

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

A study of the book of REVELATION

Notes from the
South Michigan Teacher Training School and Michigan
Bible School

Charles Coats, Instructor

July ó Dec. 2001
Revised March 2003
Revised November 2008

The information in this book is compiled from notes used in the South Michigan Teacher Training School, class notes used in the adult Bible class at the church of Christ in Webberville, Michigan, and notes used in the Michigan Bible School. All of the notes are the work of Charles Coats, the preacher who works with the church of Christ in Webberville.

The book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood and misused books in the Bible. Every generation has believed that the thoughts contained in the book of Revelation pointed to signs in their day and thus signaled the end of the world. Those who approach the book in this way fail to understand the intent and audience of the book. The Revelation was not written to point out signs of the end of time, but was written to comfort Christians in the 1st Century!

It is our hope, at the church of Christ in Webberville, that the notes contained herein will be beneficial to those studying the book of Revelation. **THESE NOTES MAY BE FREELY COPIED AND DISTRIBUTED!!**

CHURCH OF CHRIST AT WEBBERVILLE

340 N. SUMMIT

P.O. BOX 449

WEBBERVILLE, MI 48892

E-mail: clcoats@cablespeed.com

Web: www.webbervillechurchofchrist.com

Notes compiled by:

Charles Coats

4514 E. Grand River

Webberville, MI 48892

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	í í	4
Some considerations in studying Revelation	í ...	5
Revelation interprets itself	í ..	6
Roman worship	í ..	7
Roman rulers through 117 A.D.	í ...	8
Background to the 7 churches of Asia	í ...	9
Revelation 1-3	í ..	12
Revelation 4-6	í ..	16
Revelation 7-11	í ..	18
Revelation 12-14	í ..	20
Revelation 15-16	í ..	23
Revelation 17-19	í ..	25
Revelation 20-22	í ..	27
Slides on the book of Revelation	í ...	44

SPECIAL STUDIES:

Numbers of the 1 st Century	í í	15
Armageddon	í ...	24
Revelation 20	í í	28
Why Christ will not establish a kingdom on Earth	í í í í í í í í í í í ..	30
Christ, our High Priest	í .	31
Chart on òWhere are the dead?ö	í .	32
Emperor worship	í .	33
Some passages that relate to Revelation 22:18,19	í í í í í í í í í í í ...	38
The beasts of Revelation	í ..	42

REVELATION

"The revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1). The magnificence of this book has often been overshadowed by the many false views put forth concerning this book. The apocalyptic language of the book has caused people to expect literal beasts, horses, etc. to someday come upon earth. A great, terrible tribulation shown in a literal physical battle between the forces of good and evil is supposed by many to take place before the end of the world.

Every generation, since the writing of the book, has had its "signs of the end". Every world war or evil tyrant seems to point to the times of the end. On and on we could go with people's ideas concerning this book. But, all of this would be a waste of our time as these ideas all fail to take one thing into consideration: **THE BOOK OF REVELATION WAS WRITTEN TO COMFORT CHRISTIANS IN THE FIRST CENTURY!**

The book of Revelation is really quite simple. It gives us a marvelous look at the downfall of wickedness and the triumph of the righteous. Although written for all to learn from it, to remove its interpretation from the events of the first century does a great disservice to the book. Why would God write to comfort Christians in the first century by telling them about events that would actually take place hundreds or thousands of years later?

In our study, we want to explore the historical background to the times of the writing of the Revelation. Who was ruling the area? In what kind of religious world were they living? What was happening to Christians at that time? How did those of the first century see this book?

We will also look at the signs and symbols. Every generation has had its own peculiar signs and numbers. Consider the peace symbol of the seventies; or, the Democrat's donkey and the Republican's elephant. To us today, seven is lucky and thirteen is evil (especially if it falls on a Friday). To break a mirror is considered bad luck by many, as well as walking under a ladder or having a black cat cross your path. On the other hand, a four-leaf clover is considered lucky. However, two thousand years from now, all of these will be history lessons for children who want to understand the writings of our time.

The difficulty we have with Revelation is that we are nearly two thousand years removed from it. It is not hard to understand though, if we do a little historical research and keep it in its context.

The biggest reason the book is so hard for people today is because of the many false views put forth. These views confuse and frighten people. People believe the book too complicated to understand and therefore, shy away from studying the book at all.

It will be our endeavor to uncover what the book actually says and remove the fear. For a book written to comfort, people certainly are uncomfortable with it.

Certainly, it was not God's intention to confuse and frighten us. The confusion and fear came from men.

Please remove any preconceived ideas about the Revelation and approach this study with an-open mind. Let us uncover the beauties of this wonderful book.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

SOME CONSIDERATIONS IN STUDYING REVELATION

1. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1), not revelations.
2. It was written to Christians of the First Century (1:4).
3. It was written in symbolic language (1:1).
4. Its theme is victory in Christ, thus a letter of comfort (14:13; 17:14).
5. Its message was not to be changed in any way (22:18,19).
6. It was written to be understood and followed.
 - A. Read, hear and keep the things written therein (1:3). One cannot keep what one cannot understand.
 - B. "He that hath an ear, let him hear..." (2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 13:9). Obviously, God intended the reader to learn from and heed the message.
 - C. If one cannot understand the book, how can one know when they are adding to it or taking from it? (22:18,19)
7. Be careful to notice the comparison language ("like" and "as").
8. Do not read too much into the symbology. The big picture is important. The details of the symbols only emphasize the big picture. (For instance, locusts are used as a symbol of God's punishment of the wicked (ch. 9). These locusts have nine things said about them in their description. Each of these serves to give an overall picture of how terrible this punishment is.)
9. The book's primary recipients are the seven churches of Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea (1:4,11). These cities are all located in western Asia Minor. Asia was the Roman province of this area.
10. The book was written near the end of the first century. Domitian was the Emperor of Rome. The church was severely persecuted. Irenaeus (125 ó 202 AD) said of the book "*seen not a very long time since, but almost in our own day, toward the end of Domitian's reign*" (Anti Nicene Fathers, Vol. 1, P. 416). Also, Roman persecution had spread into Asia Minor which happened near the end of the 1st Century.

REVELATION INTERPRETS ITSELF

Symbol

1. Seven golden candlesticks (1:12)
2. Seven stars (1:16)
3. Morning star (2:28)
4. Seven lamps of fire (4:5)
5. Root of David (5:5)
6. Seven horns and seven eyes (5:6)
7. Golden vials full of odors (5:8)
8. Great red dragon (12:3)
9. Old serpent (12:9; 20:2)
10. Woman sits upon a scarlet colored
beast (17:3)
11. Seven heads (17:3)
12. Ten horns (17:3)

Interpretation

- Seven churches (1:20)
- Angels of the seven
churches (1:20)
- Jesus (22:16)
- Seven spirits of God (4:5)
- Jesus (22:16)
- Seven spirits of God (5:6)
- Prayers of the saints (5:8)
- Devil (12:9)
- Devil (12:9; 20:2)
- Great city that reigns over
the kings of the earth
(17:18)
- Seven mountains on
which the woman sitteth
(17:9)
- Ten kings (17:12)

ROMAN WORSHIP

Greek gods with their Roman equivalents

<u>Greek gods</u>	<u>Roman gods</u>
Zeus	Jupiter (Acts 14:12)
Hera	Juno
Posiedon	Neptune
Hestia	Vesta
Ares	Mars
Athena	Minerva
Aphrodite	Venus
Hermes	Mercury (Acts 14:12)
Artemas	Diana (Acts 19)
Hephaestus	Vulcun
Apollo	Apollo
Pluto (also called Hades)	Pluto (not called Hades)

Other Roman gods

Numina -- vague powers having no shape or form

Lares -- individual or state gods. Patrons and protectors.

Penates -- gods of the storeroom

Vesta -- goddess of the hearth. (Her priestesses were called vestal virgins and served for thirty years.)

Ceres -- goddess of grain

Emperor Worship

Began with Augustus. He set the groundwork for his being declared a god after his death.

Later, all emperors, whether good or bad, demanded deification.

ROMAN RULERS THROUGH 117 A. D.

The official beginning of the Roman Empire began with Augustus in 27 B.C. Historians mark the end of the Roman Empire as A.D. 476, although the empire began to fall apart in the mid to late A.D. 200's. By A.D. 395, the Roman Empire was hopelessly split and ready to completely fall.

The list below lists the Roman emperors from 27 B.C. to A.D. 117. Although there were many more emperors after this, these will suffice for our study of the book of Revelation.

Augustus	27 B.C. ô A.D. 14	(Lk. 2:1)
Tiberius	A.D. 14 ô 37	(Lk. 3:1)
Caligula	A.D. 37 ô 41	
Claudius	A.D. 41 ô 54	
Nero	A.D. 54 ô 68	(Claudius and Nero were the emperors through Paul's work.)
Galba	A.D. 68 ô 69	
Otho	A.D. 69	
Vitellius	A.D. 69	
Vespasian	A.D. 69 ô 79	
Titus	A.D. 79 ô 81	(The general who conquered Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and Masada in A.D. 73.)
Domitian	A.D. 81 ô 96	
Nerva	A.D. 96 ô 98	
Trajan	A.D. 98 ô 117	

SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA ó BACKGROUND TO CITIES

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Pergamos (2:12-17)

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Laodecia (3:14-22)

I. Ephesus

1. A port city located on the Cayster River in western Asia Minor. A great seaport.
2. Three trade routes converged here.
 - A. From the Euphrates.
 - B. From Galatia.
 - C. From the Meander Valley to the South.
3. Considered itself the first and great metropolis of Asia.
 - A. Roman governor came to Ephesus to lay important cases.
 - B. Panionian Games (like the Olympics) were held here.
 - C. A free city. Self-governed.
4. Home of the temple of Diana (Artemis), goddess of fertility. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Destroyed by Alexander the Great.
 - A. 425' long x 220' wide x 60' high.
 - B. Had 127 pillars.
 - C. Served as a bank. People put their goods inside for safe keeping.
 - D. The perimeter of 200 yards around the temple was a safe haven for criminals. Those in this area were safe from prosecution.
 - E. Heraclitus, a philosopher of Ephesus, said the morals of the temple were worse than the morals of beasts and that the inhabitants of Ephesus were only fit to be drowned.
5. Paul taught in Ephesus in Acts 18:19 and Acts 19 (Three years ó Acts 20:31).
6. Paul gave a farewell speech to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20.
7. Timothy worked in Ephesus also (1 Tim. 1:3).
8. Paul also sent Tychicus to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:12).
9. Paul penned one book to the Ephesian brethren.
10. 1 Corinthians was written while Paul was at Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8).
11. Now lies in ruins. Abandoned in the 13th Century.

II. Smyrna

1. A harbor city. Great trade center.
2. Famous for her "Golden Street" lined with temples to the gods ó Cybele, Apollo, Asklepios, Aphrodite, Zeus.
 - A. Cybele ó goddess of nature and fertility. Worshipped in Rome as the Great Mother of the gods.
 - B. Apollo ô god of prophecy, agriculture, cattle, light, and truth
 - C. Asklepios ô god of healing / medicine
 - D. Aphrodite ô goddess of love and beauty (same as Roman goddess, Venus)

E. Zeus ô chief god

3. Had a large Jewish population.
4. Center of emperor worship
5. Polycarp, a pupil of the apostle John, was a martyr here in A.D. 115. When asked to deny Christ, Polycarp replied: "Eighty and six years, have I served him and He hath done me no wrong. How can I revile my Lord and Savior?" He was burned at the stake
6. Roman emperors visited Smyrna. It was known for its wealth, beauty, and rhetorical tradition, library, and school of medicine.
7. Temple to Tiberius Caesar was built here around 23 A.D.
8. Modern day Izmir, Turkey.

III. Pergamos

1. Capital of the empire of Pergamum. Later, under Roman rule, capital of the province of Asia.
2. Known for its library.
 - A. Contained as many as 160,000 scrolls; all catalogued.
 - B. Parchment for writing was first used in Pergamos. Parchment eventually replaced papyrus as the writing material in Europe.
 - C. Rivalled the library at Alexandria, Egypt.
3. Known for its idolatry.
 - A. Asklepios, god of healing, was worshipped here. Asklepios was represented by a snake. People considered the touch of the snakes in the temple to have healing powers.
 - B. Zeus and Athena were also worshipped. The altar of Zeus stood 800 feet up a hillside and was 90 feet square by 20 feet high.
 - a. Zeus ô chief god
 - b. Athena ô goddess of the Greek cities, industry, the arts, wisdom, war, and handicrafts. Her major temple was the Parthenon.
 - C. A center for emperor worship. The Concilia, the branch of the Roman army that enforced emperor worship, was headquartered here.

IV. Thyatira

1. Famous for its dyeing industry. Lydia, a seller of purple, was from here (Acts 16:14). Purple dye sold for about \$200 a pound.
2. Had well organized trade guilds. Each guild's activities involved a god or goddess. Drunkenness and fornication were the norm in the religious practices of the guilds.
3. Modern day Akhisar, Turkey

V. Sardis

1. At one time, the western capital of the Persian Empire, under Cyrus the Great.
2. Captured twice ô by Cyrus the Great (546 B.C.) and Alexander the Great (334 RC)
3. Destroyed by an earthquake in A.D. 17. Rebuilt by A.D. 26.
4. Situated on the Pactolus, a gold bearing river.
5. Two great industries ô wool and dyes.
6. Center for the worship of Cybele.

VI. Philadelphia

1. Situated on the trade route from Europe to the Orient, it was known as the "Gateway to the East".
2. Destroyed by earthquake in 17 A.D. Rebuilt with help from Tiberius Caesar.
3. Its chief deity was Dionysius, the god of wine. Its fertile soil helped its grape

growing industry.

4. Had many temples to its gods. People to be honored had a pillar with their name on it erected in one of these temples.

VII. Laodocia

1. Had a large Jewish population.
2. The banking center of Asia Minor.
3. Had enough wealth to rebuild itself after being destroyed by an earthquake.
4. Had a large cloth and clothing industry. Famous for her black wool sheep.
5. Had a famous medical school. This school was known for its ointment for sore ears and for an eye powder.

REVELATION 1-3

- I. Introduction (1:1-3)
 - 1. Things which must shortly come to pass (1:1)
 - 2. Read, hear, and keep the words of the revelation (1:2,3)
- II. The origin of the letter (1:4-20)
 - 1. John, the penman (1:4,9)
 - 2. Jesus, the author (1:4-20)
 - A. Our Savior (1:4-6)
 - B. All shall see his return (1:7)
 - C. The alpha and the omega (1:8,11)
 - D. The giver of the revelation (1:9-11)
 - E. In the midst of the churches (1:12-20)
 - F. A message to be given (1:17-20)
- III. Ephesus ó the church which left its first love (2:1-7)
 - 1. Knows their good (2:1-3,6)
 - A. Their works, labor, and patience (2:2)
 - B. Tried false teachers (2:2)
 - C. Has labored steadfastly (2:3)
 - D. Hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans (2:6)
 - 2. The call to repentance (2:4-7)
 - A. They left their first love (2:4)
 - B. Repent or perish (2:5)
 - C. Overcome (2:7)
- IV. Smyrna ó the church that was faithful unto death (2:8-11)
 - 1. He knows their faithfulness (2:8,9)
 - 2. They will suffer (2:10)
 - 3. Be faithful unto death and be rewarded (2:10,11)
- V Pergamos ó the church in hell's headquarters (2:12-17)
 - 1. They were faithful (2:12,13)
 - 2. Antipas, the faithful martyr (2:13)
 - 3. The call to repentance (2:14-16)
 - A. They hold the doctrine of Balaam ó taught to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication (2:14)
 - B. They hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (2:15) C. Repent or perish (2:16)
 - 4. Those who overcome will be rewarded (2:17)
- VI. Thyatira -- the church that was threatened from within (2:18-29)
 - 1. They maintained some good works (2:18,19)
 - 2. The call to repentance (2:20-23)
 - A. Jezebel teaches others to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication (2:20)
 - B. Jezebel would not repent (2:21)
 - C. Those who follow her will perish with her (2:22,23)

- 3. Encouragement to the faithful (2:24-29)
 - A. Remain faithful (2:24,25)
 - B. A reward for the faithful (2:26-29)
- VII. Sardis ó the church of the living dead (3:1-6)
 - 1. They think they are alive, but are really dead (3:1)
 - 2. The call to repentance (3:2,3)
 - A. Be on guard and restore that which was lost (3:2)
 - B. Repent or perish (3:3)
 - 3. Encouragement to the faithful (3:4-6)
 - A. Will walk with Christ in heaven (3:4,5)
 - B. Will have his name in the book of life (3:5)
 - C. Jesus will confess him before God (3:5)
 - D. Heed what has been said (3:6)
- VIII. Philadelphia ó the church with the open door (3:7-13)
 - 1. They kept his word and did not deny him (3:7,8)
 - 2. The Jews will know the church is God's people (3:9)
 - 3. Jesus will help them (3:10)
 - 4. Remain faithful and be rewarded (3:11-13)
- IX. Laodicea ó the church which made God sick (3:14-22)
 - 1. They were lukewarm and therefore nauseating (3:14-16)
 - 2. They thought they were great, but were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked (3:17,18)
 - 3. The call to repentance (3:19)
 - 4. Faithfulness will be rewarded (3:20-22)

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 1-3

1. The letter was written to reveal what must shortly come to pass (1:1).
2. The letter was written to be understood. You cannot keep what you cannot understand (1:3).
3. God is eternal - which is, which was, which is to come (1:4).
4. Jesus paid the price for our sins (1:5).
5. Jesus' return will not be secretive (1:7).
6. The kingdom is in existence, not yet to be established. John was a member of the kingdom (1:9).
7. Jesus knows our true condition. Jesus knew the good and the bad about each congregation (ch. 2,3).
8. Christians must repent if they fall away (2:5,16,21,22; 3:3,19).
9. We should honestly examine ourselves (2:5; 3:3).
10. A congregation can lose its good standing with Jesus Christ (2:5).
11. We should learn from what is written in this letter (2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22).
12. Be faithful even if it costs us our lives (2:10).
13. One cannot rest on the glories of the past. Pergamos once was faithful (2:13), but had slipped away (2:14).
14. Follow evil men and perish with them (2:21,22).
15. Remain faithful (2:25).
16. Work to be perfect before God (3:2).
17. Those who fail to serve God do serve Satan (3:9).
18. Do not try to hold the "middle" ground. Compromise makes God sick (3:15).
19. Materialism blinds us to the truth of our condition (3:17).
20. God chastens those he loves (3:19).

THE NUMBERS OF THE FIRST CENTURY

<u>Number</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1	Unity; independent existence
2	Strengthening; confirmation; redoubled courage and energy
3	Divine
3 ½	Incomplete
4	Cosmic number; represented the world in which men lived, worked, and died
6	Evil
7	Completeness; perfection (sacred number)
10	Human completeness
12	Organized religion in the world
70	Sacred and complete
1000	Ultimate completeness
144,000	Sum total of all righteous on the Earth (12 x 12 x 1000)

As numbers are multiplied, the emphasis becomes greater. For instance, 7 is complete, and 7 X 10 or 70 is sacred and complete. ^6 is evil and 666 is intense evil.

REVELATION 4 ó 6

- I. The vision of the throne of God (4:1-11)
 1. Jesus, the messenger (4:1; cf 1:10)
 2. The one who sits on the throne (4:2,3)
 3. Those around the throne (4:4-11)
 - A. 24 elders (4:4)
 - B. The Holy spirit ("seven Spirits of God") (4:5)
 - C. Four beasts (4:6-9)
 - a. First beast was like a lion (4:7)
 - b. Second beast like a calf (4:7)
 - c. Third beast had a face as a man (4:7)
 - d. Fourth beast was like a flying eagle (4:7)
 - e. Each beast had six wings and were full of eyes within (4:8)
 - f. They worshipped God (4:8,9)
 - D. 24 elders worshipped God (4:10,11)
 - E. Before the throne was a sea of glass like unto crystal (4:6)
- II. The book with the seven seals (5:1-6:17)
 1. God holds the book (5:1)
 2. No one is found who is worthy to open the book (5:2-4)
 3. One is found who is worthy ó Jesus (5:5-14)
 - A. Lion of the tribe of Judah (5:5)
 - B. Root of David (5:5)
 - C. A Lamb as it had been slain (5:6)
 - D. Redeemed us to God by his blood (5:9)
 - E. Made us unto our God kings and priests (5:10; cf. 1 Pet. 2:9)
 - F. We shall reign on the earth (5:10)
 - G. God and Jesus are worshipped (5:13,14)
 4. The book is opened (6:1-17)
 - A. Seal one reveals one with a bow and crown on a white horse. Went forth conquering and to conquer (6:1,2)
 - B. Seal two reveals one on a red horse. Takes peace from the earth (6:3,4)
 - C. Seal three reveals one with a set of balances on a black horse. Famine is on the land as seen by wheat and barley selling for a day's wages (6:5,6).
 - D. Seal four reveals Death and Hades sitting on a pale horse. They would bring death to a part of the earth (6:7,8).
 - E. Seal five reveals the souls of those who died for God. They want the wicked punished. God tells them others will be persecuted (6:9-11).
 - F. Seal six reveals a great earthquake, sun darkening, moon becoming as blood, etc_ These signs indicate a great day of the Lord (cf. Acts 2:16-20). The wrath of God is poured out upon the wicked (Rev. 6:17).
- III. A brief overview of this section

We are given a look at the glorious throne of God and shown that God is in control of all things. Jesus opens the book with the seven seals and unfolds God's plan upon the earth. The first four seals revealed wars, killings, famine/hard times, and death upon the earth. These

will later be seen as things that should turn man to repentance (Rev. 9:20ff).

For the persecuted Christian, the fifth seal shows that they will be rewarded for their faithfulness. Those who die for God will rest at the throne of God.

The sixth seal shows that God will pour out his wrath upon the wicked. The persecuted Christian now knows that God will bring down the wicked. God would punish those who persecuted the church and prospered in their wicked ways. One will truly reap what one sows (cf. Gal. 6:7,8).

The book has a seventh seal not yet opened. The next section of the book of Revelation will deal with the opening of the seventh seal.

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 4 - 6

1. God is to be revered (4:8).
2. God is eternal (4:8).
3. Christ redeemed us by his blood (5:9).
4. Jesus died for all (5:9).
5. Troubles, trials, and tribulations will come upon all mankind (6:2-8).
6. Those who die faithful to Christ will be rewarded (6:9-11).
7. God will punish the wicked (6:12-17).

REVELATION 7 611

- I. God knows those who are faithful (7:1-17)
1. God marks those that are his (7:1-3)
 2. The 144,000 are all those faithful to God (7:4-17)
 - A. The twelve tribes (7:4-8)
 - B. A multitude without number from all nations (7:9-12)
 - C. Those who overcame and washed their robes white (7:13-17)
 - L The seventh seal is opened (8:1-11:19)
 1. Seven trumpets given to the seven angels (8:1,2)
 2. Prayers of the saints come before God (8:3-5)
 3. First angel sounds ó Calamity and destruction upon the land (8:6,7)
 4. Second angel sounds ó Calamity and destruction upon the sea (8:8,9)
 5. Third angel sounds ó Calamity and destruction upon freshwater (8:10,11)
 6. Fourth angel sounds ó Calamity in the skies (8:12)
 7. The next three angels sounding will be terrible (8:13)
 8. Firth angel sounds ó Punishment upon the wicked. They will wish for death, but it will not come (9:1-11).
 9. Sixth angel sounds ó death to come upon a part of the wicked to motivate people to repent (9:12-21)
 10. The little book (10:1-11)
 - A. The angel with the little book (10:1-4)
 - B. John to eat the little book (10:5-10)
 - C. John to teach all nations (10:11)
 11. The two witnesses (11:1-14)
 - A. Two witnesses to prophesy (11:1-5)
 - B. They would work miracles (11:6; cf. Heb. 2:3,4).
 - C. They will be killed by the enemies of God in Jerusalem (11:7,8)
 - D. Their enemies will rejoice over their death (11:9,10)
 - E. They will be resurrected (11:11,12).
 - F. Jerusalem to be punished and God to be glorified (11:13,14)
 - G. NOTE: In this section, the 42 months, the 1260 days, and the 3 1/2 days all represent the same period of time.
 12. Seventh angel sounds ó Judgment! Saints rewarded. Wicked punished. Victory in Christ! (11:15-19)
- III. A brief overview of this section

God knows those that are his and will reward them for their faithfulness. They will be "arrayed in white robes" (7:9,13). They will live in a place where there will be no hunger or thirst or hard times or tears (7:16,17). Calamities and destruction will come upon all areas of the earth. Some will even desire death, but death will not come. Even when death does come upon some, others will not repent of their wickedness. The book of Revelation helps us to understand that one purpose of calamities, hard times, and death is to help us realize that we need God, and to motivate us to repent of our wickedness (9:20,21).

Chapters 10 and 11 help us understand that teaching the truth has its good side and bad side. Good in that others will have the opportunity to obey God. Bad

because the enemies of the cross will punish and kill those who faithfully follow God. Even though the faithful may be killed, they will still overcome and be victorious with Christ. The wicked will be punished by God at judgment; everyone will be judged fairly.

IV. Why we know the 144,000 is not literal

1. This number represents the servants of God (7:3). All of them.
2. The twelve tribes listed here are not the literal twelve tribes of Israel. There was no tribe of Joseph (7:8) in the original twelve tribes. Levi (7:7) was not in the original 12 tribes. Dan and Ephraim, of the original twelve tribes, are not mentioned.
3. The followers of God are described as a great multitude without number, out of all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues (7:9).
4. The servants of God are described as having overcome through tribulation (7:14)
5. If it were literal, only certain Jews would be saved! No Gentiles would be saved, as they are not of the tribes of Israel listed here.

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 7 611

1. God knows those who are faithful to him (Rev. 7).
2. Heaven is a wonderful place (7:15-17).
3. Calamities, destruction, and death will come upon the earth (Rev. 8).
4. The wicked will be punished (9:4).
5. During times of trouble people should repent of their wickedness (9:20,21).
6. The preaching of the word will have two effects ó bring us great joy or cause us to be persecuted (Rev. 10; cf. 2 Thu. 3:12).
7. The faithful will be raised to their reward in heaven (11:11,12).
8. Judgment is a certainty (11:15-19).

REVELATION 12 ô 14

- I. Woman with the man child (12:1-17)
 1. Woman about to give birth (12:1,2)
 2. Woman gives birth (12:5)
 - A. A man child is born (12:5)
 - B. Child to rule the nations (12:5)
 - C. Child caught up to God and his throne (12:5)
 3. Woman flees into wilderness (12:6)
 4. Woman persecuted (12:13)
 5. Woman comforted and cared for (12:14-16)
- II. The dragon (12:1-17)
 1. Great red dragon appears (12:3)
 2. Dragon ready to devour the woman's child (12:4)
 3. Dragon and his angels cast from heaven (12:7,8)
 4. Dragon is the Devil (12:9)
 5. A great rejoicing over the Devil's downfall (12:10)
 6. Sorrow for the earth because the Devil was cast down (12:12)
 7. Dragon persecutes the woman that brought forth the man child (12:13-15)
 8. Dragon makes war with the seed of the woman (12:17)
- III. The 666 (13:1-18)
 1. A blasphemous beast arises (13:1-10,18)
 - A. A terrible beast (13:2,3)
 - B. Received his power from the Dragon (Satan) (13:2)
 - C. Wounded, but now healed (13:3)
 - D. People worshipped the beast and the Dragon (13:4)
 - E. Spoke blasphemies against God (13:5,6)
 - F. Made war with the saints and overcame them (13:7)
 - G. Evil people will worship the beast (13:8)
 - H. The beast will be overthrown (13:10)
 - I. His number is 666 (13:18)
 2. The second beast (13:11-17)
 - A. Exercised all the power of the first beast (13:12)
 - B. Caused the earth to worship the first beast (13:12)
 - C. Deceived people by "mighty miracles" (13:13-15)
 - D. Would cause people to be killed who did not worship the beast (13:15)
 - E. Kept people from buying and selling unless they had the mark of the beast (13:16,17)
- IV. Christ and the redeemed (14:1-7)
 1. Redeemed are with Jesus (14:1-3)
 2. Who are the redeemed?
 - A. The 144,000 (cf. Rev. 7) (14:1,3)

- B. Kept themselves pure (14:4)
- C. Follow the Lamb wherever he leads (14:4)
- D. Redeemed from among men (14:4)
- E. Without guile or fault before God (14:5)
- 3. The gospel is to be preached to all (14:6)
- 4. Worship God, for the hour of judgment is come (14:7)
- V. The fall of the wicked (14:8-11)
 - 1. Fall of the great city (14:8)
 - 2. Fall of those who follow the beast (14:9-11)
- VI. The patience of the saints (14:12,13)
 - 1. Saints keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (14:12)
 - 2. The righteous will go to heaven (14:13)
 - 3. They will rest from their labors (14:13)
- VII. Judgment of the wicked (14:14-20)
 - 1. One like unto the Son of man appears to reap the harvest (14:14-16)
 - 2. An angel assists in reaping the harvest (14:17-19)
 - 3. The wicked cast into the "winepress of the wrath of God" (14:19,20)
- VIII. An overview of Revelation 12-14

In this portion of the vision, we see a woman that gives birth to a child that rules the nations and ascends to God and reigns with God. We also see a dragon ready to devour the child and when he cannot, he persecutes the woman and her seed.

The dragon is identified as the Devil (12:9). The child that was born of the woman would be Jesus. Jesus came to establish a kingdom that would be superior to all kingdoms and be stronger than all (cf. Dan. 2:44). The Devil tried to destroy Jesus at the cross, yet Jesus was raised from the dead and now reigns on the right hand of God (cf. Acts 2:14-36).

The woman is seen on both sides of the ascension of Christ. Upon his birth and before his ascension, she was the Jewish nation ó the chosen of God to bring forth the Messiah. After the ascension, she represents the church ó the new chosen people of God. The chosen people of God have always been cared for and comforted by God (cf. 12:6,1416).

The Devil was tossed from heaven, and in his rage, made war against the people of God and the Son of God. To accomplish this, the Devil used the two beasts. The first beast is said to be worshipped by the world and served by the wicked. This beast persecuted the saints, and ruled the world (cf. 13:7). Historically, this was the Roman Empire. The Devil used the Romans to aid his persecution of the church.

The second beast served the first beast and caused others to worship the first beast. Those who refused to worship the beast were killed or persecuted. Life was extremely difficult for those who would not worship the beast. The terror of the beast is expressed by the number 666 ó 6 intensified. Extreme evil.

While persecution is severe, all is not lost. The Lamb of God appears with the redeemed (Here seen as the 144,000, cf. Rev. 7). The redeemed are with Christ and are encouraged to remain faithful and preach the word. The lesson for those being persecuted is to serve and worship God to receive the great reward (cf. 14:12,13).

The wicked will not get away with their evil deeds. The great city, Rome, will fall (Here described figuratively as Babylon). Those who worship the beast will fall. The wicked will be cast into the "winepress of the wrath of God."

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 12-14

1. The people of God will be persecuted by the Devil (12:17).
2. The faithful will die for Christ (12:11).
3. The Devil uses men to further his evil deeds (ch. 13).
4. The wicked serve the world (13:8).
5. You will reap what you sow (13:10).
6. Many will be deceived into following wickedness (13:14).
7. Persecution will be intense (13:16,17).
8. The redeemed will be with Jesus (14:1).
9. The redeemed are the righteous (14:4,5).
10. The gospel is to be proclaimed to all mankind (14:6).
11. The wicked will be punished (14:8-20).
12. Those who die faithful to God will rest from their labors (14:13).

REVELATION 15 ó 16

- I. The angels with the seven plagues (15:1-8)
 - 1. They carry the wrath of God (15:1)
 - 2. The faithful saints who have died worship God (15:2-4)
 - 3. Seven vials given to the seven angels contain the wrath of God (15:5-8)
- II. The wrath of God is poured out upon the wicked (16:1-21)
 - 1. Those who worship the beast are punished (16:1,2)
 - 2. The wicked on the seas are punished (16:3)
 - 3. The wicked on the fresh waters are punished (16:4-7)
 - 4. The wicked are punished by nature (16:8,9)
 - 5. The wicked in Rome ("seat of the beast") are punished (16:10,11)
 - 6. The enemies of God gather against God (16:12-16)
 - 7. Judgment is come (16:17-21)
- III. A review of Revelation 15 --16

This section of the vision shows God preparing to pour out his wrath upon the wicked. The righteous have a great reward and worship God forever.

The wrath of God is poured out upon wicked all over the earth. God will punish those who worship the beast. One of the great comforts for the persecuted Christians is that God will punish Rome itself for Rome's wickedness.

A great battle scene unfolds. This is commonly referred to as the battle of . What we see in this battle and the judgment scene to follow is that the wicked will continue to oppose and blaspheme God all the way to their judgment. One thing the vision continues to emphasize is how powerful the deceitfulness of the Devil is. Paul warned us of this in 2 Cor. 2:11, and Peter in 1 Pet. 5:8,9. Paul further warns us to be on guard because one of the tactics of the Devil is to present himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

The persecuted Christian is reminded once again that God has not forgotten him. The righteous will be rewarded. The wicked will be punished.

ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 16 introduces us to the battle of Armageddon. To the premillennialist, this battle will take place prior to Christ's return to set up his earthly kingdom. To many, this battle will be an earthly battle in which the forces of evil will be conquered.

Revelation 16 shows the "battle" discussed here is a gathering of the wicked for judgment. Notice the statement of Rev. 16:15: "Behold, I come as a thief" (cf. 1 Thess. 5:2). At judgment, the wicked will be punished forever. They will lose the battle.

Armageddon, which literally means, "mountain of Megiddo, is an apt representation of defeat. This area of Israel was the scene of many battles and several losses by Israel.

Please note the following:

1. Kings of Canaan defeated here ô Judges 5:19
2. Ahaziah, King of Judah, was killed here ô 2 Kgs. 9:27
3. Josiah, King of Judah, was killed here ô 2 Kgs. 23:29

The "battle" mentioned in Rev. 16 is not a literal battle, but a scene showing that God will punish the wicked at judgment.

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 15 ô 16

1. The faithful will be in heaven and worship God forever (15:2-4).
2. God is eternal (15:7).
3. God will punish all the wicked (ch. 16).
4. You will reap what you sow (16:6).
5. God is true and righteous (16:7).
6. Problems caused by our wickedness should cause us to repent (16:9,11).
7. Judgment will come as a thief (16:15).
8. All the wicked will be punished at the Judgment Day (16:17-21).

REVELATION 17-19

- I. The woman on the scarlet beast (17:1-18)
 1. Her judgment is upon her (17:1)
 2. Others follow her (17:2)
 3. Described as "Babylon the Great" (17:3-5)
 4. Kills the saints (17:6)
 5. The beast will be judged (17:7,8) [Note: This is the same beast as in 13:1ff]
 6. Woman sits upon seven mountains (seven heads ó seven mountains) (17:9) [The city of Rome was built on seven hills]
 7. The city was, is, and will continue for a short time (17:10)
 8. The power of the city comes from the beast (17:11)
 9. Others will help the beast, yet have no kingdom of their own. Seems to refer to smaller rulers within the empire (17:12,13)
 10. The King of kings will defeat the woman on the beast (17:14)
 11. The woman rules over many people (17:15)
 12. Those who serve the woman will turn against her and destroy her (17:16,17)
 13. The woman is the great city that rules the world Rome (17:18)
- II. The fall of Babylon (18:1-24)
 1. The city's judgment is come (18:1-3)
 2. The saints are encouraged to faithfulness so as not to receive the judgment of the woman (18:4)
 3. God knows the wickedness of the woman and will punish her. She will reap what she has sown (18:5-8)
 4. Those who have served Babylon shall weep when she fails (18:9-19)
 5. The city that persecuted the saints (Rome) shall be destroyed and the saints shall rejoice (18:20-24)
- III. The victory of the saints (19:1-21)
 1. God's judgment is true and righteous (19:1-6)
 2. The faithful will be with Christ (19:7-9)
 3. The angel bringing the vision refuses John's attempt to worship him (19:10)
 4. Christ is ready to judge (19:11-16)
 5. The two beasts of Revelation 13 (The Roman Empire and its army) are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (19:17-21)
- IV. A review of Revelation 17-19

In this picture, we see the city of Rome described in all her beauty. Rome rules the world because of her strength. Many walk in her wicked ways. Although Rome showed such great strength, she will be destroyed from within.

Those who served the woman and made their money off the Roman Empire weep at the fall of Rome. If they partook with her, they will receive the same condemnation as Rome does. Rome and her allies will be cast down. God knows what is happening in Rome and the Empire and has not forgotten those who died for Christ (cf. Rev. 6:9,10). Punishment will come upon the wicked.

The saints are encouraged by knowing they will be at the marriage of the Lamb (19:9). All their faithfulness has paid off. We see Jesus coming in judgment with a sword, to cast the wicked into the "winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (19:15). The saints will reign. The wicked will be punished.

One final comfort to the righteous is that the beasts will be cast down also. The ones killing the saints (Rome and her forces) will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (19:20). The saints now know that God has not forgotten them, and that wickedness does not pay.

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 17 619

1. Jesus will overcome the wicked (17:14).
2. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords (17:14).
3. The faithful are with Christ (17:14).
4. The righteous must not fall with the wicked. Abstain from wickedness (18:4).
5. God knows (18:5).
6. You will reap what you sow (18:6-8).
7. God's judgments are true and righteous (19:2).
8. God will punish the wicked (19:2).
9. The faithful will be with Jesus (19:7-9).
10. Do not worship any but God (19:9,10).
11. All the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (19:11-21).

REVELATION 20-22

- I. Satan bound (20:1-3)
- II. Those who died for Christ (20:4-6)
- III. Satan punished forever (20:7-10)
- IV. Judgment (20:11 ó 21:8)
 - 1. All to be judged (20:11-13)
 - 2. Death, hell (hades), and the wicked to be cast into the lake of fire (20:14,15)
 - 3. The faithful will be in Heaven (21:1-7)
 - A. A new dwelling place (21:1,2)
 - B. No more earthly problems (21:3,4)
 - C. The faithful will be with God (21:5-7)
 - D. The wicked will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (21:8)
- V. Heaven's beauty (21:9 ó 22:5)
 - 1. Having the glory of God (21:9-11)
 - 2. Walls, gates, and street (21:12-21)
 - 3. God and Jesus are its light (21:22,23)
 - 4. Righteous are there (21:24-26)
 - 5. Wicked are not there (21:27)
 - 6. River of water of life and tree of life (22:1,2)
 - 7. God is the light (22:3-5)
 - 8. It is eternal (22:5)
- VI. General exhortation (22:6-21)
 - 1. Sudden and certain return of Christ (22:7,12,20)
 - 2. Keep the sayings of the book (22:7,18,19)
 - 3. Angel refuses worship (22:8,9)
 - 4. Worship God (22:9)
 - 5. We will be judged by our works (22:10-12)
 - 6. Those who keep God's commandments will be saved (22:13-15)
 - 7. Jesus is the authority for the book (22:16)
 - 8. Jesus wants all to be saved (22:17)
 - 9. Conclusion (22:21)
- VII. A review of Revelation 20-22

In this section, we see the judgment of all. Satan and the wicked will be cast into Hell and punished forever. Death and Hades will be conquered and cast away (cf. 1 Cor. 15:26).

The faithful will be rewarded by an eternity in Heaven. They are given a beautiful description of Heaven to encourage them to faithfulness.

The righteous are comforted in knowing they will be rewarded and the wicked will be punished. They are also encouraged to neither add to nor take from God's word. Keeping God's commandments will bring our reward.

All are reminded that Christ is coming, and Judgment will be upon everyone.

REVELATION 20

In this portion of our lesson, we want to look a little closer at what is said in Revelation 20. This chapter is one of the most misused and abused chapters in the Bible. Premillennialists use this chapter to support the so-called 1000-year reign of Christ. What does this chapter teach? In this chapter, Satan, faithful saints who have died, and unfaithful people who have died are dealt with. We will note what the chapter says about each of these and then do an overview of the chapter.

SATAN

Bound for 1000 years (20:1-3)

Must be loosed at the end of the 1000 years (20:3)

Will deceive as his forces are gathered at Judgment (20:7-9)

Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (20:10)

MARTYRED SAINTS

Live and reign with Christ 1000 years (20:4)

Raised to their final reward in Judgment (20:6)

UNFAITHFUL DEAD ("Rest of the dead")

Do not live with Christ (20:5)

Will be resurrected to eternal punishment (20:12-15)

Revelation 20 shows us that the Devil does not have free reign on the Earth. He is bound now. This is the case, because he will be loosed at Judgment and be punished (vss. 7-10). The Devils' binding or restriction is shown throughout God's word. In Job 1 and 2, we see that God limits Satan's activity by restricting what Satan could do. Yet, the Devil's real restriction came about with the work of Christ.

Christ defeated the Devil at the temptation in Matt. 4 and the Devil left him. After this, Jesus begins to cast out demons and further restrict the Devil (c. Matt. 4:24; et.al).

The work of the apostles in Matt. 10 included casting out devils (Matt. 10:5), but more importantly spread the message of God, which the Devil cannot defeat. The work of the 70 in Lk. 10 is associated with the Devil falling from Heaven (i.e., a defeat of the Devil). The preaching of the word works to defeat the Devil.

Jesus discusses the salvation of all men in Jn. 12. Jesus would glorify God by doing his will, and thus, begins the work of casting out the Devil (Jn. 12:31). This would come by Jesus' death upon the cross (Jn. 12:32). Jesus' death on the cross openly defeated the Devil and his work (Eph. 2:11ff; Col. 2:14,15). Rev. 12:5 teaches us that, while the Devil tried to defeat Jesus, Jesus triumphed to reign with God.

The church continues to fight the Devil by using the whole armor of God (His Word) (Eph. 6:10ff). We resist the Devil and he will flee from us (Jas. 4:7). The Devil may seem powerful, but God's word limits his ability.

While restricted now, the Devil will be loosed at Judgment, and gather his forces together. The Devil and all his forces will be cast into the lake of fire, the second death.

Here, in Rev. 20, we see the saints who have died for Christ (vs. 4; cf. Rev. 6:9). These reign with Christ NOW in Paradise. Their reign is not upon Earth. Those who die for Christ will be rewarded with Heaven and need not fear eternal punishment (vs. 6).

It must be noted that the saints reigning with Christ a 1000 years (vss. 4,6) all takes place in the Heavenly realm. The 1000 years represents a period in which the saints will be with Christ, and in vs. 4, this is in Paradise (cf. Lk. 19:16ff ó "Abraham's bosom"). In vss. 5,6, it is Heaven ó their reward after the resurrection (cf. Jn. 5:29; Matt. 25:46; Acts 24:15).

The "1000-year-reign" of the saints is (1) not a literal 1000 years, and (2) does not take place on Earth. Those who believe Christ will reign upon Earth 1000 years did not get that idea from God's word. In the Bible, it teaches us that the faithful will meet Christ in the air and ever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:17).

Revelation 20 does not teach the doctrine of a second chance. What it does teach is that now is the time we have to prepare for Judgment. At Judgment, we will be judged by our deeds (vs. 13).

LESSONS FROM REVELATION 20-22

1. God is more powerful than the Devil (20:1-3).
2. The faithful will be rewarded (20:4)
3. The wicked will be lost (20:5,15).
4. The Devil and his followers will be lost forever (20:8-10).
5. Heaven is wonderful (21 and 22).
6. There is a Hell (20:15; 21:8).
7. We will be judged by our deeds (20:13; 22:12).
8. Heaven is for all the saved (21:24).
9. Heaven is eternal (22:5).
10. Jesus will come again (22:7,12,20).
11. Worship God only (22:8,9).
12. Keep God's commandments and receive the reward (22:14).
13. Do not tamper with God's word (22:18,19).
14. Jesus' invitation is open to all (22:17).
15. We should look forward to the second coming of Christ (22:20).

WHY CHRIST WILL NOT ESTABLISH A KINGDOM UPON EARTH (Or, our response to the doctrine of premillennialism)

INTRODUCTION:

1. The doctrine of premillennialism is based upon three things being true:
 - A. The Earth will continue to stand after Christ returns.
 - B. Christ will reign upon Earth for 1000 years.
 - C. The kingdom that Christ came to establish is not yet set up.
2. If any of these is false, then the doctrine fails. Let us examine these from the scriptures.

DISCUSSION:

I. WILL THE EARTH CONTINUE TO STAND AFTER CHRIST RETURNS?

1. 2 Pet 3:5ff teach us that the Earth will be burned up at the coming of Christ.
2. 1 Jn. 2:15-17 also teach us that the Earth and the works therein will be burned up at the end of time.
3. NOTE: Both of the passages above distinguish between the Earth and the works that are upon the Earth. The Earth will not be "cleansed" but will be destroyed.

II. WILL CHRIST RETURN TO EARTH TO REIGN FOR 1000 YEARS?

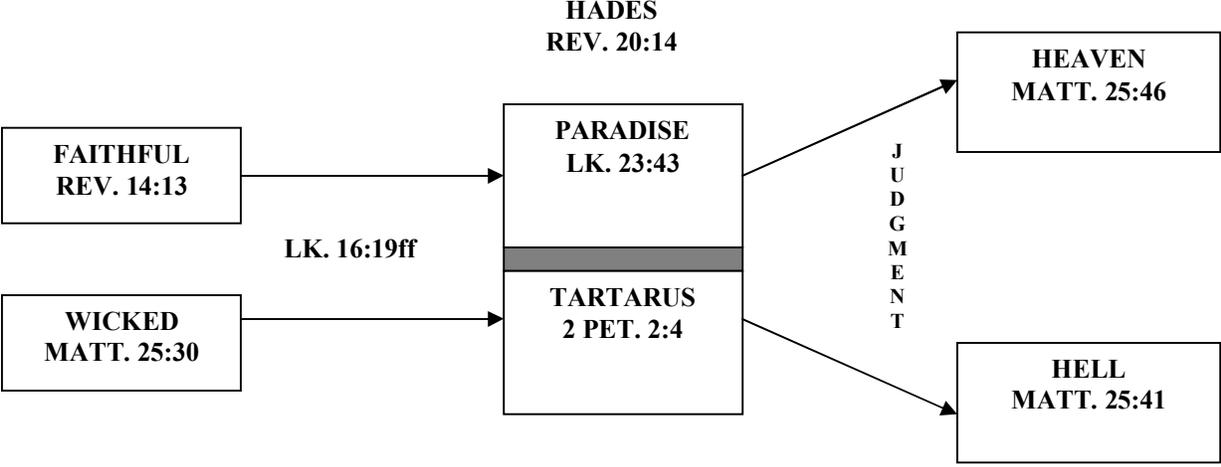
1. Rev. 20 shows that the 1000 years is now. Satan will be loosed after the 1000 years to be judged (Rev. 20:7-10); therefore the period of his binding is now. The saints who have died in Christ reign now with Christ (Rev. 20:4). These are not future periods, but present.
2. If Jesus were on Earth, he could not be our High Priest (Rom, 8:4). The significance of this is seen in the following notes concerning Jesus as our High Priest.

III. DID CHRIST ESTABLISH THE KINGDOM HE INTENDED TO SET UP?

1. Jesus and John taught that the kingdom was at hand (Matt. 3:2; 4:17).
2. Jesus promised the apostles the keys to the kingdom (Matt. 16:19).
3. Jesus taught the apostles things pertaining to the kingdom (Acts 1:3).
4. Philip preached things concerning the kingdom (Acts 8:12).
5. The people were taught things concerning the kingdom (Acts 19:8; 28:23,31).
6. Jesus, at Judgment, will deliver the kingdom to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
7. Those who are saved are translated out of darkness into the kingdom (Col. 1:13).
8. We are called into the kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12).
9. John was in the kingdom (Rev. 1:9).

CHRIST, OUR HIGH PRIEST
In Hebrews

1. He is our High Priest (3:1)
2. We are to hold fast our profession because he is High Priest (4:14)
3. He is a High Priest who was tempted, yet without sin (4:15)
4. God made Jesus our High Priest (5:5,6,10)
5. Jesus has entered within the veil (6:19,20)
6. New priesthood necessitated a new law (7:11)
7. His is an unchangeable priesthood (7:24)
8. He is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, higher than the heavens (7:26)
9. He sits on the right hand of God (8:1)
10. He has entered into the holy place (Heaven) (9:12,24)
11. He was offered once for all (10:10-14)
12. His being our High Priest gives us boldness to enter in (10:19)
13. What does Jesus do for us as High Priest?
 - A. Makes reconciliation for his people (2:17)
 - B. Is the author of eternal salvation (5:9)
 - C. Is the surety of a better testament (7:22)
 - D. Is the mediator of a better covenant (8:6)
 - E. Has made eternal redemption possible for us (9:12)
14. All of the above, we will not have if Jesus comes to Earth again, because if he were upon Earth, he would not be our High Priest (8:4).



EMPEROR WORSHIP

In the discussion of the book of Revelation, the issue of emperor worship figures prominently in our understanding of the book. During the First Century, worship of false gods was prominent, especially in countries dominated by Gentile populations. Athens was noted for its idolatry (cf. Acts 17), and Corinth was sometimes referred to as "Little Athens". Besides the major gods worshipped by the people, individuals would sometimes have their own gods. Many cities had a chief god, such as Diana in Ephesus (cf. Acts 19).

When Rome conquered the lands previously held by the Greeks, the idolatry already existing was continued, only with Roman names for most of the gods. The Roman Empire grew to be the mightiest force on the face of the Earth, and its pagan worship is well documented.

Because people viewed their rulers as being superior, it was not difficult for them to ascribe the idea of deity to their rulers (especially since they gave human characteristics to their gods). Thus, in many cultures, the rulers were worshipped as "gods". It does not seem that the people believed their rulers could do the great wonders generally attributed to the gods, but the status of the rulers was on the same level as the gods. Egypt viewed its Pharaohs as gods, and, in time, Roman Caesars came to have the stature of deity. Consider the following statement by Durant:

Augustus himself became one of the chief competitors of his gods. His great-uncle had set the example: two years after being murdered, Caesar had been recognized by the Senate as a deity, and his worship spread throughout the Empire. As early as 36 B.C. some Italian cities had given Octavian a place in their pantheon; by 27 B.C. his name was added to those of the gods in official hymns at Rome; his birthday became a holy day as well as a holiday; and after his death the Senate decreed that his *genius*, or soul, was thereafter to be worshipped as one of the official divinities. In Italian homes the worship of the Emperor's *genius* became associated with the adoration given to the Lares of the household and *genius* of the paterfamilias; there was nothing difficult in this for a people which

through centuries had deified dead parents, built altars to them, and given the name of temples to ancestral tombs. (p. 226)

Emperor worship also served as a solidifying point in a diverse society. While many may have had their individual worship, all had the worship of the emperor in common.

Revelation 13 mentions a beast that would persecute and kill Christians (vs. 7). The description given to this beast is fulfilled in the Roman Empire of that day. That is, the first beast represented the government that oppressed the church and ruled over the nations. A second beast is also mentioned in Revelation 13. This beast caused people to worship the image of the first beast. Thus, this beast was a power that caused people to worship the Roman emperor and refused people the right to buy or sell unless people worshipped the image of the Roman Empire (vss. 12-17).

Emperor worship may have provided the Roman government a good deal of power and control, but it created a critical problem for Christians. Worship of the emperor violated the principles set down by God ó Christians are not to worship man (cf. Acts 10:25,26), nor are Christians to worship false gods (cf. Ex. 20; Acts 15; 1 Thess. 1:9). Because the emperor was a human who professed deity, to worship the image of the emperor would mean that Christians believed in the deity of this human.

Although the Christian could not worship the emperor, to not worship the emperor could be very dangerous for them. Thus, the Christian was faced with not worshipping the emperor and being punished for not doing so, or worshipping the emperor and compromising Christianity. To fail to worship the emperor could be viewed as sedition by the Roman authorities.

Under Roman Lawí Christians were liable to suffer penalties imposed by Roman law just because they were Christians, Christian apologists continued to protest that they were innocent of any crime but their protests went unheededí those who voiced such protests were told that they might easily prove their loyalty to the empire by worshipping the state gods, and in particular by burning incense to the

emperor's image or swearing by his divinity the Christians refusal to countenance such claims, and the language in which they ascribed divine honor to Jesus, could easily be given the appearance of sedition. (Bruce, p. 67)

Durant notes in his book that *"In 93 Domitian executed some Christians for refusing to offer sacrifice before his image ..."* (p. 292).

Emperor worship was best developed in the province of Asia in western Asia Minor. The first temple for emperor worship was erected in Pergamum, dedicated both to the goddess Roma and the emperor Augustus in 29 B.C. The *ōconciliaö* was located in Pergamum as well. This assembly was set up to enforce emperor worship which by 12 B.C. had been pushed more forcibly upon people by Augustus. The *ōconciliaö* was in charge of state religion.

While some Roman emperors did not encourage emperor worship, some did. Among those who did encourage emperor worship were Caligula, Nero, and Domitian. Emperor worshipped continued to be a part of the state religion up to the days of Constantine (approx. 350 A.D.). Persecution against Christians diminished after the emperor Decius was defeated at Beroea in 250 A.D.

While torture and death could be the result of not worshipping the emperor, there is the possibility that those who enforced the state religion may also have resorted to fakery of some sort to make the image appear to speak. Henrikson alludes to this in his book on page 180 and cites the work of William Ramsay also in this regards. Throughout history people have played on the superstitions of many to control them. How many times in our own lives have we heard of some *ōmiraculousö* happening coming from some statute, painting, etc.? To further emphasize this point, Julius Caesar was deified partly because on the night he died, a comet appeared in the sky. The bright light put off by the comet signified to the people that Caesar's soul had gone to heaven (*ōEmperor Worshipö*, p. 2).

Revelation 13:16,17 make reference to a *ōmarkö* given to people to allow them to buy and sell. This *ōmarkö* was given to them when they worshipped the image of the beast. One thing we do know is that those who worshipped the emperor received a certificate (*libellus*) showing they had worshipped the emperor. Once the participant had worshipped the emperor, then the participant was free to worship as he or she pleased. Archaeologists have discovered a copy of a *libellus*. This *libellus* was found on a papyrus at Oxyrhynchus. It is dated as June 26, 250 A.D. by those who have studied it. It reads as follows:

To the Commissioners of Sacrifice of the Village of Alexander's Island: From Aurelius Diogenes, the son of Satabus, of the Village of Alexander's Island, aged 72 years: --- scar on his right eyebrow.

I have always sacrificed regularly to the gods, and now, in your presence, in accordance with the edict, I have done sacrifice, and poured the drink offering, and tasted of the sacrifices, and I request you to certify the same. Farewell.

Handed in by, *Aurelius Diogenes*.

I certify that I saw him sacrificing. (Signature obliterated)

Done in the first year of the Emperor, Caesar Gaius Messius Quintus Trajanus Decius Pius Felix Augustus, second of the month Epith.

(*ōAncient History Sourcebookö*, p. 1)

Emperor worship caused serious problems for the Christian, and helped to destroy the Roman Empire. Yet, those who practiced emperor worship believed they were doing a great service. As one writer said, "*While it is presumably true that those who engaged in activities honoring the emperor in some divine way saw themselves as engaging in a socially useful function, nonetheless it is hard to escape the notion it was a lot of nonsense.*" (*ōEmperor Worshipö*, pp. 4,5).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ancient History Sourcebook: Certificate of Having Sacrificed to the Gods, 250 CE. www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/250sacrificecert.html. Jan. 6, 2003.
- Bruce, F.F. *The Defense of the Gospel*, p. 67, as quoted in •Quotes About the Bible & History. www.bible-history.com. Jan. 5, 2003
- Church History Study Helps: Emperor Worship. www.theologywebsite.com. Jan. 5, 2003.
- Copeland, Mark A. •The Book of Revelation ó Chapter Thirteen. www.bible.ca. Jan. 6, 2003.
- Decius (249- 251 AD). www.umich.edu. Jan. 6, 2003.
- The Emperor Decius ó 249-251. www.campus.northpart.edu. Jan. 6, 2003.
- Emperor Worship. www.ualberta.ca. Jan. 5, 2003.
- Henrickson, W. *More Than Conquerors*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1967.
- Pergamum. www.bibleplaces.com. Jan. 6, 2003.
- Pergamos ó Pergamum. www.latter-rain.com. Jan. 6, 2003.
- Pergamum ó Hellø Headquarters. www.angelfire.com Jan. 6, 2003.
- The work of William Ramsay that is cited in this paper is as follows:
- Ramsay, W. M. The Letters To The Seven Churches Of Asia.*

Some Passages that Relate to Revelation 22:18,19

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Although these verses refer to the book of Revelation, the principle taught herein is consistently taught throughout the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, God has always asked for obedience to his word, and his word only.

Noah was saved from the flood because he did “according to all that God commanded him” (Genesis 6:22; 7:5). God knew that Abraham would teach his children to “keep the way of the Lord” (Genesis 18:19). The children of Israel were commanded to make the tabernacle “According to all that I show thee after the pattern of the tabernacle” and the furnishings of the tabernacle “after their pattern” (Exodus 25:9,40). Further, Aaron and his sons were to be consecrated as the high priests “according to all things which I have commanded thee” (Exodus 29:35). All the work was done “according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they”; “According to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel made all the work. And Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.” (Exodus 39:32,42,43) Also, in Exodus 40, verses 16, 19, 21, 25,27,29, and 32 all say that the work was completed “as the Lord commanded Moses.”

In Leviticus 26:3,4, God promises blessings for obedience to his word. “If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; then I will give you ...” In Numbers 3:51, the firstborn were redeemed “according to the word of the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses.”

Continuing through the book of Numbers, we find that God instructed the Israelites to make fringes in the borders of their garments to remind them to “remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a-whoring; That ye remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.” (Num. 15: 39b, 40) A few chapters later, God told Balaam “yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.” and “Go with the men; but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak.” (Num. 22:20b,35) Balaam himself proclaims this principle in Numbers 24:13 “If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the Lord saith that will I speak?”

Two of the central themes of the book of Deuteronomy are (1) blessings for obedience and (2) curses for disobedience, so this book contains a number of verses that relate to the principle of Biblical authority taught in Revelation 22:18, 19. “Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” (Deuteronomy 4:1, 2) “Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, for ever.” (Deut. 4:40) “Ye shall observe to

do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.ö (Deut. 5:32,33) öAll the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers.ö (Deut. 8:1) öAnd now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?ö (Deut. 10:12,13) öTherefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it:ö (Deut. 11:8)

God told them to study and teach his word constantly to their children (Deut. 11:18-20), and to ödiligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;ö (Deut. 11:22.) And again in Deut. 12:32, öWhat thing soever I command you, observe to do it; thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.ö Deuteronomy 28:1 reads öAnd it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:ö God commanded Moses to gather the people so that they could learn to öobserve to do all the words of this law;ö (Deut. 31:12) and Moses commanded the Levites, to öTake this book of the lawö (Deut. 31:26).

The book of Joshua opens with a strong admonition from God to Joshua to do öaccording to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the leftö in Joshua 1:7 and in verse 8, öThis book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:ö

Near his death, David enjoined Solomon to ökeep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself;ö (1 Kings 2:3) Later in the same book, Micaiah vowed öAs the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.ö (1 Kings 22:14)

Recorded in 2 Kings 17:13 is the warning of God's prophets to Israel and Judah to öTurn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathersö. The failure to heed these warnings brought about the Assyrian captivity (2 Kings 17:23).

In 1 Chronicles 28, we read of David's instructions to Israel and to Solomon to ökeep and seek for all the commandments of the Lord your Godö (verse 8). And David gave Solomon the pattern to follow which he had received from God by inspiration (verses 11 and following). Then, in 2 Chronicles, we read of the great reforms instituted by Josiah when God's word was found. Josiah's concern was that öour fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do after all that is written in this book.ö (2 Chron. 34:21)

In Ezra 2:62 we find those who had to be put out of the priesthood because their genealogy could not be found. This shows that they had to follow the word of God without changing it because there was no authority for these men to be priests. Also illustrating the importance of God's word is Ezra 7:10, öFor Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.ö And finally in Ezra 10, in

accordance with the absolute authority of God's word, there were those who had taken strange wives who had to put them away.

One of the most touching passages in the Bible showing the reverence that people should have for God's word is found in Nehemiah 8. The people there stood while the law was being read and wept when they realized they were not living by the word of God. In Nehemiah 10:29, the people promise to "walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the Lord our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes."

Psalms 119 has much to say about keeping the word of God. Time and space will not permit the quoting of every verse, but note verse 104, which says "Through thy precepts I get understanding; **therefore I hate every false way.**" (Emphasis mine, L.C.) Remember, we cannot turn to the right or left, add to, or take away from God's word. If we understand God's word, we will (as the Psalmist did) hate every detour from it. Psalm 127:1 says "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; If we don't stick to God's pattern, we are laboring in vain!"

Twice in Proverbs, the writer says "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12; 16:25) Agur, the son of Jakeh, gives this warning concerning changing God's word "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

The wise man, Solomon, finishes the book of Ecclesiastes with the "conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13) Isaiah states that "if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa. 8:20) He further condemns those who would follow the precepts of men (Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8,9). Jeremiah similarly condemns those who love to hear falsehoods (Jer. 5:31) and gives God's command to "Obey my voice and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." (Jer. 7:23) Later in Jeremiah 10:23, we read that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Then Jeremiah urges the people "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord." (Jer. 22:29) and "Therefore now amend your ways and your doings and obey the voice of the Lord your God;" (Jer. 26:13).

Ezekiel 11:20 reads "That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people and I will be their God." And God commanded Ezekiel to show the house of Israel "the form of the house... and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances...and all the laws thereof...that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them." (Ezek. 43:11). We must likewise today follow the pattern God has given us.

Hosea has a great deal to say about following the law of God. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge..." (4:6) "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing." (8:12) "My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him" (9:17) and "it is time to seek the Lord..." (10:12). "Therefore turn thou to thy God; keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually." (12:6) He ends his book with the admonition "Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein." (14:9)

Malachi condemns those who have "caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts."

Jesus emphasized the importance of God's word when he told the devil --
 "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Mt. 4:4) He showed the need for authority when he said "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Mt. 7:22,23) He warned us not to add to God's word in Matt. 15:6-9 (cf. Mark 7:13) when he condemned men's traditions. Jesus told the Sadducees "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures..." (Mt. 22:29) The command to teach baptized believers to "observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" (Mt. 28:20) is an undeniable statement of the need for the authority of God. He expressed the need for obedience to his word when he asked "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46) and when he said, "My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." (Luke 8:21) Jesus, like Isaiah and Jeremiah, again revealed the foolishness of following men's thoughts rather than the word of God when he told the Pharisees "Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." (Lk. 16:15) He showed the importance of heeding the scriptures and only the scriptures, when he told the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. The rich man wanted one from the dead to go to his brothers to warn them of torments, but Jesus explained that they would not be persuaded if they were not persuaded by God's word.

Furthermore, we will be judged by the word of God (Jn. 12:48). We show our love for Jesus, abide in his love, and are his friends if we keep his commandments (Jn. 14:15; 15:10,14).

Other New Testament passages that relate to Revelation 22:18,19 include:

Romans 3:4 ó "let God be true, but every man a liar"
 1 Corinthians 4:6 ó "that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written..."
 1 Corinthians 10:31 ó "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
 Galatians 1:6-9 ó "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."
 Colossians 3:17 ó "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
 1 Timothy 4:16 ó "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."
 Hebrews 7:14 ó "For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood." (Silence of the scriptures prohibits!)
 James 1:22 ó "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."
 James 2:10 ó "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (If you obey God in the points you agree with and not those that you don't, you are really serving self!)

I can think of no better summary on the subject of the authority of God's word than that found in 1 Peter 4:11 ó "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God!"

THE BEAST OF REVELATION

The identity of the beast of Revelation has captured the imagination of people over the centuries. The mistaken idea that many people have is that there is only one beast in the book of Revelation. In actuality, there are six beasts mentioned in the book.

1. There are four beasts in Rev. 4:6ff that are worshipping God. These, of course, would be good beasts.
2. There is another beast in Rev. 13:1-10 that is obviously an evil beast. This is the beast everyone seems to be concerned with.
3. There is a sixth beast in Rev. 13:11-17 that is also evil. Few seem to be concerned with this beast.

Part of the reason for the concern of the identity of the first beast in Rev. 13 is because it is with this beast that the number 666 is associated (Rev. 13:18).

To understand the identity of this beast, one needs a little background to the book of Revelation. Written near the end of the 1st Century (probably about 96 a.d.), it addresses Christians who are under severe persecution (see Rev. 2:10 and Rev. 11). The ruling government at the time was Rome and the emperor was Domitian.

Two things had occurred that made life extremely difficult for Christians. One, persecution against the church had spread throughout the Roman Empire. What had been initially in and around the city of Rome had now spread to Asia Minor and elsewhere. Two, in order to solidify allegiance to Rome, emperor worship had been instituted throughout the Empire. Christians would have to choose between faithfulness to God in not worshipping any man or being persecuted and killed.

The Revelation was written to comfort these Christians during these perilous times (Rev. 1:3; 2:10; 14:13; 17:14). They would see in the book the destruction of all of their enemies and the victory of the church.

With this background, notice what is said of the first beast in Rev. 13.

1. He is a terrible beast (2,3).
2. He received his power from the Dragon (Satan in 12:9) (2).
3. He was wounded but not healed (3). This is believed to be a reference to a wound Domitian had received in battle and of which the scar still showed.
4. He would be worshipped by the people (4). This would be a reference to emperor worship.
5. He spoke blasphemies against God (5,6).
6. He made war with the saints and overcame them (7). This would be a reference to the persecution of the church.
7. He would be worshipped by evil people (8).
8. He would be overthrown (10).
9. His number would be 666 (18). Six was the number of evil. To express more evil, all one had to do was compound the number. Thus, six was evil, and 666 would represent that which was extremely evil.

What, at the time of the Revelation, was extremely evil, worshipped by men, and made war with the saints? What, by doing so, was blasphemous against God? At that time, this beast would represent the Roman government.

The second beast of Rev. 13 has this description.

1. He exercised the power of the first beast (12). His authority came from the first beast.
2. He caused the people of the earth to worship the first beast (12). This would be a reference to forced emperor worship.
3. He deceived people by ðmighty miraclesö (13-15). It was known that those who wanted their idols to be worshipped would make it appear that their idols could talk and possessed great powers. Apparently, they would use ventriloquist to ðmake their gods talkö.
4. He would cause people to be killed who did not worship the first beast (15). To not worship the emperor could lead to one's being killed.
5. He kept people from buying and selling unless they had the mark of the beast (16,17). This is a reference to the certificate that people received who worshipped the emperor. With this certificate, they could carry on normal business. Without it, they could not buy nor sell. This ðmarkö showed their ðallegianceö to the emperor. Understandably, many Christians did not get this certificate and thus life was even more miserable for them

What, at the time of Revelation, received its power from the first beast, caused people to worship the first beast, and punished those who did not worship the first beast? At that time, this duty fell to a branch of the Roman government called the Concillia. Their mission was to enforce emperor worship.

These two beasts represent nothing more than the Roman government and its army. Both were enemies of the church and worked to make the lives of Christians difficult. Although the Roman government was strong and seeming to prosper, God assures them that these two ðbeastsö would fall and be cast into Hell (Rev. 19:20).

Slide 1

**THE REVELATION OF
JESUS CHRIST**
**A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF
REVELATION**

Slide 2

RECOMMENDED BOOKS
~ *More Than Conquerors*, W. Hendriksen,
Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1967.
~ *The Lamb/The Lion*, Jim Waldron,
Harriman, TN, 2007.

Slide 3

WHAT YOU HEAR?
**THE BOOK
OF
REVELATION**

Slide 4

WHAT YOU SEE?





144,000

Slide 5

REMEMBER THIS

- ~ IT IS THE BOOK OF REVELATION.
- ~ IT IS NOT THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS.
- ~ IT IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.
- ~ IT IS A BOOK WITH ONE MESSAGE, NOT A MULTITUDE OF MESSAGES.

Slide 6

WHAT IS NORMALLY SAID ABOUT THE BOOK?

- ~ CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS.
- ~ THE BEAST
- ~ CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS.
- ~ THE MARK OF THE BEAST (666)
- ~ CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS.
- ~ ONLY 144,000 WILL GO TO HEAVEN.
- ~ CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS.

Slide 7

APPROACH TO REVELATION

- ~ IT IS A BOOK LIKE ANY OTHER.
- ~ ONE MUST REMOVE WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE BOOK.
- ~ IT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD.
- ~ IT WAS WRITTEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD.
- ~ IT WAS WRITTEN TO REVEAL.
- ~ REV. 1:1-3; 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 22:18,19

Slide 8

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

- ~ THE LANGUAGE MUST BE TAKEN LITERALLY UNLESS THE CONTEXT FORCES OTHERWISE.
- ~ THE MEANING OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE CANNOT CONTRADICT THE PLAIN TEACHING OF THE BIBLE.
- ~ FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN ITS CONTEXT.

Slide 9

THE DATE OF THE BOOK

- ~ IRENAEUS (125 – 202 A.D.) SAID CONCERNING THIS BOOK THAT IT WAS “SEEN NOT A VERY LONG TIME SINCE, BUT ALMOST IN OUR OWN DAY, TOWARD THE END OF DOMITIAN’S REIGN (81 – 96 A.D.).” (ANTINICENE FATHERS, VOL. 1, P. 416)
- ~ JOHN WAS EXILED, WHICH WAS A COMMON PUNISHMENT IN THE DAYS OF DOMITIAN.
- ~ ROMAN PERSECUTION HAS SPREAD BEYOND ROME AND INTO ASIA MINOR. THIS TOOK PLACE LATER IN THE 1ST CENTURY.

Slide 10



Slide 11

THE THEME OF THE BOOK

- ~ VICTORY IN CHRIST
- ~ REV. 14:13
- ~ REV. 17:14
- ~ REV. 6:9
- ~ REV. 22:14,17

Slide 12

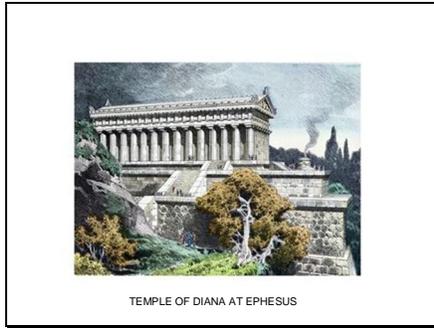
THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Slide 13

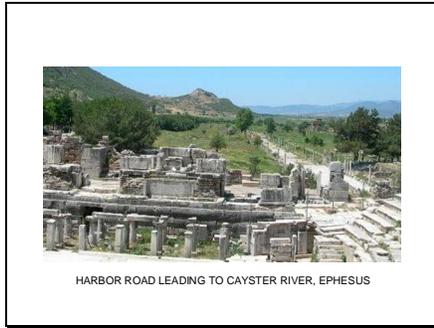


Slide 14



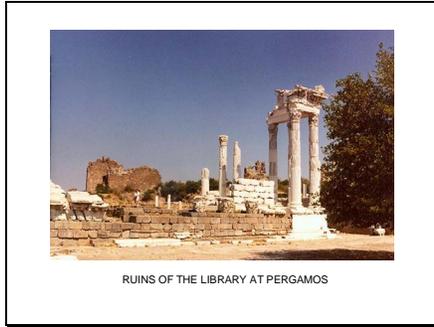
TEMPLE OF DIANA AT EPHEBUS

Slide 15

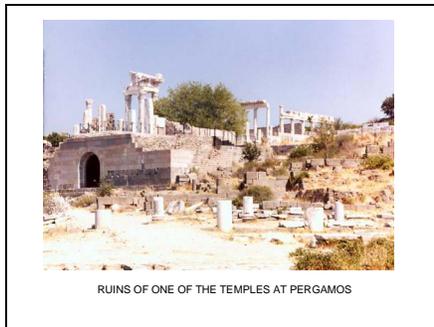


HARBOR ROAD LEADING TO CAYSTER RIVER, EPHEBUS

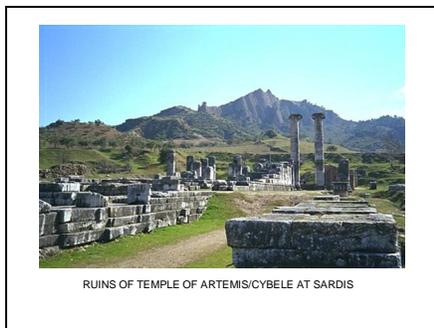
Slide 16



Slide 17



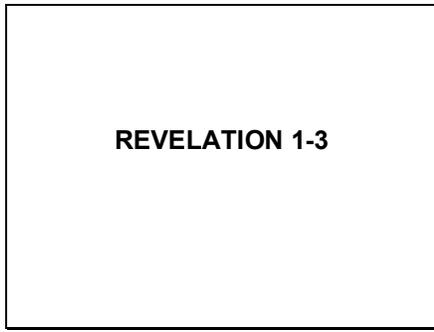
Slide 18



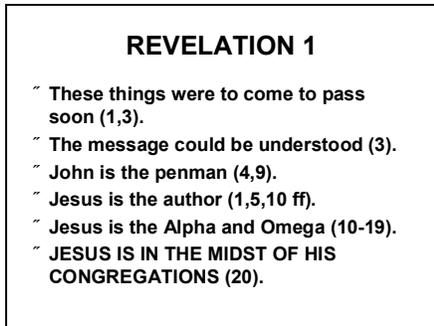
Slide 19



Slide 20



Slide 21



Slide 22

EPHESUS
"The church which left its first love"

<p>~ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . I know your works . I know your labor . I know your patience . You cannot bear those who are evil . You have proven and exposed the false teachers . You labored unceasingly . Hate the work of the Nicolaitanes 	<p>~ BAD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . You have left your first love . Remember where you were . Repent and do the first works
--	--

Slide 23

SMYRNA
"The church that was faithful unto death"

<p>~ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . I know your works . I know your tribulation . I know your poverty . I know those who work against you 	<p>~ ENCOURAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Fear none of those things which you shall suffer . Be faithful unto death
--	--

Slide 24

PERGAMOS
"The church in hell's headquarters"

<p>~ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . I know your works . I know where you dwell . They hold fast his name . They have not denied his faith 	<p>~ BAD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . You have those who hold the doctrine of Balaam . You have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes.
--	--

Slide 25

THYATIRA
"The church threatened from within"

<p>“ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. I know your works. I know your charity. I know your service. I know your faith. I know your patience. You have grown spiritually.	<p>“ BAD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. You allow one to work among you who would destroy the church.. All who follow her will be destroyed by God.
--	---

Slide 26

SARDIS
"The church of the living dead"

<p>“ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. You have some who have not defiled their garments	<p>“ BAD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. You think you live, but you are dead. Be watchful. Strengthen that which is still there. Your works are not perfect before God
---	--

Slide 27

PHILADELPHIA
"The church with the open door"

<p>“ GOOD THINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. I know your works. You have an open door. They kept his word. They did not deny the faith. Jesus will keep them from the hour of temptation	<p>“ ENCOURAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">. Your enemies will worship at your feet. Hold fast that which you have
---	--

Slide 28

LAODICEA
 “The church that made God sick”

~ GOOD THINGS	~ BAD THINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . You are trying to hold the middle ground . She was poor . She was blind . She was naked
---------------	---

Slide 29

REVELATION 4-9

Slide 30

THE SCENE AROUND THE THRONE OF GOD

- ~ REVELATION 4
- ~ IT IS A MAGNIFICENT SCENE IN HEAVEN (2,3).
- ~ 24 ELDERS SIT AROUND THE THRONE (THE SAVED OF GOD – CROWNED) (4).
- ~ THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THEIR (7 LAMPS = 7 SPIRITS OF GOD = HOLY SPIRIT) (5).
- ~ FOUR BEASTS WORSHIP GOD (8) AND THE 24 ELDERS WORSHIP GOD (10).

Slide 31

THE BOOK WITH THE SEVEN SEALS

- ~ NONE ARE FOUND WHO ARE WORTHY TO OPEN THE BOOK (5:1-4).
- ~ THE LION OF JUDAH WILL OPEN THE BOOK (5:5). WHO? JESUS (5:6,9).
- ~ FOUR BEASTS AND 24 ELDERS WORSHIP THE LAMB (5:8).
- ~ THE FAITHFUL HAVE BEEN EXALTED (5:10; cf. MATT. 23:12; GAL. 6:9; 1 PET. 5:6).
- ~ ALL WORSHIP THE LAMB (5:13; ROM. 14:10-12).

Slide 32

THE FIRST SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ A WHITE HORSE (6:2).
- ~ THE RIDER WAS GIVEN A CROWN (6:2)
- ~ HE WENT FORTH CONQUERING (6:2).
- ~ WHAT IS THIS? WAR UPON THE EARTH

Slide 33

THE SECOND SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ A RED HORSE (6:4).
- ~ TOOK PEACE FROM THE EARTH (6:4).
- ~ PEOPLE KILLED ONE ANOTHER (6:4).
- ~ WHAT IS THIS? UNREST AND TURMOIL

Slide 34

THE THIRD SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ A BLACK HORSE (6:5).
- ~ THE RIDER HAD A PAIR OF BALANCES IN HIS HAND (6:5).
- ~ WHEAT AND BARLEY COST A PENNY EACH (A DAY'S WAGES) (6:6)
- ~ WHAT IS THIS? FAMINE/DROUGHT

Slide 35

THE FOURTH SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ A PALE HORSE (6:8).
- ~ THE RIDER WAS DEATH AND HELL (HADES) FOLLOWED HIM (6:8).
- ~ POWER TO KILL A FOURTH OF THE EARTH.
- ~ WHAT IS THIS? DEATH

Slide 36

THE FIFTH SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ THE SOULS OF THE MARTYRS (6:9).
- ~ THEY CRIED FOR JUSTICE (6:10).
- ~ THEY WERE GIVEN WHITE ROBES (6:11).
- ~ THERE WOULD BE OTHERS OF THEIR BRETHREN WHO WOULD BE KILLED BEFORE THE JUSTICE OF GOD WOULD BE SERVED (6:11).

Slide 37

THE SIXTH SEAL IS OPENED

- ~ THE LANGUAGE IN 6:12-14 IS SIMILAR TO WHAT IS SEEN IN JOEL 2 AND ACTS 2 (BOTH REPRESENTING THE DAY OF THE LORD OR GOD FULFILLING HIS WILL.)
- ~ 6:17 HELPS US TO SEE THAT EVEN THOUGH MEN MAY SEEK TO HIDE FROM GOD, NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST OR AVOID HIS WRATH.

Slide 38

THE MARKING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- ~ THERE IS A PAUSE HERE, AS GOD MARKS THOSE WHO ARE HIS (REV. 7).
- ~ MARKING IS THE CONCEPT OF NOTING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO BELONG TO GOD (Consider the term in Rom. 16:17 and Phil. 3:17).
- ~ IT IS IN THIS SECTION, THAT WE SEE THE 144,000 – OFTEN USED TO SAY THERE ARE ONLY THIS MANY PEOPLE IN HEAVEN.
- ~ WHO ARE THESE 144,000?

Slide 39

THE 144,000 IDENTIFIED

- ~ THEY ARE SEEN AS 12,000 FROM EACH OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.
- ~ THIS IS NOT LITERAL AS LEVI IS MENTIONED (VS. 7) AND LEVI RECEIVED NO LAND INHERITANCE. ALSO, DAN IS NOT MENTIONED, AND WAS ONE OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL.
- ~ ISRAEL REPRESENTS THE CHOSEN OF GOD, AND THIS SHOWS THAT GOD SAVES ALL THE RIGHTEOUS.

Slide 40

THE 144,000 IDENTIFIED

- ~ THEY ARE ALSO IDENTIFIED AS:
- ~ A GREAT MULTITUDE WHICH NO MAN COULD NUMBER (VS. 9).
- ~ THEY ARE FROM ALL NATIONS , KINDREDS, PEOPLES, AND TONGUES (VS. 9; SEE MATT. 25:32; 28:19).
- ~ THEY WORSHIP GOD (VS. 10-12).
- ~ THESE ARE DWELLING ON EARTH AT THE TIME OF THE WRITING OF THE BOOK.

Slide 41

THE 144,000 IDENTIFIED

- ~ THEY WERE FAITHFUL TO GOD THROUGH THE GREAT TRIBULATION (VSS. 13,14).
- ~ THEIR REWARD SHALL BE AN ETERNITY WITH GOD WHERE THEY WILL NEITHER HUNGER, THIRST, OR BE BOTHERED BY THE ELEMENTS ANYMORE (VSS. 15-17).

Slide 42

THE SEVENTH SEAL

- ~ THERE IS A SILENCE IN HEAVEN (8:1).
- ~ THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ARE BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD (8:3,4).
- ~ THE FIRST ANGEL – DESTRUCTION UPON THE EARTH (8:7).
- ~ THE SECOND ANGEL – DESTRUCTION UPON THE SEA (8:8,9).
- ~ THE THIRD ANGEL – DESTRUCTION UPON THE FRESH WATERS (8:10,11).

Slide 43

THE SEVENTH SEAL

- ~ THE FOURTH ANGEL – DESTRUCTION IN THE SKIES (8:12).
- ~ THERE IS YET ANOTHER PAUSE AS THE FIRST WOES ARE PAST AND THE NEXT THREE ARE EVEN WORSE (8:13).
- ~ THE SAINTS ARE TO UNDERSTAND THAT DESTRUCTION IS AROUND US AND SHOULD WORK TO GET PEOPLE TO REPENT (9:20).

Slide 44

THE SEVENTH SEAL

- ~ THE FIFTH ANGEL – THE BOTTOMLESS PIT IS OPENED (9:1ff).
- ~ LOCUSTS, WITH POWER LIKE UNTO SCORPIONS, COME OUT, BUT CANNOT DESTROY THE EARTH (9:3).
- ~ THEY ALSO CANNOT KILL THOSE WHO ARE EVIL (9:5).
- ~ BUT THEY WILL TORMENT THEM TO SUCH A POINT WHERE THEY WILL SEEK DEATH, BUT CANNOT FIND IT (9:6).

Slide 45

THE SEVENTH SEAL

- ~ THE POWER OF THE LOCUSTS IS SEEN IN THEIR DESCRIPTION:
- ~ HAD BREASTPLATES LIKE BREASTPLATES OF IRON (9:9).
- ~ THEIR SOUND WAS LIKE MANY HORSES AND CHARIOTS GOING INTO BATTLE (9:9).
- ~ THEIR TAILS WERE LIKE SCORPIONS WHERE THEY COULD HURT THEIR ENEMY (9:11).
- ~ THEIR KING WAS APOLLYON (DESTROYER) (9:11)

Slide 46

REVELATION 10-14

Slide 47

THE LITTLE BOOK
~ AN ANGEL WITH A LITTLE BOOK (10:1-3)
~ JOHN IS FORBIDDEN TO WRITE WHAT HE HEARD (10:4)
~ THE ANGEL SWEARS BY GOD WHO CREATED HEAVEN, EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM (10:5-6).
~ THE MYSTERY OF GOD WILL BE FINISHED WHEN THE SEVENTH ANGEL SOUNDS (10:7-8)

Slide 48

THE LITTLE BOOK
~ JOHN IS TOLD TO EAT THE LITTLE BOOK (10:9-11)
~ THE BOOK WILL BE SWEET TO THE TASTE (10:9; cf. PSA. 1:1,2; 119:97; 1 THESS. 2:13)
~ THE BOOK WILL BE BITTER TO THE BELLY (10:9,10; cf. 2 TIM. 3:12; 1 COR. 4:9)
~ JOHN MUST TEACH ALL NATIONS (10:11; MATT. 28:19; MK. 16:15; ACTS 1:8)

Slide 49

THE TWO WITNESSES

- ~ THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS MEASURED (11:1,2)
- ~ TWO WITNESSES (REPRESENTS THOSE WHO PREACH THE WORD)(11:3-14)
 - . WOULD PROPHECY FOR A PERIOD OF TIME (3)
 - . ABLE TO WORK MIRACLES (4-6)
 - . THE BEAST WOULD KILL THEM AND THEIR ENEMIES WILL REJOICE AT THEIR DEATH (7-10)
 - . YET, THEY WILL BE VICTORIOUS AND BE IN HEAVEN (11,12)
 - . PUNISHMENT WILL COME AND GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED (13)

Slide 50

THE 7TH ANGEL SOUNDS

- ~ CHRIST IS VICTORIOUS (11:15)
- ~ THEY WORSHIP GOD (11:16-18)
- ~ THE SERVANTS OF GOD ARE REWARDED AND THE WICKED ARE PUNISHED (11:18)
- ~ JUDGMENT IS HERE (11:19)

Slide 51

THE WOMAN AND THE MAN CHILD

- ~ THE WOMAN IS READY TO GIVE BIRTH (12:1,2)
 - . HER CHILD WOULD RULE ALL NATIONS (12:5)
 - . HER CHILD WOULD BE CAUGHT UP TO GOD (12:5)
 - . HER CHILD WOULD BE JESUS. THIS WOULD BE THE JEWISH NATION THROUGH WHOM JESUS CAME.
- ~ THE DRAGON MAKES WAR ON THE WOMAN TO DEVOUR HER CHILD (12:3,4)

Slide 52

THE WOMAN AND THE MAN CHILD

- ~ THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD FLEE TO SAFETY (12:6)
- ~ MICHAEL DEFEATS THE DEVIL AND CASTS HIM TO EARTH, WHICH ANGERS THE DEVIL (12:7-9)
- ~ THE CHURCH CAN NOW DEFEAT THE DEVIL (12:10,11)
 - . THEY OVERCOME HIM WITH THE WORD OF GOD
 - . cf. EPH. 6:10ff

Slide 53

THE WOMAN AND THE MAN CHILD

- ~ THE DEVIL KNOWS HE HAS BUT A SHORT TIME, SEEKS TO DESTROY THE MAN CHILD, YET CANNOT (12:12-16)
- ~ NOT ABLE TO DESTROY THE MAN CHILD, THE DEVIL TURNS TO DESTROY THE CHURCH (12:17)

Slide 54

THE BEAST AND THE SECOND BEAST

- ~ THE BEAST (13:1-10)
 - . HE HAD THE NAME OF BLASPHEMY (1)
 - . RECEIVED HIS POWER FROM THE DRAGON (2)
 - . VERSE 3 SEEMS TO POINT TO DOMITIAN WHO WAS SAID TO HAVE A WAR WOUND SCAR ON HIS HEAD.
 - . BLASPHEMED GOD (6)
 - . PERSECUTED THE CHURCH (7)
 - . RULED ALL NATIONS (7)
 - . THE EARTH WORSHIPS THE BEAST (EMPEROR WORSHIP) (8)
 - . HIS NUMBER IS 666, WHICH REPRESENTS NOTHING MORE THAN EXTREME EVIL.
 - . THE BEAST IS ROME.

Slide 55

THE BEAST AND THE SECOND BEAST

- ~ THE SECOND BEAST (13:11-17)
 - . RECEIVED HIS POWER FROM THE FIRST BEAST (12)
 - . CAUSED THE EARTH TO WORSHIP THE FIRST BEAST (12)
 - . DECEIVED THE PEOPLE BY MAKING IT APPEAR THE "GODS" HAD POWER (13-15)
 - . HE GAVE THEM A "MARK" WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO BUY AND SELL IF THEY WORSHIPPED THE BEAST (16-17). {A CERTIFICATE WAS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO WORSHIPPED THE EMPEROR.}

Slide 56

ROME IS FALLEN

- ~ THE VICTORIOUS LAMB APPEARS. THE REDEEMED GO WITH HIM (14:1-6)
- ~ JUDGMENT IS COME (14:7)
- ~ BABYLON (ROME) IS FALLEN (14:8-11)
- ~ HERE IS THE PATIENCE (VICTORY) OF THE SAINTS (14:12)
- ~ THE SAINTS REST FROM THEIR LABORS (14:13)
- ~ THE HARVEST HAS COME AND THE WICKED ARE CAST OUT INTO "THE WINEPRESS OF THE WRATH OF GOD" (14:14-20)

Slide 57

REVELATION 15-17

Slide 58

THE SEVEN ANGELS PREPARE

- ~ REV. 15
- ~ 7 ANGELS HAVING THE 7 LAST PLAGUES (HAVING THE WRATH OF GOD) (1)
- ~ THE VICTORIOUS WORSHIP GOD (2-4)
- ~ THE 7 ANGELS ARE GIVEN THE VIALS FULL OF THE WRATH OF GOD.

Slide 59

THE SEVEN VIALS POURED OUT

- ~ #1 – WRATH OF GOD UPON THOSE WHO HAD THE MARK OF THE BEAST (16:2)
- ~ #2 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT UPON THE SEAS (16:3)
- ~ #3 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT UPON THE RIVERS AND FRESH WATERS (16:4-7)
- ~ #4 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT UPON THE SUN AND MEN WERE SCORCHED WITH THE HEAT (16:8,9)
- ~ YET, THEY REPENTED NOT (16:9)

Slide 60

THE SEVEN VIALS POURED OUT

- ~ #5 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT UPON THE SEAT OF THE BEAST – ROME (16:10,11)
- ~ YET, THEY REPENTED NOT (16:11)
- ~ #6 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT UPON THE RIVER EUPHRATES OPENING THE WAY FOR THE WICKED TO COME TO BATTLE (16:12-16). THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON.

Slide 61

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

- ~ ARMAGEDDON – “MOUNTAIN OF MEGIDDO”
- ~ THE REGION OF MEGIDDO, IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, WAS THE SCENE OF PITCHED BATTLES AND CAME TO REPRESENT A SCENE OF DEFEAT.
- ~ THE KINGS OF CANAAN (JUDG. 5:19), AHAZIAH (2 KGS. 9:27) AND JOSIAH (2 KGS. 23:29) WERE ALL KILLED HERE.
- ~ WHAT AN APT DESCRIPTION TO SHOW THE DEFEAT OF THE FORCES OF EVIL. A SPIRITUAL BATTLE AND NOT A PHYSICAL (cf. EPH. 6:10ff)

Slide 62

THE SEVEN VIALS POURED OUT

- ~ #7 – WRATH OF GOD POURED OUT INTO THE AIR (16:17-21)
- ~ “IT IS DONE” (16:17)
- ~ THE GREAT CITY IS OVERCOME WITH GREAT FIERCENESS (16:18)
- ~ ROME RECEIVES THAT WHICH SHE HAS SOWN (16:19)
- ~ YET, THEY CONTINUED TO BLASPHEME GOD (16:20,21)

Slide 63

THE WOMAN UPON MANY WATERS

- ~ HE WOULD SEE THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WOMAN WITH WHOM THE KINGS OF THE EARTH HAD COMMITTED FORNICATION (17:1,2)
- ~ SHE SITS UPON MANY WATERS (17:1), WHICH ARE MANY PEOPLES, NATIONS, TONGUES, AND MULTITUDES (17:15). SHE RULES OVER MANY.
- ~ SHE IS FULL OF THE NAMES OF BLASPHEMY (17:3)

Slide 64

THE WOMAN UPON MANY WATERS

- ~ SHE HAS 7 HEADS (17:3) WHICH ARE SEVEN MOUNTAINS (17:9). ROME SAT UPON 7 HILLS.
- ~ SHE HAS 10 HORNS (17:3) WHICH ARE 10 KINGDOMS THAT GET THEIR POWER FROM THE BEAST (17:12). THOSE WHO SERVE ROME.
- ~ SHE IS FULL OF ABOMINATIONS (17:4).

Slide 65

THE WOMAN UPON MANY WATERS

- ~ SHE IS DESCRIBED AS BABYLON, THE GREAT, MOTHER OF HARLOTS (17:5). ROME WAS CALLED BABYLON FIGURATIVELY NEAR THE END OF THE 1ST CENTURY.
- ~ SHE IS DRUNKEN WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS AND THE MARTYRS (17:6).

Slide 66

THE BEAST -- ROME

- ~ THE BEAST IS DOOMED ("WAS AND IS NOT"; ASCENDS OUT OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT AND GOES INTO PERDITION") (17:8).
- ~ THOSE WHO SERVED THE BEAST MARVEL AT IT BECAUSE IT EXISTS BUT IS DOOMED ("WAS, AND IS NOT, AND YET IS") (17:8)
- ~ HAS 7 KINGS (5 ARE FALLEN – NERO, GALBA, VITELLIUS, VESPASIAN, TITUS); ONE IS – DOMITIAN; ONE IS YET TO COME – NERVA). THESE ARE COUNTED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PERSECUTION AGAINST THE CHURCH (SEE VERSE 6).
- ~ THE 8TH (17:11), WHICH IS OF THE 7, SEEMS TO REPRESENT THE ROMAN SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE DESTROYED.

Slide 67

THE WOMAN UPON MANY WATERS
~ THERE WERE 10 KINGS WHICH SERVED HER (17:12,13).
~ THE LAMB WILL OVERCOME THEM (17:14).
~ THEY SHALL TURN AGAINST THE WOMAN AND DESTROY HER (17:16,17).

Slide 68

REVELATION 18 - 20

Slide 69

ROME IS FALLEN
~ REV. 18
~ THE CITY IS FALLEN (18:1,2)
~ MANY HAVE PROSPERED OFF THE CITY (18:3)
~ THE RIGHTEOUS ARE TO COME OUT FROM AMONG HER AND NOT PARTAKE IN HER SINS (18:4)
~ ROME WILL REAP WHAT IT HAS SOWN (18:5-8)

Slide 70

ROME IS FALLEN

~ MANY WILL SUFFER BECAUSE OF HER FALL (18:9ff).

- . KINGS WHO HAVE SERVED ROME (18:9,10)
- . MERCHANTS WHO HAD PROSPERED FROM HER (18:11-16)
- . SEAMEN WHO HAD HELPED ROME (18:17-19)

Slide 71

ROME IS FALLEN

~ THE SAINTS REJOICE – THE ENEMY IS FALLEN (18:20-24)

- . GOD HATH AVENGED YOU (18:20)
- . ROME WILL BE FOUND NO MORE (18:21-23)
- . ROME HAD KILLED THE SAINTS (18:24)

Slide 72

GOD'S JUDGMENT

~ GOD HAS JUDGED THE WICKED CITY (REV. 19:1-3)

~ WE PRAISE GOD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE (REV. 19:4-6)

~ THE FAITHFUL WILL BE WITH CHRIST (THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB) (REV. 19:7-9)

~ WE ARE NOT TO WORSHIP ANGELS. WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD (REV. 19:10)

Slide 73

GOD'S JUDGMENT

~ CHRIST (THE WORD – REV. 19:13)
 JUDGES AND DESTROYS THE WICKED
 (REV. 19:11-21)

~ THE BEAST (ROME) AND THE FALSE
 PROPHET (HER HELPERS) WERE
 CAST ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE
 AND BRIMSTONE (REV. 19:20)

Slide 74

THE 1000 YEARS REIGN

A BIBLICAL STUDY OF
 REVELATION 20

Slide 75

**THE 1000 YEARS OF THE
 REVELATION**

THE 1000 YEARS	AFTER THE 1000 YEARS		JUDGMENT
SATAN IS BOUND	SATAN IS LOOSED	SATAN DECEIVES MANY	SATAN IS CAST INTO HELL
THE MARTYRS LIVE	RESURRECTED		SECOND DEATH HAS NO POWER

Slide 76

THE BINDING OF SATAN

- ~ Restricted from the beginning (Gen. 3:14,15)
- ~ Limited by the work of the followers of Christ (Lk. 10:18)
- ~ Has limits to what he can do (Job 1:12; 2:6)
- ~ The teaching of the word would allow people to turn from Satan to God (Acts 26:18)
- ~ Rebuffed by the Bible (Matt. 4:1-11)
- ~ Jesus' death would lead to the destruction of the Devil (Heb. 2:14)
- ~ Jesus curtailed the power of the Devil by casting out demons (Lk. 4:36)
- ~ Satan will flee when we resist him (Jas. 4:7)
- ~ Restricted by the work of the apostles (Lk. 9:1)

Slide 77

THE MARTYRS

- ~ James was killed in Acts 12.
- ~ Antipas was killed in Rev. 2:13.
- ~ Their souls are under the altar of God (Rev. 6:9).
- ~ They live and reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4).

Slide 78

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

- ~ On such who are involved with this, the second death hath no power (Rev. 20:6).
- ~ The first resurrection deals with those who have been killed for the cause of Christ (Rev. 20:4). They now live and reign with Christ.
- ~ The rest of the dead refers to those who died, but were not faithful. These will be punished by the second death (Rev. 20:12-15).

Slide 79

SATAN WILL BE LOOSED

- ~ He will be loosed to go to Judgment (Rev. 20:7-10).
- ~ All the way to the Judgment Seat, the Devil will be deceiving many (Rev. 20:8; Matt. 7:22,23).

Slide 80

AFTER THE 1000 YEARS

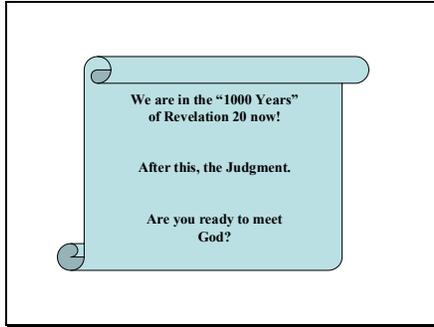
- ~ Satan will be loosed to Judgment (Rev. 20:7-10).
- ~ The faithful will meet Christ in the air (1 Thess. 4:17,18).
- ~ Death will be conquered (1 Cor. 15:26; Rev. 20:14).
- ~ The church will be delivered to the Father (1 Cor. 15:24).
- ~ The unrighteous will be punished forever (Rev. 20:15).

Slide 81

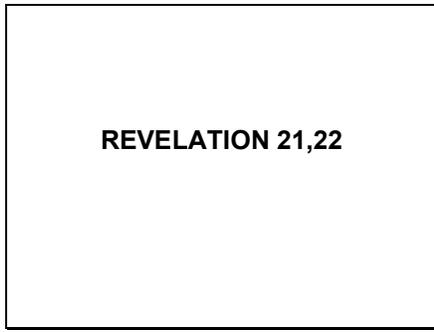
THE DEVIL AND THE 1000 YEARS OF REVELATION

BEFORE THE 1000 YEARS	DURING THE 1000 YEARS	AFTER THE 1000 YEARS
CAST INTO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT (REV. 20:1,2)	CANNOT DECEIVE ANYMORE ; BOUND (REV. 20:3)	LOOSED TO DECEIVE AGAIN (REV. 20:7)
HIS DOOM PRONOUNCED (GEN. 3:14,15)	BOUND/RESTRICTED (JOB 1:2)	ALL THE WAY TO JUDGMENT, MANY WILL BE DECEIVED (MATT. 7:21-23)
RESERVED TO JUDGMENT (MATT. 25:41)	WE ARE NOT TO BE DECEIVED (DEUT. 11:16; LK. 21:8; 1 COR. 6:9; 1 COR. 15:33; GAL. 6:7)	CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE (REV. 20:10)
ANGELS OF DEVIL RESERVED TO JUDGMENT (2 PET. 2:4; JUDE 6)	WE CAN RESIST THE DEVIL (JAS. 4:7)	

Slide 82



Slide 83



Slide 84



Slide 85

THE HEAVENLY HOME

- ~ OUR PORTRAIT OF HEAVEN
 - . FROM GOD HIMSELF (21:10,11)
 - . THE SAVED ARE THERE (21:12)
 - . THE TWELVE GATES (3 ON EACH SIDE; EACH ONE PEARL) (21:13,21)
 - . TWELVE FOUNDATIONS WITH THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES (21:14)
 - . CITY FOURSQUARE (21:15-17)
 - . WALL OF JASPER; CITY OF GOD (21:18)
 - . FOUNDATIONS OF PRECIOUS STONES (21:19-20)

Slide 86

THE HEAVENLY HOME

- ~ GOD AND THE LAMB ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE CITY (21:22)
- ~ GOD AND JESUS ARE THE LIGHTS OF HEAVEN (21:23)
- ~ THE SAVED ARE THERE (21:24)
- ~ THE GATES ARE NEVER SHUT AT NIGHT FOR THERE IS NO NIGHT THERE (21:25)
- ~ NO EVIL PERSON WILL ENTER INTO HEAVEN (21:27)

Slide 87

THE HEAVENLY HOME

- ~ THE WATER OF LIFE IS THERE (22:1,2)
- ~ THE FAITHFUL SHALL SERVE GOD AND CHRIST (22:3,4)
- ~ THE FAITHFUL SHALL BE THERE FOREVER AND EVER (22:5)
- ~ THESE THINGS WILL COME TO PASS. KEEP THE WORDS OF THIS BOOK (22:6,7)

THE FINAL EXHORTATION

- ~ DO NOT WORSHIP ANGELS (22:8,9)
- ~ KEEP THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OUT IN THE OPEN (22:10)
- ~ SOME WILL LISTEN; SOME WILL NOT (22:11)
- ~ AT JUDGMENT, THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BE REWARDED; THE WICKED WILL BE PUNISHED (22:12-15)
- ~ THE GREAT INVITATION (22:16,17)
- ~ DO NOT ADD TO NOR TAKE AWAY FROM THIS BOOK (22:18-19)
- ~ WE LOOK FOR THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST (22:20,21)
