

Victory In Jesus



An Overview of The Book of Revelation

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SEVEN GREAT THEMES OF REVELATION

1- The Sovereignty of God—God the ruler is still in complete charge and control of this whole universe that He has made including, but not limited to the church age and the final outcome of it all.

2- The Providence of God—God is omnipotent—all powerful and He can and will accomplish His purposes no matter whom or what opposes Him.

3- This world is temporal while the consummation of the eternal/heavenly operation of God is yet to be seen with absolute certainty.

4- Jesus is LORD—over the grave, over the church/kingdom, over the world, over the devil, and over the future.

5- The devil may be the prince of the power of the air and the prince of this world, but he is an already condemned and defeated enemy of God. There will be an end to the chaos he initiates and promotes.

6- The saved will most likely endure suffering, hardship, and even persecution in every age here on planet earth, and while that may be the order of the day for this age, it will not be the last word on the matter.

7- A glorious victory awaits all those who stand faithfully on the side of truth and faith in Jesus and that glory will last eternally.

A BASIC OUTLINE OF REVELATION⁷

The book actually unfolds as a drama with TWO acts. And each act has several scenes in which the scenery and background changes, where some of the previously depicted events are captured again in a different light and from a different perspective or angle.

ACT ONE—THE APPARENT AND OBVIOUS STRUGGLE ON EARTH BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE FORCES OF SATAN (1:-11:)

(The church is indwelt by Christ, persecuted by the world, but is avenged, protected and victorious)

A. Christ in (amidst) the church. (1:-3:)

B. Christ in the cosmos... the seven seals. (4:-7:)

C. Christ with condemnation... the seven trumpets. (8:-11:)

ACT TWO—THE DEEPER, SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE IN THE INVISIBLE REALM BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE PERSONAGES OF SATAN (12:-22:)

(The struggle between the church and world always reflects a deeper struggle between God and Satan)

A. Christ in conflict... the seven personages... the woman and the man-child are persecuted by the dragon and his helpers. (beasts and the harlot) (12:-14:)

B. Christ in calamity... the seven bowls of wrath... (15:-16:)

C. Christ in conquest... the seven judgments... (17:-19:) (The fall of the great harlot and the beasts)

D. Christ in consummation... The final judgment on the dragon followed by the new heaven and earth. (20:-22:)

⁷ Hendriksen, William. More Than Conquerors. Baker, Grand Rapids. 1967. p.23.

IN AWE OF THE GLORIFIED CHRIST

Revelation 1:1-19

It has been 70 years (+/-) since anyone living on earth has seen Jesus, except for whatever experiences Paul had in his gospel calling. Those saints who died were ushered into His presence in paradise (Phil. 1:27; 2nd Cor.5:8). But at His ascension, He took His rightful place on the throne in heaven at the Father's right hand. This Lord's Day "vision" or revelation to John brings great assurance of the living presence of Christ and His continuing involvement with the work of His kingdom here.

"Revelation is the capstone book of Holy Scripture. It completes and crowns the unfolding of the message of God which began to be put into written form at the hand of Moses in the 15th century before the birth of Jesus." (Reubel Shelly, Lamb and His Enemies, p.9)

The term revelation—*apokalypsis* which means "disclosure/revelation", or "uncovering". Thayer identifies the use of the word throughout the N.T. as "a disclosure of truth, instruction concerning divine things before unknown." (i.e. Lk. 2:32; Rom. 16:25; Gal.1:12; 2nd Thess. 1:7)

The first beatitude of Revelation—(1:3) is pronounced on those who READ, HEAR, and HEED the message. (Beatitudes ref. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14). You'll notice there are SEVEN of them... seven is a significant and oft-repeated number in Revelation.

TWO INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS

1. Historical Setting- The age of the latter half of the 1st century was characterized by mandatory emperor worship, anti-Christian political sanctions resulting in arrest, persecution, economic boycott and even death.
2. Use of Apocalyptic literature—utilized by primarily Jewish peoples from 200 B.C. until A.D. 200, patterned after the literary style of Daniel and Ezekiel and Zechariah which was used to make the communication more "vivid and impressive through the use of dramatic figures" (Shelly) and through the imagery, provide some protection for the original recipients from government threats. Some typical features of apocalyptic literature are:
 - a. *Reflect dark times in human history*
 - b. *Personifies good and evil in an epic conflict*
 - c. *Predictions made about the outcome of the struggle*
 - d. *The message communicated through visions*
 - e. *Symbolism is utilized with animals and numbers and colors*
 - f. Usually unidentified authors
 - g. Typically considered "sealed" or meaning undisclosed.
 - i. The Bible's Apocalypse certainly displays the first 5 traits (italics), but not the last two. We know where the message came from, and through whom it was delivered and we know the overall message and meaning.

Shelly summarizes the great value of the book as follows:

1. *The message is centered on Jesus!*
2. *This book sets forth the Christian philosophy of history.*

3. *It underscores the value of trust in God.*

Additionally we should know that it proclaims the ultimate victory of Christ and all Christ's people and emphasizes the necessity of fidelity/faithfulness to the Lordship of Christ under all circumstances and challenges. It is the prophecy of the fulfillment of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:10-12.

The first chapter is more than an introduction. It is a revealing/disclosure of Christ in His majesty in heaven: alive, aware of His church's dilemma, and thoroughly in control of her future.

1- JESUS CHRIST—HIS IDENTITY

- a. The faithful witness—v.5
- b. The firstborn from the dead—v.5
- c. The ruler of all kings—v.5 (His ultimate Lordship and Sovereignty)
- d. The Alpha and Omega—v.8
- e. The Almighty: who is, who was, who is to come—v.8
- f. The living One—v.18 (Was dead and alive forevermore)

2- JESUS CHRIST—HIS APPEARANCE

- a. The son of man—v.13 (See Daniel 7:13-14)
- b. Wearing a full-length robe and a golden sash—v.13
- c. White hair—v.14
- d. His eyes like blazing fire—v.14
- e. His feet like bronze—v.15
- f. His voice like the sound of rushing waters—v.15
- g. Holding 7 stars—v.16
- h. Out of His mouth a sharp double-edged sword—v.16
- i. His face shining in all its brilliance—v.16

3- JESUS CHRIST—HIS AUTHORITY

- a. He holds the keys to death and Hades (abode of the departed) v. 18 (Hades, the unseen. See Luke 16:19-31- He has control over the outcome of those in grave)

4- JESUS CHRIST—HIS PROMISED RETURN—v.7

- a. With the clouds... a fulfillment of the angels' words in Acts 1:9-11
- b. Visible to all, even His crucifiers!
- c. A day of great mourning for the unsaved and a great morning for the saved! ("So shall it be! AMEN!")
- d. His last spoken words to the church are recorded in Re. 22:20—"Yes, I am coming soon!"

Christians are not merely anticipators of a kingdom dimension to come, but currently and presently in the kingdom of Christ. We are ushered into His kingdom by virtue of being freed from our sins by Jesus' own shed blood. (1:6) Christ is pictured as the glorious and ultimate victor over all threats to His kingdom/church. As we will be reassured, He is completely aware of the status of His congregations and will provide great encouragement and motivation to be faithful until the end... and what a glorious end! Do NOT be afraid! (v.17)

CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMID TESTED CONGREGATIONS

Revelation 1:20-3:22

“... However I do know precisely what Jesus said to seven other congregations in Asia Minor or today’s Turkey. The time was roughly 70 years after Jesus went back to heaven to be at the Father’s side. And these were specific, for real churches... I mean congregations with a local address... I’m talking about a zip code identity. Well, not that they had a mail system then like ours... but these were real, live, existing congregations just like ours. They had evangelists or preachers like me and they had elders and deacons like we have. Some may have been house-churches and some may have even had permanent meeting places. Yet they were real congregations.

And Jesus had a message for them... a specific message for each one of them. Make no mistake about it... Jesus Christ, the head of the church, the Lord of Lords is speaking and having written a specific message to a specific congregation... in fact seven of them. (Oh and by the way, not ONE of them exists to this day. They have all failed, fallen and closed their doors... a long, long time ago.)

But here is an often overlooked fact—**JESUS LOVES HIS CHURCH!** Yes, I know He loved the church in that He died on the cross for her... He gave His life-blood for her very existence. That’s past tense... that’s the tense of Ephesians 5:25... “just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” But these chapters in Revelation, written almost 40 years later and happening almost 70 years after the cross convey this message in LOUD SHOUTS! JESUS **LOVES** HIS CHURCH! And it is a present tense fact that has not changed in the 20 subsequent centuries. He loves the church enough to be “walking among her congregations” Revelation 1:12... *“I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a Son of man...”* There’s no doubt that Someone is Jesus! (Those seven lampstands ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES! V. 20) He said He would not abandon His people! He said He wouldn’t leave us orphans. He said *“I will never leave you or forsake you.”* He said, *“I will be with you always even to the end of the age.”* And so here HE is... walking among the churches. He is here because He loves us. He is here because He cares what happens to us. He is here because we are His people! Let it sink in a moment... Jesus didn’t just love us in A.D. 30 when He went to Calvary... HE LOVES US HERE, NOW in 2011! And that love compels Him to address His church!” (T. Peer, Sermon Delivered to Hartford Christian Church, May 15, 2011)

We must remember—Christ is aware of the condition of the church! He is walking among the candlesticks, the lampstands! “I know your deeds...” (2:2; 2:9; 2:13; 2:19; 3:1; 3:8; 3:15) Listen, He knew what was going on in A.D. 96 in these seven congregations and He knows what is going in A.D. 2018 in this congregation! Isn’t that just overwhelming... that He knows?

And nothing has changed in 2018 regarding Jesus’ awareness of the condition(s) and needs of the church on earth and her individual congregations. It is not just that He knows what’s happening in the world and with His spiritual kingdom functioning here... He knows what each individual congregation is facing and their present status and progress or regress. That’s what it means that He is “walking among the churches.

The chart below highlights the summary of Jesus’ communication with these specific congregations:

Congregation	Christ’s Identity	Praise	Reproof	Warning	Promise
Ephesus- The Passionless Church	Holding 7 stars and walking among 7 churches	Hard work, perseverance, won’t tolerate wickedness, Hate deeds of Nicolatians	You have left your first love.	If you don’t repent, I will remove the lampstand.	Overcomers given to eat of the tree of life
Smyrna- The Persecuted Church	The first and the last, who died and came to life again	Know you afflictions and poverty, yet you are rich	NONE	NONE	Overcomers receive crown of life. You will not be hurt by 2 nd death

Pergamos-The Popular Church	Has the sharp, double-edged sword	You are true to My name. Did not renounce faith in Me	False doctrines creeping in. Immorality present. Compromising with idol worship	If no repentance, I will come and fight against you with the sword of my mouth.	Eat of the hidden manna, be given white stone and new name.
Thyatira- The Compromising Church	Words of Son of God, eyes like blazing fire, feet of burnished bronze	Your love, faith, service, and perseverance, doing more than earlier	Tolerate teachings of a prophetess, immorality, compromising with idols	If don't repent, be cast on a bed of suffering	Overcomers given authority over the power nations & the morning star
Sardis-The Dead Church	Holds 7 spirits of God and 7 stars	Only a few who have not compromised.	You are dead and your works incomplete	If don't repent, I will come as a thief at an unknown time	Overcomers will be dressed in white, names not blotted out.
Philadelphia-The Missionary Church	Holy and true, holds the keys of David. What I open & shut cannot be altered	Have kept Jesus' Word and not denied Jesus' name	NONE	NONE	Make you a pillar in God's temple, Write on him name of God, His city and name of Jesus.
Laodicea-The Lukewarm Church	Words of the Amen, Faithful and true, Ruler of God's creation	NONE	Lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor & blind.	Be earnest and repent or I will spew you out of my mouth	Overcomers will sit with Jesus around His throne.

1-EVEN THOUGH JESUS IS IN HEAVEN, THE CHURCH STILL BELONGS TO HIM AND IS ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM!

As Head of the church and Lord of all, he has every prerogative to hold the church accountable.

2- EVERY CONGREGATION HAS THE OPPORTUNITY AND OBLIGATION TO HEAR/HEED THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST!

His Words are stern for 5 of the 7 congregations.

3- THE PROMISES FOR OVERCOMING ARE REAL AND WILL BE FULFILLED BY JESUS!

His Word is trustworthy and His character is unblemished—Christians can count on the Lord to keep every promise, despite the trials and circumstances which are faced here on earth.

4- EVERY PERSON OF EVERY CONGREGATION IS CALLED TO REPENTANCE AND/OR READINESS!

FIVE times, Jesus says the answer is REPENT! REPENT! (2:5; 2:16; 2:21-22; 3:3; 3:19)

With every rebuke comes a warning! The warnings sound like this:

- I will come and remove the congregation from its place (2:5)
- I will come and fight against you (2:16)
- You will suffer intensely (2:22)
- I will come like a thief, unannounced and spoil you. (3:3)
- I will spit you out of my mouth. (3:16)

So the message is:

To 5 of these 7, He says repent or else...

Why? What is all the rebuke and reproof and accusation about? JESUS desires His church to be ready... ready for more intense persecution, ready for a life-death struggle against non-Christian influences of this world, ready for His return! He's appealing to all of us to get ready!

GOD IS ON HIS THRONE

Revelation 4:1-11

We have seen a word-picture of Jesus. We have seen a reality word-picture of various congregations of the church of Christ, both good and bad. And now we see a vivid word-picture of God on His throne. Jesus and His messenger angel ushers the believer into this awe-inspiring, glorious scene of God/Christ in glory.

Burton Coffman wrote, “*The most important thing anyone can know about the universe is that there is a control center.*” And that control center is the throne-room of the Lord. Listen, God has not abdicated His throne to anyone or any power. Satan may be the “prince of this world” (Jn.12:31; 14:30) and the “prince of the power of the air” (cf. Ep.2:2), but Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. There is no higher power than that power of our God! (cf. Mt.28:18).

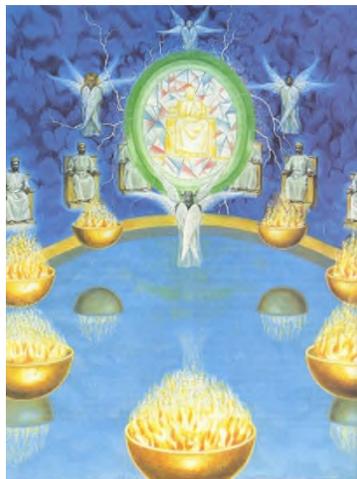
AN OPEN DOOR INTO HEAVEN... (4:1) (Remember any door that Jesus opens, no man can close—see Hebrews 9:24 & 10:19) Jesus said, “I am the door.” (Jn.10:9)

The Jews recognized and spoke of 3 heavens:

- Atmosphere
- Space where the sun, moon, and stars are located (outer space, universe)
- Realm of God, the 3rd heaven, which is used interchangeably with PARADISE. (cf. 2nd Cor. 12: 2) This is the realm above the physical universe/cosmos.

THE FOCUS OF THIS HEAVENLY VISION IS THE CENTRALITY OF THE THRONE OF GOD!

Everything must be seen first in relation to God on His throne! J.W. Roberts stated, “*The central doctrine of the Book of Revelation which is also central to the entire Christian faith is that the eternal God, enthroned in heaven is the central power of the universe.*” The whole premise behind the call to “fear the Lord” as the beginning of knowledge and wisdom is rooted in this truth—God is on His throne! And encircling the throne is the breathtaking emerald rainbow—the symbol of God’s covenant-keeping nature! What great assurance for a persecuted church! God keeps His promises!



Notice the significance of this throne:

- On the throne—the grandeur of the Lord! V. 1-3
- Around the throne—the graciousness of God upon the “elders” (v.4,10)
- Out from the throne—the greatness of God’s Spirit—(7 lamps [torches]) (v.5) with the echoes of thunder and lightning.
- Before the throne—the glorious calmness in God’s presence—a sea of glass and 4 living creatures. (v.6-7) Note: LIKE UNTO...
 - Like a lion
 - Like an ox
 - Like a man
 - Like an eagle
 - What are they doing? (v.8) Continually praising God. Their song of praise is focused on God’s holiness and eternity! It is God’s holiness that is celebrated in Scripture as the superlative quality of God.

THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD IS A PLACE OF PRAISE

ALL of the created beings show reverence before God!

- By giving glory, honor and thanks! (v.9)
- By falling down/kneeling down before Him! (v.10) What do leaders do? They take the lead in demonstrating the heart and the spirit of worship!
- By worshiping Him! (v.10)
- By casting their crowns before Him! (v.10)
- By songs and words of praise! (v.11) HE is the worthy One!

Since the church is the “prelude” to our eternal home, we should begin now our great offering of praise. (cf. He.13:15).

Before we can begin to understand and appreciate what the church is experiencing on earth until His coming, we must see God. We must focus on God. As Paul exclaims, “**He is above all, through all, and in you all.**” (Ep.4:6). Everything exists according to His will.

“What overall impression would this vision have made on John? Words like glory, magnificence, splendor, power and might probably filled his mind. The primary purpose of this vision, for us as well as for him, is to impact each person’s mind and heart with the greatness of God.” (David Roper, Truth For Today Commentary, Revelation, Vol.1, p.207)

God is to receive all the glory!

WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Revelation 5:1-14

Jesus is walking amid His churches which are going through trials and persecutions. They are facing the threat of doctrinal compromises within along with the temptation to indulge in the immorality of the culture. Additionally, the churches are facing recurring seasons of intense persecution for refusing to submit to emperor worship and for standing against Satan's recurring assaults. (See Appendix #1—A Primary Reason For First Century Persecution)

God is on His heavenly throne and is surrounded by angelic creatures poised for worship around the clock. Also He is encircled by those elder/leaders of both covenants who are constantly giving honor to God for His power and eternal existence. They reverberate with words of glory and honor for the One on the throne for His will to create and sustain His creation.

However John's attention becomes fixed on a scroll in the right hand of God. He can tell it contains information on both sides—key information, vital information. It must have to do with God's purpose for mankind and the happenings on earth that Christians are presently enduring. What is the message of the scroll? But apparently the message will remain a mystery, because the scroll is securely sealed with seven seals and held in the grasp of the Almighty. This is all the more certain for John hears the loud shout of an angel posing a pertinent question: ***“Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?”*** It is not just a matter of being able to open the scroll, but also of being WORTHY to take the scroll from the Father, break its seals and open up God's book of destiny for the world.

1- JOHN'S HEARTBREAK BECAUSE NO ONE IS FOUND WORTHY! (v.3-4)

Is it because of the contents of the book? Is it because it is in the hand of God Himself? Is it because only God in His infinite foreknowledge can possibly know what is going to happen as the history of the world unfolds and Christians have to face the unknown at every turn? Maybe all of those reasons.

Yet whichever it is, there is no one, anywhere among the living, the dead, or the angelic realm who is worthy to approach God and open up His book. It was absolutely heartbreaking for John to see that no one was worthy. NO ONE EXCEPT...

2- AN ELDER'S WORDS TO REFOCUS JOHN'S ATTENTION (v.5-7)

There is ONE worthy!

- **The LION**

- From the tribe of Judah—this is One who has experienced humanity in Abraham's family, from Judah's tribe, through David's line.
- This is a critical historical confirmation of Christ's identity, both from prophecy and historical reality. (See Genesis 49:10) ***“The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will obey.”*** (NLT). Consider also Isaiah 11:1
- Rom 1:2-4 ***“...the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the***

Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.” (NIV)

- THE LION HAS OVERCOME! (v.5)
- **The LAMB**
 - His identity since His formal introduction to man—John 1:29-31.
 - Now standing...
 - As if slain... truly He was put to death, but is alive... standing at the very center of God’s holy throne room.
 - Completely filled with God’s Spirit... 7 horns—7 eyes—all powerful and all seeing... He is God Himself.

As this great book of revelation unfolds, the Christian will want to notice all the pictures of Jesus. Every scene where He is present brings comfort and reassurance about the One in whom all victory can be anticipated. His own overcoming the worst vile humanity can dish out, and all that Satan can throw at Him, and even the grave itself, has given HIM the exclusive right to take the scroll and open it up.

3- THE SEVEN-FOLD PRAISE FOR THE LAMB OF GOD! (v.8-14)

- A new song honoring the worthiness of the Lamb. (v.9-10)
 - The basis of His worthiness—His atoning sacrifice secured people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.
 - He made this chosen people to be a kingdom and priests!
- *“In keeping with the number seven (i.e. perfection/completeness) in apocalyptic literature, the Lamb is praise by means of seven expressions.” (R. Shelly. p.48). He is worthy to receive:*
 - Power
 - Riches
 - Wisdom
 - Might
 - Honor
 - Glory
 - Blessing

God is on the Throne, the Lamb (the Lord Jesus) is in the center of the throne and is recognized as the ONE worthy being to receive the book regarding the spiritual conflict that the church is and will experience and the spiritual warfare against principalities and powers, and the ultimate victory assured by God for His people. The stage is set. A continuing series of visions follows, each bearing significance with the number 7 which forms the pattern and cycle for the entire book. Overall, there are 7 scenes with 7 elements or identifying features, each one intended to give assurance and confidence to Christians everywhere in every age that VICTORY IS IN JESUS... ONLY IN JESUS!

The Panoramas of the Church Age

Approaching the Book of Revelation

Before proceeding further into the book, the Christian is obligated to pause and consider the overall approach to reading and applying this great message of victory. Because there are several main approaches to considering Revelation, we would do well to respectfully consider them. Understanding at least an overview of the various main approaches will help us to understand why there are so many different views which come from reading the same book. George C. Stewart summarizes the 5 major methods of studying the book. They are as follows:

Method or Approach	Overall View	How Revelation is Applied
Preterist	This view holds that the book was written ONLY for the 1 st century church.	All historical events described in the book are past, and was for the most part completed by the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. There is no predictive element to it. Ch.20-22 are symbolic of heaven.
Idealist (spiritual)	This view denies that Ch 4-19 are in any way historical, rather symbolic of the eternal conflict between good and evil.	Ch 1-3 represent historical churches and Ch 20-22 are symbolic of victory of good's triumph over evil.
Historicist	This view takes the book as symbolic of the events of the church age presented CHRONOLOGICALLY from the 1 st century until Christ's return.	Ch 1-3 represent historic, specific churches and Ch 20-22 is the final state of all, once Christ returns.
Futurist	This view holds that the 1 st three chapters are letters to 1 st century congregations. Ch 4-22 are all yet future.	Ch 4-19 are seen as a future tribulation, an apostate church, the antichrist and the 2 nd coming. Ch 20-22 represent a literal millennial (1,000) year period of an earthly kingdom, the judgment and then the eternal state.
Cyclical	This view sees the book as a series of 7 cycles, presented information about the church age depicting various aspects of the conflicts faced by Christians and the Christian church, but with the ultimate victory secured by Christ.	The book unfolds the happenings of the church age in panoramic pictures or scenes of the church through the centuries engaged in the battle of truth. Ultimately, the Sovereign Lord brings judgment on all those who oppose the gospel and believers and persecuted church becomes the victorious, secure, and celebrating people of God.

Given the apparent fact that “seven” is significant to God and the revealing of the mystery of the ages, this study approaches the book from the perspective of the book's contents being

unfolded through seven panoramic pictures of various events pertaining to the age from the first coming of Christ to His second coming. It is suggested that the book provides a series of SEVEN scenes which tell the story of the church of Jesus in conflict with a very devil-dominated world, where evil's assaults against the people of faith intensifies more and more the nearer we get to the return of our Lord. Because this view or perspective describes essentially the same age or era from seven different vantage points, one would expect to see the same major events described from various perspectives and highlighting various details which the previous picture did not include. This view of approaching the book, not chronologically, but with overlapping scenes offers the following divisions: (See also Charts—Appendix #2 &3)

- 1- **The SEVEN churches**-(2:-3:) Christ is walking amidst HIS congregations and knows what they are experiencing and how they are doing in the conflict.
- 2- **The SEVEN seals**-(6:-10:) The church suffers through various trials and persecution from the 1st coming of Jesus until the judgment. Those who die for the faith and in the faith are under God's careful and secure protection.
- 3- **The SEVEN trumpets**- (8:-11:)The church is called to faithful witness under extreme trials while warnings are woe are sounded out for the wicked.
- 4- **The SEVEN personages**- (12:-14:) During the age, seven key figures surface who are responsible for the various aspects of the status of the church.
- 5- **The SEVEN bowls of wrath**- (15:-16:) Great outpouring of God's righteous indignation and suffering on the earth and for the unrepentant opposition to God.
- 6- **The SEVEN judgment announcements**- (17:-19:) God announces certain and sure doom for all those who stand against Christ, His gospel, and His church. And God's people respond with a great chorus of Hallelujahs!
- 7- **The SEVEN new realities** or end of the age events-(20:-22:) All the old and corrupt is replaced with God's new heavens and new earth and the glories of God's eternity is finally realized.

Some interesting support for viewing the book in this overlapping panoramic approach:

- 1- The last 6 of the 7 cycles all deal with things to come and with a judgment. (cf. 6:12-17, 11:15-19, 14:14-20, 16:17-21, 19:11ff, 20:10ff)
- 2- Different scenes have the same time period mentioned in them. (cf. 7 trumpets has 42 months-11:2 and the 7 personages has 1,260 days and times, time, and ½ time. 12:6,14)
- 3- Scenes 2 and 3 (Seals and Trumpets) have a similar interlude between the 6th and 7th element of the vision, portraying the security and care of the church.
- 4- Scenes 3 and 5 show an overlap because they deal with the same location—(earth, sea, rivers and fountains, sun, earth, Euphrates, heaven in 8:7-11:19 and 16:2-16:17)
- 5- THE great war is mentioned in 16:14, 19:19, and 20:8 (the 7 bowls, judgments and new realities)
- 6- The 7 Personages and 7 New Realities both begin with the fall and binding (limiting) of Satan. (12:7-9 and 20:1-3). His henchmen, the 2 beasts and great harlot rise, oppose the church and then fall in God's judgment.
- 7- The 144,000 is mentioned in the 7 seals and the 7 personages. (7:4-8 and 14:3)

Approaching a reading of the book with this panoramic cycle view helps the reader avoid the difficulty in resolving multiple end of the age battles, multiple returns of Christ, and multiple judgments. From various vantage points, God is assuring the Christian that no matter how severe the opposition, the ultimate victory will be for the OVERCOMERS!

The OPENING of the SEVEN SEALS

Revelation 6:1-8:1

For the people of Christ in the latter part of the first century, they have been eyewitnesses to catastrophe and calamity already... but not to the degree that is to follow. The conflict between the church (people of Christ) and the world (secular people influenced by the evil one) shall intensify more and more as time passes. These first century Christians have seen, or at least heard of the fall of Jerusalem and the sacred temple. They know Jesus' words were proven true. Now Jesus is speaking again... about what more is going to happen in the unfolding of the world's history.

In this second "cycle" of sevens (first was the 7 churches) we can view the scene of Jesus the Lamb unrolling the scroll He has received from the hand of the Father and one by one breaking open the seals. This period of time takes the viewer from the place of the beginning of the gospel ministry on the earth up until a breath-taking silence just before judgment falls. What are some of the things that the church can expect? What is the status of those who have already died FOR the faith? Where are they? Are they OK? Is God aware of their plight? What about the church still on earth until He comes? The Seven Seals gives us a glimpse of what can be expected during the church age.

SEAL #1—THE RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE (6:1-2)

The reader may be interested to compare this white horse and rider with the one pictured in 19:11-6. The latter is unmistakably the Lord Jesus Christ at His return near the end of time as He comes to mete out final judgment against the beast and false prophet and great harlot.

With this series BEGINNING with the rider on the white horse, with his bow and bent on conquering, those who see this as another picture of Christ have suggested that this depicts more His first coming. He comes so that the power of His gospel can be unleashed on the earth and the evil forces conquered, not politically, nor ultimately, but spiritually as each man, woman and young person is converted to Christ. Viewed in this light, the rider on the white horse is Jesus from the time of His first coming to launch the age of the gospel which will stand until His return and ultimate defeat of Satan and his henchmen.

(NOTE—Some scholars see few similarities between this rider on the white horse and the unmistakable picture of Jesus in chapter 19. In fact some have said that the only comparable element is that they pictured on a white horse. [A crown, but No diadems, no vesture dipped in blood, no visible name—Word of God, no army of heaven following, no sword from His mouth, no King of Kings and Lord of Lords on His thigh as in chapter 19.] So some scholars propose that this scene in 6:1-2 is not Jesus, but the rise of military leaders who again and again come to power in various nations of the world, bent on domination and full of aggression. It is certainly characteristic of the church age for one military regime after another to rise to power and be determined to conquer, and Christians the world over can get caught up and afflicted by the outcomes of such aggression.)

So whether the reader takes this to be Jesus depicted at His first coming, or other conquering world-leaders, the scene is one which opens with one riding into view on a white horse with an aim of world-conquest.

SEAL #2—THE RIDER ON THE RED HORSE (6:3-4)

This is the picture of war... conflict is constant. From the 1st coming of Jesus until this very day, there has been only a very few years in world history, where war has not been occurring somewhere on the planet. People often pray for world peace, but the announcement of this rider and his entry indicates that during the era of the church age, war somewhere, by

someone is going to be the given, the expected, the typical. And Christians will definitely be affected by the outcomes of those conflicts.

SEAL #3—THE RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE—6:5-6

One of the common outcomes of war on earth is the result of famine. Fighting nations are called to focus resources on the war effort. Areas near battlegrounds destroyed during attacks and fighting, eliminating access to normal life necessities. Economic pressures mount up and there are usually shortages of what is needed for daily sustenance. Commodities become precious, expensive, and hard to come by.

SEAL #4—THE RIDER ON THE PALE HORSE—6:7-8

Here is the final outcome of aggression, war, famine and the suffering which befalls those victimized by the perils of life on planet earth—the grave is an open mouth, never satisfied and always ready for more human beings to suffer the plight. Death comes from war, famine, disease, and even the disasters of nature and the wild. The Bible says... *“It is appointed to man once to die...”* (He.9:27) and so it is. But in the wake of war torn countries, the death toll is so much higher, both during the wartime itself, but also in the wake of it from the diseases and imbalance of resources which ensue.

SEAL #5—THE SOULS UNDER THE ALTAR—6:9-11

But what about Christians who have perished from all the atrocities of the earth? What has become of our fallen brothers and sisters who have died as a result of all the tragedy of earth? Here’s the picture of hope. The SOULS (disembodied spirits) of those who have died FOR the faith and IN the faith are seen as securely kept under the altar. R. Shelley says they do not cry out for personal revenge but for the justice of God to be served in order to vindicate His cause, His truth, His church, and His Son. Notice they are robed in white—God’s picture of pure goodness and sainthood. And they were given a message of assurance—“Just wait... there will be others, but just wait.” Notice during the wait, they are told to rest! They can rest because their race is run, their place is secure and God is fully in control.

SEAL #6—CATASTROPHIC EVENTS PRECEED THE END—6:12-17

A collapse begins of catastrophic proportions and one would think the unsaved would rush to the church in repentance and humility. No so—they have a sense of what is about to happen, but instead of turning to the Lord in repentance, they would rather cower in a cave and hope to be buried alive than to face the wrath of the Lamb. This is the picture of sin’s hardness in its extreme measure. What a humbling question? “Who is able to stand?” ONLY THE OVERCOMERS!

THE INTERLUDE—7:1-17

Before the opening of the 7th seal, is a beautiful scene of God’s people SEALED with the seal of God on their foreheads. God’s spiritual Israel still anxiously awaiting in faith the return of the Lord. The 144,000 are those of the redeemed still on earth. Then the scene changes to paradise and the vast, innumerable crowd of faithful departed saints who are praising the Lamb and rejoicing in the victory over the assault they experienced in the great tribulation. So whether still in fray on earth or in the company of the redeemed before the Lord, God’s promises hold firm.

SEAL #7—A SILENCE IN HEAVEN—8:1

Just before it all ends, all of heaven comes to this point of breathtaking silence. They know that it is time. God is going to wrap it all up. God’s judgment hammer is about to fall—God’s people are anxiously awaiting, and the dead in Christ just know that the end is about to come. ALL of glory freezes in silence to hear and see God’s next act.

The SOUNDING OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Revelation 8:2-11:19

When the 7th seal was opened, there was a short period of silence in heaven... it was the calm before the storm. Each successive vision shows more and more intensity. The prayers of the saints are offered up before the Lord and the seven trumpets show that God hears and responds to the prayers of the saints for God to act against godlessness of this world.

The trumpets were given to seven angels and one by one they sound out a blast of warning from God. Calamity is coming, God's judgment is going to fall. Mankind needs to repent or fall under the coming wrath of the Lamb.

Revelation 9:20-21 are the key verses of this whole section. One of the reasons God allows/sends catastrophe is for mankind to be humbled and hopefully prompt him to repentance. This section underscores the hardheartedness of most men and more so, the closer we get to the return of the Lord. Man is humbled by nothing. His course is set on fulfilling his depraved desires and living a life of lawlessness... particularly as it pertains to God's law. Consider just this short list of the indicators of sinfulness:

- Putting faith in the work of their hands.
- Worshipping demons
- Worshipping idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood.
- Murder
- Practicing magic arts
- Indulging in sexual immorality
- Practice thievery.

While we realize we are no longer under "the law", it is apparent that God has not changed His mind about the essence and foundational elements of His law... Old or New Testament.

Often, it takes a disaster or crisis to humble and soften hearts and recognize a need for God. The amazing truth of the gospel age, as long as it lasts is that God wants men to repent and will spare no effort in bringing men to repentance. God cannot be charged with being unfair or unjust or not giving a fair chance, or not warning men of their sin problem. George Eldon Ladd said, "God's judgments [earth's calamities] were designed to drive men to their knees by harsh experiences while time for a decision remains... before it is too late."

The Sounding of the Trumpets

Trumpet #1—(8:7) Natural calamity of hail and fire and death which affects the vegetation of the earth.

Trumpet #2—(8:8-9) Something "like" a mountain thrown into the sea and a portion of all that is in the sea is affected.

Trumpet #3—(8:10-11) A burning, falling star (meteor shower, comet?) comes from the heavens and affects the fresh water on the planet to where it becomes bitter to the taste.

Trumpet #4—(8:12-13) Calamity strikes a portion of the light-bearers, and it impacts the earth with significant periods of darkness, which would include light, heat, and some energy sources.

These first four TRUMPETS sound out warnings that affect the normal function of life on the planet. The environment is significantly, but not wholly effected. The damage and catastrophe is enough that it should make men fear, and think, and turn to God.

Now in the remaining trumpets, more direct calamity strikes the people of earth.

Trumpet #5—(9:1-11) Smokes erupts from the bottomless pit. A key is given by God... He is sovereign even over the powers of hell. This “fallen star” (past tense) is seen by many as a reference to the fall of Satan or Lucifer as in Isaiah 14:12. The smoke that ascends is a picture of the evil, demonic, Satanic terrors unleashed on the earth. Under God’s sovereign control, this eruption from the bottomless pit strikes the people of the earth.

- The “locusts” plague strikes the unsaved (those who do not have God’s seal). This may indicate the pervasiveness of the spread of evil on unredeemed mankind. They don’t kill, only torment.
- Even the longing for physical death provides no relief from the anguish of the torment.
- The description of the “king” over them (9:11), the angel of the abyss is DESTROYER! All this is referred to as the first of 3 woes.

Trumpet #6— (9:13ff) A voice from the altar before God calls for the release of four angels in waiting to bring additional calamity on a substantial number of mankind. They are pictured as horses and riders to wreak death and destruction in their wake.

STILL NO REPENTANCE—Hardhearted man refuses to repent and turn to God, even with devastating crisis befalling the earth, first one thing and then another.

Another short interlude—

- First an angel with a little open scroll—and the seven thunders shouted out, but the message of the seven thunders was sealed and not to be written down. (10:1-4)
 - This angel lifts his right hand and swears by the Lord Himself that the time for the end is now imminent. When the seventh trumpet sounds, the mystery of God will be accomplished. (10:5-7)
 - John is instructed to take the little scroll and ingest it. It will first taste sweet, but will turn sour. The message is given to John... This message is sweet at first for the Christians, but you’ve got to keep preaching and prophesying in hopes that some will come to repentance. (10:9-11) Consider a similar event with Ezekiel in 2:8-3:3.
- Secondly the two witnesses—they bear the message of God and have been empowered to deliver that message faithfully. Truth has always been established at the mouth of two or more witnesses. Those who bear the message of God and His gospel to the lost world do so faithfully. When they have completed delivering the message, the BEAST from the abyss will attack, overpower and kill them. It appears the devil wins after all. But wait, God will have the last word. The voice of the church will come under severe assault, and it will seem that the evil one has succeeded in silencing it. But while the church will be sorely persecuted and Christians even put to death, the devil CANNOT stamp the church out of existence. The earth will gloat over their demise and the silencing of their voice. After just a few days, God raises them up again and they are finally called home. With this event comes a severe earthquake and thousands were killed. The survivors give glory to God... finally there are some, a few who turn to the Lord before it’s too late. This is the second woe.

Trumpet #7— (11:15-19) With the sounding of the 7th trumpet, voices erupt from heaven announcing the final state of God’s kingdom is now to be realized. The elders are pictured again in worship. And it is clear... the time has come for judging mankind and for rewarding the faithful servants of God. No mistake here... when the hour comes... all unrepentant sinners are judged under God’s wrath and all of God’s redeemed are rewarded in His presence.

The Seven Personages

Revelation 12:1-14:20

Here is the middle of the book, John is given a vision of a scene to disclose who the primary “players” are in this drama. The reader may wonder why this was not placed up front in the beginning of the revelation. One explanation is that up to this point, most of the material is straightforward and does not deal with “mystery personages” like the 2nd half of the book will have.

The first portion of the book focuses on the struggle between Christians and this fallen world. A significant portion of the second half deals with the “invisible” battle that rages behind the scenes with “principalities and powers of darkness and forces of evil” which stand opposed to the gospel and the kingdom of God. (See Ephesians 6:12 and 2nd Corinthians 10:3-6). Also, it is important to note that the ultimate battle is not between Christians and people who oppose us; rather the real fight is between the Lamb and His enemies. There has been a fierce spiritual battle at the above/below earth dimension since Lucifer rebelled against God in the pre-creation order. That battle continues on and will not be finally settled until the return of Christ and His final acts of judgment to cast the devil and his demonic henchmen into hell and seal him forever in the lake of fire.

The revelator is going to see unfolded in this multiple scene drama more and more of the war going on beyond the realm of humanity on planet earth. This is not to say that humans are not engaged or not involved, but there is more to battle of the ages than meets the eye.

The Seven Personages Include:

1. **The Woman Who Gives Birth**—(12:1-2, 6,14) While the initial reading may prompt the reader to think of the Virgin Mary, who truly did deliver the Christ-child into humanity, she may be the embodiment of the people of God—actually Israel or the descendants of Abraham in the Old Testament and his spiritual descendants (i.e. Christians) in the New Covenant era. The scene is more than just of a woman, but a woman with a crown of 12 stars on her head, maybe her depiction of representing God’s chosen people, pregnant Judaism so to speak. (Bringing the Messiah into the world was indeed the primary task of the family of Israel and the reason for their preservation through the ages.) It is hard to deny the imagery of God’s protection upon “the woman”, whether in the preservation of the O.T. nation or Mary herself, before and immediately after Jesus was delivered. Yet note the reference to “the rest of her offspring”, which are clearly the Christians of this age. So the chosen people obviously shifts from faithful Israel of the O.T. era to spiritual Israel of the N.T. era.
2. **The Great Red Dragon**—(12:3-4, 9ff) There is no question that this is Satan, the devil himself. He was determined to lead an all-out assault in ridding the universe of God’s Christ. And through Herod and others, he was just waiting for the chance, since he had failed in destroying and eliminating the line of the Messiah through the Old Testament era.
 - a. Notice, he swept away from heaven 1/3 of the stars—maybe a reference to the rebellion he led in trying to usurp the throne of God in heaven.
 - b. His identity is unmistakably given in verse 12:9
 - c. Consider that he “leads the whole world astray” (v. 9), he has been cast down to the earth (v.9) and he is “the accuser of the brethren.” (v. 10)

3. **The Male-child, the Son**—(12:5, 14:1) This is the Messiah, the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God. He is the target of the evil one. He has held, and now holds the envied position that Satan wished to have... the seat on the throne.
4. **Michael and his army of angels**—(12:7) Michael is one of the arch-angels, who led the battle against Lucifer. These angels of honor remained true to the Lord and served faithfully at God's bidding.
5. **Rest of the Woman's Children**—(12:17, 14:1) These are clearly Christians who remain true to the gospel and God's purpose. They are referred to as the 144,000 who bear God's name on their foreheads. They are NOT fleshly Jews, for "they sing the new song of the redeemed". Whether these are Jews who have become Christians OR they represent the spiritual Israel, true Israel is for the reader to choose. It is clear though that they are Christians... people who have been redeemed by the power of the blood of the Lamb.
6. **The Beast from the Sea**—(13:1-10) This is a blasphemer (13:6) against God. He/this is a leader in the assault against the church. (13:7). The whole world will be swayed to follow the path of the sea-beast—all except CHRISTIANS whose names are written in the book of life. So Christians are called to endure and be faithful, even unto to death. It is believed by many that this "beast" represents all the pagan and anti-God political powers from Rome to the present who lead the way in opposing Christianity.
7. **The Beast from the Land**—(13:11-18). This 2nd beast derives its power and influence from the devil but utilizes deceit as his major tool. He counterfeits supernatural power which leads many people away from true faith. He promotes idol (substitute) worship of anything other than the Lord Himself. He promotes a message of godlessness and faithlessness through false messages. He is the embodiment of the false prophet. Notice he is the one who advocates the mark on his followers... to substantiate their loyalties. This is the mark of the beast—666. It is the number of unregenerate and apostasizing man. Faithful Christians do NOT receive this mark, but may suffer directly because of their faithful stand for Christ.

At the end of this scene, there are THREE angelic announcements made to prepare the way for the final part of the drama—the imminent and final judgment of God on the wicked. It is promised first upon Babylon (the Christian's code-word for Rome) and ultimately all who follow and fall for Satan's wicked schemes.

In Chapter 14, there is the picture from these angels of what Christians are to be doing in light of the invisible battle in the realms including and beyond earth. They are to worship (14:6-7), to preach judgment for unrepentant sin (14:8-9), and live holy lives (14:9-12). These angelic announcements actually provide a comprehensive summation of what living as a faithful Christian must include until Jesus comes in judgment (14:14-20), treading out the winepress of the wrath of God against the dragon and his allies, whether invisible or on earth.

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 15:1-16:21

For those who suggest or even believe that God is no longer a God of wrath are not seeing the whole picture. The emphasis today of course is that God is a God of grace and love. Indeed He is, without doubt. However, His character qualities of grace and love DO NOT CANCEL or ELIMINATE His character qualities of truth and justice. God's truth and justice and holiness DEMAND the outpouring of His wrath. God cannot be just and holy and just wink at all manner of sin.

Consider the cross... the grace/love of God are satisfied in the offering of Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb for sinners. And the holiness and justice of God are satisfied in the offering of Jesus as He experienced separation, humiliation, brutal beatings and inhumane execution by crucifixion. The cross demonstrates that God's love and God's justice are both still operative in His dealing with man and sin. For God to get to the end of history and not call man to account and punish unrepentant sin and sinners would make a mockery of the entire Jesus event and be a complete denial of justice.

The New Testament speaks of the wrath of God as still being an actual reality of the person of God in His dealing with sin and sinners. Consider:

1. John 3:36
2. Romans 1:18
3. Romans 2:5-6
4. Romans 5:9
5. Ephesians 5:6
6. 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-10
7. Hebrews 10:26-31

When God commissions His angels to take up these "golden bowls of wrath", this provides a scene to show how thorough and how comprehensive the outpouring of God's wrath will be. The overcomers will stand beside the sea of glass and they sing out a great song of praise. Notice they sing... "just and true are Your ways." (v.3) and His acts are righteous. (v.4). It is right for God to be praised for His marvelous works of grace and mercy and His marvelous works of judgment upon evil and sin and the devil and his henchmen (the beast and the false prophet).

Many wonder how God can pour out His wrath on evil from a container of gold? Reubel Shelly notes, "*God's wrath is as pure as His love. He does not strike out capriciously. He does not mete out his anger as we impetuous humans do. He executes wrath only after he has given warnings, pleaded with sinful people to repent and discerned that further efforts to reach them are hopeless.*" (The Lamb and His Enemies, p. 95)

So now we come to the scene where God's bowls of wrath are poured out one by one. **Bowl #1—The Boils.** This outpouring of wrath is a painful experience of ugly sores on those loyal to the cause of the beast. (Remember the beast is the personage representing all anti-Christian political/governmental movements.) It reminds the reader/viewer of the plague of boils poured out on Egypt of old. (cf. Ex. 9:10ff)

Bowl #2—The Sea to Blood. Reminiscent of the Nile turning to blood during the time prior to the Exodus.

Bowl #3—The Fresh Waters to Blood. Just as pagan, non-Christian governmental powers persecute Christians to the death in their attempt to silence their witness and eliminate the church from existence, in the end God turns the tide on them.

Notice the voice of the angels echoes the justice of these acts of wrath because those anti-Christian forces and powers, by the prompting of the devil has spilled the blood of the martyrs for generations. The souls under the altar echo their agreement with God's holy acts. (16:5-7)

Bowl #4—The Plague of the Sun. Scorching heat that became unbearable. But just to show the justice of God, even at this late stage, unrepentant man persists in his godlessness and wickedness. He still refuses repentance... he still refuses to turn to God. The outpouring of God's wrath is just.

Bowl #5—The Plague of Darkness. This is primarily targeted toward the throne of the beast and his kingdom. From godless Rome to the end, those anti-Christian powers of the world who have refused God's salvation now experience the reality of what is really a "place without God"—a place of utter darkness. Notice they curse God and refuse still to repent.

Bowl #6—Preparation for the final outpouring of wrath. A river which was truly a life source from the beginning gives way to a final onslaught of the false prophets. Described in this grotesque picture are evil spirits spewing from the mouth of the false prophet (anti-Christian, anti-gospel religious movements). Deception is the key weapon of the false prophet. (The battle of the ages is always a battle for truth.) The final showdown is now immanent. The place is referred to as a Har-Megiddo, a famous battlefield of the O.T. Here Sisera was defeated by Deborah and Balak ((Jdg.5) and Ahaziah was defeated by Jehu (2nd Ki. 9:27) and Josiah's untimely death in the battle against Pharaoh Necho. (2nd Ki. 23:29). Through the rest of the O.T. era, this was a place of national grief. What a fitting description or metaphor of the place where God will finally execute His own righteous retribution on the powers of evil.

Bowl #7—The ULTIMATE outpouring of judgment. The execution of God's wrath comes like the ultimate earthquake, hurricane, tornado, hailstorm all rolled into one. It is because "God remembers." (See 16:19) All the atrocities of evil against the church and Christians are fresh and clear in God's mind. "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord.*" And the curses against God continue. The fall of Rome was just a preview of what will become of all the ungodly. The whole world was plunged into the "Dark Ages" when this whole culture and civilization fell. But that will all be minor in comparison to God's last acts of judgment upon evil.

WHEN WILL ALL THIS TAKE PLACE? Many have undertaken a quest to figure out a code to calculate exactly when God's judgment will come. Please read Jesus' own words in 16:15! "*Behold I come quickly.*" The blessing/beatitude is for those who are ready and watching. This has always been Jesus' message. Watch and be ready. The next scene will show more of the details of the fall and punishment of all those powers, governments, false messengers, and anti-Christian forces when God comes in judgment and calls the world to account.

SEVEN JUDGMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Revelation 17:-19:

This section of Revelation is like a TV replay of a football game. When it is live, the camera pans the whole field to give the viewer a feel of the whole field of play. But once the play develops, then the scene is replayed with more precise camera angles to get right at the heart of the play... a close up of the quarterback and his pass as he narrowly escapes getting sacked. And then a close up of the wide receiver racing down the middle of the field on a crossing pattern to elude all the defenders and even a close up of his fantastic leap to secure the ball just as he dives for the end zone. Now the live play showed all of that, but you couldn't see the actual details of what was going on to make the play actually happen. So it is in this section.

We have seen God's bowls of wrath poured out on the devil, the beast and the false prophet—that anti-Christian political power and that anti-gospel deceiver who works tirelessly to keep people away from the real truth and even deceive the elect if possible. We know from the revealed message so far the final outcome of evil and all who side with evil. But before we are lifted by those final scenes of saints in glory, we get a close-up of the fall of those who have taken the side of the old dragon.

Babylon the great... this is the subject and target of God's judgment, so make no mistake about the intent of this message. Babylon is the Christian's codeword for Rome. For this time in world history, since before the coming of Jesus, during His lifetime, and for a couple hundred years after, Rome has been the beast of sea pictured in chapter 13. This world empire executed the death sentence on Jesus, the Son of God. And for a short time, Rome tolerated the Christian movement as it swept across the empire from city to city. In just a few decades the church grew from being what was perceived as just another Jewish sect to the universal, world-wide body of Christ for all people. Rome saw this as a serious threat. From city to city, this anti-Christian world power, threatened by the growing presence of the church of God, started implementing persecution of Christians. And they had the perfect excuse to do so. Roman emperors started proclaiming themselves as god and demanded worshipful allegiance. Taxation became an act of worship and as taxes were collected and paid, people had to confess, "Caesar is Lord." And of course Christians are loyal and pledge allegiance to one Lord—the Lord Jesus Christ. So Christians were given one chance usually to recant the faith and pledge allegiance and confession of Caesar as their Lord or they were imprisoned or put to death, or used for sport in the Roman Coliseum, since the Roman culture had become so deprave as to view violence for entertainment—the more violent, the more the bloodthirsty mob cheered. So Christians became the expendable victims of lions and gladiators. Their bloody deaths became a daily spectacle for the mobs who were driven by sexual immorality, pagan god worship, illicit drugs/alcohol abuse and violence. Rome became the epitome of all future anti-Christian political powers of the world.

[READ 17:1-6]

This brutal harlot/prostitute becomes the very antithesis and contrast of the beautiful bride of Christ. She is called "Babylon" (17:5, 16:19). She is "drunken with the blood of the saints (17:6), and she is "the great city, which reigns over the kings of the world. (17:18). Here the beast is worshipped. And all the other world-rulers have bedded with her, because she is the source of economic, military, cultural, and religious alliances. (Shelly-*Lamb and His Enemies*, p.102)

This great city is represented with great wealth and splendor, but she is perpetually drunk on the blood of the martyrs. The seven heads (17:7-11) "represent the seven mountains on which

Rome was built and the seven kings of the empire.” (Shelly) All these kings are actually conquered rulers who now offer forced allegiance to Rome. Just as they have participated in the harlot’s obsessive pursuits, so they will also experience the harlot’s fateful judgment from God. They have joined the great prostitute in declaring war against the Lamb... but it must be stated here again... **“THE LAMB WILL OVERCOME THEM BECAUSE HE IS LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS—AND WITH HIM WILL BE HIS CALLED, CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS!”** (17:14) Victory is in Jesus, even though at times through history, it seems the non-Christian powers will have their way in the world.

The Seven Judgment Announcements:

Announcement #1—17:1-13 Babylon the Great will surely fall! And all who side or form alliances with pagan and anti-Christian powers will fall.

Announcement #2—17:14-18—The Lamb of God will ultimately be victorious over all the faces and representations of evil.

Announcement #3—The certain fall of Babylon (Rome) and ALL pagan empires of every age!

NOTE—A reminder for the people of God of maintain spiritual integrity and separation. (18:4-5)

Announcement #4—A Great Millstone picture of judgment on all who have indulged in her evils. (18:21-24) This pictures what will happen to all the unsaved nations and men who take their side AGAINST the Lamb of God.

Announcement #5—THE SON OF MAN coming in judgment on evil. (19:1-16) Jesus, the Word of God, the Faithful and True executes judgment with a sharp sword from His mouth. (v.11-16) Heaven’s great multitude shouts the victory refrain. (NOTE-Here is the fourfold Hallelujah—God’s people rejoicing in victory.) His coming is certain! His power is unsurpassed. His judgments are true and just.

Announcement #6—The devastation and carnage that remains when judgment comes on evil. (19:17-19) In the wake of God’s judgment, all that is left is the picture of death and defeat on a battlefield where the losers lie.

Announcement #7—The pronouncement of judgment on the beast and false prophet who are cast into hell. This will be the same outcome for the one they have pledged their allegiance to... the old dragon/devil himself, which we see in 20:10. He will not escape... Jesus will just deal with him last as His exclamation mark of judgment!

This picture of the certain fall of the great harlot will be the same outcome for all political regimes and powers which take a stand against the church of Jesus. The deception of the false prophet which fuels various governments’ incorrect conclusions about the nature of the Christian’s faith and gospel poisons the minds and distort their thinking leading to false conclusions so governments will take aim at the church and attempt to rid the world of the church’s presence. While it seems the plot will work, the fall of Rome is just a lesson to all nations and their leaders... if they persist to holding a position against God’s people, certain and devastating elimination will come at the hand of the Lamb. Again and again, we have witnessed this through history. How many more nations will rise and fall before His coming wraps up all of this world’s existence?

The picture, whether from the panoramic view or the close up is the same. It’s a matter of glory or defeat, blessing or curse, heaven or hell. And the absolute, unquestioned victor is Jesus Christ, and His called, chose and faithful will be with Him in triumph!

THE MILLENNIUM AND ULTIMATE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL

Our GOD Reigns

Revelation 20:

Probably no section of Scripture related to eschatology has raised more questions, discussions, and debate than this passage. The most tragic aspect about it all is that often the main point of the passage gets lost in the maze of theories and ideas about the thousand year reign. So let's consider the MAIN POINT first!

SATAN IS ULTIMATELY AND FINALLY DEFEATED AND CAST INTO HELL FOR ETERNITY! (v.7-10) At the end of the millennium, and after completely losing his last all-out assault on God's people, since he failed in assuming God's own throne, SATAN (dragon, devil, accuser, the deceiver) is thrown into the lake of fire where along with the beast and false prophet, who have done his bidding for centuries, they together are "tormented day and night forever and ever." From his rebellion and expulsion from heaven with a sound defeat (12:7-9) to his "curse by God" in the garden (Gen. 3:14-15), to his rejection by Jesus in the desert (Matt.4:1-11), to his being bound by Jesus who came in the power of His kingdom (Matt. 12:22-28) and that crushing blow by the resurrection of Christ from the grave (Heb.2:14-15), and the Holy Spirit enabled resistance by Christians (Jam.4:7; 1st Pet.5:8), Satan now is dealt the ultimate and final condemnation by being cast into hell, that place especially prepared for him and his angels. (Matt.25:41). He has been the great opponent of all that is good, Godly and holy since the beginning. He has fueled rebellions, caused division in the church, lured Christians back into sin, tried to eliminate the Bible, distorted the gospel, and wreaked havoc among all that is holy. But now, finally, he is done and he is gone! If you miss this in chapter 20, you've missed the most important message! The arch-enemy of Jesus and the church is forever suffering torment at the hand of God, never again able to plague Christians with his poisonous evil.

Now 20:1-6!

The primary differences in views about the millennium are related to whether or not the term is to be taken literally as a literal 1,000 years in history or symbolic as to a relatively long, but indefinite period of time when compared to the "little season" (brief period of time) that comes at the end of the period. Here is a short summary of the various views related to the millennium: (See also Charts in Appendix #4,5,6)

1. **Premillennial**- The belief that the millennium is a literal 1,000 year period to occur yet in the future here on earth, focused in Jerusalem and that Jesus will return BEFORE (pre) this 1,000 year period. The church age is said to close with a Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon and the first 2nd coming of Jesus which will initiate the millennial reign of Jesus primarily with the national Jews from a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.
2. **Amillennial**- The belief that this 1,000 year period is to be taken symbolically in the book of Revelation like other numbers and figures in the book and is a period representing Christ's spiritual reign in His present universal kingdom, the church. The word amillennial (specifically meaning "no millennium" is that there is no literal 1,000 year period, but a long indefinite period of time during which Christ is ruling over HIS kingdom, His redeemed body.
3. **Postmillennial**- The belief that Jesus will return AFTER (post) millennium, a figurative time in which most of the world submits to Jesus and peace and justice reign under the

principle of spiritual goodness. The actual millennium is said to begin at some indefinite point in time after the world gets better and better because of the spread of the gospel.

4. **End-millennial**- The belief that the 1,000 years is figurative and Satan's work is carried on by the beast and false prophet while he is bound and this age refers only to the latter period of the church age when things continually worsen for the church in the last phase of its existence before the ultimate end time events. This is similar to the post-millennial view except there is no expectation for things to get better and better; rather worse and worse for the church until the end.

Points to ponder:

- Millennium/millennial is from the Latin language and neither word is in the Bible. The language of the N.T. is Greek and the words are chilia (=thousand) -etee (=years).
- Nothing is said about Jerusalem or the Jews or the temple in this passage.
- Those reigning with Jesus are obviously and clearly identified as ones martyred and ones who have not taken part in the regime of the beast. (These are the faithful departed Christians)
- Those reigning with Christ for this period are those who are priests of God and of Christ. (cf. 1st Pet.2:9-10 and Rev.1:5b-6)
- The restriction on the devil during this period as not being able to “deceive the nations” is so that the gospel may be taken to “every tribe and nation on earth” (cf. Matt. 28:18-20, Col. 1:23b, Rev. 7:9-10). It is during this “binding/restriction” that the gospel has its greatest impact in the Gentile nations.
- The loosing of Satan for the little season. This period is brief in comparison with the 1,000 year period. This perfectly parallels what Paul said happens at the end of the age with the appearance of the “man of lawlessness”... (2nd Thess. 2:1-12) After the fullness of the Gentiles is accomplished (Rom.11:25) , the final onslaught by the devil is witnessed and then the end comes.
- It may be during this time (i.e. the little season) that a remnant of Jews who accept Jesus as the true Messiah are grafted back in to the family of faith. If so, it will **not** be because of their Jewish lineage, but because of their faith in Christ, because **ONLY** and **EXCLUSIVELY** through Jesus can any sinner be saved and enter heaven. (Rom. 11:11-32) Not every Jew will be saved (cf. Rom.11:14), but **ALL ISRAEL** will be saved! (Ro.11:25-26; 2:28-29), since Israel in New Testament times are those Jews **AND** Gentiles who make up the **ONE** body of Christ. (See Eph. 2:13-16). What Jews will be saved will be saved by obedience to the gospel and the grace of Jesus. (cf. Ac. 15:11)
- A great apostasy is expected to occur shortly before the return of our Lord. (See 2nd Thes. 2:3; 1st Tim. 4:1-6; 2nd Ti. 3:1-3). The influences contributing to this falling away were already present in the apostles' day, but would intensify and escalate more and more, the closer time gets to the return of the Lord. There would be multiple periods of apostasy and multiple anti-Christ's to arise from the 1st century until the end—so no human can say “this is it, this is the end.” Only God knows when the end is come.

Whatever you believe about the millennium and the end of time, please know this assuredly—Jesus IS Lord and is ruling and reigning over His people since the time of the resurrection when He took His rightful place on David's throne (cf. Ac. 2:29-30) **AND** the gospel and the gospel alone is God's power of salvation (Ro.1:16) for all, whether Jew or Gentile. For any to be saved, they must come to Jesus Christ by obedient faith and remain faithful until the end.

SEVEN NEW REALITIES

Revelation 20:11-22:21

So much of the Book of Revelation has to do with the ongoing battle against Satan and sin all that is opposed to Christ and the gospel. But now, the last scene of this amazing book demands our attention. We have seen the church and her internal struggles... some congregations more faithful than others. We have seen the curtain rise on the very throne room of God, where the only one capable and qualified to open the seals which secure this unfolding drama is revealed—it is JESUS! We have heard trumpets sounding out the eerie sounds of suffering on all aspects of earth, the environment as well as humanity because of the conflict which exists between the gospel and all opposed to God. We were introduced to the seven primary players in the drama—those on God’s side and those on the devil’s side. We shuddered during the scene of the outpouring of seven bowls of wrath—reminding us of that Biblical truth... *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* (He.10:31). Then we heard the seven judgment announcements against those cruel and ruthless enemies of true Christianity. And it gives every concerned Christian great measures of comfort and assurance to know that in the end, when the dust settles, our enemy is soundly defeated, just like God said would happen back in the garden. (Ge. 3:14-15).

But thank the Lord, the Revelation does not end there. God pulls the curtain back one final time to allow the believer to see beyond the judgment before His great white throne (Re. 20:11-15), and give us some insight into what we can expect when all of earth’s history as we know it is wrapped up. With the opening of Re. 21:, we pick up with what we have already been told in Scripture elsewhere—the existing heaven and earth as we know it, will by then have passed away. Consider: 2nd Peter 3:10-13. The “books” have been opened: “the books and another book” (Re. 20:12). Some suggest the “books” are the various books of all the covenants God had with man, others say books like an accountant’s ledger (book of deeds), and other suggest they are the “books of the Bible”. While opinions on those books may vary, we are not left to guess about the single book that is opened... it is the Book of Life or otherwise known as the Lamb’s Book of life. It is God’s roll book of His family of faith, from whatever covenant they have lived and died. They are all the redeemed, all redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

With judgment concluded and the ultimate and final separation completed, we are given a breathtaking view of the glories of eternity prepared by Jesus Himself for His people. (cf. John 14:1-4). We peer onto the stage to catch a glimpse of the coming glories. This describes what awaits the “overcomers”. So we can only feebly put into human language what surely must be indescribable facets of His and our eternal home. These descriptions can only fuel the imagination of awesome wonders of heaven.

THE SEVEN NEW REALITIES

- 1- **The New Heavens and the New Earth**—(21:1) This is what Peter spoke of—it the glorious replacement of this old world and cosmos which was so spoiled and stained by sin and sinners. It is a wondrous new spiritual universe, a completely new world order which is enveloped with total, perfect righteousness. NO evil is present in any form here.
- 2- **The New Jerusalem**—(21:2, 10-27) This is the new “city of God”, one that men have only dreamed of. This is the heavenly dwelling place prepared for the redeemed church. Christians only can experience a foretaste of this as part of the church, the spiritual bride of Christ. (cf. He. 12:22). In contrast to the diabolical harlot revealed earlier, this new Jerusalem is actually a people—the BRIDE of Jesus. (Re.21:2) This bride is describe in terms of precious jewels

and characterized by everything a perfect city would have: solid foundations, brilliant and shiny, spacious, and secure. It's residents are ONLY those whose names are in the book of life. Most importantly, this place is a place where there is NO separation between the people of faith and their God. (cf. 21:3)

- 3- **New Order of Life**—(21:3-4). All negative things related to the old order exists no more. Whatever caused tears, mourning, pain, and death has now been eliminated from existence. Life in this new order is characterized by everything perfect and new. Human needs are satisfied with new spiritual realities. Man's thirst is quenched by heavenly springs of the water of life.
- 4- **The New Worship Setting**—(21:22) Note: not a physical temple; rather one which outshines even the glories of Solomon's temple, which once was the pinnacle of what could be fabricated and constructed by men's hands. This new worship place or temple is being in the living presence of the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb. (This is the temple where Jesus is found, not in some human replacement for the Moslem Dome of the Rock) (The two important temples spoken of in the New Covenant era are: [1] the spiritual temple of the body of Christ made up of believers whether Jew or Gentile (cf. Eph.2:14-22), and [2] this heavenly temple which is the very presence of God Himself.
- 5- **The New Source of Immortality**—(22:1-3). The river of the water of life and the tree of life are provided for God's people. The curse is gone. Death and dying are gone. Now there is just life—full and spiritual and ultimate life, a measure and quality of life not known to man before, unless foreshadowed by the experience of Adam and Eve in the garden before the temptation and fall.
- 6- **The New Experience of God**—(22:4). Jesus taught that the essence of eternal life was “knowing God.” (cf. John 17:3). Up to this time, believers can see God in the life of Jesus. (cf. John 1:18), and know God from the pages of Scripture and talk with God through the channel of prayer, and feel God through the indwelling presence of His Spirit. But now in this glorious scene, the true Christian stands in the very presence of His Creator and His Son. We see Him face to face. “We shall behold Him.”
- 7- **The New Essence of Light**—(22:5). A place with no night and no lights, not the sun, moon or stars. Remember “***God is LIGHT***” (1st Jn.1:5). And where God is, there is NO darkness. We were conceived in the darkness of the womb. We were born into the darkness of a world under the curse. We entered a realm of spiritual darkness when we chose the path of sin. We have battled against the forces of darkness since our conversion. But now, in the very presence of God/Jesus, all the darkness is forever gone. There will never be another shadow, never another dark night, for we will dwell in His eternal light nature, which up to this time has been “unapproachable light”.

So now this grand Revelation must end and with it, the end of inspired, inscribed communication from God. This awe-inspiring message concludes on three themes:

- 1- A call to accept the invitation of Jesus through His two witnesses—“The bride and the Spirit”. Both say... COME! (22:17)
- 2- A promise that His coming will be soon. (22:7,20)
- 3- A warning not to tamper with God's Word... don't seal it and don't alter it! (22:10, 18-19)

AMEN! COME LORD JESUS!

A PRIMARY REASON FOR FIRST-CENTURY PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH... CAESAR WORSHIP⁸

Much of what is said in Revelation to the church of Jesus must be understood in the light of what Christians faced by Caesar worship.

Emperor Domitian (81-96 A.D.) INSISTED on Caesar-worship. And for any who opposed this, there was ordered cold-hearted persecution. Emperor Caligula has demanded worship, but it was Domitian who took it most serious.

He called Christians ATHEISTS because they would not worship or acknowledge the ancient, pagan, cultural gods.

- Citizens must acknowledge the reigning Roman emperor embodied the great spirit of Rome and was therefore DIVINE. It began with the people's desire to show appreciation to Rome for justice, peace, security and benefits the state provided.
- One a year, everyone had to appear before appointed local magistrates and were ordered to burn a pinch of incense to god-Caesar and say, "Caesar is LORD".
- The government regarded those who refused as bad and irreverent, a disobedient citizen who refused to acknowledge the greatness of Caesar and the divinity of Rome.
- Caesar-worship was never intended to wipe out or replace other religions. Rome was essentially tolerant.
- But Christianity was known to be IN-TOLERANT! So Rome's reaction to Christianity was INTOLERANT because faithful Christians would confess they had but ONE LORD and that was Jesus Christ. Christianity was an EXCLUSIVE religion and that infuriated the political leaders. They were regarded as a POLITICAL threat, not a religious one.
- So Christianity was regarded an ILLEGAL RELIGION during Domitian. They were supposed to "evangelize the world", which was believed, would undermine Roman-Caesar power.
- Christians then were falsely accused, known to be primarily from the poor and outcasts of society, regarded as fanatics and were thus persecuted by banishment, execution, public spectacles etc.

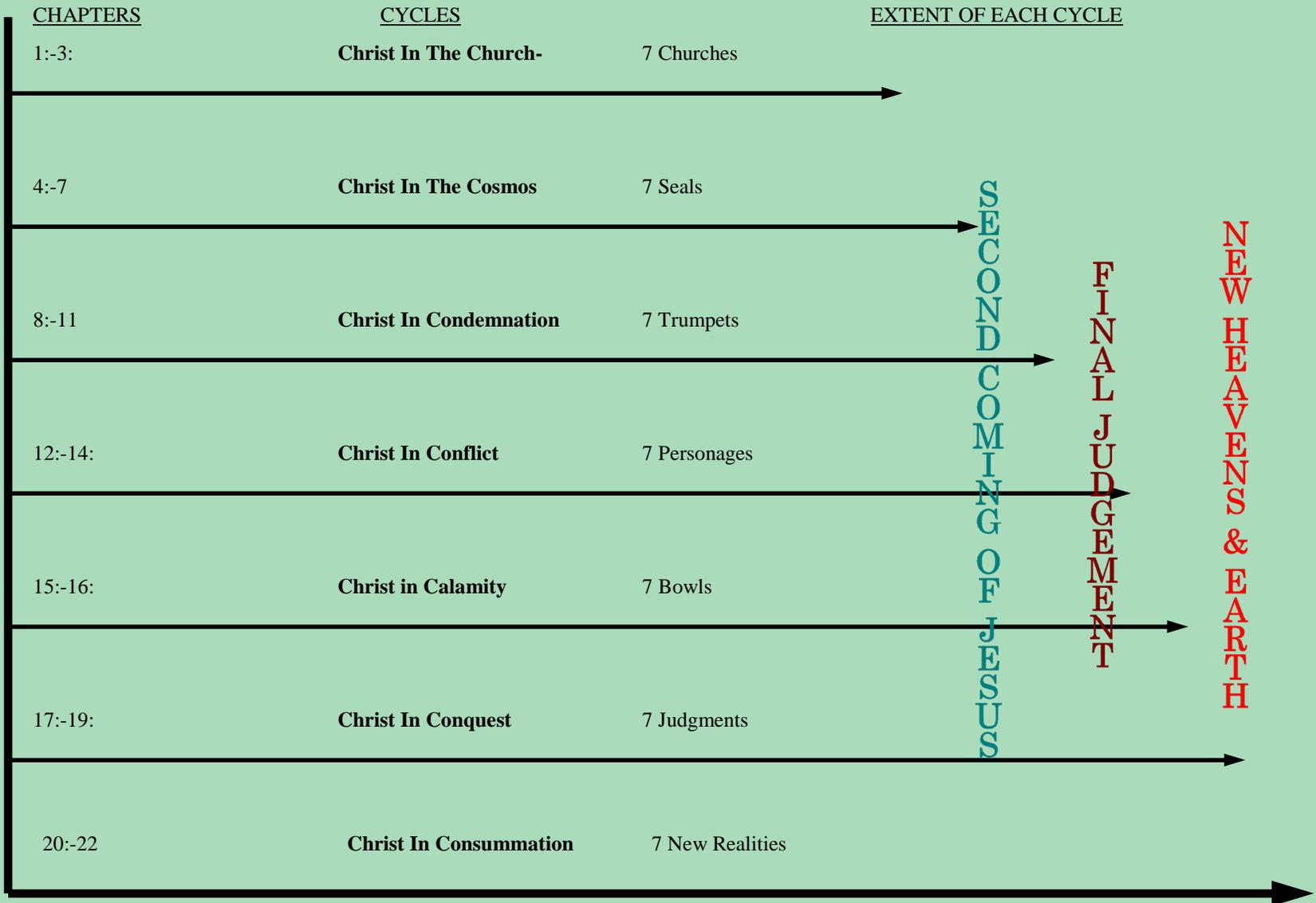
The persecutions administered by Jew earlier in the century, evidenced by Saul of Tarsus, was just a small effort by comparison to what took place by Rome in the last decade of the century.

The Book of Revelation is written in this setting and context to Christians who were paying dearly for their loyalty to the faith... often with their own life.

⁸ Glenn Bourne. *The Book of Revelation Lectures*.

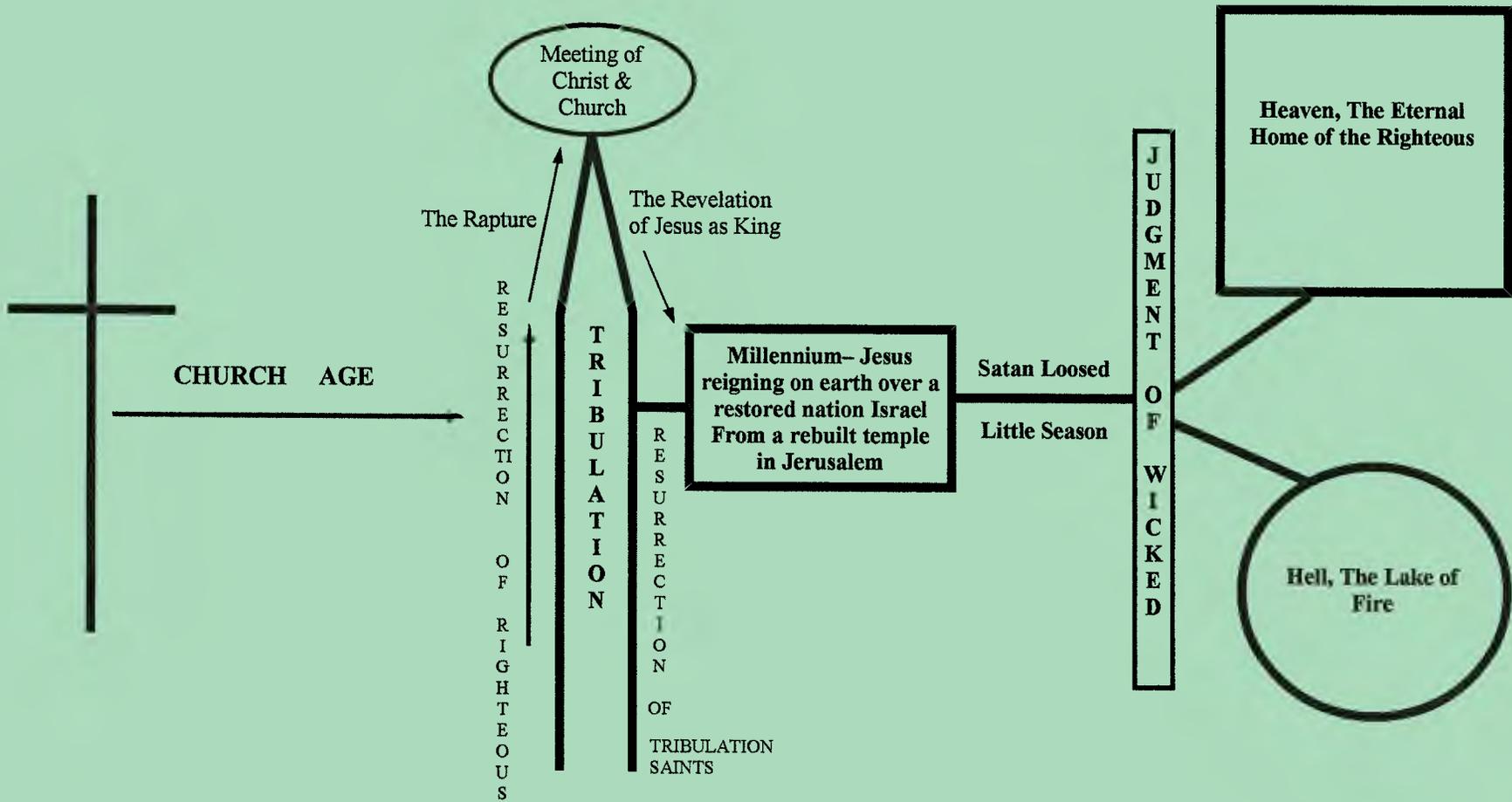
Historical Cycles In Revelation (Progressive Parallelism, Recapitulation)

SCSMTG TO GZ-MOC-HSR-T



THE SEVEN “SEVENS” OF REVELATION

	<u>SEVEN CHURCHES</u> 2:-3:	<u>SEVEN SEALS</u> 6:-7:	<u>SEVEN TRUMPETS</u> 8:-11:	<u>SEVEN PERSONAGES</u> 12:-14:	<u>SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH</u> 15:-16:	<u>SEVEN JUDGMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> 17:-19:	<u>SEVEN NEW REALITIES</u> 20:-22:
1st	Ephesus- 2:1-7 “You’ve left your first love!” REPENT! REDO THE FIRST WORKS!	6:1-2 Rider on a WHITE Horse. Agression on the EARTH! [Or Jesus’ first coming}	8:7 Earth’s vegetation affected by hail/fire. Calamity- REPENT!	Woman Expectant with Child- 12:1-2 God’s People who bring Messiah into the world	16:2- Wrath poured out on the earth. Physical suffering & discomfort on those with mark of beast!	17:1-13 Announcement of judgment to Babylon, the Great Harlot (History of Beast & Harlot 17:8-13)	21:1 New heaven and earth. A new spiritual universe, a new world order!
2nd	Smyrna- 2:8-11 “Don’t fear the persecution! BE FAITHFUL! ”	6:3-4 Rider on a RED HORSE. War among the peoples of earth.	8:8-9 Ocean & marine life affected by falling mountain-like fireball. Calamity- REPENT!	Great Red Dragon- 12:3-4 = Satan- Antagonistic toward God and His people/purposes	16:3 Wrath poured out on sea. All living things die.	17:14-18 Announcement of Lamb’s Certain Victory	21:2, 10-27 New Jerusalem. The new city of God. [Bride, wife of the Lamb]
3rd	Pergamum- 2:12-17 REPENT OF YOUR COMPROMISES!	6:5-6 Rider on a BLACK HORSE. Economic hardship resulting from war.	8:10-11 Fresh water supply affected by a falling burning star. Calamity- REPENT!	Male Child- 12:5-6 Messiah, Jesus Christ	16:4-7 Wrath poured out on rivers and fountains. Pollution of waters.	18:1-8 Announcing Certain Fall of Babylon (Rome and pagan empires!)	21:5-7 A new life experience in glory.
4th	Thyratira= 2:18-29 “You will be cast into a bed of suffering! REPENT! ”	6:7-8 Rider on a PALE HORSE. Death of many in wake of suffering.	8:12 Sun, moon & stars diminished light, heat and energy affected. Calamity- REPENT!	Michael & his legions of angels- 12:7-16 Overpowers and expels Dragon from heaven	16:8-9 Wrath poured out on celestial bodies. Devastation from weather. NO REPENTANCE!	18:21-24 Announcement of Great Millstone Cast Into the sea (Sure to sink) What happens to man without God!	21:22 New Temple. The bride of Christ, people of God in intimate fellowship with God Himself.
5th	Sardis- 3:1-6 “You are dying spiritually! REPENT! ”	6:9-11 Souls Under the Altar. Security of the Righteous Dead	9:1-12 Plague of evil from bottomless pit on UNSAVED. REPENT! {Woe #1}	Children of the Woman- 12:16-17= Faithful Christians	16:10-11 Darkness & pain inflicted on kingdom of beast. NO REPENTANCE!	19:11-16 Announcing the Son of Man coming in Judgment. His coming is certain!	22:1-3 New tree of life by the river of life.
6th	Philadelphia 3:7-13 “Hold on! Let no one rob you of your crown!”	6:12-17 Catastrophic events preceding coming of Lamb in judgment. Desperation of wicked	9:13-21 Evil horses/riders. Pagan powers released from devil. Rebellion against God. REPENT! {Woe #2}	Beast From Sea- 13:1-10 All Pagan, Anti-God Political Powers / Empires	16:12 Preparation for the attack and fall by the beast’s enemies!	19:17-19 Announcing the Certainty of Devastation and Carnage in the aftermath of God’s judgment.	22:4 New personal intimacy with God.
Interlude		7:1-17 Sealed of God in a waiting state of blessedness!	10:1-11:14 FOUR PICTURES OF PLACE AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH!	Lamb & 144,000- 14:1-20 (<i>End of Cycle</i>) = Safety of God’s Redeemed/ Reaping of Unsaved for Doom	16:13-16 Har-Magedon The great battle between truth and deception!	THE FOUR-FOLD HALELLUJAH 19:1-10 God’s people rejoicing in the victory!	
7th	Laodicea- 3:14-22 “You are lukewarm, sickening. BE EARNEST, REPENT! ”	8:1 Brief Silence- Prayers for justice are all heard / answered. 7 th Seal is 7 Trumpets!	11:15-19 Kingdom presented to God. Victory for Saved! {Woe #3}	Beast from Land- 13:11-18= False Prophet, Specializes in deception! [Ends w/judgment. 14:13-20]	16:17-21 The fall of Babylon and evil kingdoms by acts of the wrath of God.	19:20-21 Beast & False Prophet cast into hell. Devil into hell. 20:10	21:23 & 22:5 New light, the glory radiating from Victorious Lamb.



Basic Premillennialism

**SECOND COMING OF JESUS, THE
RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS &
WICKED FOR FINAL JUDGMENT BEFORE
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE**



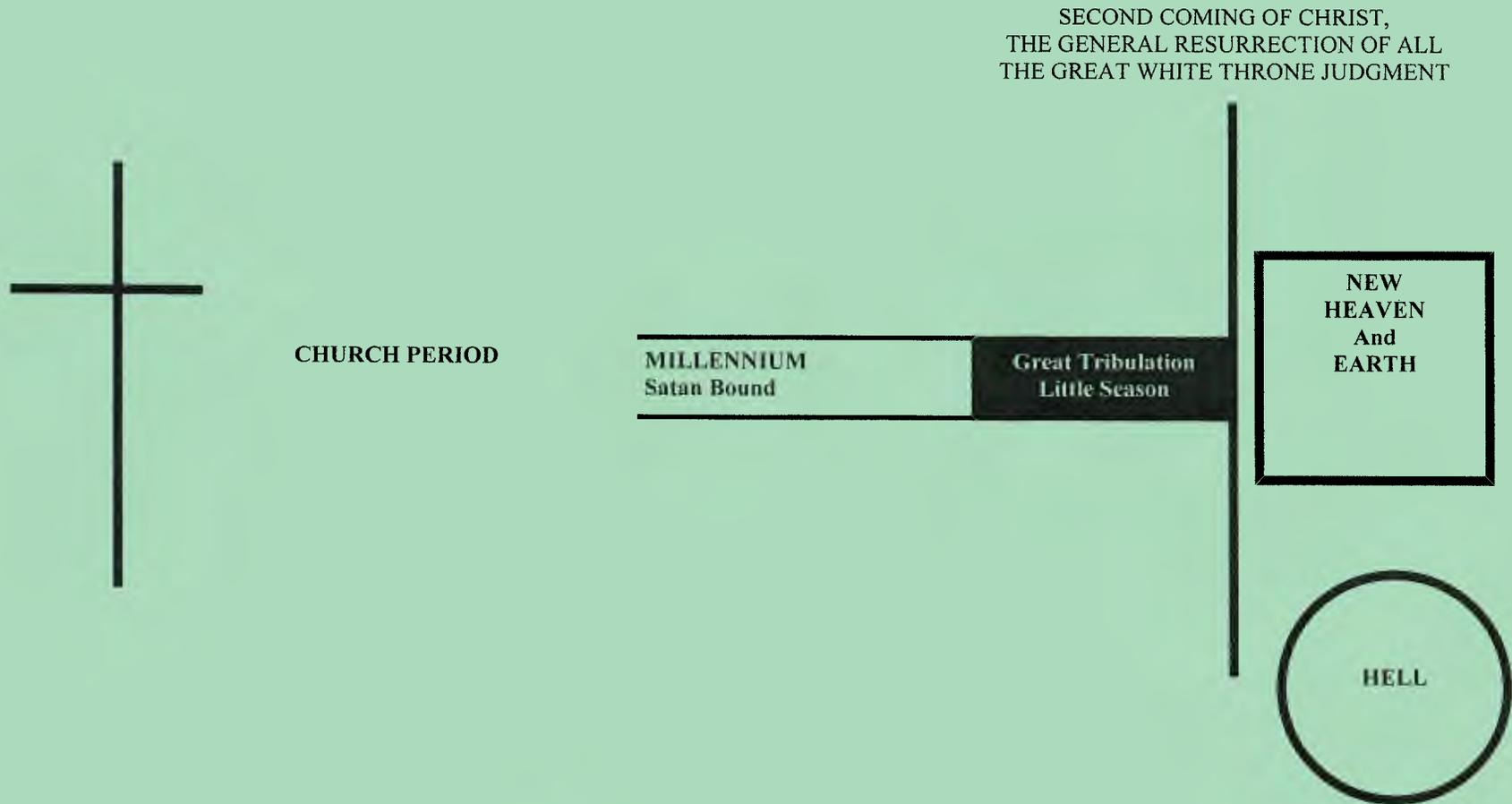
CHURCH AGE
The Spiritual Millennium– Christ Reigning as King From Heaven Over Spiritual Israel
Satan Bound

**Great Tribulation
& Little Season**

**HEAVEN
THE
NEW
JERUSALEM**

**The
Devil's
Hell**

BASIC AMILLENNIALISM



BASIC POST-MILLENNIALISM

NO MATTER WHICH VIEW YOU HOLD...

- 1- Be consistent with your literal or figurative choice of interpretation.
- 2- Use clear, straight-forward Scripture to interpret apocalyptic literature, not vice-versa. (i.e. Jesus reigns on David's throne—Acts 2: 29-32)
- 3- Know that only by faith in Christ and obeying His plan of salvation can any person be saved—not based on ancestral, national, or geographical distinctions. The gospel must not be made subservient to any view of Rev. 20.
- 4- Understand “Israel”, the man, the nation, the partial nation, the remnant, and the spiritual family of faith. (See Ro. 3:28-29; 9:6-8; 11:5 & Gal. 3: 6-14)
- 5- Know that NO view satisfactorily answers all issues and questions! So trust God to work His plan perfectly!
- 6- Let no view confine God to what He can and cannot do!
- 7- No view should divert attention away from the victorious, glorious Lamb of God over evil and Satan.

