>The blood of the prophets and of the saints</i>
16	<i>Burn her up with fire</i>	8	<i>Burned up with fire</i>

C. Chart of the Antichrist in Revelation 17 referred to as the beast

Verse Number	His life before being dead	His death	His resurrected life	His ruin
17:8a	Was	Is not	About to come out of the Abyss cp. 11:7	Go to destruction
17:8b	Was	Is not	Will come	
17:10	<i>The other (7th king) has not yet come, i.e. at the time John wrote this. When he comes, he must remain a little while.</i>			
17:11	Was	Is not	Also he is an 8 th but is 1 of the 7	Goes to destruction

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Notes on event 64.... continued:
Details on the great city Babylon (=Rome of the end times)
and the Antichrist = beast (17:1-18:24)*

D. Reasons for God's Judgment on Babyon = Rome of the End Times (Revelation 17:1 – 18:24)

1. Practice and promotion of unfaithfulness among the unsaved people of the earth including their rulers(17:2; 18:3).
2. Blasphemous names (17:3).
3. detestable and filthy things (17:4).
4. Source of those who were unfaithful to gain money and those who indulged in detestable behavior (17:5).
5. Martyred believers and even prophets who were witnesses for Jesus (17:9).
6. obsession with luxury (18:3).
- 7.cumulative sin (18:5).
8. glorified herself and obsessed with luxurious living (18:7)
9. sorcery (18:24).

E. The Nature of the Judgment on Babylon (=Rome of the end times):

1. Incurred the hatred of the Antichrist and 10 rulers (17:16)
2. Stripped of all value (17:16).
3. Destroyed with Fire (17:16).
4. Called "fallen" and a dwelling for demons and hateful birds (18:2).
5. Experiences plagues (18:4).
6. Double retribution for detestable sins (18:6).
7. Torment and mourning, will occur in one day. (18:7).
8. Plagues, disease, mourning, famine, burned with fire (18:8).
9. Torment, judgment comes in 1 hour ((18:10).
10. Loss of material luxury and prosperity (18:11-20)
11. smoke of her burning (18:18).
12. laid waste in one hour (18:17, 19).
13. Thrown down with violence and not be found (18:21).
14. Music, crafts, manufacturing destroyed (18:22).

F. Response to the judgment on Babylon (=Rome of the end times)

1. Rulers of the earth who were disloyal to God will weep, lament and stand at a distance (18:9-10).
2. The merchants of the earth will mourn, weep and stand at a distance because of fear (18:11-15).
3. The ship captains, passengers and sailors stand at a distance while crying out, weeping and mourning (18:17).
4. Response of believers:
 - a. Believers are to leave Babylon to avoid her sins and plagues (18:4).
 - b. Believers including Apostles and prophets rejoice over the judgment of Babylon(18:20).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

G. Christ's triumph and return (19:1-21)

1. Event 67: Praise of God's majesty in heaven (19:1-6)
 - a. Praise from a large group in heaven for God's salvation, glory and power because His judgments are based on truth and righteousness. The example of this will be His judgment on Rome of the end times who was so unfaithful to God and promoting it on the earth (19:1-2).
 - b. God is also praised for taking vengeance on behalf of His martyred servants with the smoke from that judgment rising forever (19:3).
 - c. The church pictured by the 24 elders and the 4 seraphim pictured by the four living creatures join in this praise (19:4).
 - d. A voice comes from God's throne inviting all of God's servants who fear Him whether they are prominent or lowly to give praise to God (19:5).
 - e. Praise comes from a large crowd praising God for the fact that He is all-powerful and that He now is reigning in a more direct way than has been true in the past (19:6).

2. Event 68: The marriage supper of the lamb (19:7-10)

*Note: The Hebrew marriage custom was divided into 3 distinct phrases:
First there was the betrothal which speaks of the relationship of the church to Christ at the present time (2 Corinthians 11:2)
Second was the coming for the bride which is pictured by the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
Third the marriage ceremony concludes with the marriage supper (Revelation 19:7-10).*

- a. There is a call to rejoice and be glad and give glory to God because the time of the marriage supper of Christ (pictured by the lamb) and a prepared church (pictured by the bride) is ready and openly shows (=dressed) her righteous acts (pictured by the white linen) (19:7-8).
- b. God emphasizes that His word is true concerning the blessing for those who are invited to this marriage supper (19:9).
- c. John is so overwhelmed with all that the angel has been showing him that he falls down at his feet to worship him but is firmly told not to do this but to worship God. The angel emphasizes that he is a fellow-servant of John and his fellow-believers (19:10a).
- d. The human spirit gives life to the body (James 2:26). It is not angels but the testimony of Jesus that is the spirit who gives life to God's prophetic word (19:10b).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. Event 69: The return of Christ with believers (19:11-16).
 - a. Christ is pictured as seated on a white horse (19:11).
 - b. His names:
 - (1) faithful – keeps His word (19:11).
 - (2) true – Jesus is the real ruler in contrast to false ones (19:11).
 - (3) unknown name written on Him (19:12).
 - (4) He is called the Word of God (cp. 19:13 with John 1:1, 14) which clearly identifies Him as Jesus.
 - (5) He is king of kings which is why He has multiple crowns or diadems on His head (19:16 cp. 19:12).
 - (6) He is Lord of Lords which shows He is Jehovah God of the Old Testament (19:16 cp. Deuteronomy 10:17).
 - c. The armies of heaven who return with Him are clothed in white linen which pictures the righteous deeds of the believers (19:14 cp. 19:8).

Note: We are told in 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Zechariah 14:5; Jude 1:14-15 that believers will accompany Jesus at His return and also that the angels will accompany Him (Matthew 25:31).
 - d. Further description of Jesus
 - (1) Righteousness will characterize His judgment and His making of war (11).
 - (2) His eyes are like a flame of fire which emphasizes that He has the ability to see the very thoughts, feelings and motives of people which enables Him to make a perfectly righteous judgment. This phrase is repeated in 2:18 and we see in 2:23 that these eyes search the minds and hearts of people (12).
 - (3) His robe is dipped in blood (13). Isaiah 63:3-4 explains that Christ's garments were dipped in blood because the time of vengeance (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8) was in His heart and the time of redemption especially for Israel (Luke 21:28).
 - (4) The sword proceeding from Christ's mouth is the word of God (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17). It is so powerful that Christ will use it to strike down the nations, establish His rule over them with a rod of iron, i.e. force, and carry out God's wrath so thoroughly that it will be as thorough as people treading on grapes in a winepress to get all the juice to make wine (19:15).
4. Event 70: The defeat of the armies of the nations and the Antichrist and false prophet (19:17-21).
 - a. An angel commands the birds on God's behalf to gather to eat the flesh of rulers, commanders and regular soldiers (19:17-18).
 - b. The Antichrist, the rulers of the earth and their armies are gathered at Armageddon (16:14) to make war against Christ and His army (19:19).
 - c. Both the Antichrist and false prophet (who performed signs to deceive followers of the Antichrist) are thrown alive into the lake of fire (19:20).
 - d. The rest (rulers, commanders, armies) were killed by the word of God from Christ's mouth and the birds ate their flesh (19:21).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Note: The armies will probably gather initially to fight each other based on Daniel 11:36-45 and Revelation 16:12 which will include the ruler of the north ruler of the south, the Antichrist and the ruler of the east with all their respective armies. However, when Christ and His army appears, it is very probable that they will be persuaded by the Antichrist and false prophet to unite and fight Christ and His army.

H. From the 1000 year kingdom to the final judgments

1. Event 71: The binding of Satan (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - a. Angel with a great chain and a key to the abyss lays hold of Satan and binds him for 1000 years and throws him into the abyss, shuts it and seals it (20:1-3).
 - b. The purpose is to prevent Satan from deceiving the nations for this 1000 years (20:3).
 - c. Satan would be released after the 1000 years for a short time (20:3).
2. Event 72: The completion of the first resurrection (20:4-6).
 - a. There are thrones with people sitting upon them to whom judgment is given. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 tells us that the saints (i.e. believers of the time of the church) will be the ones to help Christ judge the world and even angels (20:4). These were raised and transformed before the 7 year tribulation.
 - b. Those believers who were killed during the tribulation (and probably those believers who otherwise died) will be raised to life. Those who were killed were beheaded because they held to God's word and the testimony of Jesus. They had not worshipped the Antichrist or his image nor had they received his mark on their forehead and hand. They will have the privilege of reigning with Christ for 1000 years on the earth (20:4 cp. 5:9-10).
 - c. This will complete the first resurrection (20:5). The first resurrection starts with the resurrection of Christ, the resurrection of the believers from the time period of the church prior to the 7 year tribulation (1 Corinthians 15:22-23) and concludes with the resurrection of the people who became believers during the 7 year tribulation and the people who were believers prior to the time period of the church, i.e. Old Testament believers (Daniel 12:1-2).
 - d. The rest of the dead, i.e. unbelievers will not be raised until after the 1000 year kingdom (20:5).
 - e. These tribulation believers and all the other believers who have a part in the first resurrection reign with Christ as priests for God for 1000 years. All of them are called blessed and holy. The second death which is the lake of fire (20:14; 21:8) has no authority over this group (20:6).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. Event 73: The release, rebellion and removal of Satan (20:7-10).
 - a. Satan will be released from his prison (possibly his angels will be released with him) when the 1000 years are completed (20:7).
 - b. After a 1000 years of perfect government a vast number of people will be deceived and choose to follow Satan in this final rebellion (20:8).
 - c. They will form a large army and surround Jerusalem and the camp of the believers. They will be consumed by fire from heaven suffering physical death (20:9).
 - d. Satan (and his angels cp. Isaiah 24:21-22; Matthew 25:41) will be thrown into the lake of fire where the Antichrist and false prophet still will be. This shows that the lake of fire is an ongoing torment for eternity (20:10).
4. Event 74: The resurrection and judgment of the unsaved (20:11-15).
 - a. The old earth and heaven disappear. The details of this judgment on the earth and the heavens is given in 2 Peter 3:10-13 (20:11).
 - b. The great white throne is set in place with one sitting upon it. Based on Acts 17:31 and John 5:22, 27, this is Jesus Christ (20:11).
 - c. There is no place for these people to hide (20:11).
 - d. All classes of people, the significant and insignificant, are standing in front of the throne (20:12).
 - e. Notice that the sea, death, i.e. the grave, and Hades (the place of the lost person's soul) give up those who had died 20:13). The sea and death are the places of the lost person's body.
 - f. These people are judged out of the books not the book of life (20:12).
 - g. The judgment of these people is based on works or deeds (20:12-13).
 - *Note: All our righteous deeds are as filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6) and no one will be justified by works in God's sight (Romans 3:20).*
 - h. Both death (the body) and Hades (the soul) are thrown into the lake of fire which is the second death (20:14).
 - i. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire (20:15).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

I. The new heaven and new earth (21:1 – 22:5)

1. Introduction to the new heaven and the new earth (21:1-6)
 - a. A new heaven and new appears because the old heaven and earth had passed away (21:1a cp. 2 Peter 3:10-13).
 - b. There is no longer any sea (21:1b). There is a sea in the 1000 year kingdom (Zechariah 14:8; Ezekiel 48:8).
 - c. The holy city, the new Jerusalem appears coming down from heaven. It looks as beautiful as a bride dressed up for her husband (21:2).
 - d. God is declared the one who dwells among people. He is not just present but resident. The people that God will be among are His people (21:3).
 - e. God will do the following: wipe away every tear, abolish: death, mourning or crying or pain because the first order of things will have passed away (21:4). The 1000 year kingdom has death (Isaiah 65:20).
 - f. God the Father seated on the throne declares that He is making all things new not that He is making all new things (21:5a).
 - g. God commands John to write these words because they are faithful, i.e. trustworthy, and true as opposed to false (21:5b).
 - h. God declares that everything is accomplished. The new order for eternity is in place. God uses the terms alpha and omega (1st and last letters of the Greek alphabet) and the terms beginning and end to show that He is eternal from eternity past to eternity future (21:6a cp. Psalm 90:2).
 - i. God explains that salvation is a gift. The source is Christ through the Holy Spirit (John 4:13-14; 7:37-39). People who thirst for this water, i.e. have a sense of their need for it, are the ones to whom this gift is available (21:6b).
2. Residents and non-residents of the new heaven and new earth.
 - a. The residents will inherit all these things because of their relationship to God (21:7).
 - (1) They overcome which means they trust Christ as Savior (1 John 5:4-5 cp. Romans 8:37).
 - (2) They are God's sons through faith in Christ (Galatians 3:26).
 - (3) Our relationship to God as our God is established by faith in Christ (1 John 2:23).
 - b. The non-residents will experience eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death (21:8).
 - Notice some of the specific issues which land people in hell: cowardly/fearful, i.e. of deciding to trust or not trust Christ, unbelieving who definitely decide not to trust Christ, the detestable who care nothing about the things of God, people who hang onto their sin rather than trust Christ and let Him clean them up such as murderers, the sexually immoral, liars, and people who find their own substitutes for God in the occult utilizing demons for supernatural power or looking to idols (man-made gods) for helping and directing their lives.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3. The physical description of the new Jerusalem (21:9-21).
 - a. The speaker who shows John the city coming down out of heaven from God is one of the angels who took part in the 7 last plagues. He took John away in the spirit, i.e. out of the body (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) to a very high mountains for a viewing point. The city is referred to as the wife of Christ because it is the place God has prepared for His bride the church (21:9-10 cp. John 14:2-3).
 - b. The city had the glory of God with a brilliance like costly, crystal-clear jasper stone (21:11).
 - c. The wall
 - (1) great and high (21:12).
 - (2) 12 foundations with the names of the 12 Apostles of Christ (21:14).
 - (3) Wall is 216 feet high, i.e. 144 cubits (21:17).
 - (4) Wall is made of jasper stone (21:18).
 - (5) Foundations of the wall decorated with precious stones: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst (21:19-20).
 - d. The gates
 - (1) 12 gates with 12 angels with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on them (21:12).
 - (2) 3 gates on each side, north, east, west, south (21:13).
 - (3) The 12 gates were 12 individual pearls (21:21).
 - e. The city itself
 - (1) Length, width and height of the city are the same 1500 miles, i.e. 12,000 furlongs (21:16).
 - (2) The street was pure gold like transparent glass (21:21).
 - f. The angel who talked with John (21:9) had a gold measuring device called a reed to measure the city, its gates and its wall (21:15).
4. The unique features of the new Jerusalem (21:22-22:5).
 - a. There is no temple in the new Jerusalem because God the Father, who is God the Almighty or all-powerful, and Jesus Christ, represented as the lamb (John 1:29) are its temple (21:22). There will be a temple during the 1000 year reign of Christ (Isaiah 60:7; Zechariah 14:20).
 - b. The sun or moon does not shine upon it because the glory of God will light it and its lamp will be Christ (21:23). During the 1000 year reign, there will be an increasingly brightened sun and moon (Isaiah 30:26).
 - c. The nations who are saved, i.e. those who did not follow Satan in his final rebellion will inhabit the new earth shall walk in the light of new Jerusalem which is the glory of God. The rulers of the nations inhabiting the new earth will bring their glory and honor into the new Jerusalem. Their glory and honor would be that which gives them significance or importance (21:24, 26).
 - d. The gates will not be shut during the day – and since there will be no night there – they will have access to God and His people (21:25).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- e. Nothing that would cause the new Jerusalem to be made unclean or impure will be allowed there. Also those practice anything detestable or lying will not be allowed in there. According to 21:8 they will be in the lake of fire (21:27).
- f. A pure river of water of life clear as crystal will flow from the joint throne of Christ and God the Father (22:1).
- g. In the middle of its street and on both sides of the river was a special tree (obviously with a split trunk so that it could be on both sides) called the tree of life (22:2).
 - (1) It bore 12 kinds of fruit yielding its fruit each month. We do not know for certain whether there is a fruit of the month or whether 12 kinds of fruit are produced each month (22:2).
 - (2) The leaves will be for the healing of the nations who are saved who inhabit the new earth (22:2). In order for these people (who were living in natural bodies during the 1000 year reign and were saved) to keep themselves immortal, they will have to partake of the leaves of the tree of life. We do not know whether this will be a one-time partaking or a recurring partaking (22:2).
- h. There will no curse or remainder of it from Genesis 3:14-19 (22:3a).
- i. Notice that it again shows that God and Christ will have a joint throne (22:3b) .
- j. There will be work in heaven because it states that His bondservants will serve Him (22:3c). This probably refers to Christ, although in serving Christ we would be serving God the Father.
- k. Again it is probably the face of Christ that is seen because the Father is one that no one can see (1 Timothy 6:16). His name will be on our foreheads. Our identity as children of God will be clear (22:4).
- l. In the New Jerusalem God will give the needed light. There will be no need for a lamp or for the light of the sun (22:5a).
- m. We as believers will reign eternally in the new heavens and new earth from our place in the New Jerusalem (22:5b).

Note: The scripture would suggest that perhaps the new earth but not the new Jerusalem will have the light of the sun and moon (Psalm 148:3-5; Jeremiah 31:35-36; Psalm 89:37).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART FIVE: Conclusion to the Book of Revelation (22:6-22)

A. Final words of the angel to John (22:6-11)

1. The words of this book are trustworthy and true (not false) (22:6a).
2. God is the God of the spirits of the prophets (22:6b).
3. God sent his angel to show His servant what must take place shortly (=in a sudden manner) (22:6c).
4. The angel affirms that Jesus said, "I am coming quickly (=in a sudden manner) and that the one who obeys the words of this prophecy will be blessed (22:7).
5. John is so overwhelmed that he fell down at the feet of this angel who had shown him this prophecy to worship him, but the angel commanded him to worship God because he like John was a servant along with John to the prophets and to those who obey the words of the book of Revelation (22:8-9).
6. The angel specifically commanded John not to seal up the words of this book but to share its message because the time was near or at hand meaning it was imminent not necessarily immediate. This means it could happen at any moment (22:10).
7. A paraphrase of 22:11 of what the angel tells John would be: "When Christ returns there will be no change in people: The one who shows they are unsaved by continuing to sin and continuing to be morally filthy will still be sinful and filthy for eternity. On the other hand, the one who has the righteousness and holiness credited to Him by faith (1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; Romans 4:4-5) will be permanently righteous and holy in their behavior." Having consulted numerous commentaries as well as A.T. Robertson's Greek word studies, this is the unanimous understanding of this verse (22:11).

B. Final message from Christ (22:12-16)

1. Christ is coming quickly (=in a sudden manner) (22:12a).
2. Christ is going to reward everyone, i.e. believers according to their works (22:12b).
Note: Salvation is a free gift received by faith the moment that we trust Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 5:24) while rewards are given for faithful service and good works when Christ comes (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Luke 14:12-14).
3. Jesus declares Himself to be eternal from past to future by using the terms "alpha and omega" (=1st and last letters of the Greek alphabet), "first and last" and "the beginning and the end" (22:13).
 - a. These terms are used of God the Father in Revelation 21:6 except for the term "first and last".
 - b. The term "first and last" is used to describe God under the name Jehovah or Yahweh in Isaiah 44:6.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

4. A special blessing is pronounced on those who place their faith in Christ. The symbol for this is washing their robes obviously in the blood of Christ (see 7:14). When we trust Christ for salvation we have the right to be distinguished as children of God (John 1:12) and to have the right to the tree of life in the new Jerusalem and to enter the new Jerusalem. The robes speak of our lack of acceptable righteousness (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10) being cleansed so that we have an acceptable righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).
5. We are reminded that outside of new Jerusalem but not on the new earth but in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8) are the people of low moral character referred to as “dogs,” those involved with the occult, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters and those who love and practice lying (22:15).
6. Jesus Himself emphasizes to John that He has sent His angel to testify of the contents of Revelation to John for the benefit of the churches (22:16a).
7. Jesus refers to Himself as the root and offspring of David. As to Jesus being God, He is the root and Lord of David. As to Jesus being human, He is the offspring or son of David (22:16b cp. Matthew 22:41-46).
8. Jesus also refers to Himself as “the bright morning star” who at His coming will give us full illumination or understanding in our hearts (22:16c cp 1 Corinthians 13:12; 2 Peter 1:19).

C. Final words of encouragement and warning 22:17-21)

1. The invitation is from the Holy Spirit and the church symbolized by the bride (Ephesians 5:25-32 cp. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3). Those who have heard need to encourage others to come to Christ by faith for salvation. The one who understands their need, i.e. the one who is thirsty, come to Christ for salvation. We are to encourage anyone who wills or chooses to do so to take of the water of life (John 4:13-14). This salvation is said to be without cost to us because Jesus actually paid the purchase price (Revelation 5:9) (22:17).
2. This book refers to the book of Revelation. The warning is that if anyone adds anything to the words of Revelation that God will bring the plagues of judgment on them and that if anyone takes anything away from the book of Revelation that God will take away their part from the tree of life and from the new Jerusalem. This obviously speaks of eternal judgment. Since the believer is delivered from eternal judgment (John 3:18; 5:24; Romans 8:1, 34), the one who would do such a thing would not be a true believer in Christ (22:18-19).
3. It is again emphasized that Jesus is coming quickly (=in a sudden manner) (22:20a).
4. The final prayer of the Bible is from John for Jesus Christ to come (22:20b).
5. The final concern expressed is that the grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone (22:21).