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THE REVELATION

AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: John. Cf. Revelation 1:1,4.

1. The son of Zebedee, a fisherman (Matthew 4:21)
2. A convert of John, the Immerser (John 1:38,40)
3. Member of the "inner circle" (Matthew 7:1; 26:37; Mark 5:37)
4. Disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23; 20:2; John 21:7,20)
5. Wrote Five books of the New Testament.
6. Only he uses Christ's title of "the Word" (John 1:1,14; Revelation 19:13)
7. A witness of what he wrote (Revelation 22:8)
8. One who suffered with them (Revelation 1:9)
9. Banished to the Isle of Patmos, 25 miles off the coast of Ephesus in the Aegean Sea. (While Rome might bind his body, his soul soared as he communed with the Spirit of God.)

RECIPIENTS OF THE BOOK:

Cf. Revelation 1:4,11.

As in the other books of our Bible, we realize this book was intended not only for those who first read it, but for all believers throughout the years to come.

1. The affliction to which the church was subject in the days of John is typical of the persecution which believers endure through the entire age. Cf. II Timothy 3:12.
2. Many of the prophecies in which the book abound concern principles which are so broad in scope that they cannot be confined to one definite year or century.
3. All who read and study this book in any age are called "blessed." Cf. Revelation 1:3. The author addresses himself not merely to one group of men living in one decade, but "to every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book." Cf. Revelation 22:18.

PURPOSE OF THE BOOK:

This book is written to comfort the church in its struggle against the forces of evil. It abounds with consolations for the afflicted believers. Cf. Revelation 7:17; 21:4; 8:3,4; 14:13; 20:4; 15:2; 6:9

THEME OF THE BOOK:

The victory of Christ and of His church over Satan and his helpers. Cf. Revelation 17:14.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE BOOK:

Chapters 1- 3	Christ Among 7 Golden Lampstands
Chapters 4- 7	The Book with Seven Seals
Chapters 8-11	The Seven Trumpets of Judgment
Chapters 12-14	The Woman and Man-child Persecute
Chapters 15-16	The Seven Bowls of Wrath
Chapters 17-19	Fall of the Great Harlot/Beast
Chapters 20-22	Judgment; New Heaven/Earth

BRIEF OVER-VIEW OF THE BOOK:

The 7 sections may be grouped into 2 Major Divisions. The first consists of three sections. The second consists of four sections. These 2 major divisions reveal a progress in depth, or intensity, of spiritual conflict

The first reveals the church persecuted by the world. The church is avenged, protected, and victorious. The second division reveals the deeper spiritual background of this struggle. It is a conflict between the Christ and the Dragon, in which the Christ, hence, the church, is victorious.

In summary, the first section - the church is persecuted by the world; the second - the underlying conflict between Christ and Satan.

CONTENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BOOK:

1. One of the most neglected and controversial books. Man has attempted to do the very thing God said don't do - "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand." (Cf. Revelation 22:10). It was written to be read and understood.
2. Revelation is a book of "consummation." It has been assigned the last place in our Bible. It forms a complete cycle. Genesis is the book of "commencement", and Revelation is the book of "consummation." Notice the following chart--
 - (1) Genesis - Commencement of Heaven and Earth
Revelation - Consummation of same
 - (2) Genesis - Entrance of sin and curse
Revelation - End of same
 - (3) Genesis - Dawn of Satan and his activities
Revelation - Doom of Satan and his activities
 - (4) Genesis - Tree of Life relinquished
Revelation - Tree of Life regained

- (5) Genesis - Death makes it entrance
Revelation - Death makes it exit
- (6) Genesis - Sorrow begins
Revelation - Sorrow is banished
- 3. The title is the first mark of distinction - "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." "Revelation" means 'an appearing, a manifestation, a coming, an unveiling.'" It is commonly used in the epistles. (Romans 8:19; I Corinthians 1:7; II Thessalonians 1:7; I Peter 1:13)
- 4. No book in the Bible has an introduction and conclusion quite like this book. It begins, and ends, with a promised blessing. Cf. Revelation 1: Revelation 22:7.
- 5. Revelation contains "Seven Blessed" tests--
 - (1) The Blessed Challenge, 1:3
 - (2) The Blessed Comfort, 14:13
 - (3) The Blessed Cautiousness, 14:13
 - (4) The Blessed Calling, 19:9
 - (5) The Blessed Conquest, 20:6
 - (6) The Blessed Commandment, 22:7
 - (7) The Blessed Consecration, 22:14
- 6. It contains "Three Requisites". They are--
 - (1) He that "reads"
 - (2) He that "hears"
 - (3) He that "keeps"

Cf. Revelation 1:3
- 7. Revelation is made up of "moving" pictures. The details pertaining to the picture should be interpreted in harmony with its central thought.
- 8. The seals, trumpets, bowls of wrath, and similar symbols refer not to specific events, particular happenings, details of history, but to principles of human conduct and Divine moral government.
- 9. The book is rooted in contemporaneous events and circumstances. Its symbols should be interpreted in light of conditions which prevailed when the book was written.
- 10. The book is rooted in the Scriptures. It should be interpreted in harmony with teachings of the Bible.

11. Revelation is rooted in the thoughts and images of the Old Testament, i.e.,
 - (1) The description of the Son of Man - See Daniel 7:9; Ezekiel 1:7
 - (2) The Four Living Creatures. See Ezekiel 1:10; Ezekiel 10:14
 - (3) The Horses and their Riders - See Psalms 45:3; Zechariah 1:8; 6:3
 - (4) Gog and Magog - See Jeremiah 25
 - (5) The New Heaven and New Earth - See Isaiah 65:17; 66:22
12. It is a book of constantly changing symbols and pictures. There are candlesticks, horses, stars, thrones, beasts, trumpets, vials, bowls, dragons, angels, sickles, seals, numbers, etc.
13. Our understanding of the visions of Revelation will depend upon our method of approach. Many methods, or theories, have been suggested, and followed by learned men of the Bible.
14. The book is rooted in the Mind and Revelation of God. It contains the purpose of God concerning the history of His church.

PERSECUTION OF EARLY CHRISTIANS:

1. Christianity was an illegal religion
2. Christianity aspired to "universality"
3. Christianity was an "exclusive" religion
4. Christians were accused of evil
5. Christians refused to go to war
6. Christians were recruited chiefly from the poor and outcast
7. Christians inherited the contempt which the Romans held for the Jews
8. Christians were looked upon as wild fanatics because of their enthusiasm
9. Christianity came in conflict with the temporal interest of many of the Romans
10. Christians refused to worship the Emperor

METHODS OF INTERPRETATION

It will be our purpose to examine the most outstanding methods of interpretation used today in studying Revelation, and also, offer recommendations as to their validity.

I. METHOD OF INTERPRETATION - THE "FUTURIST" METHOD.

1. This method views Revelation almost wholly "eschatological." It deals with the events of the end of the world. It is a book of unfulfilled prophecy.
2. There are events that are to take place within the brief space of seven years. Cf. Daniel 9:24-27.
3. The denominational world uses this approach to Revelation. In general, they have built entire doctrines around Revelation 20. These doctrines will be discussed in more detail at Revelation 20.
- 3.⁴ There are several "objections" to using this method of interpretation.
 - (1) It is inconsistent with the statement made by John that the events recorded were in the main to soon come to pass. Cf. Revelation 1:1
 - A. The Greek word "dei" (translated "must") implies a moral necessity. Thus it was morally necessary for the things to be fulfilled shortly in order for God's oppressed people to see His arm revealed, and His comfort given in a time of seeming disaster.
 - B. The Greek words "en Taxei" (translated "quickly; shortly") imply immediate fulfillment. The futurist's position is that the translation should be "certainly". Cf. II Timothy 4:9.
 - C. The best way to interpret Scripture is in the light of other Scripture. Using this method we can determine how "short" shortly is. Paul tells Timothy to come "shortly" in II Timothy 4:9. Later, he says to "come before Winter" or immediately. Cf. II Timothy 4:19. We conclude that in the book of Revelation, these visions were to be fulfilled in the main in the immediate future.
 - (2) The strongest objection to this method of interpretation is that it leaves Revelation altogether out of relation to the needs of the churches to which it was addressed, and which first received it. To know Revelation is the answer to the cry of the Christians of the Domitianic persecution is to know that it was never meant to be a chronology for the Lord's return, or a forecast of the Roman Catholic apostasy.

II. METHOD OF INTERPRETATION - THE "HISTORICAL" METHOD.

1. This method of interpretation looks upon Revelation as a "forecast" in symbols of the history of the church. This system makes the book prophesy in detail the apostasy of the Roman Catholic church.
2. For example:
 - (1) The First Seal - fulfilled in the state of the Roman Empire, from the death of Domitian (A.D. 96), to the accession of Commodus (A.D. 180).
 - (2) The Second Seal - from the death of Commodus (A.D. 193) onward;
 - (3) The Third Seal - From Caracalla onward (A.D. 211);
 - (4) The Fourth Seal - Decius to Galienus (A.D. 243-268);
 - (5) The Fifth Seal - Persecutions under Diocletian (A.D. 284-304);
 - (6) The Sixth Seal - Invasions of the Barbarians (A.D. 365);
 - (7) The Seventh Seal - Fulfilled by the Trumpets as outlined--
 - A. 1st Trumpet - Invasion of the Boths, A.D. 395-410
 - B. 2nd Trumpet - Invasion by Genseric, A.D. 428-468;
 - C. 3rd Trumpet - Invasion by Attila the Hun, A.D. 433-453;
 - D. 4th Trumpet - Final conquest of the Western Empire by Odoacer, King of Heruli, A.D. 476-490;
 - E. 5th Trumpet - The Mohammedans;
 - F. 6th Trumpet - The Turks.
3. Several objections to this method of interpretation are--
 - (1) It places the book completely out of touch with the situation of the Christians to whom it was originally given. The idea that the faith would so apostasize that in a few years you could not be able to recognize it, would be of little comfort to the Christians of the First Century.
 - (2) It attaches an undue importance to the apostasy of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - (3) The "horizon" is too narrow. The book would have no meaning in those countries where Rome does not hold power.
 - (4) Its details as as absurd as those of the "futurist" method.
 - (5) It leads to the calculations of times and periods which have constantly been falsified by the events, and which have done much harm in the world.

III. METHOD OF INTERPRETATION - THE "PRETERIST" METHOD.

1. This method of interpretation is practically the opposite of the futurist method. The word "preterist" (meaning "that which is past") means one who looks upon the fulfillment of the book as having taken place in the past.
2. This group of interpretations is divided up into sections. There are the "right" wingers who have respect for the book as being inspired of God, and the "left" wingers who have no respect for inspiration at all.

3. Objections to this method of interpretation are--

- (1) It finds no message in the book for present day Christians.
- (2) The "left" wing group would have no respect at all for the book as being inspired.

IV. METHOD OF INTERPRETATION - THE "HISTORICAL, PROPHETIC-PRINCIPLE"

1. This method keeps in mind the writer wrote his message primarily for the encouragement and edification of the Christians of his own time.
2. One must make a close study of the church of that day, the writer of the book, the condition from which he wrote, his relation to those to whom he wrote - then make application to one's own day.
3. Two questions are asked using this principle--
 - (1) "What is the picture?"
 - (2) "What does it mean?"
4. Using this method keeps in mind that Revelation uses Old Testament terminology with New Testament meanings. (Out of 404 verses, there are over 300 allusions to the Old Testament.)
5. A person using this means of interpretation seeks to grasp the visions, or series of visions, as a whole, without pressing the details of the symbolism.
6. The Revelation is addressed chiefly to the "imagination." (In comparison Romans addresses our intellect; Psalms addresses our emotions; the Commandments address our will.)
7. When we have found an event, or person, to which the prophecy is fairly applicable, we can consider it fulfilled in such an event or person, but not thereby exhausted; for it is intended more for the purpose of showing us the forces for good and evil that make history, than for the prediction of particular events.

NOTE: THE REVELATION IS A BOOK OF PROPHECY - REVELATION 1:3; 22:10,18.

"If it is once recognized that the Apocalypse is a book of true prophecy, that its symbols stand for something real, and that its perspective is not to be limited to a brief period like 3½ years, the way is opened, not, indeed, for a reading into it of a series of precise historical occurrences but still for doing justice to the truth which lies at the basis of the historical interpretation, viz., that there are here pre-figured the great crises in the age-long conflict of Christ and His church with pagan and anti-Christian adversaries." (I.S.B.E., Page 2586, VOLUME IV)

Those whose meanings are not revealed in the text are to be ascertained by observing a like vision in Scripture, the meaning of which is known. This employs the hermeneutical law of interpreting Scripture by Scripture. Cf. Revelation 7:1-4 with Ezekiel 9:1-9; Revelation 10:5-11 with Ezekiel 2:8-3:3,14.

When the meaning of the signs in the book are made known, that meaning shall be adopted. When the visions are not made known, appeal will be made to Scripture for similar visions for the interpretation.

HERMENEUTICS FOR FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE--

1. Language is figurative when the context so indicates.
2. Language is figurative when the language states that it is figurative.
3. Language is figurative when the literal meaning of a word or sentence involves an impossibility.
4. Language is figurative if the literal meaning makes for a contradiction with other literal statements.
5. Language is figurative when the Scriptures are made to demand that which is morally wrong.
6. Language is figurative when the definite is put for an indefinite number.
7. Language is figurative when it is stated as mockery, or in irony.
8. Language is figurative when common sense necessarily so determines.

RULES FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING--

1. Let the author give his own interpretation.
2. See that the language agrees with the general as well as the specific scope of the message.
3. Compare the figurative account with literal accounts of the same things, or messages.
4. Observe the resemblance or want of resemblance of things being compared.
5. Observe the language in contrast to the facts of history.
6. Take note of any inspired interpretation or application of the language.
7. Be careful not to demand too many points of analogy between the figurative and the literal, or real.
8. Remember that figures are not always used with the same meaning.
9. Observe that parables may explain parables.
10. Remember that the type and the antitype are frequently held in view at the same time.

INTRODUCTION

Revelation is an important book, although, one of controversy. It is one that is often misapplied, and one often ignored. Revelation reflects the persecution and death of Christians because of their refusal to worship the Emperor of Rome as Lord and God.

A brief outline is furnished us by inspiration in Revelation 1:19.

"The Things which Thou Sawest" - i.e., The Glorious Christ (1:12-18)
"The Things Which Are" - i.e., The Condition of The Church (2,3)
"The Things Which Shall Come To Pass Hereafter" - (4-22)
(God and the Lamb; Opening of the Seven Seals; Sounding of the Seven Trumpets; Dragon and Lamb Conflict; the Seven Plagues; Destruction and Vicotry)

As far as the book relates to us today - it applies in principle to all people of all time. There are many beautiful doctrines revealed in the book for us to study, learn and apply.

CHAPTER ONE

Brief Outline:

Partakers (1:4,11)
Person (1:5,8,13-18)
Dignity
Deity
Description
Plan (1:19)

DISCUSSION:

I. THE PARTAKERS - Seven Churches of Asia (verse 11)

1. Name the seven churches:
2. What other churches can you name that are not mentioned in these seven?
3. Cf. The number "7". (Occurs 54 times in Revelation)

II. THE PERSON OF THE BOOK (1:5,8,13-18). Christ is portrayed uniquely in several chapters of the Bible. Cf. Isaiah 53 (Suffering Savior); Matthew 17 (Splendor); Philippians 2 (Submission); Colossians 1 (Sovereignty); Hebrews 1 (Superiority).

None surpasses His description as found in Revelation 1.

1. HIS DIGNITY, Verse 5

- (1) "The Faithful Witness"
- (2) "The First Begotten of the Dead"
- (3) "Prince of the Kings of the Earth"
- (4) "The Savior of All"
- (5) "Made us kings; Made us priests"

2. HIS DEITY, Verse 8,11

- (1) "I Am the Alpha and Omega"
- (2) "The Almighty"

3. HIS DESCRIPTION

- (1) "Eyes"
- (2) "Feet"
- (3) "Voice"
- (4) "Hands"
- (5) "Mouth"
- (6) "Countenance"

III. THE PLAN OF THE BOOK, Verse 19

1. Verse 17 - Reaction - No Wonder!
2. "Fear Not" - the book dispells fear!

CONCLUSION: A glorious beginning for a glorious Book!

REVELATION 2,3

These chapters share with us the view of the church AS GOD SEES THEM, and not as man does. The book of Revelation has suffered an unfortunate fate. One the whole either it has been abandoned by the readers of the Bible as being almost completely unintelligible, or it has become the happy hunting ground of religious eccentrics, who seek to construct from it a kind of celestial timetable of events to come. Some people have said the book either finds a man mad, or leaves him so. There is much that is obscure and difficult in the Revelation, but there is one section of it at least which is vivid and relevant, and which gains much new light when it is set against the background out of which it was written. That is the section which contains the letters to the Seven Churches, chapters 2 and 3.

In each of the 7 letters the Lord issues a promise "to him that overcometh." The history of the church is one of conflict. The foes are many and varied, from traitors and temptations within, to taunts, tribulations and tyranny from without. Any Christian soon learns that the Christian life is no bed of roses and a life of ease. Yet, the Christian is not without aid, nor his weapons. There is One who has perfectly overcome!

Each section or letter that is addressed to a church contains these sections: (1) The Assembly; (2) The Author; (3) The Approval; (4) The admonition; (5) The Appeal; (6) The Promise.

I. THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS, Revelation 2:1-7 (LOVELESSNESS).

1. THE ASSEMBLY - The most known of any of the Seven Churches. Ephesus was a "free" city and pro-Roman. It was also the center of Artemis worship - Diana of the Ephesians. Her temple was the 8th wonder of the world, and superstition and pagan beliefs abounded. Ephesus was a center of crime and immorality.
2. THE AUTHOR - "He that holds the 7 stars amidst the 7 lampstands." Indicates the Lord's complete control, and knowledge of their true condition.
3. THE APPROVAL - Labor, patience, tried, hate evil. The Nicolaitans argued that the law is ended, the body is evil and grace will save regardless of what one does. They wanted compromise with the world. They apparently were not prepared to pay the price of Christianity because it cost too much.
4. THE ADMONITION - "Remember, repent, repeat, remove."
5. THE APPEAL - "Or else I will come and remove your candlestick."
6. THE PROMISE - "Will I give to eat of the Tree of Life." (2:7). In the Garden of Eden the tree existed (Genesis 2:9; 3:22). To eat of this was to live forever, but man by sin forfeited this right. Now the Tree is to those faithful ones (John 11:26; I Corinthians 15:53). Paradise is lost and now Paradise is restored (II Timothy 1:10). This promise is conditional based upon struggle.

REVELATION 2,3, CONTINUED

II. THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA, Revelation 2:8-11 (LONGSUFFERING)

1. THE ASSEMBLY - Smyrna was the rival of Ephesus - in beauty, trade, loveliness. It was originally founded as a Greek colony as early as 1000 B.C. The city was destroyed in 600 B.C., but was rebuilt in 200B.C., and has continued to this day having a population of 200,000. It was the center of art, knowledge and culture. The home of music and the theatre, contained temples of Zeus, Apollo, Nemesis, Aphrodite. Heathen worship and pagan religion dwelt at its highest and most significance. The Jews were here in profusion and were wealthy and highly jealous and proud of Smyrna. Polycarp was martyred here, and his grave is shown to tourist to this day.
2. THE AUTHOR - "The First and the Last" - "The Dead and Alive". Actually, better translated as "The Became Dead One, and The Became Alive One Again." (Aorist Tense). Cf. Hebrews 2:18; Hebrews 4:15,16. The message is "CHRIST LIVES!"
3. THE AFFLICTION - They suffered affliction and poverty. Also, suffered imprisonment. The term "10 days" is an ancient expression denoting a "short time to come to an end soon." They were blasphemed, but they were RICH IN GOOD WORKS.
4. THE APPEAL - "Be faithful unto death - a crown of life"
5. THE PROMISE - "Shall not be hurt of the second death." (2:11) The second death is identified in Revelation 20:14; 21:8. The judgment of hell, that everlasting banishment from the presence of the Lord which awaits the wicked. Physical death is a reality to all (Hebrews 9:27), but not the second (Cf. John 5:24; Revelation 20:6; Ephesians 2:1; John 5:28,29).

III. THE CHURCH AT PERGAMOS, Revelation 2:12-17 (LAXITY)

1. THE ASSEMBLY - It was among the chief centers of the ancient world. It contained the Temple of Athene. The wealthy from all lands flocked here for relief from their pains and diseases. It was the Administrative center of Asia. Emphasis on Emperor worship was in Pergamos.
2. THE AUTHOR - "He which hath the Sharp Two-Edged Sword." Nothing but truth can defeat error. And then only when the sword is unleashed in all of its purity and power.
3. THE APPROVAL - Holdest fast My Name" - faithfulness.
4. THE ADMONITION - "I have a few things against thee." The doctrine of Balaam (a cautious policy of compromise with the world, its morals and practices) - East things sacrificed to idols and commit fornication."
5. THE APPEAL - "Repent, or else!"

REVELATION 2,3, CONTINUED

6. THE PROMISE - "To eat of the hidden manna. (2:17) Cf. Exodus 16:4,15. Miracle bread from heaven, a type of our Lord, Cf. John 6:30,31; 6:32-35,48-56. The True Bread - John 6:63. The Lord satisfies our spiritual hunger - the "hidden manna," hidden to those who "see not" and "understand not." There is the meat to eat that the world knows not!

"And a white stone" - a name is to be engraved on it, known by the believers. Cf. Psalm 91:14. "I will set him on high because he has known my name."

IV. THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA, Revelation 2:18-29 (LIBERTINISM)

1. THE ASSEMBLY - The longest letter of the Seven Churches was written to the least important of the 7 cities of Revelation. The city was noted for its trade guilds. Its members (trade guilds) often engaged in orgies of food and immorality.
2. THE AUTHOR - The Son of God. His Diety is affirmed - Isaiah 7:14; 9:6. "Eyes like a flame of fire" - Nothing is more piercing than flaming fire. They look everywhere and they see everything! "Feet are like fine brass" - the symbol of judgment. Cf. Revelation 19:15 - strong, righteous.
3. THE APPROVAL - "I know your works and love - faith, patience, progress. To love is to be like God. They were serving their fellow man - bearing up and actually gaining ground. Growth and development!
4. THE ADMONITION - "Jezebel teaches and seduces. Hers was a flagrant violation of God's law. Cut off social fellowship - guilds and business lost - JEZEBEL SCREAMED, IT'S OK! She repented not - God is patient, but even His patience has an end.
5. THE APPEAL - "Hold fast till I come." Judgment is coming and God knows the heart, and judgment is based upon actions as well as attitudes.
6. THE PROMISE - "Power over the nations" (2:26,27). Cf. Psalms 2:8,9. Rule with the Lord. Cf. also Jude 14,15. Sit and judge with the 12 tribes of Israel. Cf. Romans 8:17; I Corinthians 6:2,3
"I will give him the bright and morning star" (2:28). Cf. Revelation 22:16; Numbers 24:17; Luke 1:78,79; I Peter 1:19.

V. THE CHURCH AT SARDIS, Revelation 3:1-6 (LIFELESSNESS)

1. THE ASSEMBLY - A great commercial center and extremely wealthy. Also, the center of the woolen industry. Home of Cybele worship. The Sardian were a name of contempt because of their slack and effeminate living. They were loose living, pleasure and pleasure loving, and decadent.
2. THE AUTHOR - "He that hath the Seven Spirits of God." Cf. 1:4. The complete, full spirit - the Holy Spirit. "He who has the Seven Stars" - complete control of the Seven churches.

REVELATION 2,3, CONTINUED

3. THE ADMONITION - "Thou hast a name...thou art dead" Sin is death! "No works perfected" - the fire was gone. There was nothing completed. The church was a living lie. It was alienated from God.
4. THE APPROVAL - "A few names...not defiled"
5. THE APPEAL - "Be watchful...strengthen the things that remain... which are about to die."
6. THE PROMISE - "Clothed in white raiment" (3:5. Known for purity and righteousness. Isaiah 64:4 shows our righteousness is as filthy rags, yet, we walk in "white" with Him. Cf. Revelation 3:4; Luke 9:29.

VI. THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA, Revelation 3:7-13 (LOYALTY)

1. THE ASSEMBLY - quiet and peaceful. Had terrible earthquakes. Like Smyrna, she is the only city of the 7 cities left. Neither city was bidden to repent.
2. THE AUTHOR - "He Who is Holy" - one of the characteristics of God (Cf. I John 3:5; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:22).

"He That is True" - He IS truth. No lie, no darkness, no hypocrisy, no error at all. (John 14:6; I John 5:20)

"He Who has the key of David" - symbol of authority. No higher appeal (Isaiah 22:22.). He alone has the power to admit to the kingdom of God (Luke 1:32,33; Revelation 1:18)

"The Open Door" - Perfect tense - It was opened, and IT IS STILL OPEN! (John 10:9)

"No Man can shut it" - we have many adversaries, but no conquerors!

3. THE APPROVAL - "I know thy works"; "Thou hast kept My word"
4. THE ACCOUNTING - "The synagogue of Satan" - Four of the 7 churches in which Satan is found. "They will bow and learn that I have loved you." (Matthew 10:32)
5. THE APPEAL - "I come quickly...Hold Fast" (Galatians 6:9; Colossians 2:18; II John 8)
6. THE PROMISE - "A pillar in the Temple of My God" (3:12). Established, safe, strong in God's presence.

"I will write name of my God...Name of the City" (3:12) Cf. Numbers 6:27.

"I will write My new Name" - (3:12) (Cf. Revelation 19:16 - "Kings of Kings, and Lord of Lords.")

VIII. THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA, Revelation 3:14-22 (LUKEWARMNESS)

REVELATION 2,3, CONTINUED

1. THE ASSEMBLY - At the convergence of 3 main highways, highly successful center. Many millionaires, theaters, public baths, huge stadiums and shopping centers. A great banking and trade center. Center of clothing manufacturers. Medical center and a large Jewish population.
2. THE AUTHOR - "The Amen" - The Beginning of the Creation of God. These are the affirmation and the confirmation of the Truth.
3. THE ADMONITION - "I know thy works" - Utter disgust. Wretched, poor, miserable, blind, naked - ONLY GOD COULD BE SO DEVASTATING!
4. THE APPEAL - "Buy of Me" - The source of all true blessings.
5. THE PROMISE - "Sit with Me in My throne" (3:21). Cf. John 17:5. His glory and His power. Cf. Revelation 1:6; 5:10; Romans 5:17. WHAT A GLORIOUS REWARD!

NOTE: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be His God, and he shall be My Son." (Revelation 21:7)

LOOKING BACK, NUMBER 1

1. Define the word "revelation" as used in the book of Revelation.
2. What three blessings are found in chapter 1?
3. To whom is the letter addressed?
4. Name at least 2 characteristics of the book of Revelation.
5. What is the first vision of the book?
6. What is the "theme" of the Revelation?
7. Give a description of the Person of the book (from memory!) as found in Chapter 1.
8. Revelation is rooted in the _____ and _____ of the Old Testament.
9. Why were the early Christians being persecuted?
10. Of the Seven churches written, how many had nothing condemned?
11. Who were they?
12. In each letter the Lord issues a promise to what people?
13. The longest letter to the churches was written to _____.
14. Who was said to have lost their first love? _____
15. Which church was said to be lukewarm? _____
16. Fill in the missing descriptive word:

EPHESUS	<u>LOVELESSNESS</u>
SMYRNA	L _____
PERGAMUM	L _____
THYATIRA	L _____
SARDIS	L _____
PHILADELPHIA	L _____
LAODICEA	L _____

REVELATION 4

The third section of the Revelation begins with this chapter. An appropriate title to Chapter 4 would be "The Throne In Heaven." The First section of Revelation introduced us to God's Revelation, and The Christ. The Second section pictured God's Church on earth, busily engaged in a battle with this world, and all that is in it. God calls out "a people for His name." (Cf. Acts 15:14).

At this point in our study let us remember Revelation 1:19, which contains the three-fold division of this book. "The things which thou hast seen; the things which are; the things which shall be hereafter."

The key word in Chapter 4 is the word "throne." It appears 12 times in eleven verses, and not less than 37 times in the book itself. The book of Revelation commences with a Throne (1:4), and concludes with a Throne (22:3). The Book of Revelation is the Throne Book of the Bible. The Throne is symbolic of God's power, sovereignty, majesty and judgment. Cf. Psalm 103:19 - "The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; and His sovereignty rules over all."

LET US NOTICE CHAPTER 4--

I. THE PREVIEW OF THE THRONE SCENE, Verse 1.

1. The Open Door - Proclamation. (Note 3:8,20).
2. The Trumpet Sound - To summon (Note I Corinthians 15:51,52)
3. "I will show the things hereafter" - God reveals.
4. "I was in the Spirit" - (Note Revelation 1:10) - the presence of God was a reality. (Note Ezekiel 1:1; Mark 1:10; John 1:51)

II. THE PERSON ON THE THRONE, Verses 2,3.

1. The throne is mentioned in every chapter of Revelation except for chapters 2,8,9.
2. The Presence of the Throne - brilliance of Jasper stone and the glory of a Sardis stone. Both are found in the breastplate of the High Priest. (Exodus 28:17-20). Also found in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10,11,19,20).

III. THE PLEDGE ROUND ABOUT THE THRONE, Verse 3.

1. The rainbow emblematic of God's pledge. On earth we see a part; in heaven, it is complete. The scene of indescribable beauty, awe and wonderment.
2. For the children of God the storms of life are over. The struggle has ceased. Peace is ours. The Lord remembers; the Lord fulfills!

IV. THE PERSONS ROUND ABOUT THE THRONE, Verse 4.

1. The word "seats" is the same word for "throne."
2. The number 24 (elders) - There were 24 elders appointed to represent all the Levitical Priesthood. (I Chronicles 24:7-18).

REVELATION 4, Continued

3. However, the number has been interpreted as representative of the 12 Patriarchs of Israel, and the 12 apostles of the New Testament. These "24" represents us all. Cf. Revelation 21:12-14.
4. Clothed in white raiment and having crowns of gold. Cf. 3:4,:4:4 Cf. Revelation 19:8 - the righteousness of the saints. We are kings and priests (Revelation 1:4-6; 5:10).

V. THE PROCEEDINGS FROM OUT OF THE THRONE, Verse 5.

1. The Throne of Judgment - "Lightenings and Thunderings, voices" Cf. Revelation 8:5; 10:3; 11:19; 16:18.
2. The expression of God's anger and wrath (Ezekiel 1:13; Psalm 77:18; Exodus 19:16).

VI. THE PORTRAYAL BEFORE THE THRONE, Verse 5.

1. The Seven Spirits of God." The "seven" indication of "fulness, or completeness" - the Holy Spirit's omniscience and omnipotence. Prepared to execute judgment and burning - Isaiah 4:4.
2. The Sea of Glass like crystal - verse 6 - indicative of distance. dazzling purity - like God's purity!

VII. THE PRAISE IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE, Verses 6-11.

1. The Four Living Creatures - always near the throne of God - full of eyes - wings, praising and worshipping God. In 15:7, they pour out the vials of God's wrath. Probably the cherubims of the Old Testament - Guardians of the Throne of God.
2. No rest day or night, but speaking the holiness of God.
3. God alone is the object of our worship. The eternity of God is affirmed.
4. The crowns are cast before Him - complete submission.

NOTE: Our God is the Source and Origin of all Creation. He caused all things, and all creatures, to exist. It is grounds for our adoration. God is the Source and Sustainer of the entire universe. Whether we stand on earth, come from behind the moon, or fall before the throne in Heaven, our God is there! He alone is unmoved. He is our God. Glory - honor - dominion - Power is His forever and ever! Age without end!

QUESTIONS, CHAPTER 4

1. Why do you feel John was shown this scene in Heaven?
2. Why were precious stones used to describe this scene? Are they literal stones?
3. What was the purpose of the rainbow?
4. Who do you think the 24 elders represent?
5. What does the "sea of glass" represent?
6. Describe the "Four Living Creatures." What do they represent?
7. Draw a sketch of the "Throne Scene."
8. What three things characterize the 24 elders?
9. Define:
 - (1) Twelve (as used in Revelation)
 - (2) Eagle
 - (3) Eyes
 - (4) Face of man
 - (5) Face of a Lion
 - (6) Face of an Eagle
 - (7) Face of an Ox
 - (8) Throne
10. What is the theme of chapter 4?

REVELATION 5

"THE SEALED BOOK," and "THE LAMB THAT IS WORTHY," would be a good title for this chapter. The theme of chapter 5 is "THE GLORY OF THE LAMB." Chapter 5 ties very closely with chapter 4 by continuing the scene as seen in heaven. It is the same story, only one more comes to pay honor and glory before the Father.

VERSE 1 - "THE SEALED BOOK"

1. "Book" - better translated as "scroll."
2. "Written within and on the back" - full of meaning and importance.
3. "Sealed with seven seals" - that which is "unrevealed and unexecuted."

VERSES 2,3 - "THE CRY OF THE STRONG ANGEL"

1. Not an "ordinary angel." - note where his voice was heard.
2. "Angel" - messenger

VERSE 4 - "JOHN WEEPS" - Why?

VERSES 5 - 14 "CHRIST THE LION, AND THE LAMB"

1. Lion of the Tribe of Judah - Genesis 49:9,10
2. Root of David - II Samuel 7:12; Psalm 89:28,35,36.
3. Has overcome - "How?" - See Colossians 2:14,15
4. "Seven Horns" - See Daniel 8:7
5. "Seven Eyes" - Perfect knowledge, or omniscience. Also preparedness.

VERSES 9,10 - "THE NEW SONG"

1. The first song was sung in Revelation 4:8. See Isaiah 6:1-3.
2. What Four qualitative terms describe redemption in verses 9,10?
Note: This salvation AS GOD SEES IT, and not as man sees it.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

REVELATION 6

It is not our intention to interpret these seals as referring to specific persons, or historical events in the past, present, or future; but simply to relate the symbolism to the other symbols in the book itself.

The imagery of the horse is similar to Zechariah 1:7-11; 6:1-8. Also, we should note Jeremiah 14:12; 24:10; 42:17. In the Old Testament, the horse is often the emblem of war. (Cf. Job 39:25; Psalm 76:6; Proverb 21:31; Ezekiel 26:10.)

Chapter 6 is outlined by the opening of the various seals.

I. THE FIRST SEAL - "THE WHITE HORSE" - Verses 1,2.

1. White is symbolic of purity, holiness or victory.
2. The rider is carrying a bow - a weapon of war, and is wearing a crown - the mark of royal, or exalted rank.
3. His purpose is to conquer and conquering. This is the same that is translated "overcome" in Revelation 3:21; 5:5; John 16:33.

II. THE SECOND SEAL - "THE RED HORSE" - Verses 3,4

1. Red is the "blood red (pur); flame colored." Cf. II Kings 3:22. It carries with it the connotation of danger, blood or war.
2. It was given to take peace from the earth, and peace was taken by making them "slay one another." Cf. Revelation 5:9; 6:9.

III. THE THIRD SEAL - "THE BLACK HORSE" - Verses 5,6

1. Black is the color of "mourning and famine." Cf. Jeremiah 4:28; 8:21; Malachi 3:14.
2. This rider holds a balance in his hands - scales to which to weigh things. (To eat by weight refers to a condition of economic hardship.)
3. A measure of wheat for a shilling (about 18¢) would be less than a quart dry measure. This would be enough to support a man for one day. 18¢ was the amount one day's pay.
4. "Three measures of barley would be an alternative. One could either buy the wheat to feed one person, or buy the barley and feed three people. Barley was the food for the poor, cheaper in the times of famine, and took more to support life.
5. The oil and wine were not to be hurt. Wheat and barley, oil and wine were the staple foods of Palestine and Asia Minor. The thought presented here is not that of famine, but of economic repression and economic discrimination.

IV. THE FOURTH SEAL - "THE PALE HORSE" - Verses 7,8

1. The color "pale" is greenish white, i.e., the color of one stricken with the disease of death. The name is "Death", and "Hades" follows with him.
2. Death slays and Hades reaps. They have authority over a fourth-part of the earth. (Cf. Ezekiel 14:21).

V. THE FIFTH SEAL - "THE SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR" - Verses 9-11.

1. The blood of sacrifices was poured at the bottom of the altar. (Cf. Leviticus 4:7). The altar was before the throne of God.
2. They were slain for the Word, i.e., sacrificed for being faithful. Their persecution is not over yet.

VI. THE SIXTH SEAL - "JUDGMENT" - Verses 12-17

1. The Day of Jehovah is judgment upon the wicked in time.
2. John uses the language of the prophets to paint the picture of desolation and destruction.
 - (1) Cf. Isaiah 2:12-22 (Destruction of Judah and Jerusalem)
 - (2) Cf. Isaiah 13:9-16 (Fall of Babylon)
 - (3) Cf. Isaiah 34:4 (Fall of Edom)
 - (4) Cf. Hosea 10:8 (Fall of Samaria)
 - (5) Cf. Joel 2:28-32 (Coming of the new age; fall of Jewish nation; pouring out of the Holy Spirit)
3. This is not the final day of judgment described here, but the anticipation of some coming event which the people fear to face.
4. Who shall be able to stand? In view of the terrible things to happen, what about the child of God?

CONCLUSION:

In the sixth seal, there are two sets of sixes--

1. There are six things enumerated (great earthquake; sun darkened; moon the color of blood; stars fall to the earth; heavens curled up; mountains and islands removed.)
2. There are six classes of mankind listed (kings; princes; officers; rich men; strong men; slave and freeman).

REVELATION 7

Instead of the 7th seal being opened, there are two visions of John recorded in this chapter. The first vision is the sealing of the servants of God (1-8), and the second, of the redeemed before the throne of God (9-17). The chapter deals with the question, "Who then shall stand?"

I. VERSE 1 - John sees 4 angels holding back the four winds.

1. "Winds" or "wind" is often used to depict the "activities of God.
2. The judgment of God pictured as wind is a prominent idea in the Old Testament. Some scriptures are Jeremiah 4:11,12; 18:17; 49:32,36; Ezekiel 5:2; 12:14; Psalm 106:27; Job 38:24; Isaiah 41:16.
3. The four winds are held prisoner by angels at each of the four corners. Some Jews held the winds from the "due" direction to be a favorable wind, while those from the "angles" were unfavorable.

II. VERSES 2,3 - "Angel coming from the East" (the direction of light)

1. "Cries with a great voice" - could be heard everywhere. Does so to hold back the Divine retribution until the seal is placed.
2. "Having the seal of the Living God" - signet ring, as would be used by Oriental monarchs - gives validity to official documents.

III. VERSE 4 - "144,000" - out of every tribe of Israel.

1. Cf. Ezekiel 9:1-6. Representing safety in the time of trouble. Protected so the destructive winds do not harm them.
2. Notice the use of "sealing."
 - (1) Protection against tampering - Matthew 27:66; Revelation 5:1
 - (2) Show ownership and destination - II Timothy 2:19; Song of Solomon 8:6
 - (3) Proof of genuineness - Esther 3:12.
3. There is wide disagreement on the meaning of the 2 groups mentioned in Chapter 7.
 - (1) The 144,000 represents Jewish Christians and the Great Host represents Gentile Christians.
 - (2) The symbolism used does not divide the redeemed into two groups.
4. It is a sacred number of religious significance (12), multiplied by itself, and then by a thousand (the number used signify completeness) The result represents "absolute completeness."

5. Notice that exactly 12,000 from each tribe listed - suggests the number is not to be taken literally.

IV. VERSES 5-8 The Listing of the Tribes.

1. The list is not geographical. Dan and Ephraim are left out, but Joseph is included. Joseph had two sons (Ephraim and Manasseh) and each was made the head of a tribe.
2. When the tribes were listed, Levi was usually omitted because of having no regular inheritance, as was Joseph's name omitted. In this chapter Joseph and Levi are listed, so two have to be omitted.
3. There are various listing of the tribes in the Old Testament. (Genesis 35:22f; 46:8f; 49; Exodus 1:1ff; Numbers 1:2; 13:4ff; 26:34; Deuteronomy 27:11f; 33:6ff; Joshua 13-22; Judges 5)

V. VERSES 9-17 The Great Hosts and the "Purpose" of Trials.

1. John sees a great host beyond the ability of man to number. This group is not sealed because they are past the need for protection.
2. They recognize the source of their victory and John not only points the afflicted Christians to safety, but to the joy that awaits on the other side.
3. To emerge through trials is one thing, but to emerge from it with unstained faith and conscience is something else.
4. The two visions together give the most complete picture of the security of God's people before the judgments pointed out in chapters 6 and 8.

VI. NOTE ON VERSE 12

1. In this verse the definite article precedes each item of praise. This represents the fullest, deepest sense of excellencies pertaining to God.
2. Cf. eulogia; doxa; sophia; eucharistia; time; dunamis; ischus.

VII. NOTE ON VERSES 13-17

1. "That come out of the great tribulation" (present, active) - they who are coming out - a thing of the moment.
2. Before the throne (perfect communion); Serving (perfect service); His Tabernacle (perfect protection; Hunger and thirst no more (perfect provision); Shepherd (Perfect Leadership); Water of Life (perfect life); No tears (perfect joy).

REVELATION 8

A brief outline of Chapter 8 shows the major divisions of the chapter:

- I. The Seventh Seal And Silence (1,2)
- II. The Angel and The Golden Censer (3-5)
- III. The First Four Trumpets (6-13)
- IV. The Eagle of Warning (13)

LET US NOTICE --

Verse 1 - "Silence" - There are two prevalent views concerning the silence:

1. A dramatic effect (profound stillness with no one speaking; a temporary cessation in revelation)
2. A symbol of delayed judgment (Cf. 7:1-3)

Verse 2 - "Trumpets" - used to summon armies, give orders to charge, and announce things or events.

Verses 3 - 5 The angel with the golden censer; the prayers; and the casting of fire into the earth; voices, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Verses 6 - 13 The angels with their trumpets to sound. The first four trumpets bring "woe" upon THE EARTH in partial destruction. They represent judgment upon nature in its four-fold aspect. This is the classification of nature as known to men in that day, i.e., land, sea, fresh waters and heavenly bodies.

The "third" was the conventional way of expressing "partial" or a "large part."

1. The First Trumpet (7) - Land disaster - earth, trees, grass.
2. The Second Trumpet (8,9) - Sea disaster.
3. The Third Trumpet (10,11) - Fresh Water - "Wormwood" (See Exodus 15:23; Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15)
4. The Fourth Trumpet (12) - Heavenly Bodies.

Verse 13 - "Eagle" - strongest of birds - sometimes a symbol for vengeance; flies where all can see, and cires where all can hear.

There is more and worse to come. The last three trumpets are known as the "Three Woe Trumpets."

God gives His revelation through things they would understand. He is saying, "I have means of destroying your enemies." Also, His patience is saying, "Repent, and turn from your evil."

REVELATION 9

This chapter is one of the most frightening scenes in the book of Revelation! Its theme is "The worse is yet to come!" Chapter 9 contains plenty of symbolical language and pageantry. It also contains two major sections: (1) The Sounding of the Fifth Trumpet; (2) The Sounding of the Sixth Trumpet. Verses 20 and 21 state the purpose of the instruments of destruction.

I THE SOUNDING OF THE FIFTH TRUMPET, Verses 1-12

"A star fell from heaven" - Cf. Luke 10:18. The star is given power to open the abyss. (Cf. Luke 8:31 - the abode of demons)

"Smoke" - can represent deception and delusion; sin and sorrow; and darkness and degradation. Moral blindness. Cf. II Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2.

"Locust" - a common pest of the day; also is the universal symbol of destruction. These locusts are described in a special way, and have a special function.

Horses - war;
Crowns - victory;
Faces of men - intelligence;
Woman's Hair - strength, or beauty;
Lion's teeth - power;
Armor - protection;
The sound of their wings made a tremendous noise - a mighty number.

(The description of the locust creatures do not represent the Cobra Helicopter Gunship, as some interpreters say!)

They were told not to hurt the grass (common food to the locust), but to spend five months (length of life of a locust), in tormenting man - to create anguish so as to desire death, but death is not granted.

Their leader's name is "Abaddon", or "Apollyon" - translated as "A Destroyer"; or "Destruction."

Many attempts have been made to determine the exact meanings of every detail in this picture--

Some make this parallel with the horsemen in the next section;
Some bypass interpretation altogether;
Some say they symbolize the hellish spirit which penetrates the earth, or the forces of decay for retribution upon Rome
Representative of internal rottenness and internal decay of the Roman Empire. This is pictured as coming from within the empire.

God has now indicated two instruments with which can be used to destroy the oppressors: (1) Natural Calamity; (2) Internal Decay. The Third instrument is the next section.

REVELATION 9, CONTINUED...

Verse 12 says there are TWO MORE WOES to go!

II. THE SOUNDING OF THE SIXTH TRUMPET, Verses 13-21

The symbolism of this vision is full of dramatic details. For the intent of these trumpets, please read Revelation 6:9,10; 8:3,4. The answer to the prayers of "vindication."

The Four Angels were loosed that were bound at the Euphrates, and led a great army bent on destruction. The Euphrates would represent the land of the enemies, or evil.

The army numbered 200,000,000. In regular formation, this would make a troop of soldiers 1 mile wide and 85 miles long.

Another vivid description is given--men with breastplates of fire; Horses heads were as the heads of lions; out of their mouths were issuing fire, smoke and brimstone. Their tails were like unto serpents and had heads.

This vision could represent External Invasion.

This completes the instruments used of God -- Natural Calamity, Internal Decay, and External Invasion.

Verses 20 and 21 show the purpose of the instruments that reveal God's will.

Just as the Seventh Seal contained the Seven Trumpets, the Seventh Trumpet contains, in a sense, the Seven Bowls of Wrath.

But first, there is an interlude (10:1-11), so that John can eat a little book, and know there are some bitter things to prophesy.

REVELATION 10

We are interrupted in the Trumpet Judgments by two more visions. This chapter contains the first; Chapter 11:1-13, contains the second vision. Two main themes are discussed in chapter 10. Verses 1-7, The Seven Thunders; Verses 8-11, The Little Book.

I. THE FIRST THEME - "THE ANGEL, AND THE SEVEN THUNDERS, Verses 1-7.

1. Verse 1 - Describe the angel "come down from heaven"--

What do you think the symbols represent?

2. Verse 2 - One foot on the sea, and one foot on the earth would indicate all the world is to be included in the message to follow. (The angel has great authority, and great power!) The message is for all, and he controls both realms.
3. Verse 3 - "Loud voice" - attracts attention to what he was to say.
"Thunder" - storm approaching! symbolical of warning; a premonition of judgments of Divine wrath.
4. Verse 4 - "Seal up those things" - there was to be no more warning! (Cf. the next few verses).
5. Verses 5 - 7 The warning of the six trumpets had been enough needed - now there is to be no further delay.

"Right hand to Heaven" - done when oath is taken.

"Mystery" - to be known in the days of the voice of the 7th angel. He sounds in chapter 11:14-19.

II. THE SECOND THEME - "The Little Book", verses 8-11

1. Verse 8 - Instructions are given regarding the Little Book.
2. Verse 9 - "Eat it up" - acceptance and responsibility

"Sweet as honey" - joy of revelation and trust. It tastes good when studied - has a sweet ending!

"Bitter" - comes in the delivery of God's message of condemnation of sin of men - "bad news" (Cf. Psalm 119:103,104; 19:7-14.

CONCLUSION:

There has been much conjecture over the contents of the Little Book. It does appear that its contents deal with matters of sorrow and woe. Cf. Ezekiel 2:8- 3:14.

REVELATION 11

Chapter 11 contains 3 sections for consideration: (1) The Measuring of the Temple -1,2; (2) The Two Witnesses -3 thru 13; (3) The Seventh Trumpet - 14 thru 19.

I. THE MEASURING OF THE TEMPLE, Verses 1,2

1. "Measure" - what is the indication of this word?
2. "Court" - the thought is the world will continually attack the church.
3. "42 months" - symbolical period of time. The figure is used whenever persecution is under consideration. The number represents uncertainty, restlessness and turmoil.
4. SUMMARY OF SECTION - God protects His own during a period of time of turmoil and difficulty by the hands of the world.

II. THE TWO WITNESSES, Verses 3-13

1. Various interpretations offered--
 - (1) Literally two men having supernatural power and divine protection.
 - (2) Applies to the apostasy of the church until the time of the reformation - the true church and the preacher.
 - (3) The number "2" is symbolism which carries the thought of strength. In this case they would symbolize a testimony, or witness, of great power. The gospel will be carried out even in the face of adversity.
2. SUMMARY OF SECTION - Thus ends the interlude containing the messages of divine judgment. There is to be a delay no longer, (10:1-7); God's message of judgment is to be proclaimed, (10:8-11); God's people are known and protected, (11:1,2); there will be a strong witness of the gospel during distress awaiting ahead. But when it is all over, Christianity will be vindicated, (11:3-13).

III. THE SEVENTH TRUMPET, Verses 14-19

1. This vision carries over into the rest of the book. The message is--"God and His kingdom have won."
2. In the Seventh Trumpet we have two thoughts to note--
 - (1) Victory - as indicated by songs;
 - (2) Defeat - as indicated in verse 18

REVELATION 13

Chapter 13 concerns two major discussions. In the first part we look at the "Beast From the Sea" (13:1-10); and the second section concerns the "Beast From the Earth" (13:11-17).

Satan is turning to do battle with the "rest of her seed," and John now describes the forces Satan uses and also the forces God uses. Satan has the "Sea-Beast" and the "Earth-Beast" and the "Great Harlot" (17:1).

The forces of Good are led by God and His Allies - "The Lamb" (14:1), and the "Sickles" (14:14,17). These indicate the Christ and Eternal Judgment. The battle will be long and bitterly fought, but God is Victorious!

I. THE SEA-BEAST, Verses 1-3. The Civil Persecuting Power of Rome.

1. "Coming up out of the sea". Cf. Revelation 17:1,15. The Sea of Humanity - the source of evil. Cf. Isaiah 17:12.
2. "Ten Horns" - Old Testament symbol of power. Cf. Deuteronomy 33:17; I Samuel 2:10; I Kings 22:11; Luke 1:69
3. "Seven Heads" - representative of authority. Complete power and perfect authority - ONLY as it was given him. Cf. Revelation 13:5,7
4. "Ten Crowns" - kingly nature, symbolizing rule, or reign.
5. "Names of blasphemy" - Cf. verses 5,6. To blaspheme God and His saints.
6. Cf. Verse 2 - The Description. As also found in Daniel 7:1-8. The idea is that this is a terrible sight and difficult to describe. Rome is the persecuting power.
7. Cf. Verse 3 - "One Head Smitten" - "Death stroke healed." Nero was first to persecute Christians, but committed suicide in A.D. 68. As a persecutor Rome received its death stroke. Domitian started the persecution again - the death was healed.

"The Sea-Beast symbolizes the persecuting power of Satan embodied in all the nations and governments of the world throughout all history." (Hendriksen)

8. We have the power of the Beast in verses 4-8, and the encouragement for the Christian to hold fast in verses 9 and 10.

II. THE EARTH-BEAST, Verses 11-18. Rome as a False Religion - Emperor worship.

1. "Two Horns like a Lamb" - outward religious appearance.
2. "Voice of a dragon" - wolf in sheep's clothing!
3. "Exercises authority of first Beast" - authority derived from Emperor, or from the Roman State.

REVELATION 13, Continued

4. "To worship the First Beast" - forced man to worship the Sea-Beast.

NOTE: All of these descriptions seem to identify the body in Asia Minor to enforce the state religion. (Summers)

5. "Sign" - cf. II Thessalonians 2:9
6. "Image to the Beast" - good description of Emperor worship
7. "Mark" - cf. the third Seal. Economic discrimination in time of plenty.
8. "Right hand" - symbol of power, or industry, or work.
9. "Forehead" - thought, life, or mind. Notice - "The Seal versus The Mark!"

III. THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST, Verse 18.

1. Of the many debated areas of the Revelation, this one has probably received the most varied treatment. Men have been trying to define it since the time of Irenaeus (c. 180).
2. Supposed meanings include Nero re-incarnated in Domitian; the Latin church; the Pope; Hitler, etc.
3. The number, and not the name, is the significant thing. The number "6" gave a feeling of dread to the Oriental. It fell short of "7" and was therefore an evil number. By itself it signified "doom" and when raised to a series ("666") it represented an evil that could not be greater. It represented evil raised to its highest power.
4. "The string of "6's" represented to Christians everything that was distasteful, evil, terrible and brutal." (Summers) It seems the Ruler of Rome was that "everything!"

IDENTIFY:

1. The Woman
2. The Child
3. The Dragon
4. The "Other children"
5. The Sea-Beast
6. The Earth Beast

REVELATION 14

Chapter 14 deals with the two forces of Righteousness that will combat the forces of the Evil One. These two forces are The Lamb and The Sickles of Judgment.

I. THE LAMB - The Victorious Christ - Verses 1-5

1. "Mount Zion" - Several passages deal with this phrase, i.e., II Samuel 5:6-10; 6:12,13; I Kings 8:1.
 - (1) Symbolical of Jerusalem - Cf. Psalm 2:5,6; 15:1; 48:1,2
 - (2) Term used in prophecy - Cf. Zechariah 8:1-3; Daniel 2:34,35
 - (3) Cf. Isaiah 2:2-4; Hebrews 12:22,23. Thus, it is Jerusalem invisioning the church.
 - (4) God is still in Zion - Cf. Psalm 110:1,2; Hebrews 12:22,23; I Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:21,22
 - (5) Thus, Zion is the location of God.
2. The "144,000" - those "purchased out of the earth" - They bear a "name" now, and not a "mark"
 - (1) They are exalted - verse 1
 - (2) They are exultant, verses 2,3a
 - (3) They are exclusive, verse 3b
 - (4) They are exemplary, verses 4,5
 - A. In CONDUCT - "Not defiled with women"
 - B. In CONSECRATION - "Follow the Lamb"
 - C. In CALLING - "Redeemed from among men"
 - D. In CONVERSATION - "In their mouth was found no guile"
 - E. In CHARACTER - "Without fault before the Throne"
3. Voice from Heaven" - Waters (rhythm)
Thunder (volume)
Harps (melody)

II. THE FOUR HEADLINE BANNERS - "Confidence" - Verses 6-13.

1. First Angel - the Triumphant of Righteousness - verses 6,7
2. Second Angel - the Judgment of Wicked Babylon - verse 8
3. Third Angel - Emperor Worshippers Are Judged - verses 9-12
4. Verse 13 - the Voice proclaiming Christians will triumph.

III. THE SICKLES OF JUDGMENT - Two Aspects of Judgment - Verses 14-20

1. Viewed by the righteous (verses 14-16) - a beautiful figure of death is "going home."
2. Viewed by the wicked (verses 17-20)
 - (1) Fire - symbolism of destruction
 - (2) Fully ripe - iniquity is full

REVELATION 14 Continued

- (3) Winepress of the wrath of God - figure of grapes being crushed. The wicked are destroyed (Cf. Isaiah 63:1ff)
- (4) Without the city - outside Jerusalem, or Zion - thus, the non-Christian
- (5) Blood - the wicked will be punished

REVELATION 15

Chapter 15 concerns the announcement of judgment which is to come on Rome, and that it is of God. It is complete, everlasting and without mercy.

NOTES:

- I. When the trumpets were blown in chapters 8-11, God's mercy was mixed with His wrath, and was given that man might repent. Now the line that separates God's mercy and His wrath has been crossed, and His wrath will not be mixed with mercy. Cf. Hebrews 12:29.
- II. Verses 2-4. The rejoicing saints on the other side shares the comfort Christians have to whom John is writing in the light of the terribleness of God's wrath that is to be poured out.
 1. "Sea of Glass" - now mingled with fire. In 4:6, God could not be approached by man because of the sea. In chapter 15, those who have overcome stand upon the sea. In 21:1, the sea is no more, and man is in intimate fellowship with God.
 2. "Harps of God" - symbolical of giving praise to God. Cf. Psalms 33:2; 92:1-5. "Song of Moses" - deliverance.
- III. Verses 5-8. The Judgments that are at hand.
 1. "Temple of the Tabernacle". Judgment comes from the very place God dwells. Before, the judgments had come from the altar. Cf. 8:3-5.
 2. "Seven angels - seven plagues - seven bowls" The complete destruction that now awaits the non-penitent ones.
 3. The dress of the angels (verse 6) are similar to the priests of God.
 4. "None able to enter" - they enter to offer sacrifice, thus the priests could no longer enter the Temple to make intercession.

CONCLUSION:

1. Judgment is set and even if Rome repented, their destruction was still set.
2. Final judgment is on the way.

REVELATION 16

Chapter 7 concerns the "Seven Bowls of Wrath." The judgment announced under the 6th seal (6:12-17), and further explained by the 7 trumpets (8:6-11:19) is now about to be carried out. The trumpets warned men, and gave opportunity for repentance, but man did not repent (9:2,21). In chapter 15, things are announced showing no more warnings are to be given, and chapter 16 shows that judgment will be final.

NOTES:

- Verse 1 "A great voice out of the Temple" - Cf. 15:8. God's judgment - the 7 vials will indicate the what and the where of His judgment.
- Verse 2 The 1st Vial - "upon the earth" - Land destruction. It affects only those who have the mark of the beast.
- Verse 3 The 2nd Vial - "upon the sea" - Sea destruction.
- Verses 4-7 The 3rd Vial - "upon the rivers and fountains - fresh water destruction.
- Verse 5 - indicates the righteousness of God's judgment;
 Verse 6 - indicates the why of God's judgment;
 Verse 7 - tells of the voice from the altar. (Cf. 6:9-11; 8:3-5)
- Verses 8,9 The 4th Vial - "upon the sun" - heavenly bodies destruction.
- Verses 10,11 The 5th Vial - "upon the seat of the beast" - the throne which had been given him by the dragon (13:2). The beast's power and authority is affected. (Internal Decay - note verse 11 - blasphemed God.
- Verses 12-16 The 6th Vial - "upon the great river Euphrates" - external invasion. Cf. "river dried up" - hence no obstacle in the way.
- Verse 13 - The 3 unclean spirits. Sent to deceive and to gather forces to do battle.
- Verse 15 - Vigilance necessary for the saints.
- Verse 16 - "Armageddon" - the place of never to be forgotten battles. The place where those who rebel against God go down in defeat. The name is indicative of battle and slaughter, and intimates the complete overthrow in store for the dragon and the kings of the earth.
- Verses 17-21 The 7th Vial - "into the air" - Cf. Ephesians 2:3. Cf. the intense earthquake indicates intense judgment.
- "Divided into three parts" - somewhat uncertain, unless the idea is one of complete destruction.
- "Talent" - about 100 pounds.

Revelation 16, Cont'd

CONCLUSION:

"These visions are designed to set forth the promise of the ultimate triumph of righteousness over all the evil forces which oppose it."
(Summers)

NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

TRUMPETS

1. Earth, 8:7
2. Sea, 8:8
3. Waters, 8:10,11
4. Sun, 8:12
5. Smoke, 9:1-11
6. Great River, 9:13-21
7. The Issue, 11:15-18

BOWLS

1. Earth, 16:2
2. Sea, 16:3
3. Waters, 16:4-7
4. Sun, 16:8,9
5. Throne of Beast, 16:10,11
6. Great River, 16:12-16
7. It is done, 16:17-21

(THESE ARE MORE INTENSE)

REVELATION 17

Chapter 17 carries the theme of "The Great Harlot." Chapter 14 introduces us to Babylon and the indication that she had already fallen. Chapter 16 says again that Babylon falls. Chapter 17 is going to tell us who, or what, Babylon is. A brief outline of the chapter is (1) Introduction, verses 1-6; (2) The Mystery of the Beast, verses 7-17; (3) The Mystery of the Woman, verse 18.

NOTES:

- Verse 1 Introduction - the key thought is the showing of judgment of the Harlot.
- Verse 2 The judgment includes all who have had anything to do with her. The kingdoms she conquers are partaking of the evil with her, i.e., fornication.
- VERSES 3-6 The description of the woman. Sits upon a red beast, full of names of blasphemy, seven heads and ten horns.
- Verse 4 Dressed in purple and red, adorned with precious stone and pearls, and holds a golden cup containing abominations and the filth of her fornication.
- Verse 5 Wearing the name, "Mystery, Babylon, The Great, The Mother of Harlots, and Abominations of the Earth."
- Verse 6 She is drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Christ.
- VERSES 7-18 These verses contain the interpretation of the "mystery." (Of the woman and the beast that carried her - verse 7)
- Verses 8,11 The beast and description - "was and is not, and yet is" Shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go to perdition.
- Verse 9 "Seven heads" - seven mountains where the woman is sitting.
- Verse 10 "Seven kings" - 5 fallen, one is, and one yet to come. When the last one is, he will rule for a short time.
- Verses 12,13,14
16,17 "Ten Horns" - ten kings, not yet existing, receive authority as kings for one hour, ruling with the beast. They have one purpose, and worship allegiance to the beast. They make war with the Lamb and His followers, but they shall hate the whore, make her desolate, and will eat and burn her flesh (16). They fulfill the will of God.
- Verse 15 "Waters" - peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.
- Verse 18 "Woman" - the great city reigning over the kings of the earth. In John's day, it could only mean one place.

CONCLUSION:

By now we have been introduced to the 3 forces Satan uses in his warfare. Beginning chapter 18 we see their downfall. War is begun between the Beast and his followers, and the Lamb and His followers. The Lamb shall overcome because of the character of the Lamb (He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords), and because of the character of His followers. They are called, chosen and faithful.

REVELATION 18

This chapter contains "Pronouncements of Doom." We will see the fall of "Babylon" and how great it really was. We will see how pride is humbled, power is smashed and friends grieved. A brief outline follows:
(1) Babylon's Sin Verses 1-8; (2) Babylon's Lament, Verses 9-24.

NOTES:

- Verse 1 The Angel comes that has authority, and whose glory lights the earth.
- Verse 2 The Destination and Judgment of Babylon. In alluding to this destruction, John uses the description of the prophets in depicting destruction of Babylon of their time. (Cf. Isaiah 13:20-22; 14:22,23; Jeremiah 13:9-22; Jeremiah 51:37,42)
- Verse 3 The Reason for Judgment. Because of spiritual fornication and pride. This same call has sounded to God's people of all times. (Isaiah 48:20; Jeremiah 50:8; Zechariah 2:7; II Corinthians 6:16-18)
- Verse 4 The Call For Separation.
- Verses 5-19 The Wailing Dirge of the Peoples for their Babylon. Comfort is seen in that God has not overlooked the sins of Babylon (verse 5).
- For the Kings there will be no more kingdoms (9,10)
 For the Merchants, there will be no more selling (11-17a)
 For the Mariners, there will be no cargoes (17b-19)
- Verses 21-24 The Result of God's Vengeance.
- Babylon violently and completely overthrown (21)
 The cessation of life as they have known it.

REVELATION 19

THE CHAPTER OF VICTORY! The two main themes are (1) REJOICING, 1-10; (2) VICTORY, 11-21. The saints rejoice for the reason of the TRIUMPH of TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. REJOICING is seen in relief from oppression and in the marriage feast.

NOTES:

VERSES 1-10

The rejoicing saints, 24 elders and 4 creatures.
The great multitude rejoices also.

The REASON is "He has avenged the blood of His servants." He has heard and answered their prayers.

Verses 7,8

Compare the Lamb and the Harlot!

VERSES 11-18

The Victorious Christ. Victory has been accomplished over the harlot, and now we will see victory over the other two forces of Satan. John gives us the description of the One conquering.

Verses 17,18

"Standing in the sun." - everyone can see and hear. The invitation to the supper is symbolical of the destruction of God's enemies. (See Joel 3:9-13; I Samuel 17:46; Ezekiel 39:4,17-20; Matthew 24:28.

VERSES 19-21

The End of the Two Beasts. We have waited a long time to see the war, and now here it is - but in verse 20, it is all over!

CONCLUSION:

We have seen the downfall of the enemies of Christianity. Only one enemy is left - Satan. We will see his end in Revelation 20:1-10.

WHAT LESSONS HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM THIS CHAPTER?

REVELATION 20

Three of the allies of Satan have gone down in defeat, but as long as Satan is free, the "remnant of her seed" will not be safe. Hence, in the first three verses we see the binding of Satan.

NOTES:

- I. THE BINDING OF SATAN. (Verses 1-3). Satan is bound for a 1000 years. He should not deceive the nations until this time is finished. Then he must be loosed for a little time. Comfort is given to the persecuted Christians by showing Satan's power of deception being bound."
- II. THE REIGN OF THE SAINTS. (Verses 4-6). Comfort is again shown by the fact that the ones who had departed this life were alive and reigning with Christ. We notice the reign is wherever Christ is; and it is after death. They will be judging, living and reigning with Christ. The "who" involves all the souls of the martyrs, and all others who died faithful.

"The First Resurrection" - over those the second death has no power. (Cf. Revelation 2:11). We see they that "overcome" are not hurt of the second death. Therefore, the overcomers take part in the first resurrection. How do you overcome? Cf. Revelation 2:26. Therefore, between death and life, there is resurrection. Those of verse 5 did not partake of the first resurrection, thus they went to torment. (Cf. Jude 6; Luke 16:23ff)

"The Thousand Years" - ten is a complete number. The Holy of Holies measured 10 X 10 X 10. It is completeness taken to the last power. (Cf. Psalm 50:10; Deuteronomy 7:9). It is symbolical of the complete period time, and is not literal.

In Revelation 6:9, we saw the souls "under" the altar. Now, they are on the thrones, and have been vindicated - Cf. 18:20.
- III. SATAN LOOSED AND DESTROYED. (Verses 7-10). Again Satan will be given his power to deceive the nations. They are identified as "God" and "Magog". Cf. Ezekiel 38, 39. All of this is done in order to give God the glory. We see the scene that all the children long for - the destruction of Satan. All that remains is the final judgment and the final state of the wicked and the righteous.
- IV. THE DESTINY OF THE UNREDEEMED. (Verses 11-15). Following the context we have seen the destruction of all the forces against God's people and now we see all who are not God's children cast in the lake of fire, which is the second death.

REVELATION 21

Chapter 21 shares with us the bliss and reward of the saint of God. Its symbolism is not to be pressed too literally, but a stern and a glorious reality is behind it. This was the main theme which the Christians of that, as well as ourselves, desired to know.

NOTES:

I. PERFECT FELLOWSHIP - The Tabernacle - Verses 1-8

1. Verse 1 - "New" - new order of things. The persecution is put down, and the saints are victorious. (Cf. II Peter 3:13)

"Sea" - The sea is a picture of roaring, raging, agitated and tempest tossed waters.
2. Verse 2 - "New Jerusalem" - Cf. Hebrews 11:10; 12:18-24.
3. Verse 3 - "Tabernacle" - God dwells with man and there is a renewing of the covenant. (Cf. Genesis 17:7,8; Exodus 20:2; Deuteronomy 5:2,3,6; Jeremiah 24:7; 30:22; 31:33; Ezekiel 11:20; Zechariah 13:9).
4. Verses 4-7. No tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain. All things are new - eternal life - heirs of God!
5. Verse 8 - The Second Death.

II. PERFECT PROTECTION - The City - Verses 9-27

1. Verse 9 - "The Bride" - the Lamb's wife.
2. Verses 10-27. The Description of the city. (Great, holy, of God, a place descending out of heaven, has God's presence, high wall for security, twelve gates, angels, names of 12 tribes of Israel, foundations with names of 12 apostles. The description given is worth more than anything has ever been worth. Gates of pearl - could be symbolizing the entrance is by the way of suffering, i.e., the pearl is produced by suffering and pain in overcoming difficulty. The Lamb is the Light. Only those in the city will enjoy this protection and these blessings.
3. Note: The numbers used create the impression of perfection and completeness. The entire description presents a strong, spacious, complete and beautiful city.

REVELATION 22

Chapter 22 is a continuation of chapter 21. There seems to be an unfortunate break between chapters 19 - 22.

NOTES:

I. PERFECT PROVISION - The Garden - Verses 1-5. There is the supply of all needs!

1. Verse 1 - "River" - eternal life, full and free; the gift of God's grace.

"Out of the Throne" - salvation brought about by the grace of God, and by the blood of Christ. The water is pure - sin shall not mar this fellowship.

2. Verse 2 - All of these items help see the superabundant character of salvation, a full helping of complete communion with God.
3. Verse 3 - "Throne" - God's sovereignty.

"His servants" - no handicaps in heaven!

II. PERFECT DIRECTIONS - Conclusion - Verses 6-21. John impresses us with the importance of his message. The final word is given.

1. The authority of the book - verses 6,7
2. The personal testimony - verses 8,9
3. The importance, time, probation ended, judgment and preparation - verses 10-15
4. The signature - verse 16
5. The invitation - verse 17
6. The warning - verses 18,19
7. The prayer - verses 20,21