

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*A Commentary on the Biblical
Account of the End Times and the
Second Coming of Christ*

By Rev John

- The subject of ‘End Times’ is most relevant to people who are living in desperate times or desperate situations. They take comfort in the promises of Christ returning and, most usually, identify with the prophesied times. Perhaps their quiet hope is that Christ will somehow come and be there with them in their struggle.
- Biblical prophecy does not really work like that! Most often the prophecy given has no obvious pointer to a specific time in the future. It is ‘forth-telling’ not ‘foretelling’.

- So, for example, possibly the most famous prophecy of the first coming of Christ – the Emanuel Prophecy – from the book of Isaiah, forth-tells to the people at the time that they should take faith in their God, Yahweh, that He will not desert them in their then time of siege. So Isaiah says “By the time a virgin shall conceive and bear a son [within 9 months] we will be saved. ‘So’ she will name him ‘Emanuel’ [God is with us]”. This was much later remembered and reinterpreted to mean Christ’s first coming. It has subsequently become the pivotal bible reading at the Christmas service of Nine Lessons and Carols and has no apparent connection to a time of siege!
- One the other hand, though, a true prophet from God was one who was not wrong for they spoke the very words of God – “Thus says the Lord”. Circumstances bore him or her out, even though it seemed unlikely to happen when first prophesied.
- The biblical scholar should hold those two positions in tension when trying to understand the nature of prophecy and, in particular, any specific quotation.

- There is a tendency for Christians down through the ages to wonder if *their* time is the heralded time written of in the Book of Revelations. This has been very evident at such times as 500 AD, 1,000 AD, 1,500 AD and, of course, the present time. Some people, particularly in the very first years after Christ's Ascension, even sold all their possessions, gave the proceeds away, and then sat down to wait for Jesus to come back.
- History has proved them wrong!
- **I will deliberately fall into the same trap for this exercise!!!!** It is a more interesting speculation that way, as well as being more thought provoking, but I leave it to you all to recognise the fact that it is a trap and we could only be deluding ourselves.

- There are several prophecies of an apocalyptic nature about, from various parts of the world and from various times.
- For example, there are the sayings of the Hopi Indians, the Mayan Calendar ending in 2012, some quatrains of Nostradamus, the prophecy of Malachy's line of Popes, and of course the Great Astrological Ages. There are many, all tending to agree roughly to the next few years as being the 'end times'.
- This work is about none of them. It is looking at the Christian and Jewish root prophecies of the 'End Times', using the New Testament book of Prophecy called 'The Revelations of Saint John', with a little support from other relevant biblical material.

The book is an account of the events leading up to, and including, the Second Coming of Christ. It is a very detailed prophecy of those times, but the symbolism for today looks as if the writer was having a seriously bad drug trip. It truly is the 'Clapham Junction' of symbols of the whole Bible. That, in turn, usually means that the book remains a mystery best left alone, which is most unfortunate, for such is the detail of the prophecy that it not only rivals any other work of the 'End Times' but, in my view, far surpasses all others. It only needs a guide who knows where similar symbols are to be found in the bible to bring understanding to the reader. The end result is illuminating and worrying!

- You, the reader, will not need to be steeped in biblical prophecy or erudition to follow my thinking. I try to keep everything simple!
- Nor do I delve into the text in great depth. To do so would detract from the obvious message. We would all get lost in speculation and red herrings.

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Rev 1.1 – 5.14

Points to first consider:

Does the Book really belong to the New Testament?

Dissimilarities to the New Testament

- More in common with the Old Testament – Apocalyptic in style
- Very, very little redemption and love – focuses on death and destruction

Similarities to the New Testament

- An expanded ‘parable’ of Judgement and Hell Fire but God’s people receiving a reward

There are other specialist books in the Bible e.g. Psalms and Proverbs, so why not one on prophecy here in the NT? It is the only specialist book on prophecy in the whole Bible, including even Daniel.

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Chapter 1

1. *This is the Revelation given by God to Jesus Christ. It was given to him so that he might show his servants what must shortly happen.*
2. *He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who, in telling all that he saw, has borne witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ.*
3. *Happy is the man who reads, and happy those who listen to the words of this prophecy and heed what is written in it. For the hour of fulfilment is near.*

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**WHO WAS THE PERSON RECEIVING THE
VISION?**

Note it is NOT John but Jesus. It therefore claims to have the authority of Christ. John is simply relating what an angel told him of the vision.

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WHO WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK?

The style is similar to St John's Gospel and the three Letters of John and, of course, the book of Revelation is written by a "John" [Rev 1.4 & 22.8].

St John's Gospel is the one containing the most symbols and the 'I am' sayings. Coincidence of two "Johns" liking scriptural symbols and style?

Probably the same person, despite the acknowledged later date than of the Letters.

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WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

St John the Apostle was probably only a teenager at the time of the events of the Gospels. The Letters were written a few years after those events and the Gospel did not appear until about 100AD, so John must have been an old man when that was written. The Revelations also did not appear until late but were probably written just a few years before the Gospel, say 85AD to 90AD.

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IS IT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY?

- Yes and No!
- No – in that, for example, the person had a two-edged sword coming out of his mouth. [Rev 1.16]
- Yes – in that the events, spoken of symbolically, are supposed to happen for real!

Guess how many prophecies foretold in the Old Testament concerning the first coming of Jesus came about quite literally. 20? 30? Be brave and say 40? In fact there were in the region of about 200 or so! Remember that this is only with hindsight and hindsight can be a wonderful thing!

Guess how many prophecies there are in the whole Bible concerning the second coming of Christ? 40? 50? More in the region of 300!

Why should these 300 or so also not come about in a literal way? They do not have to have their meaning ‘spiritualised’ away as, say, just things of the heart.

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4. *John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace be to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come, from the seven spirits before his throne,*
5. *and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born from the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins with his life's blood,*
6. *who made of us a royal house, to serve as the priests of his God and Father – to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever!*
Amen.
7. *Behold, he is coming with the clouds! Every eye shall see him, and among them those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the world shall lament in remorse. So it shall be. Amen.*
8. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega”, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the sovereign Lord of all.*
9. *I, John, your brother, who share with you in the suffering and the sovereignty and the endurance which is ours in Jesus – I was on*

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the island called Patmos because I had preached God's word and borne my testimony to Jesus.

10. *It was on the Lord's day, and I was caught up by the Spirit; and behind me I heard a loud voice, like the sound of a trumpet, which said to me,*
11. *"Write down what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches; to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."*
12. *I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me; and when I turned I saw seven standing lamps of gold,*
13. *and among the lamps one like a son of man, robed down to his feet, with a golden girdle round his breast.*
14. *The hair of his head was white as snow-white wool, and his eyes flamed fire;*
15. *his feet gleamed like burnished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*

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16. *In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and his face shone like the sun in full strength.*
17. *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me and said, “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, and I am the living one;*
18. *for I was dead and now I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of death and Hades.*
19. *Write down therefore what you have seen, what is now, and what will be hereafter.*
20. *“Here is the secret meaning of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and of the seven lamps of gold; the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamps are the seven churches.*

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It begins with

Rev 1.1 – 1.18

Setting the Scene

- John describes being ‘in the Spirit’ or entranced while receiving the visions.
- The symbolism in these verses is a perfect example of what is to come in the rest of the book, yet the “person” named here as the Son of Man [Rev 1.13] and a resurrected being [Rev1.18] could only be Jesus.
- Christ even explains the part about lamp stands and stars as being specific churches to which the message is given.

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The Ages of the Church - A short history Rev 1.19 – 3.22

The whole book is prophetic, including this section. There were other more important churches around at this time such as the church in Jerusalem, Rome and Antioch, so the message had to be given to these specific churches for a special reason. The prophecy stipulates these seven churches for they epitomise and foretell the seven ages of church history from the time of the Crucifixion to the Rapture [will explain that one in a moment].

Obviously, there is warning and praise included in each church message, that is applicable to all ages. However, I shall concentrate only on the prophetic aspect and not be sidelined.

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Chapter 2

1. “To the angel of the church at Ephesus write: “These are the words of the One who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven lamps of gold:
2. I know all your ways, your toil and your fortitude. I know you cannot endure evil men; you have put to the proof those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.
3. Fortitude you have; you have borne up in my cause and never flagged.
4. But I have this against you: you have lost your early love.
5. Think from what a height you have fallen; repent, and do as you once did. Otherwise, if you do not repent, I shall come to you and remove your lamp from its place.
6. Yet you have this in your favour: you hate the practices of the Nicolatians, as I do.
7. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches! To him who is victorious I will give the right to eat from the tree of life that stands in the Garden of God.”

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 1. EPHESUS REV 2.8 – 11

**EPHESUS WAS AN IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS CITY, WITH A TEMPLE
TO DIANA.**

**WE KNOW THAT SEVERAL EARLY CHURCH LEADERS TAUGHT
THERE INCLUDING PAUL, APOLLOS, TIMOTHY AND JOHN.**

**OF ALL THE EARLY CHURCHES THIS ONE MOST CERTAINLY
COULD BE CALLED AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH.**

**IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST OF THE CHURCH AGES, THE
APOSTOLIC AGE.**

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8. To the angel of the church at Smyrna write: “These are the words of the First and the Last, who was dead and came to life again:
9. I know how hard pressed you are, and poor – and yet you are rich; I know how you are slandered by those who claim to be Jews but are not – they are Satan’s synagogue.
10. Do not be afraid of the suffering to come. The Devil will throw some of you into prison, to put you to the test; and for ten days you will suffer cruelly. Only be faithful till death, and I will give you the crown of life.
11. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches! He who is victorious cannot be harmed by the second death.”

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 2. SMYRNA REV 2.1 – 7

SMYRNA WAS KNOWN AS BEING A CENTRE OF EMPEROR WORSHIP, WITH A TEMPLE DEDICATED TO TIBERIUS CAESAR.

IF THE BELIEVERS DID NOT PUBLICLY WORSHIP CAESAR THEN THE REST OF THEIR FAMILY WOULD LOSE 10% OF ALL ASSETS FOR EACH PERSON ARRESTED. MUCH PRESSURE WAS PUT UPON ALL FAMILY MEMBERS TO CONFORM TO CAESAR WORSHIP.

THE SMYRNA CHURCH REPRESENTS THE NEXT AGE, THE AGE OF THE EARLY PERSECUTED CHURCH OF MARTYRDOM.

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12. To the angel of the church at Pergamum write: “These are the words of the One who has the sharp two-edged sword:
13. I know where you live; it is the place where Satan has his throne. And yet you are holding fast to my cause. You did not deny your faith in me even at the time when Antipas, my faithful witness, was killed in your city, the home of Satan.
14. But I have a few matters to bring against you; you have in Pergamum some that hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put temptation in the way of the Israelites. He encouraged them to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication,
15. and in the same way you also have some who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.
16. So repent! If you do not, I shall come to you soon and make war upon them with the sword that comes out of my mouth.
17. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches! To him who is victorious I will give some of the hidden manna; I will give him also a white stone, and on the stone will be written a new name, known to none but him that receives it.”

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 3. PERGAMUM REV 2.12 – 17

PERGAMUM HELD A GREAT LIBRARY SECOND ONLY TO ALEXANDRIA. IT WAS THE CAPITAL CITY OF ASIA MINOR.

THE NICOLAITANS, MENTIONED IN THIS PASSAGE, MAY HAVE ORIGINATED FROM NICHOLAS, ONE OF THE SEVEN ORIGINAL DEACONS [ACTS 6.5]. IT IS THOUGHT THAT NICHOLAS DRIFTED INTO GREEK PHILOSOPHY. THE INTELLECTUAL ELITE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE REVELLED IN THIS THINKING IN THE TIME OF PRAGMATIC POLITICAL PERSUASION.

PERGAMOS REPRESENTS THE TIME THE CHURCH MERGED WITH THE STATE UNDER EMPEROR CONSTANTINE TO FORM THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

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18. To the angel of the church at Thyatira write: “These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes flame like fire and whose feet gleam like burnished brass:
19. I know all your ways, your love and faithfulness, your good service and your fortitude; and of late you have done even better than at first.
20. Yet I have this against you: you tolerate that jezebel, the woman who claims to be a prophetess, who by her teaching lures my servants into fornication and into eating food sacrificed to idols.
21. I have given her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her fornication.
22. So I will throw her on to a bed of pain, and plunge her lovers into terrible suffering, unless they forswear what she is doing;
23. and her children I will strike dead. This will teach all the churches that I am the searcher of men’s hearts and thoughts,

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and that I will reward each one of you according to his deeds.

24. And now I speak to you others in Thyatira, who do not accept this teaching and have had no experience of what they like to call the deep secrets of Satan; on you I will impose no further burden.
25. Only hold fast to what you have, until I come.
26. To him who is victorious, to him who perseveres in doing my will to the end,
27. I will give authority over the nations – that same authority which I received from my Father – and he shall rule them with an iron rod, smashing them to bits like earthenware;
28. and I will give him also the morning star.
29. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches!"

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 4. THYATIRA REV 2.18 – 29

THYATIRA WAS THE LEAST IMPORTANT OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES. IT WAS DOMINATED AT THIS TIME BY A POWERFUL FEMALE ORACLE THAT USED SEXUAL PRACTICES IN ITS RITES.

THE JEZEBEL MENTIONED HERE RECALLS THE JEZEBEL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT [2 KINGS 9FF] WHO CHAMPIONED BAAL FERTILITY WORSHIP.

THYATIRA REPRESENTS THE SUPERSTITIOUS CHURCH OF THE MIDDLE AGES THAT INCORPORATED PAGAN PRACTICES OF CHARMS WITH RELICS.

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Chapter 3

1. 'To the angel of the church at Sardis write: "These are the words of the One who holds the seven spirits of God, the seven stars: I know all your ways; that though you have a name for being alive, you are dead.'
2. 'Wake up, and put some strength into what is left, which must otherwise die! For I have not found any work of yours completed in the eyes of my God.'
3. 'So remember the teaching you received; observe it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I shall come upon you like a thief, and you will not know the moment of my coming.'
4. 'Yet you have a few persons in Sardis who have not polluted their clothing. They shall walk with me in white, for so they deserve.'
5. 'He who is victorious shall thus be robed in white; his name I will never strike off the roll of the living, for in the presence of my Father and his angels I will acknowledge him as mine.'
6. 'Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches!'

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 5.SARDIS REV 3.1 – 6

**SARDIS WAS ONE OF THE RICHEST CITIES OF ANCIENT TIMES. IT
WAS DESTROYED IN AN EARTHQUAKE IN 17AD. ALTHOUGH
REBUILT IT LIVED IN ITS PAST GLORIES. FULL OF ELOQUENCE
- BUT REMEMBER - EMPTY VESSELS MAKE THE MOST NOISE.**

**THE TIME OF THE REFORMATION WAS A TIME THAT PROMISED
GREAT THINGS. HOWEVER, STRONG ON DOCTRINE, IT
PROVED TO BE LACKING IN SPIRITUALITY. SARDIS
REPRESENTS THIS TIME.**

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7. 'To the angel of the church at Philadelphia write: "These are the words of the holy one, the true one, who holds the key of David; when he opens none may shut, when he shuts none may open:
8. I know all your ways; and look, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut. Your strength, I know, is small, yet you have observed my commands and have not disowned my name. So this is what I will do:
9. I will make those of Satan's synagogue, who claim to be Jews but are lying frauds, come and fall down at your feet; and they shall know that you are my beloved people.
10. Because you have kept my command and stood fast, I will also keep you from the ordeal that is to fall upon the whole world and test its inhabitants.
11. I am coming soon; hold fast what you have, and let no one rob you of your crown.
12. He who is victorious – I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; he shall never leave it. And I will write the name of my God upon him, and the name of the city of my God, that new Jerusalem which is coming down out of heaven from my God, and my own new name.
13. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches!"

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 6.PHILADELPHIA REV 3.7 – 13

PHILADELPHIA WAS ESPECIALLY KNOWN AS A CENTRE FOR TRADE AND COMMUNICATION AT THIS TIME, MORE THAN THE OTHER CITIES MENTIONED.

HERE WE READ OF AN OPEN DOOR THAT CANNOT BE SHUT. REMEMBER THE DESCRIPTION OF JESUS “I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK.....”. EVANGELISM TO PASSING TRADERS MUST HAVE BEEN A FEATURE OF THIS EARLY TRADING CENTRE CHURCH.

PHILADELPHIA REPRESENTS THE GREAT MISSIONARY MOVEMENT ON THE BACK OF IMPERIALISM.

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14. 'To the angel of the church at Laodicea write: "These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the prime source of all God's creation:
 15. I know all your ways; you are neither hot nor cold. How I wish you were either hot or cold!
 16. But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.
 17. You say, 'How rich I am! And how well I have done! I have everything I want in the world.' In fact, though you do not know it, you are the most pitiful wretch, poor, blind, and naked.
 18. So I advise you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, to make you truly rich, and white clothes to put on to hide the shame of your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so that you may see.
 19. All whom I love I reprove and discipline. Be on your mettle therefore and repent.
 20. Here I stand knocking at the door; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him and he with me.
 21. To him who is victorious I will grant a place on my throne, as I myself was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.
 22. Hear, you who have ears to hear, what the Spirit says to the churches!"'

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THE AGES OF THE CHURCH – 7. LAODICEA REV 3.14 – 22

LAODICEA EPITOMISED THE HEDONISTIC TIMES. IT BOASTED THREE LAVISH THEATRES, WAS AN IMPORTANT BANKING CENTRE AND AN ANCIENT CENTRE OF MEDICINE. DESPITE ITS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD THE CHURCH THERE IS INCONSPICUOUS.

THE MESSAGE IS NOTHING BUT CONDEMNATION!! LAODICEA REPRESENTS THE MODERN CHURCH TIMES. SO VERY RICH IN TRADITION AND PLACE IN SOCIETY BUT IRRELEVANT IN ITS MESSAGE TO THE WEST. ITS VOICE IS CONSPICUOUS BY ITS ABSENCE.

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- To misquote the words of a famous Hymn:-

Onward Christian Soldiers
Talking about God
Brothers we are treading
Where we've always trod
We are much divided
Many bodies we
Very strong on doctrine
Weak on Charity

Onward Christian Soldiers
On to war resigned
With the Cross of Jesus
Somewhere held in mind

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Chapter 4

1. After this I looked, and there before my eyes was a door opened in heaven; and the voice that I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen hereafter.”
2. At once I was caught up by the Spirit.
3. There in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne sat one whose appearance was like the gleam of jasper and cornelian; and round the throne was a rainbow, bright as an emerald.
4. In a circle about this throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on them sat twenty-four elders, robed in white and wearing crowns of gold.
5. From the throne went out flashes of lightning and peals of thunder. Burning before the throne were seven flaming torches, the seven spirits of God,
6. and in front of it stretched what seemed a sea of glass, like a sheet of ice.

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7. In the centre, round the throne itself, were four living creatures, covered with eyes, in front and behind. The first creature was like a lion, the second like an ox, the third had a human face, the fourth was like an eagle in flight.
8. The four living creatures, each of them with six wings, had eyes all over, inside and out; and by day and by night without a pause they sang: “Holy, holy, holy is god the sovereign Lord of all, who was, and is, and is to come!”
9. As often as the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the One who sits on the throne, who lives for ever and ever,
10. the twenty-four elders fall down before the One who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever; and as they lay their crowns before the throne they cry:
11. “Thou art worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power, because thou didst create all things; by thy will they were created, and have their being!”

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THE COURT OF HEAVEN REV 4.1 – 11

- No, not a drug trip!
- The impossibility of describing God and the court of Heaven – hence a much, much, much watered-down version.
- On the throne – a celestial being that all worshipped.
- The 24 elders wearing crowns – represent the twelve sons of Jacob, the tribes of the OT and the 12 Apostles of the NT – that in turn represent all of God's people and leaders.
- The sea of glass are those in the heavenly realm.
- The four creatures represent the four Evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – respectively. Even though John is having the vision.
- No, they are not inebriated and keep falling down. They represent the constant worship of God in the hearts of God's people.

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THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN HEAVEN – THE RAPTURE REV 4.1 – 11

The church is present on earth before this scene but is conspicuous by its absence after!!

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE?

What a mystery we have here. This hardly bears credence.

The Rapture is the supernatural event that covers this disappearance. It seems that in an instant, God's people – WHOEVER THEY ARE- are taken directly into the heavens. How did they get there? *Yet this is the single event that indicates the beginning of the End Times!* For after this the tribulation unfolds. Christ returns a second time, seven years later, at the height of a world war.

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THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN HEAVEN – THE RAPTURE REV 4.1 – 11

ONE THEME OCCURRING FROM TIME TO TIME THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE IS THE IDEA THAT GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE. SO NOAH'S FAMILY ARE HELD IN THE ARK WHEN THE WORLD IS PUNISHED BY WATER. LOT'S FAMILY [EXCEPT HIS WIFE!] ARE SAVED WHEN SODOM AND GOMORRAH ARE JUDGED.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE PICTURES ARE GIVEN OF A SHEEPFOLD, WHERE GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SAFE INSIDE WHILST JESUS, THE SHEPHERD IS ALSO THE DOOR OF THE FOLD'S DOORWAY, KEEPING ALL INSIDE SAFE.

THE RAPTURE CONTINUES THIS THEME.

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THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN – THE RAPTURE REV 4.1 – 11

THERE ARE TWO IMAGES OF CHRIST RETURNING AROUND THIS TIME. AS:

A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

[Corinthians 15.51] “We shall not all die, but we shall be changed from mortal to immortal.....in the twinkling of an eye....”

[1Thessalonians 4.15] “...then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together.....to meet the Lord in the air....”

[Matthew 24.37ff] “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”

[I Thessalonians 5.2] “...the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

[Revelations 3.3] “I will come like a thief in the night.”

The Rapture is the name given to the time when Christ and the still living church will meet, when the people of God on earth are ‘changed’ to citizens of heaven without passing through death. It would appear that this will be in secret! It is also presumed that those mentioned as being ‘left’ will be unbelievers. Only time will tell. **My hope is that this is true but my fear is that I will be one of those left.**

OR A CONQUERING KING

‘Every eye will see him coming in power and majesty to the Earth’. This is the later theme of the Book of Revelation.

SECTION 1 - WHEN WILL THESE THINGS HAPPEN? REV 1.1 – 5.14

THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN – THE RAPTURE REV 4.1 – 11

WHEN WILL THIS BE?

NO ONE KNOWS.

**THERE IS NO SCRIPTURAL PROPHECY THAT TELLS US WHEN
THIS WILL BE. THERE IS ONLY SPECULATION.**

[Matt 25.13] “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

[Mk 13.32] “about that day or that hour no one except the Father knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son,”

I have lived through three supposed times of the end of the world. No matter who says what – the bible denies this as possible. However-----

SECTION 1 - WHEN WILL THESE THINGS HAPPEN? REV 1.1 – 5.14

THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN – THE RAPTURE REV 4.1 – 11

HOWEVER.....

SIGNS

[MATT 16.2,3 & 24.32] Jesus does point out that just as we can predict the weather in the middle east with considerable certainty, so the signs of the times will indicate with similar certainty that the 'end times' are approaching.

The Book of Revelation reveals those signs, for there will be a build up of those events that are predicted, leading to the most detailed prophecies of Christ's Second Coming.

Note that the Book of Revelation is primarily about those events. It is NOT about Judgement. Rather the story line is a natural development of Man's behaviour to man - more likely God removing his restraining influence. The Judgement comes AFTER all these events.

SECTION 1 - WHEN WILL THESE THINGS HAPPEN?

REV 1.1 – 5.14

What are some of the signs?

- Israel scattered as a people. [Romans fulfilled this in 70AD]
- Israel once more as a nation of people. [Not possible before 1948]
- Jerusalem within that nation.[Not possible before 1967]
- Russian confederacy as a powerful enemy of Israel.[Russia once more can take that role]
- An Arab confederacy against Israel.
- An Eastern army of 200 million soldiers.[Now boasted size of China's army]
- The revival of the old Roman Empire.[Treaty of Rome led to European Common Market]
- Rise and open nature of Occult practices.[Rise of New Age philosophy and Neo-Paganism]
- Increase of Wars.
- Increase of plagues.
- Increase of natural disasters.
- Increase of unstable world climate.
- Move towards 4 main world political spheres.
- Decrease of world importance of USA.
- Move towards single monetary control.
- A great European political figure bringing peace to the Middle East.
- Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem.

A necessary dip into numbers

- Some of the worst speculation concerns playing about with numbers. Please do not get bogged down in all of this. It is best to just accept the postulation that the time of tribulation that precedes Christ's second coming lasts for seven years. However.....

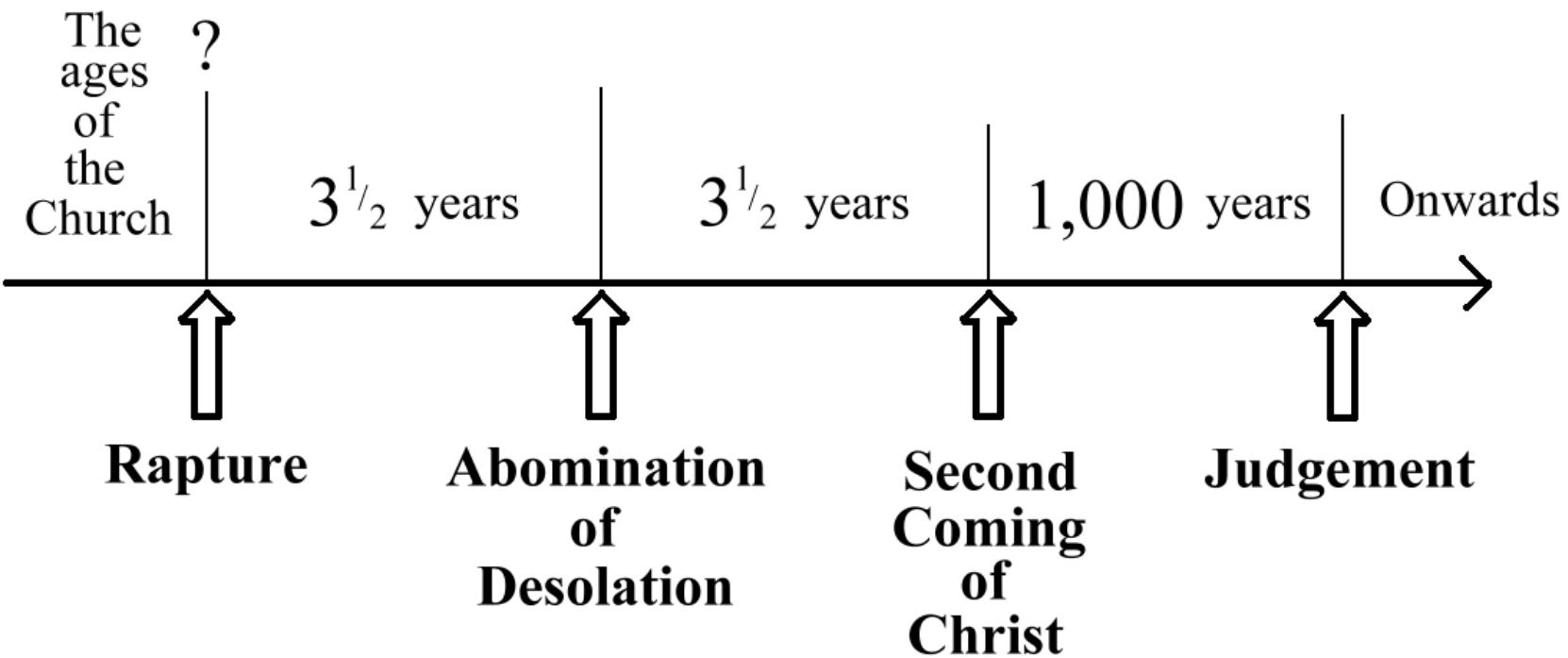
SECTION 1 - WHEN WILL THESE THINGS HAPPEN?

REV 1.1 – 5.14

Why Seven Years?

- This is predicted by Daniel in chapter 9. The weeks are counted as years, so the 70 weeks are regarded as 70 times 7 years [not days] – 490 years. Daniel predicts that this 490 years will begin with the restoration of the temple as the Jews return from their exile in Babylon. After this will be an everlasting time of righteousness – God's kingdom on Earth.
- However, he then goes on to say that after only 69 weeks the temple and city would be destroyed. After the restoration this did in fact happen as predicted, carried out by the Romans. So only 483 years are in fact accounted for. This was the precise time between the restoration of the temple when the Jews returned from Babylon until the Romans destroyed the temple in 70AD. Seven years still remain unaccounted for.
- He goes further to say that at the end, a great leader will form a treaty with another great leader for one week [7 years] but half-way through he will stop all worship at the temple with the appearance of the 'Abomination of Desolation'. This I will explain later on. However, this last and unaccounted for 7 years is regarded as the 'end times' as spoken of in Revelation.

The Book of Revelation Timeline



SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE.

THE SEVEN SEALS

Rev 5.1 – 8.6

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

Chapter 5

1. Then I saw in the right hand of the One who sat on the throne a scroll, with writing inside and out, and it was sealed up with seven seals.
2. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?”
3. There was no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth able to open the scroll or to look inside it.
4. I was in tears because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look inside it.
5. But one of the elders said to me: “Do not weep; for the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has won the right to open the scroll and break its seven seals.”
6. Then I saw standing in the very middle of the throne, inside the circle of living creatures and the circle of elders, a Lamb with the marks of slaughter upon him. He had seven horns and seven eyes, the eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent out over all

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

the world.

7. And the Lamb went up and took the scroll from the right hand of the One who sat on the throne.
8. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the lamb. Each of the elders had a harp, and they held golden bowls full of incense, the prayers of God's people,
9. and they were singing a new song: "Thou art worthy to take the scroll and to break its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst purchase for God men of every tribe and language, people and nation;
10. thou hast made of them a royal house, to serve our God as priests; and they shall reign upon earth."
11. Then as I looked I heard the voices of countless angels. These were all round the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS
REV 5.1 – 8.6

12. Myriads upon myriads there were, thousands upon thousands, and they cried aloud: “Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain, to receive all power and wealth, wisdom and might, honour and glory and praise!”
13. Then I heard every created thing in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, all that is in them, crying: “Praise and honour, glory and might, to him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever!”
14. And the four living creatures said, “Amen”, and the elders fell down and worshipped.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST STONE Rev 5.1 – 14

- How do you feel when you have nearly finished your Puzzle and someone else fits the final piece? Cheated?
Or turning the temperature up a bit....
- How do you feel if you have done all the hard work and someone else, who has sat around the whole time, takes the credit?
Turning the temperature up a bit more....
- How do you feel if you were the only one truly qualified in the first place?
Now turn that round the other way and suppose....
- What if the job was REALLY sh....y? Who would want to be responsible?
Turning it up to the ultimate....
- What if we are talking about setting in motion the ‘end times’ leading up to the Judgement of the World? Who would want to start that bloodshed and death? Who has the broad shoulders to take that responsibility and the qualifications to do the job?
- Only one person qualifies! The Son of God – The Son of Man

Worthy is the Lamb

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS
REV 5.1 – 8.6

Chapter 6

1. Then I watched as the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"
2. And there before my eyes was a white horse, and its rider held a bow. He was given a crown, and he rode forth, conquering and to conquer.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE FIRST SEAL BROKEN REV 6.1,2

- The symbolism here of a white Horse and rider represents a warring conqueror. The crown represents acknowledged leadership – not necessarily by conquest, even though he carries a weapon [show of strength], but more likely through political ascendancy. Just a threat of strength will suffice.
- Here is a leader of the nations, but who probably brings peace with domination like Pax Romana or Pax Britannica etc.
- Daniel predicts he will bring be in a war, but not straightway. He makes a ‘strong covenant’ with Israel. Is this person the political figure who brokers peace in the Middle East? Is part of the peace agreement the right of the Jews to rebuild the Temple?
- More of this great leader is described in Rev 13,17 and 18 where he is seen as an Antichrist.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

3. When the Lamb broke the second seal, I heard the second creature say, “Come!”

4. And out came another horse, all red. To its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and make men slaughter one another; and he was given a great sword.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE SECOND SEAL BROKEN REV 6.3,4

- The second horse and rider are red. This symbolises both a bringer of war and the nature of the person.
- Both Daniel, in chapter 11, and Ezekiel, in chapter 38, identify this rider as Russia – Gog and Magog – the king of the North. War comes to the Middle East from Russia.
- Daniel gives very specific detail as to the nature of this war in the Middle East. The northern political power allies with a southern one until a western leader subdues the conflict. Much more of that later.
- This reads like a conventional war at this stage.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

5. When he broke the third seal, I heard the third creature say, “Come!” And there, as I looked, was a black horse; and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales.

6. And I heard what sounded like a voice from the midst of the living creatures, which said, “A whole day’s wage for a quart of flour, a whole day’s wage for three quarts of barley-meal! But spare the olive and the vine.”

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE THIRD SEAL BROKEN REV 6.5,6

- The black horse and rider symbolise financial disaster.
- It seems that the [antichrist] figure first brings peace and posterity after gaining political supremacy but after a time that peace is shattered by war in the Middle East. A natural consequence to the war is financial upset, but this is of a major kind.
- We have seen how fragile the financial system is world wide and how so much of the basic food in Europe is imported. Here we see common foods become scarce but luxury goods, wine and oil [not mineral oil] are untouched. The rich are ok. The poor suffer. They always do!

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

7. When he broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth creature say, “Come!”

8. And there, as I looked, was another horse, sickly pale; and its rider’s name was Death, and Hades came close behind. To him was given power over a quarter of the earth, with the right to kill by sword and by famine, by pestilence and wild beasts.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE FOURTH SEAL BROKEN REV 6.7,8

- The rider and horse are bringers of death. Death comes in the form of war, famine, and plague. Could part of the warfare be biological weapons? Vietnam used chemicals to destroy crops inducing famine. A quarter of the world's population are killed at this early stage of the Tribulation.
- Notice that this is a NATURAL consequence of what went before. There is only natural progression rather than Divine intervention. Where there is warfare then you find refugees. Where you find war and refugees then you find shortages and hellish conditions. Following all of these there is bound to be illness and death as well as direct war casualties.
- This prediction is also given by Jesus to his disciples before his prophesied returning. [Luke 21. 10,11]

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

9. When he broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered for God's word and for the testimony they bore.
10. They gave a great cry: "How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, must it be before thou wilt vindicate us and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?"
11. Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to rest a little while longer, until the tally should be compete of all their brothers in Christ's service who were to be killed as they had been.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE FIFTH SEAL BROKEN REV 6.9 -11

- This is reminiscent of the court of Heaven as described in Job. But this time suffering is not called out for by Satan against Job but for justice and God's Judgement by all the martyrs that suffered for Christ.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

12. Then I watched as he broke the sixth seal. And there was a violent earthquake; the sun turned black as a funeral pall and the moon all red as blood;
13. the stars in the sky fell to the earth, like figs shaken down by a gale;
14. the sky vanished, as a scroll is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.
15. Then the kings of the earth, magnates and marshals, the rich and the powerful, and all men, slave or free, hid themselves in caves and mountain crags; and they called out to the mountains and the crags,
16. “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One who sits on the throne and from the vengeance of the Lamb.”
17. For the great day of their vengeance has come, and who will be able to stand?

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE SIXTH SEAL BROKEN REV 6.12 -17

- Is this a natural earthquake or something manmade? In the next verses we are told that the ecology and natural environment are not to be hurt at this stage, so it is unlikely to be a natural phenomena. We can see that the political situation is spiralling out of control with conventional war and death rampant, so with the ‘stars’ falling to earth as part of the breaking of this seal I cannot help but wonder if this is a first century description of a twenty first century thermonuclear war strike. Someone pushes the ‘button’ in desperation[?] or just wants to get ‘in’ when the opportunity is presented[?].
- Notice that people hide in underground shelters!

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS
REV 5.1 – 8.6

Chapter 7

1. After this I saw four angels stationed at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so that no wind should blow on sea or land or on any tree.
2. Then I saw another angel rising out of the east, carrying the seal of the living God; and he called aloud to the four angels who had been given the power to ravage land and sea;
3. “Do no damage to sea or land or trees until we have set the seal of our God upon the foreheads of his servants.”

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

Selective ? Rev 7.1 - 3

- Do not hurt the earth and sea! How immediate will the consequences of a nuclear strike be to the environment?
- Will a nuclear winter be inevitable? I am told it depends upon how many bombs actually detonate and where. If what has just happened was a nuclear strike then it looks as if this was just a first wave tactical strike. *Specific military strategic* targets possibly, rather than general cities etc, so numbers would have been limited or even very few.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

Chp 7 cont

4. And I heard the number of those who had received the seal. From all the tribes of Israel there were a hundred and forty-four thousand:
5. twelve thousand from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad,
6. twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali,
7. twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar,
8. twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph, and twelve thousand from the tribe of Benjamin.
9. After this I looked and saw a vast throng, which no one could count, from every nation, of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were robed in white and had palms in their hands,
10. and they shouted together: “Victory to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”
11. And all the angels stood round the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, crying:

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

12. “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever! Amen!”
13. Then one of the elders turned to me and said, “These men that are robed in white – who are they and from where do they come?”
14. But I answered, “My lord, you know, not I”. Then he said to me, “These are the men who have passed through the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15. That is why they stand before the throne of God and minister to him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will dwell with them.
16. They shall never again feel hunger or thirst, the sun shall not beat on them nor any scorching heat,
17. because the Lamb who is at the heart of the throne will be their shepherd and will guide them to the springs of the water of life; and God will wipe all tears from their eyes.”

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

This is very strange, especially at this time! What is all this about!?

Do you not think that people will put two and two together? After the Rapture people will be bound to be looking for answers, especially at this apocalyptic time. The Jewish people will have their own scriptures to point them along the way.

Jewish Evangelists! Rev 7.4 – 8

- No the 144,000 are not JWs or any other sect or cult member. They are Jews. We are told more later on in Revelation that they are all male, virgins and Evangelists to the world during the Tribulation! They better get their skates on! Probably the number is symbolic rather than actual – but that is irrelevant in this context.

The result of this? Rev 7.9 – 17

- A multitude of people from all around the world. Notice the white robes that represent martyrdom. As we shall see later, if you are not for the antichrist figure then you are against him, and deserve death.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS

REV 5.1 – 8.6

Chapter 8

1. Now when the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for what seemed half an hour.
2. Then I looked, and the seven angels that stand in the presence of God were given seven trumpets.
3. Then another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and he was given a great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all God's people upon the golden altar in front of the throne.
4. And from the angel's hand the smoke of the incense went up before God with the prayers of his people.
5. Then the angel took the censer, filled it from the altar fire, and threw it down upon the earth; and there were peals of thunder, lightning, and an earthquake.
6. Then the seven angels that held the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

SECTION 2 – LET THE SORROWS COMMENCE – THE 7 SEALS REV 5.1 – 8.6

THE SEVENTH SEAL BROKEN REV 8.1-6

- Things go on hold for 30 Minutes! The calm before the storm.
- If what had gone before was bad then things hot up considerably!
- First, though, is yet another time for intercession [the offering up of incense], possibly offered up by Christ himself. The saying is that there are no atheists in a foxhole.
- In the meantime, the earth shudders.
- The 7th seal is in fact 7 trumpets.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Rev 8.7 – 9.21

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

Up to this point Revelations has only predicted events and consequences to people. The Earth's environment and ecology has been spared.

That is about to change.

There is a natural progression once again.

[No, I have not made a mistake. The 7th trumpet is not actually sounded until chapter 16 and is, in fact, the 7 Bowls. I include it in this section title but there is an interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpet to explain characters and unfolding events.]

SECTION 2 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

Rev 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 8 cont

7. The first blew his trumpet; and there came hail and fire mingled with blood, and this was hurled upon the earth. A third of the earth was burnt, a third of the trees were burnt, all the green grass was burnt.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE FIRST TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 8.7

We must remember that John is describing events in his own terms. We would undoubtedly describe the same event differently.

If what went before was a first strike tactical nuclear attack, and it was aimed at strategic targets, then surely *this* is the natural consequence? Of course events would be most unlikely to stop at that first nuclear wave. There would be an almost immediate retaliation main nuclear wave from those first attacked.

Where before the environment was untouched, here we are told a third of the world's forests are destroyed and all grass or grain! A large nuclear wave MUST affect the environment this time. Is the pause of "30 minutes" in the vision nature recoiling from the blasts or the time taken from the first tactical wave for the retaliation to reach main targets?

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS
REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 8 cont

8. The second angel blew his trumpet; and looked like a great mountain was hurled into the sea. A third of the sea was turned to blood,
9. a third of the living creatures in it died, and a third of the ships on it foundered.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE SECOND TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 8.8,9

- After the forests and dry land, so the seas.
- This can be fulfilled quite literally! There is a fault along the north/south mountain line of Las Palmas in the Canary Isles that is geologically precarious. A world wide series of nuclear explosions would indeed shake the globe. What seismic damage might result?
- If this Las Palmas fault should break, then the consequences would be utterly horrendous. Literally the whole mountain would fall into the sea.
- Research has already been carried out of a possible huge land slip. Previous slips have happened and could account for the tsunami evidence along the western coast of the UK. This time, a tsunami of [possibly] hundreds of feet high would race across the Atlantic and devastate the eastern seaboard of North and South America.
- If the Boxing Day tsunami of only a few feet showed what power to destroy is held by the sea, imagine what a hundred foot wave could do across one of the mighty oceans of the world.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS
REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 8 cont

10. The third angel blew his trumpet; and a great star shot from the sky, flaming like a torch; and it fell on a third of the rivers and springs.
11. The name of the star was Wormwood; and a third of the water turned to wormwood, and men in great numbers died of the water because it had been poisoned.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE THIRD TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 8.10,11

- If the Earth was shaken by the atomic explosions then not only could the fault line in Las Palmas be sundered, but so could fault lines around the world such as California, the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Great Rift Valley, etc.
- One wonders even if great volcanic super calderas such as Yellowstone might be unleashed, for Yellowstone is imminent to the point of being long overdue! The tsunami, the San Andreas fault going and Yellowstone caldera blowing would certainly explain why the USA is no longer centre stage. It would be utterly devastated by any one event, let alone all three.
- There would be tremendous pollution released into the atmosphere on a world wide scale. We see the evidence from just a single volcano erupting or strong winds blowing across a desert. Multiply that many fold and a consequential disaster unfolds. What becomes washed down in the rain would taint all the earth's streams and rivers.
- Bitter – i.e. Wormwood – would be an understatement.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 8 cont

12. The fourth angel blew his trumpet; and a third part of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that the third part went dark and a third of the light of the day failed, and of the night.
13. Then I looked, and I heard an eagle calling with a loud cry as it flew in mid-heaven; “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth when the trumpets sound which the three last angels must now blow!”

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE FOURTH TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 8.12,13

- With the atmosphere polluted then a nuclear winter would inevitably result. All light reaching the ground would be filtered and reduced.
- This could last weeks or months, but whatever the length of time ALL life on the planet would be affected. Certainly a case of saying “Woe”!! There are three “Woes” to come and three more trumpets to blow.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chapter 9

1. Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet; and I saw a star that had fallen to the earth, and the star was given the key of the shaft of the abyss.
2. With this he opened the shaft of the abyss; and from the shaft smoke rose like smoke from a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.
3. Then over the earth, out of the smoke, came locusts, and they were given the powers that earthly scorpions have.
4. They were told to do no injury to the grass or to any plant or tree, but only to those men who had not received the seal of God on their foreheads.
5. These they were allowed to torment for five months, with torment like a scorpion's sting; but they were not to kill them.
6. During that time these men will seek death, but they will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.
7. In appearance the locusts were like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were what looked like golden crowns; their faces were like human faces and their hair like women's hair;
8. they had teeth like lion's teeth, and wore breastplates like iron;
9. the sound of their wings was like the noise of horses and chariots rushing to battle;
10. they had tails like scorpions, with stings in them, and in their tails lay their power to plague mankind for five months.
11. They had for their king the angel of the abyss, whose name, in Hebrew, is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon, or the Destroyer.
12. The first woe has now passed. But there are still two more to come.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE FIFTH TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 9.1-11 OR THE FIRST “WOE”

- This passage speaks of the consequences to mankind.
- This period lasts 5 months. So is this the length of the nuclear winter?
- With so little natural resources left except polluted water and stored grains and food, man will kill man for food to survive.
- Notice this struggle is not about trying to live off the land but warring against each other.
- Decency and respect will have vanished. It is a case of every man for himself. Evil will flourish in the nations as if the very gates of hell had been unbound. This could just be man's inner demons or evil inspired.
- The description of the 'locusts' or scavengers of food could be a first century person's description of modern war vehicles.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 9 cont

13. The sixth angel then blew his trumpet; and I heard a voice coming from between the horns of the golden altar that stood in the presence of God.
14. It said to the sixth angel, who held the trumpet; “Release the four angels held bound at the great river Euphrates!”
15. So the four angels were let loose, to kill a third of mankind. They had been held ready for this moment, for this very year and month, day and hour.
16. And their squadrons of cavalry, whose count I heard, numbered two hundred million.
17. This is how I saw the horses and their riders in my vision: They wore breastplates, fiery red, blue, and sulphur-yellow; the horses had heads like lions’ heads, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulphur.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS

REV 8.7 – 9.21

Chap 9 cont

18. By these three plagues, that is, by the fire, the smoke, and the sulphur that came from their mouths, a third of mankind was killed.
19. The power of the horses lay in their mouths, and in their tails also; for their tails were like snakes, with heads, and with them too they dealt injuries.
20. The rest of mankind who survived these plagues still did not abjure the gods their hands had fashioned, nor cease their worship of devils and of idols made from gold, silver, bronze, stone, an wood, which cannot see or hear or walk.
21. Nor did they repent of their murders, their sorcery, their fornication, or their robberies.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE SIXTH TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 9.12-21

- The last main player in the world war enters the arena. This is a chance not to be missed by that nation.
- The army from the East is 200 million strong.
- Notice that four ‘angels’ are released – ‘angels’ in this case a euphemism for spiritual beings of destruction - demons.
- The Chinese have been waiting and preparing for this moment for centuries.
- Human wave tactics of the Chinese and conventional weapons certainly would be used at this geographic point.
- Possibly further tactical nuclear weapons employed or even more ICBMs by the west as a deterrent? It stopped the Japanese war effort during WWII.
- Carnage results – 30% of the world’s, then, population are casualties, and this is on top of the first quarter then subsequent third previous fatalities. Such a figure would be easy if now China is bombarded.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 15.1& FF OR THE THIRD “WOE”

- THE THING TO NOTE IS THAT SO FAR, ALTHOUGH A FIRST CENTURY PERSON MIGHT DESCRIBE THESE EVENTS IN TERMS OF DIVINE INTERVENTION, ANGELS, DEMONS, SCROLLS AND TRUMPETS FROM HEAVEN, A PERSON OF THIS CENTURY WOULD DESCRIBE A NATURAL PROGRESSION AND ESCALATION OF EVENTS IN TERMS OF POLITICS, FINANCE, SOCIOLOGY, ARMS RACE AND ECOLOGY DISASTER.
- THIS PICTURE OR EVENTS AS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION CAN SO EASILY HAPPEN. IT IS FEASIBLE. IT IS EVEN PROBABLE, GIVEN OUR SHRINKING RESOURCES AND FRAGILE WORLD STABILITY. IT IS A DREADFUL THING TO CONTEMPLATE.

SECTION 3 – THINGS REALLY HOT UP – THE 7 TRUMPETS REV 8.7 – 9.21

**THE SEVENTH TRUMPET SOUNDED REV 15.1& FF
OR THE THIRD “WOE”**

- **YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL CHAPTER 15 AND FOLLOWING TO HEAR MORE OF THE LAST TRUMPET, WHICH IS ALL ABOUT POURING OUT OF 7 BOWLS.**
- **THE ACTION PICKS UP AGAIN IN CHAPTER 16. BUT NOW WE HAVE AN INTERLUDE TO EXPLAIN SOME THINGS IN GREATER DETAIL.**
- **WHEN COMPARING THIS SET OF PROPHECIES AGAINST OTHER NON-CHRISTIAN/JUDAIC ONES, THEN I POINT OUT THE RICHNESS OF DETAIL AND VERY SPECIFIC DETAIL AT THAT!**

SECTION 4 – THE INTERLUDE

“WHO, WHAT AND WHEN?”
AN EXPANSION OF THE HALF WAY
POINT

Rev 10 – Rev 15

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

- This section is really ‘time out’ for further explanations.
- It might appear as if there is flipping back and forth in time but it is only greater explanation. Take care when it looks forwards!
- The symbols are more to explain the characters and spiritual warfare rather than earthly events.
- A lot happens at this pivotal time.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 10

1. The I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was wrapped in cloud, with the rainbow round his head; his face shone like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire.
2. In his hand he held a little scroll unrolled. His right foot he planed on the sea, and his left on the land.
3. Then he gave a great shout, like the roar of a lion; and when he shouted, the seven thunders spoke.
4. I was about to write down what the seven thunders had said; but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”
5. Then the angel that I saw standing on the sea and the land raised his right hand to heaven
6. and swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them:
7. “There shall be no more delay; but when the time comes for the seventh angel to sound his trumpet, the hidden purpose of God will have been fulfilled, as he promised to his servants the prophets.”

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

THE HIDDEN PURPOSE REV 10.1-7

- Sometimes there is a paradox of prophecy that is identical with one involved with time travel. That is, that if you know the end result before the effect then does that in turn affect the end result? Or, for example in time travel, can you father your own grandfather, or kill yourself?
- It would appear that if we knew this part of the prophecy it could be too much to bear. All will be revealed nearer the time.
- This also means that nearer the time a further prophecy will be given. It makes more sense if it is during the Tribulation for then the impetus is given to the evangelists etc of those times as sudden understanding is added.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 10 cont

8. Then the voice which I heard from heaven was speaking to me again, and it said, “Go and take the open scroll in the hand of the angel that stands on the sea and the land.”
9. So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it, and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, although in your mouth it will taste sweet as honey.”
10. So I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it did taste sweet as honey; but when I swallowed it my stomach turned sour.
11. Then they said to me, “Once again you must utter prophecies over peoples and nations and languages and many kings.”

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

THE HIDDEN PURPOSE CONT REV 10.8-11

- This ‘little scroll’, which is to be included within the main ‘scroll’ or prophecy, suggests that it’s contents could be regarded by some as ‘revenge is sweet’. However, the ‘revenge’ will probably be sickening.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN
REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 11

1. I was given a long cane, a kind of measuring rod, and told: “Now go and measure the temple of God, the altar, and the number of the worshippers.
2. But have nothing to do with the outer court of the temple; do not measure that; for it has been given over to the Gentiles, and they will trample the Holy City underfoot for forty-two months.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

SPIRITUALITY IS WANTING REV 11.1,2

- Whenever we are told of measuring something in scriptures then it is really about how people ‘measure up’ to requirements. The temple, or those supposedly worshipping God, are found wanting in their spirituality.
- It also indicates that the ‘inner’ rather than the ‘outer’ is the important part – the heart rather than outer rituals or observances.
- However, remember that full temple worship is in place, having started some time during the first half of the Tribulation.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

TROOP MOVEMENTS REV 11.2

- We do like to work things out with a time line! So let me just recount where peoples are.
- Daniel writes of troop movements and alliances that are difficult to unravel. He speaks of Russian and Arab alliance [king of north with king of south – specific nations cited]. Russia invading Israel through into Egypt. Double cross Arab/African nations and turns back, for western alliance [king of west] invades Israel, probably as Peace Keeping forces. Russian army returns to the north of Israel – poised[?]
- Also writes of rumours of Chinese [king of east] invading Middle East – also poised[?]
- Luke 21. 24 writes of Jesus predicting Gentiles over running the Temple in Jerusalem at the ‘end times’.
- Armies all around Jerusalem at this time.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 11 cont

3. And I have two witnesses, whom I will appoint to prophesy, dressed in sackcloth, all through those twelve hundred and sixty days.”
4. These are the two olive-trees and the two lamps that stand in the presence of the Lord of the earth.
5. If anyone seeks to do them harm, fire pours from their mouths and consumes their enemies; and thus shall the man die who seeks to do them harm.
6. These two have the power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the time of their prophesying; and they have the power to turn water to blood and to strike the earth at will with every kind of plague.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

THE WITNESSES – MOSES AND ELIJAH? REV 11.3FF

- Note that they are witnessing before this interlude time.
- Their dress is like Elijah or John the Baptist. The plagues are like the plagues of Moses.
- I suggest that they represent ‘Moses’ and ‘Elijah’ returned in some form. That is not so extreme for remember that Elijah was foretold to appear before the coming [or/and second coming] of Christ. His coming before Jesus that first time was interpreted by Christ *at the time*, saying John the Baptist was Elijah returned!!
- It was Moses and Elijah who spoke with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration about the coming death of Jesus. They epitomise the Covenant of God with God’s people.
- These two people are obviously dynamic and charismatic. Their acclaim makes them inviolate from the powers that be, like Nelson Mandela was, or Ghandi etc.
- They are therefore ‘spiritually’ protected as they work miracles and speak out against the status quo.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 11 cont

7. But when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will wage war upon them and will defeat and kill them.
8. Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city, whose name in allegory is Sodom, or Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
9. For three days and a half men from every people and tribe, of every language and nation, gaze upon their corpses and refuse to them burial.
10. All men on earth gloat over them, make merry, and exchange presents; for these two prophets were a torment to the whole earth.
11. But at the end of the three days and a half the breath of life from God came into them; and they stood up on their feet to the terror of all who saw it.
12. Then a loud voice was heard speaking to them from heaven, which said, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, in full view of their enemies.
13. At the same moment there was a violent earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake; the rest in terror did homage to the God of heaven.
14. The second woe has now passed. But the third is soon to come.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

THE WITNESSES – MOSES AND ELIJAH? CONT. REV 11.3FF

- These two witnesses are outspoken for the first three and a half years.
- People rejoice when they are killed for a great thorn in the flesh is removed. This is human nature.
- Their death is likened to the death of Jesus, in that they remain dead for 3 days then come back to life. Even the earthquake is similar except that this one is much more severe with loss of life.
- There is no hiding this one from the rest of the world – TV news?.
- I presume that the second woe is the same as the 6th trumpet.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID. SEVERAL THINGS HAPPEN AT THIS MID POINT. Supernatural intervention occurred at the Rapture. It does so again at this mid point. Let me list some of them. We will look at them in greater detail in a moment.

- The two witnesses revive before the whole world's gaze. [Already seen this].
- Christ claims the lordship of the heavens.
- Satan is cast out of the heavens.
- The great political figure becomes possessed.
- This person proclaims himself God by his acts.
- People realise the reality of spirituality and spiritual power.
- Miracles occur.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 11 cont

15. Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet; and voices were heard in heaven shouting: “The sovereignty of the world has passed to our Lord and his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever!”
16. And the twenty-four elders, seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying:
17. “We give thee thanks, of Lord God, sovereign over all, who art and who wast, because thou hast taken thy great power into they hands and entered upon thy reign.
18. The nations raged, but thy day of retribution has come. Now is the time for the dead to be judged; now is the time for recompense to thy servants the prophets, to thy dedicated people, and all who honour thy name, both great and small, the time to destroy those who destroy the earth.”
19. Then God’s temple in heaven was laid open, and within the temple was seen the ark of his covenant. There came flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and earthquake, and a storm of hail.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW REV 11.15-19

- In the gospels, at the temptations of Christ, the Devil tempted Christ with sovereignty of the world. At that time it was his to give. Now they belong to Christ anyhow.
- As this trumpet is sounded it becomes obvious to all as to the reality of the spiritual dimension. I wonder what sparks that off. Perhaps it is something written of in the ‘little scroll’ that comes about.
- The opening of the temple in heaven signifies the openness and realisation of true spiritual worth.
- The nations rage! Real power revealed.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 12

1. Next appeared a great portent in heaven, a woman robed with the sun, beneath her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.
2. She was pregnant, and in the anguish of her labour she cried out to be delivered.
3. Then a second portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns; on his heads were seven diadems,
4. and with his tail he swept down a third of the stars in the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when her child was born he might devour it.
5. She gave birth to a male child, who is destined to rule all nations with an iron rod. But her child was snatched up to God and his throne;
6. and the woman herself fled into the wilds, where she had a place prepared for her by God, there to be sustained for twelve hundred and sixty days.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

WHAT HAPPENS TO ISRAEL? REV 12.1-6

- Just as the temple in the last section was not a physical temple, so in this section the woman is not a real physical woman. This is a symbolic description of spiritual truth.
- The symbols of sun, moon and 12 stars signify Israel – not so much a geographical nation as the understanding of being God’s bride – a picture given several times in the bible. It is the spiritual reality that manifests in people, especially Jews at this time.
- Similarly, the dragon is not a real physical dragon but also a spiritual power at work at this time. More detail is given in a moment, but obviously the dragon is the enemy of God’s people, and especially of Christ [he who is to rule].
- Israel [or God’s people – WHOEVER THEY ARE] will be hounded for this second half of the Tribulation – three and half years.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 12 cont.

7. Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels waged war upon the dragon.
8. The dragon and his angels fought, but they had not the strength to win and no foothold was left them in heaven.
9. So the great dragon was thrown down, that serpent of old that led the whole world astray, whose name is Satan, or the Devil – thrown down to the earth, and his angels with him.
10. Then I heard a voice in heaven proclaiming aloud: “This is the hour of victory for our God, the hour of his sovereignty and power, when his Christ comes to his rightful rule! For the accuser of our brothers is overthrown, who day and night accused them before our God.
11. By the sacrifice of the Lamb they have conquered him, and by the testimony which they uttered; for they did not hold their lives too dear to lay them down.
12. Rejoice then, you heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 12 cont.

you, earth and sea, for the Devil has come down to you in great fury, knowing that his time is short!"

13. When the dragon found that he had been thrown down to the earth, he went in pursuit of the woman who had given birth to the male child.
14. But the woman was given two great eagle's wings, to fly to the place in the wilds where for three years and a half she was to be sustained, out of reach of the serpent.
15. From his mouth the serpent spewed a flood of water after the woman to sweep her away with its spate.
16. But the earth came to her rescue and opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon spewed from his mouth.
17. At this the dragon grew furious with the woman, and went off to wage war on the rest of her offspring, that is, on those who keep God's commandments and maintain their testimony to Jesus.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 13

1. He took his stand on the sea-shore. Then out of the sea I saw a beast rising. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten diadems, and on each head a blasphemous name.
2. The beast I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear's and its mouth like a lion's mouth. The dragon conferred upon it his power and rule, and great authority.
3. One of its heads appeared to have received a death-blow; but the mortal wound was healed. The whole world went after the beast in wondering admiration.
4. Men worshipped the dragon because he had conferred his authority upon the beast; they worshipped the beast also, and chanted, "Who is like the Beast? Who can fight against it?"

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 13 cont

5. The beast was allowed to mouth bombast and blasphemy, and was given the right to reign for forty-two months.
6. It opened its mouth in blasphemy against God, reviling his name and his heavenly dwelling.
7. It was also allowed to wage war on God's people and to defeat them, and was granted authority over every tribe and people, language and nation.
8. All on earth will worship it, except those whose names the Lamb that was slain keeps in his roll of the living, written there since the world was made.
9. Hear, you who have ears to hear!
10. Whoever is meant for prison, to prison he goes. Whoever takes the sword to kill, by the sword he is bound to be killed. Here the fortitude and faithfulness of God's people have their place.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

WHO IS THE BEAST? REV 13.1-10

- Yes there is good and evil in the heavens! St Paul in his letter to Ephesians speaks more of this. Spiritual realms differ. Here we are told that Satan is cast from the heavens to the earth plane.
- The consequence of Satan being cast down is the indwelling of Satan over, or in, the political Antichrist. The man is possessed.
- A leader is often depicted as an animal as the attributes of the animal describe some of the qualities or national quirks of the person. So Alexander the Great was a Leopard; Christ was the Lion of Judah, and also a Lamb; Balaam was an ass; Nebuchadnezzar was a golden lion – a great king. The Antichrist is described as this nightmare creature.
- Daniel speaks of the political figure as a ‘king’ of the western allies. Remember that up to this time he was probably a much welcomed political giant. He probably brokered the Middle East peace. He was initially seen as a good man, or even a great wise political saviour.
- He has invaded Israel from the sea[?] prior to this time probably as part of the Peace Agreement as the leader of the peace keeping forces.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

WHO IS THE BEAST? REV 13.1-10

- To understand the symbolism it is best to dip first into Daniel chapters 2 & 7. Daniel writes of four empires likened to four creatures, reigning successively, or described as metals followed by a mix of iron and clay. The last, the Roman, gives rise to a ‘Roman mix’.
- Each horn is a political power, each head is a leader. It suggests that the final creature or empire is an alliance out of the Roman one, having ten parts. Is this the EU, as under the Treaty of Rome?
- It would appear, if this is the correct interpretation, that three nations will be subdued leaving only 7 real leaders – but those numbers or wrong if compared to the present number of EU countries and leaders.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

WHO IS THE BEAST? REV 13.1-10

- Is there an attempt on the life of this leader? He seems to survive a mortal wound. Is this how the Antichrist is revealed?
- When Satan possesses the leader the evil nature of this powerful person is released.
- He enters the Holy of Holies in the Temple at Jerusalem and so, being a Gentile, defiles it. He need only sit on the Ark or Throne of God and so proclaim himself to be God. It is the greatest blasphemy or perversion of the Jewish concept of God present in the temple. Daniel calls it “The Abomination of Desolation”.
- This possessed Antichrist then employs extreme persecution of God’s people – **whoever they are** [not necessarily Jews or Christians or any particular religious follower], for the last three and a half years remaining of the Tribulation.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 13 cont

11. Then I saw another beast, which came up out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb's, but spoke like a dragon.
12. It wielded all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship this first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.
13. It worked great miracles, even making fire come down from heaven to earth before men's eyes.
14. By the miracles it was allowed to perform in the presence of the beast it deluded the inhabitants of the earth, and made them erect an image in honour of the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived.
15. It was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that it could speak, and could cause all who would not worship the image to be put to death.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 13 cont

16. Moreover, it caused everyone, great and small, rich and poor, slave and free, to be branded with a mark on his right hand or forehead,
17. and no one was allowed to buy or sell unless he bore this beast's mark, either name or number.
18. Here is the key; and anyone who has intelligence may work out the number of the beast. The number represents a man's name, and the numerical value of its letters is 666.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

A SECOND BEAST? THE FALSE PROPHET **REV 13.11-15**

- The first beast was from the sea – the invasion of the peace keeping force. This one is from the land [Israel?] so is probably a Jew.
- Not the horns of political power this time but like a lamb [the lamb of God?] and having the dragon's power. In other words, a religious figure having psychic and spiritual powers.
- Shades of Jesus - the Lamb of God.
- He [?] will have great charisma and seem to be a great spiritual authority and power, unlike the church and religious leaders of the day. He will deliver the goods.
- It would be absurd for people not to accept this person at face value and follow his 'truths'.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST REV 13.16-18

- As has been said so many times by doom merchants and the like, if you have the power of commerce over the population then you have the real power to rule.
- To stop fraud – a brand? Or is this the first century equivalent for the 21st century ideal of some kind of implant? A credit card that you cannot lose and a form of ID.
- Incalculable calculations have been made about the number 666! I cannot begin to guess what this means! If the preceding slides have not been cranky enough, so Crackpots amateur night out will supply the answer.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 14

1. Then I looked, and on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him were a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads.
2. I heard a sound from heaven like the noise of rushing water and the deep roar of thunder; it was the sound of harpers playing on their harps.
3. There before the throne, and the four living creatures and the elders, they were singing a new song. That song no one could learn except the hundred and forty-four thousand, who alone from the whole world had been ransomed.
4. These are men who did not defile themselves with women, for they have kept themselves chaste, and they follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been ransomed as the first fruits of humanity for God and the Lamb.
5. No lie was found in their lips; they are faultless.
6. Then I saw an angel flying in mid-heaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those on earth, to every nation and tribe, language and people.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

BACK TO THE JEWISH VIRGIN EVANGELISTS REV 14.1-5

- Another one of those pauses between the action.
- A new song?
- All of them had been martyred at some time during the Tribulation and are now seen to be in heaven.
- Note that the rest of this chapter is speaking more about the events that are now about to unfold. It might cause a bit of confusion chronologically!
- A most disconcerting thought is that from now on there is no second chance for people to turn to the Divine! Most unforgiving and un-Christian. However, there are many parables that speak of such a moment!

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 14 cont

7. He cried in a loud voice, “Fear God and pay him homage; for the hour of his judgement has come! Worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the water- springs!”
8. Then another angel, a second, followed, and he cried, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all nations drink the fierce wine of her fornication!”
9. Yet a third angel followed, crying out loud, “Whoever worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or hand, he shall drink the wine of God’s wrath,
10. poured undiluted into the cup of vengeance. He shall be tormented in sulphurous flames before the holy angels and before the Lamb.
11. The smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever, and there will be no respite day or night for those who worship the beast and its image or receive the mark of its name.”

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

BABYLON? REV 14.6-11

- Babylon's fall is written about later on and then it seems to be a physical city. Here it symbolises a non-physical structure.
- I interpret this as being the religious or psychic / spiritual set up that is about to crumble.
- The choice has had dire consequences. If the person had compromised him or herself to be able to buy and sell etc, then there is no way out. They will be punished.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 14 cont

12. Here the fortitude of God's people has its place – in keeping God's commands and remaining loyal to Jesus.
13. Moreover, I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write this: 'Happy are the dead who die in the faith of Christ! Henceforth' says the Spirit, 'they may rest from their labours; for they take with them the record of their deeds.'"
14. Then as I looked there appeared a white cloud, and on the cloud sat one like a son of man. He had on his head a crown of gold and in his hand a sharp sickle.
15. Another angel come out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud: "Stretch out your sickle and reap; for the harvest-time has come, and the earth's crop is over-ripe."
16. So he who sat on the cloud put his sickle to the earth and its

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

Chap 14 cont

harvest was reaped.

17. Then another angel came out of the temple, and he also had a sharp sickle.
18. Then from the altar came yet another, the angel who has authority over fire, and he shouted to the one with the sharp sickle: “Stretch out your sickle, and gather in earth’s grape-harvest, for its clusters are ripe.”
19. So the angel put his sickle to the earth and gathered in its grapes, and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.
20. The winepress was trodden outside the city, and for two hundred miles around blood flowed from the press to the height of the horses’ bridles.

SECTION 4 – EXPLANATION OF WHO, WHAT AND WHEN

REVELATION CHAPTERS 10 - 14

CARNAGE REV 14.12-20

- Notice there are two harvests.
- I take it that the first is some kind of gathering of the saints or God's people who made it through the Tribulation, possibly now to be taken like those at the Rapture.
- The second is a harvest of untold carnage.
- Does the second speak of the prophecy of Zechariah 14 when all the armies of the nations will be gathered outside of Jerusalem, at the very end of the Tribulation?
- The drama unfolds in greater detail later on, but for now we have the overall view that is about to be played out.

SECTION 5.

THE SEVEN BOWLS

Rev 15.1 – 18.24

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

- ONCE AGAIN, THE THING TO NOTE IS THAT SO FAR, ALTHOUGH A FIRST CENTURY PERSON MIGHT DESCRIBE THESE EVENTS IN TERMS OF DIVINE INTERVENTION, ANGELS, DEMONS, SCROLLS AND TRUMPETS FROM HEAVEN, A PERSON OF THIS CENTURY WOULD DESCRIBE A NATURAL PROGRESSION AND ESCALATION OF EVENTS IN TERMS OF POLITICS, FINANCE, SOCIOLOGY, ARMS RACE AND ECOLOGY DISASTER.
- IT IS NOT SO MUCH GOD INSTIGATED AS GOD ALLOWED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS TO THE IDEA OF GOD'S WRATH AND RETRIBUTION. THAT IS SOMETHING OFTEN FORGOTTEN WHEN LOOKING AT THE PARABLES OF JUDGEMENT. ASK ANY PARENT WHO LOVES THEIR CHILD ABOUT JUST PUNISHMENT AND BOUNDARIES.

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

THERE ARE FILMS WHEN THE ACTION REPLAYS TO SHOW ANOTHER ASPECT OF A SITUATION, USUALLY SEEN FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S PERSPECTIVE. IT CAN BE A BIT CONFUSING UNTIL YOU REALISE WHAT IS HAPPENING.

THIS HAPPENS HERE. THE 7TH TRUMPET ‘SORT OF PLAYED’ AT THE END OF CHAPTER 11. IT PLAYS AGAIN BUT HERE IT EXPANDS AS 7 BOWLS, SIMILAR TO THE 7TH SEAL BEING 7 TRUMPETS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A PREVIEW OF THIS EVENT IN THE LAST CHAPTER – THE HARVESTS.

ONWARDS!

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Chap 15

1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is the wrath of God consummated.
2. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had won the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.
3. And they were singing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.
4. Who shall not revere you, O Lord, and do homage to thy name? For thou only art holy. All nations shall come and worship before thee, for thy just dealings stand revealed.”

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- Another sea of glass, but shot with fire. In other words a great number of martyrs in heaven, praising once again.
- These are the martyrs from the times of the Tribulation.

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Chap 15 cont

5. After this as I looked, the sanctuary of the heavenly temple was opened:
6. And out of it came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were robed in pure and white linen, and had golden girdles round their breasts.
7. Then one of the four beasts gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives for ever and ever.
8. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power; and no one could enter it until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

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- That's it! Too late for anything else.
- This interprets that no one can now approach God in prayer until all is finished. No more Mr Nice Guy!!
- Remember that the action had stalled just after the nuclear winter was to finish.

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Chap 16

1. And I heard a loud voice come from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of God’s wrath upon the earth.”
2. So the first angel went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and foul malignant sores appeared on those men that wore the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.

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- After all the nuclear devastation and lack of food and sunlight, along with any possible biological warfare agents still prevalent, is it any small wonder that sickness may become worldwide.
- The atmosphere clears; the winter thaws and water runs off the land; the ozone layer is ruined.
- Pandemics are most likely in such strained circumstances.
- How the radiation may affect the health of people and the environment is any body's guess.
- Once again, presuming that this is a 21st century war and results of war, then this picture is only a natural progression and consequence.

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS
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Chap 16 cont

3. And the second angel poured out his bowl upon the sea; and it turned to blood like the blood of a corpse: and every living thing in the sea died.

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

- Up 'till now, the deaths had all been in thirds. Notice that now it is 100% of all living creatures in the sea.
- The last we heard [chapter 9] was the armies of the East entering the military arena and further possible release of nuclear weapons.
- This is an excellent example of what I mean. St John relates that it is a direct intervention from heaven that causes the next problem. I understand that, given the premise that this is a description of a future apocalyptic nightmare, it is a natural consequence of what precedes this immediate related time.
- The environment can take no more. Everything eventually makes its way and sinks into the sea. Radiation especially is washed from the atmosphere as the nuclear winter thaws. The sea is the ultimate dustbin of the planet. As a consequence, the cradle of life is sterilised.

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS
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Chap 16 cont

4. And the third angel poured his bowl upon the rivers and springs; and they turned to blood.
5. Then I heard the angel of the waters say, “ Just art thou in thy judgments, thou Holy one who art and wast;
6. for they shed the blood of thy people and of thy prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink. They have their deserts.”
7. And I heard the altar cry, “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are thy judgments.”

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

- Fresh water follows the same route of pollution.
- There have been a few occasions in the long history of the Earth when virtually all of the biological life of the time has been wiped out. This looks like a similar scenario.
- You can only knock the environment so far before there are drastic consequences. Nature is going to take a long time to get over this one, and I wonder what kind of new tensions, balances and even life forms will result.

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Chap 16 cont

8. And the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun; and it was allowed to burn men with its flames.
9. They were fearfully burned but they only cursed the name of God who had the power to inflict such plagues, and they refused to repent or do him homage.

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- No ozone layer?
- Rising of global temperature?
- Where will the new temperature balances be?

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 16 cont

10. The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast; and its kingdom was plunged in darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony,
11. but they only cursed the God of heaven for their pains and the sores, and would not repent of what they had done.

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

- Remember the plagues of Egypt. One was darkness that you could ‘feel’.
- I cannot easily interpret this bowl, but the Egyptian darkness was late in the sequence of plagues.
- It was also localised[!] just as this one is over the country of the beast.
- I do not know all the answers!!

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Chap 16 cont

12. The sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river Euphrates; and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east.
13. Then I saw coming from the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast, three foul spirits like frogs.
14. These spirits were devils, with power to work miracles. They were sent out to muster all the kings of the world for the great day of battle of God the sovereign Lord.
15. That is the day I come as a thief. Happy the man who stays awake and keeps on his clothes, so that he will not have to go naked and ashamed for all to see.
16. So they assembled the kings at the place called in Hebrew Armageddon.

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- They had been waiting for their chance.
- In the darkness or confusion or debilitation the Chinese horde is able to advance on Jerusalem and the western alliance army.
- The triumvirate of Antichrist, Satan and False Prophet, mobilises the remaining armies to counter the threat.
- Remember the Russian army had withdrawn but is poised. Does it, or has it already, returned at the same time?
- All the nations are gathered in the great valley north of Jerusalem.
- It might be a mistake or a wrong interpretation, but note that it was at the Rapture that Christ was to come like a thief in the night. At Armageddon he is to be seen by everyone!

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 16 cont

17. Then the seventh angel poured his bowl on the air, and out of the sanctuary cam a loud voice from the throne, which said, “it is over!”
18. And there followed flashes of lightning and peals of thunder, and a violent earthquake, like none before it in human history, so violent it was.
19. The great city was split in three; the cities of the world fell in ruin; and God did not forget Babylon the great, but made her drink the cup which was filled with the fierce wine of his vengeance.
20. Every island vanished; there was not a mountain to be seen.
21. Huge hailstones, weighing perhaps a hundredweight, fell on men from the sky; and they cursed God for the plague of hail, because that plague was so sever.

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- Oh my God! Although the military action is focused in northern Israel, it appears that here is the great nuclear exchange feared since the dropping of the nuclear bombs on Japan during WW2.
- If the first strike and retaliatory strike was not bad enough, now all hell breaks lose.
- Every city ruined. Sea levels rise so all islands obliterated. Impossible weather conditions follow.
- Notice – it is over. The last weapon is flung. Now we read only of consequences of the flinging in greater detail!

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- So we now have one of those interludes again, so more detail is given the action spoken of just a moment ago.

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 17

1. Then one of the seven angels that held the seven bowls came and spoke to me and said, “Come, and I will show you the judgement on the great whore, enthroned above the ocean.”
2. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and on the wine of her fornication men all over the world have made themselves drunk.”
3. In the Spirit he carried me away into the wilds, and there I saw a woman mounted on a scarlet beast which was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
4. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and bedizened with gold and jewels and pearls. In her hand she held a gold cup, full of obscenities and the foulness of her fornication;
5. and written on her forehead was a name with a secret meaning: “Babylon the great, the mother of whores and of every obscenity on earth.”
6. The woman, I saw, was drunk with the blood of God’s people and with the blood of those who had borne their testimony to Jesus.

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 17 cont

7. As I looked at her I was greatly astonished. But the angel said to me, “Why are you so astonished? I will tell you the secret of the woman and of the beast she rides, with the seven heads and the ten horns.
8. The beast you have seen is he who once was alive, and is alive no longer, but has yet to ascend out of the abyss before going to perdition. Those on earth whose names have not been inscribed in the roll of the living ever since the world was made will all be astonished to see the beast; for he once was alive, and is alive no longer, and has still to appear.”
9. “But here is the clue for those who can interpret it. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.
10. They represent also seven kings, of whom five have already fallen, one is now reigning, and the other has yet to come; and when he does come he is only to last for a little while.
11. As for the beast that once was alive and is alive no longer, he is an eighth – and yet he is one of the seven, and he is going to perdition.

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 17 cont

12. The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet begun to reign, but who for one hour are to share with the beast the exercise of royal authority;
13. for they have but a single purpose among them and will confer their power and authority upon the beast.
14. They will wage war upon the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and his victory will be shared by his followers, called and chosen and faithful.”
15. Then he said to me, “The ocean you saw, where the great whore sat, is an ocean of peoples and populations, nations and languages.
16. As for the ten horns you saw, they together with the beast will come to hate the whore; they will strip her naked and leave her desolate, they will batten on her flesh and burn her to ashes.
17. For God has put it into their heads to carry out his purpose, by making common cause and conferring their sovereignty upon the beast until all that God has spoken is fulfilled.
18. The woman you saw is the great city that holds sway over the kings of the earth.”

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- Two characters – the Harlot and the Beast.
- The harlot is often thought of as being the false religion of the future, or the occult, or the Roman Catholic Church – depending upon your individual prejudices or pet hates. Notice she is ‘drunk on the blood of her victims – God’s people’. I take it that she is just drunk on power. In that case I understand her as the personification of corrupted power, imbued with the power [and personification] of evil. Indeed, all the nations are drunk on this - power. They are not all drunk on Catholicism, the Occult or a united world religion. She is another portrait of the dragon – Satan – nothing more – not any religion or religious expression.

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- The **beast** we have come across before – the political power, the alliance of the Treaty of Rome – but this time with a difference. There is the confusing number of heads and times being alive!
- Heads are thought of as powers in the world. In that case 5 were in John's history, one was present, and one was still to come. So the beast, here, is corrupted power of great political sway i.e. empires. Therefore, I surmise the five to have been the Greek, Persian, Babylonian, Assyrian and Egyptian empires. The present one [for John] was the Roman empire, and the one to be was the one already mentioned in Revelations – the European Alliance, that would only hold sway for a short time. There is more.
- Rome – the identification of the city is also part of this passage – the seven hills of Rome. As it was, then will not be, then will be again, I interpret as being the Roman Empire at Johnn's time, then the passing of that until it is resurrected in the form of the Treaty of Rome, and its capital will be there someday.

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- Is this passage also saying that eventually the Antichrist person, once imbued with the power of Satan, thinks he no longer needs the political power base? The whore no longer needing the beast?
- Is that why at this very late stage the people are able to turn on him for he has ‘dropped’ them?

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 18

1. After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven; he came with great authority and the earth was lit up with his splendour.
2. Then in a mighty voice he proclaimed, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, for every foul and loathsome bird.
3. For all nations have drunk deep of the fierce wine of her fornication; the king of the earth have committed fornication with her, and merchants the world over have grown rich on her bloated wealth.”
4. Then I heard another voice from heaven that said: “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins and share in her plagues.
5. For her sins are piled high as heaven, and God has not forgotten her crimes.
6. Pay her back in her own coin, repay her twice over for her deeds! Double for her the strength of the potion she mixed!
7. Mete out grief and torment to match her voluptuous pomp! She says in her heart, ‘I am a queen on my throne! No mourning for me, no widow’s weeds!’
8. Because of this her plagues shall strike her in a single day – pestilence,

SECTION 5 – THE SEVEN BOWLS

REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 18 cont

bereavement, famine, and burning – for mighty is the Lord God who has pronounced her doom!"

9. The kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and wallowed in her luxury will weep and wail over her, as they see the smoke of her conflagration.
10. They will stand at a distance, for horror at her torment, and will say, "Alas, alas for the great city, the mighty city of Babylon! In a single hour your doom has struck!"
11. The merchants of the earth also will weep and mourn for her, because no one any longer buys their cargoes,
12. cargoes of gold and silver, jewels and pearls, cloths of purple and scarlet, silks and fine linens; all kinds of scented woods, ivories, and every sort of thing made of costly woods, bronze, iron, or marble;
13. cinnamon and spice, incense, perfumes and frankincense; wine, oil flour and wheat, sheep and cattle, horses, chariots, slaves, and the lives of men.
14. "The fruit you longed for", they will say, "is gone from you; all the glitter and the glamour are lost, never to be yours again!"
15. The traders in all these wares, who gained their wealth from her, will stand at a distance for horror at her torment,

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REVELATION CHAPTERS 15.1 – 18.24

Chap 18 cont

16. weeping and mourning and saying, “Alas, alas for the great city, that was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, bedizened with gold and jewels and pearls! Alas that in one hour so much wealth should be laid waste!”
17. Then all the sea-captains and voyagers, the sailors and those who traded by sea, stood at a distance and cried out as they saw the smoke of her conflagration:
18. Was there ever a city like the great city?”
19. They threw dust on their heads, weeping and mourning and saying, “Alas, alas for the great city, where all who had ships at sea grew rich on her wealth! Alas that in a single hour she should be laid waste!”
20. But let heaven exult over her; exult, apostles and prophets and people of God; for in the judgement against her he has vindicated your cause!
21. Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea and said, “Thus shall Babylon, the great city, be sent hurtling down, never to be seen again!
22. No more shall the sound of harpers and minstrels, of flute-players and trumpeters, be heard in you; no more shall craftsmen of any trade be found in you; no more shall the sound of the mill be heard in you;
23. no more shall the light of the lamp be seen in you; no more shall the voice of the bride and bridegroom be heard in you! Your traders were once the merchant princes of the world, and with your sorcery you deceived all the nations.”
24. For the blood of the prophets and of God’s people was found in her, the blood of all who had been done to death on earth.

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- Populations need capital cities. They become the focus of ideas, power, identity and so on. Wars are most often fought over cities, even though the city in question may have no other strategic importance.
- We have had the general picture shown us in chapter 16 of the destruction of the cities of the world – here is seen the specific destruction of Rome, as the capital city [to be] of the western alliance and home base of the Antichrist.
- It only takes a single hour for all traces of the city to disappear.

SECTION 6

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Rev 19.1 – 22.21

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chap 19

1. After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a vast throng in heaven; and they were shouting:
2. “Alleluia! Victory and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgements! He has condemned the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and has avenged upon her the blood of his servants.”
3. Then once more they shouted: “Alleluia! The smoke goes up from her for ever and ever!”
4. And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God as he sat on the throne, and they too cried: “Amen! Alleluia!”
5. Then a voice came from the throne which said: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you that fear him, both great and small!”
6. Again I heard what sounded like a vast crowd, like the noise of rushing water and deep roars of thunder, and they cried: “Alleluia! The Lord our God, sovereign over all, has entered on his reign!”

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 19 cont.

7. Exult and shout for joy and do him homage, for the wedding-day of the Lamb has come! His bride has made herself ready,
8. and for her dress she has been given fine linen, clean and shining.” [Now the fine linen signifies the righteous deeds of God’s people.]
9. Then the angel said to me, “Write this: ‘Happy are those who are invited to the wedding-supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the very words of God.”
10. At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “No, not that! I am but a fellow servant with you and your brothers who bear their testimony to Jesus. It is God you must worship. Those who bear testimony to Jesus are inspired like the prophets.”

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

- The action is about to pick up again for the very last moments of the third world war, but before that we get another glimpse of the heavenly scene.
- The Hallelujah Chorus extraordinaire.
- At long, long last the wedding is about to happen, i.e. Christ returns.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 19 cont.

11. Then I saw heaven wide open, and there before me was a white horse; and its rider's name was Faithful and True, for he is just in judgement and just in war.
12. His eyes flamed like fire, and on his head were many diadems. Written upon him was a name known to none but himself,
13. and he was robed in a garment drenched in blood.
14. He was called the Word of God, and the armies of heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, clean and shining.
15. From his mouth there went a sharp sword with which to smite the nations; for he it is who shall rule them with an iron rod, and tread the wine-Oress of the wrath and retribution of God the sovereign Lord.
16. And on his robe and on his leg there was written the name: "King of kings and Lord of lords."
17. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried aloud to all the birds flying in mid-heaven: "Come and gather for God's great supper, to eat the flesh of kings and commanders and fighting men, the flesh of horses and their riders, the flesh of all men, slave and free, great and small!"

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

- We have the time-slip replay ploy again. In Rev 14 we had the two harvests – one for the good and one for the bad.
- In Rev 16 we had the world-wide destruction.
- We have been told in Matt 24.21 that if he did not come at that moment then all life would be obliterated!
- We have the replay of the second one here, for now we hone in on Jerusalem where the armies of several nations have gathered to fight.
- The second harvest was carnage beyond imagination, outside Jerusalem.
- In Zechariah 14.5 -12 this time is foretold. The armies will have their flesh rot from their bones as they stand. Is this the description of the carnage resulting from a tactical nuclear blast.
- This is the actual moment of Christ's return to the earth – the conquering King.
- In Acts 1.11 the apostles saw Jesus leave, rising upwards from the Mount of Olives. Angels present said he would return in like manner.
- Zechariah also speaks of the Mount splitting in two when “The Lord’s” foot touches the land. Guess what! There is a geological fault running through the mountain. What does that suggest alongside Zechariah’s description.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 19 cont.

19. Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies mustered to do battle with the Rider and his army.
20. The beast was taken prisoner, and so was the false prophet who had worked miracles in its presence and deluded those that had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire with its sulphurous flames.
21. The rest were killed by the sword which went out of the Rider's mouth; and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Chapter 20

1. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hands.
2. He seized the dragon, that serpent of old, the Devil or Satan, and chained him up for a thousand years;
3. He threw him into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him, so that he might seduce the nations no more till the thousand years were over. After that he must be let loose for a short while.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

- We see an immediate judgement on the unholy trinity.
- The beast [the Antichrist], the false prophet [the unholy John the Baptist], and the dragon [Satan] are cast into the spiritual place of suffering and torment.
- Yes, as said before, there is evil in the heavens – or spiritual realms. Paul describes such in his letter to Ephesians chap 6.
- Next we go from great detail to sheer perfunctory, and the skimpiest flight over the following millennia.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 20 cont.

4. Then I saw thrones, and upon them sat those to whom judgement was committed. I could see the souls of those who had been beheaded for the sake of God's word and their testimony to Jesus, whose who had not worshipped the beast and its image or received its mark on forehead or hand. These came to life again and reigned with Christ for a thousand years,
5. though the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over. This is the first resurrection.
6. Happy indeed, and one of God's own people, is the man who shares in this first resurrection! Upon such the second death has no claim; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him for the thousand years.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

- From the sublime to the ridiculous. From a whole chapter about a single hour's destruction to a few verses about a thousand years!
- Three views held:
 1. Pre-millennialism – the literal setting up of a kingdom that Christ and special followers [who will be incarnate in a special way] will rule for a thousand years.
 2. A-millennialism – no literal reign but through the power of the Holy Spirit through the church of some kind or other.
 3. Post-millennialism – that the world will gradually get over the cataclysm and after a thousand years Christ will physically rule.

I adhere to Pan-millennialism. That is, I believe that everything will pan out ok in the end somehow!

- Certainly, if all the previous chapters were to be believed to come about in a literal way, why make this section any different. It would explain Christ's references to his kingdom here on earth inherited by the meek, when swords will be beaten into ploughshares and the lion lay down with the lamb, and so on. Otherwise, it would be a case of Kim Hubbard's quote,
- “It's going to be fun to watch and see how long the meek can keep the earth after they inherit it.”

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 20 cont.

7. When the thousand years are over, Satan will be let loose from his dungeon;
8. and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth and to muster them for battle, yes, the hosts of Gog and Magog, countless as the sands of the sea.
9. So they marched over the breadth of the land and laid siege to the camp of God's people and the city that he loves. But fire came down on them from heaven and consumed them;
10. and the Devil, their seducer, was flung into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been flung, there to be tormented day and night for ever.
11. Then I saw a great white throne, and the One who sat upon it; from his presence earth and heaven vanished away, and no place was left for them.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 20 cont.

12. I could see the dead, great and small, standing before the throne; and books were opened. Then another book was opened, the roll of the living. From what was written in these books the dead were judged upon the record of their deeds.
13. The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up the dead in their keeping; they were judged, each man on the record of his deeds.
14. Then Death and Hades were flung into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death;
15. and into it were flung any whose names were not to be found in the roll of the living.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

- The books here are suggested as being the Akashic Records, or recording of every single happening that ever was. Those with such psychic abilities will already know something of this possibility.
- One thing we learn from history is that we never learn anything from history.
- Is this a last chance?
- So we come to an awe inspiring or dread event – the Judgement.
- This is not souls going to the heavenly realms after they have been incarnate, but some cosmic single event.
- What happens after this is that the whole concept of death and dying changes.

SECTION 6 – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

REVELATION CHAPTERS 19.1 – 22.21

Chapter 21

1. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had vanished, and there was no longer any sea.
2. I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband.
3. I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: “Now at last God has his dwelling among men! He will dwell among them and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them.
4. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be an end to death, and to morning and crying and pain; for the old order has passed away!”
5. Then he who sat on the throne said, “Behold! I am making all things new!” And he said to me, “Write this down; for these words are trustworthy and true.
6. Indeed,” he said, “they are already fulfilled. For I am Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. A draught from the water-springs

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Chapter 21 cont.

of life will be my free gift to the thirsty.

7. All this is the victor's heritage; and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

8. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, and the vile, murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars of every kind, their lot will be the second death, in the lake that burns with sulphurous flames.”

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- Many other type of prophecies [e.g. Hopi Indian Prophecy] speak of a new consciousness or state of being for the physical world. Some of them sound rather weird, even the whole cosmos changing to ‘another vibrational level’ or our DNA altering! Is this the Christian equivalent? Notice that we are talking about a new physical earth and not just a spiritual one. This resonates with the letter 2 Peter 3.10.
- No more death! Similar to the ideas of souls still growing after incarnation and passing through the levels of the heavenly realms, only now it includes the incarnational [physical] level as well, without an event of ‘death’.
- It sounds too good to be true! Here is a very different kind of earthly life.

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Chapter 21 cont.

9. Then one of the angels that held the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke to me and said, “Come, and I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”
10. So in the Spirit he carried me away to a great high mountain, and showed me the holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.
11. It shone with the glory of God; it had the radiance of some priceless jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
12. It had a great high wall, with twelve gates, at which were twelve angels; and on the gates were inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
13. There were three gates to the east, three to the north, three to the south, and three to the west.
14. The city wall had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

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Chapter 21 cont.

15. The angel who spoke with me carried a gold measuring rod, to measure the city, its wall, and its gates.
16. The city was built as a square, and was as wide as it was long. It measured by his rod twelve thousand furlongs, its length and breadth and height being equal.
17. Its wall was one hundred and forty-four cubits high, that is, by human measurements, which the angel was using.
18. The wall was built of jasper, while the city itself was of pure gold, bright as clear glass.
19. The foundations of the city wall were adorned with jewels of every kind, the first of the foundations stones being jasper, the second lapis lazuli,
20. the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth cornelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh turquoise, and the twelfth amethyst.
21. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate being made from a single pearl. The streets of the city were of pure gold, like translucent glass.

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- In the Spirit – suggests a spiritual vision or trance, so we have a symbolised city – not a real or physical one.
- The access [the gates] of the Old Covenant, and the foundation [the stones] of the New Covenant show the completeness of God's people.
- Compare the measuring up of God's people this time to last – Rev 11.
- They are pure and precious in the extreme.

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Chapter 21 cont.

22. I saw no temple in the city; for its temple was the sovereign Lord God and the Lamb.
23. And the city had no need of sun or moon to shine upon it; for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.
24. By its light shall the nations walk, and the kings of the earth shall bring into it all their splendour.
25. The gates of the city shall never be shut by day – and there will be no night.
26. The wealth and splendour of the nations shall be brought into it;
27. but nothing unclean shall enter, nor anyone whose ways are false or foul, but only those who are inscribed in the Lamb's roll of the living.

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- Where the church has been likened to be a living temple unto God – but not actually God, except that the Spirit of God [hopefully] dwells within it somehow, so the consequence of a new heaven and new earth with complete access to God, is the ultimate temple – God himself. No need for any earthly representation.
- How can there be a representative of God when God can be present in a very real way. The ‘Body of Christ’, the church, is redundant as a spokesman or way of God to speak to the world.

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Chapter 22

1. Then he showed me the river of the water of life, sparkling like crystal,
2. flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the city's street. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, which yields twelve crops of fruit, one for each month of the year. The leaves of the trees serve for the healing of the nations, and every accursed thing shall disappear.
3. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants shall worship him;
4. they shall see him face to face, and bear his name on their foreheads.
5. There shall be no more night, nor will they need the light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will give them light; and they shall reign for evermore.

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- We have already had the sovereign Lord [Temple - Father] and the Lamb [Son] now we see represented the Spirit as the river of life.
- In the Garden of Eden, as Adam and Eve had eaten of the tree of knowledge, the tree of life was to be protected from them. Now it is freely available.
- The vision is an ornate and glorified statement that God will be very much at one with His people.
- Notice though, it is God's people – WHOEVER THEY ARE – not necessarily JWs, Christians, Buddhists, or anyists.

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Chapter 22 cont.

6. Then he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord God who inspires the prophets has sent his angel to show his servants what must shortly happen.
7. And, remember, I am coming soon!” Happy is the man who heeds the words of prophecy contained in this book! It is I, John, who heard and saw these things.
8. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell in worship at the feet of the angel who had shown them to me.
9. But he said to me, “No, not that! I am but a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets and those who heed the words of this book. It is god you must worship.”
10. Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of prophecy in this book, for the hour of fulfilment is near.
11. Meanwhile, let the evil doer go on doing evil and the filthy minded wallow in his filth, but let the good man persevere in his goodness and the dedicated man be true to his dedication.”

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Chapter 22 cont.

12. “Yes, I am coming soon, and bringing my recompense with me, to requite everyone according to his deeds!
13. I am Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
14. Happy are those who wash their robes clean. They will have the right to the tree of life and will enter by the gates of the city.
15. Outside are dogs, sorcerers and fornicators, murderers and idolaters, and all who love and practise deceit.
16. “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and scion of David, the bright morning star.”
17. “Come” say the Spirit and the bride. “Come” let each hearer reply. Come forward, you who are thirsty; accept the water of life, a free gift to all who desire it.
18. For my part, I give this warning to everyone who is listening to the words of prophecy in this book: should anyone add to them, god will add to him the plagues described in this book;
19. should anyone take away from the words in this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and the Holy City, described in this book.
20. He who gives this testimony speaks: “Yes, I am coming soon!” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
21. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

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- If you have got through to this point – I say well done! It might have been riveting and high drama for a first century person, but for people of today – it isn’t! We have to work hard at trying to understand the symbols and translate the action into today’s terms.
- It appears to be a dreadful book, but it does have a happy ending!
- The Christian scriptures have far more detail about the most weird aspects of ‘a new heaven and new earth’ that others only speculate upon. Whether that is a good thing or not – who knows!

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- The tenor of this book is quite different to the major part of Christ's teachings. They have always strongly pointed out that God's love is greater than anyone's wrongdoing and, given the chance, God will forgive. This book emphasises that there comes a point when there are no more second chances.
- I know that this is almost sub-Christian and defies acceptance, but it is not without its parable counterparts. It makes you think.
- Do I personally believe that the time is short before these things may come about?
- Yes.

Revelation's TimeLine

One Possible Interpretation		
The Seven Years Begin	Rapture	
	AntiChrist appears as great political figure.	1st Seal
	Strong Treaty with Israel/Arab nations – Protector, and	
	enables Temple to be rebuilt as part of deal.	
	During this time:-	
	Temple worship resumes and	
	Two special 'witnesses' [Moses & Elijah returned] work in	
	Jerusalem.	
	Jewish evangelists also being sent out to world	
	over the next years.	

Revelation's Time Line

	Northern nation [Russia?] allies with southern [Arab] nations.	2nd Seal
	Russia invades Israel and on into Egypt.	3rd Seal
	Doubly cross Arab nations. Return to Israel.	4th Seal
	Western alliance peace keeping force invades Israel	5th Seal
	Russian army returns north.	
	Premptive nuclear strike.	6th Seal
	Last of the Jewish evangelists going out.	
	Retaliatory strike.	7th Seal
	Great devestation.	1st Trumpet
	Water polluted.	2nd Trumpet
	Nuclear winter.	3rd Trumpet
	Evil abounds.	4th Trumpet
		5th Trumpet

Revelation's Time Line

	Chinese army cross into Middle East.	6th Trumpet
	True spiritual power revealed.	
Three and a half years	Satan cast out of the heavenly realms.	
	Satan indwells the AntiChrist.	
	Is this the moment when the Antichrist is recognised as who he is, and an attempt to assassinate him is made?	
	He then appears to have a mortal wound.	
	AntiChrist enters Temple Holy of Holies.	
	Abomination of Desolation - AntiChrist demands worship.	
	'Moses' and 'Elijah' killed.	

Revelation's Time Line

		7th Trumpet
	Jews persecuted.	
	False Prophet appears.	
	Number of Beast employed.	
	Worldwide illness now gets a hold.	1st Bowl
	Steralisation of the seas.	2nd Bowl
	Fresh water polluted as well.	3rd Bowl
	No ozone?	4th Bowl
	Time of localised darkness.	5th Bowl
	Invasion of Israel by Chinese	6th Bowl

Revelation's Time Line

Seven years	Utter Thermonuclear War	7th Bowl
	Armageddon armies destroyed.	
	Jesus' return.	
	Millenium begins.	
1,000 years later	Satan has another go.	
	Judgement day.	
	New Heaven and New Earth.	