

## Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ (1:1)
  - Revelation = apokalupsis = an uncovering, unveiling, disclosure
  - Jesus Christ in His glory is unveiled
- Author: John, the disciple
  - From the book (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8)
  - From tradition
  - Similarities to gospel and epistles
- Date: A.D. 94-96
  - Early Church believed it
  - Spiritual decline of the seven churches support it
- Background and Setting
  - Isle of Patmos, located in Aegean Sea, southwest of Ephesus
  - Exiled by Roman authorities for preaching the gospel
  - John received a series of visions
  - Churches had begun to experience persecution
    - John exiled
    - At least one man martyred (2:13)
    - Fury of persecution about to increase
  - John wrote to encourage and give hope
- Theological Setting – call to commitment
  - Strengthen resolve of embattled Christians
  - Initial fervor of church fading
  - Temptations mounting
    - Forsake Christ to avoid suffering

- Double loyalty
  - Compromising message
- Themes
  - Unveiling of Jesus Christ
  - Warning of sin and exhortation to holiness
  - Doctrine of last things
  - God's providential reign
- Definitions
  - Millennium = thousand years
    - Postmillennialism
    - Amillennialism
    - Premillennialism
      - Dispensational
      - Historic
- Four Ways to Interpret Revelation
  - As message to each one of us
  - As message to entire church
  - As message to seven specific churches
  - As message of prophecy
- Outline
  - The Church Age (chs. 1-3)

- Rapture to Second Coming (chs. 4-19)
- Millennium and Beyond (chs. 20-22)
- Apocalypse = Unveiling of Jesus Christ
  - Gospels unveil Him at first coming in humiliation
  - Revelation reveals Him in His exaltation:
    - Blazing glory (vv. 7-20)
    - Lord of the church (chs. 2-3)
    - Conqueror-as He takes back the earth from Satan and establishes kingdom (chs. 4-20)
    - Light of the universe (chs. 21-22)

Chapter 1  
Verse 1

- Must = absolutely certain
- Shortly = soon, quickly, swiftly
- Come to pass = refers to prophecies recorded in Revelation
- Signified = semeion
  - to indicate or communicate by means of signs and symbolic language
  - but it is wrong to classify entire book as signs and symbols
  - most of it should be accepted literally

## Verse 2

- John “bore witness” to three things:
  - not his word but the inspired Word of God
  - a true witness that Christ imparted to John
  - record of all the things he saw

## Verse 3

- Book intended for public use, not private reading
- Threefold blessing to those who read, hear, and keep the things written in it
- Blessed = happy
  - First of seven beatitudes in the book: 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14
- For the time is near
  - Not Chronos = clock time
  - Kairos - fixed season of time, epochs, eras, seasons

## Verse 4

- Salutation - for a letter addressed to seven particular churches
- Letters to be read in all the churches
  - letters as preface to Revelation
  - Revelation as addendum to letters

- Seven churches
  - seven is number of completeness so representative of all churches
  - Asia Minor composed of seven postal districts; at center of each district was a key city which served as central points for the spread of information; churches were in these key cities
  - Traditional greeting
  - Grace is Greek; Peace is Hebrew
  - Grace and peace speaks of the Christian experience but is the common need of all people
  - Grace = God's unmerited favor
  - Peace = harmony God gives because of grace
  - Without grace we perish; without peace, we are unsure of salvation

- From the trinity

- God the Father - who is, was, and is to come
- God the Spirit - seven spirits before the throne
  - Isaiah 11:2 - 7-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit; Zechariah 4:1-10

Verse 5

- God the Son - Jesus Christ

- Verses 5-7 describe the work of Christ: past, present, future

- Past

- Faithful witness - revealed all we need to know about God; faithful unto death
- Firstborn from the dead - others had been raised from the dead and had died again; first to rise with glorified body
- Ruler over kings of the earth - sovereign over all rulers; Rome's rule temporary

— Present

- Love - present tense, continual action
- Washed us from our sins - loosed or freed
- Made us kings and priests - enter kingdom by faith and become priests who have the right to enter God's presence

— Future

- Coming again
  - With clouds (Mt. 24:30; Acts 1:11)
  - Every eye will see Him (not rapture)
    - those who pierced him; Caiaphas (Mt. 26:64)
- All tribes will mourn - not genuine repentance but guilt over sin and fear of punishment

Verse 8

- Christ speaks
  - I am - covenant name of God (Ex. 3:14)
    - John's Gospel

— Bread of Life; Light of the World; Door of the Sheep; Good Shepherd; Resurrection and Life; the Way, the Truth, and the Life

- Revelation

— Alpha and Omega; Beginning and End; He that lives and was dead; Alive Forevermore; He which searches; Fellow Servant; Root and Offspring

— Alpha and Omega - first and last letter of Greek alphabet; used four times

- Beginning and End

- Who is, was, and is to come

- Almighty - used 8 times in Revelation

— reveals omniscience, eternity, omnipresence, omnipotence

### Verse 9

- Brother and Companion

— Persecution for their faith

— Membership in redeemed community

— Eager anticipation of Christ's reign

— Endurance and perseverance

- Patmos

— Imprisoned by Domitian A.D. 95

- Ten miles long by six miles wide in Aegean Sea
- Released by Nerva 18 months later

#### Verse 10

- In the Spirit - under control of Holy Spirit
  - Four visions: 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10
- On the Lord's Day
  - Sunday
    - Not the Sabbath
    - First day of the week
    - Celebrate Resurrection
    - Scripture never refers to Sunday in this way unless this is first occurrence
  - Day of the Lord
    - God's judgment and sovereign rule
    - Rapture, Tribulation, 2nd Coming, Millennium
- Written to 7 Churches
  - Ephesus - desired one
  - Smyrna - myrrh
  - Pergamos - citadel, marriage, elevation
  - Thyatira - continual sacrifice
  - Sardis - escaping ones

- Philadelphia - brotherly love
- Laodicea - justice of the people
- Four possibilities:
  - 7 churches of John's day
  - 7 basic divisions of church history
  - 7 types of churches in existence today
  - 7 characteristics that can exist in any church or Christian
    - 7 methods of attack by Satan

Verse 12

- Seven Golden Lampstands
  - Vs. 20 says are seven churches
  - Light of the world - convey the light, not generate it

Verses 13-18

- The Son of Man
  - Refers to Christ's humanity in the gospels
  - Daniel 7:13 refers to deity/messiah
  - In the midst of the lampstands/churches
- Description
  - Garment of the High Priest

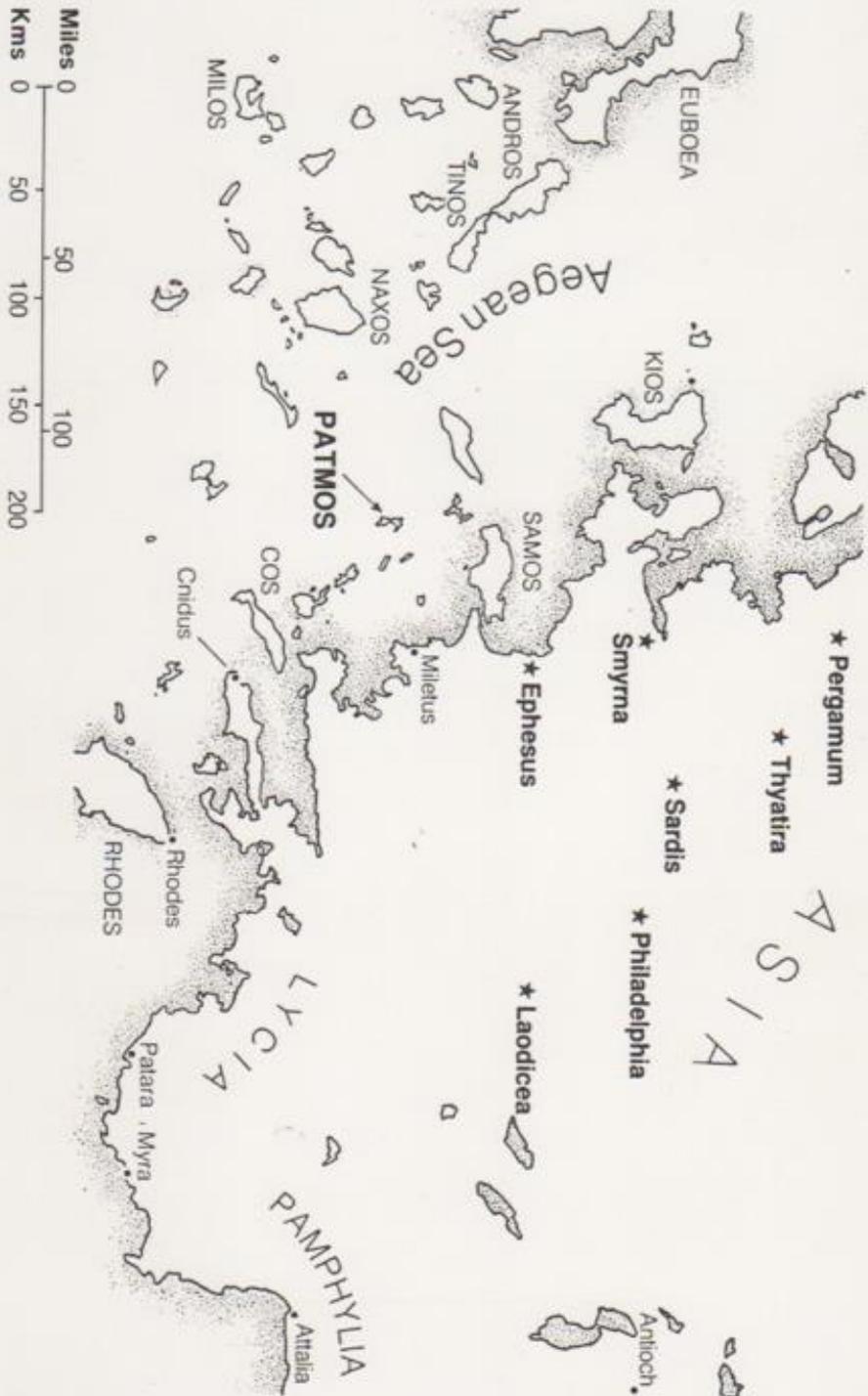
- Head and hair like white wool - wisdom, dignity, purity, authority
- Eyes like fire - penetrating gaze
- Feet like brass/bronze - judgment
- Voice like many waters - crashing of surf, waterfall - authority, power, majesty
- In His hand, seven stars/angels/pastors
- Out of His mouth, a two-edged sword (1:16; 2:12, 16; 6:8; 19:15, 21) - Christ's word of divine judgment
- Countenance like the sun - shekinah glory of God (Mt. 17:2 - transfiguration)
- John's response
  - Stunned with fear, fell to ground
- Jesus' reply - do not be afraid
  - The First and the Last - creator, consummator, eternal
  - He lives - resurrected Lord
  - Was dead - died for our sins
  - Alive forevermore - eternal existence as God
  - Holds the keys - never fear death, Hades, or lake of fire

#### Verse 19

- Purpose of Communication
  - What you have seen - past - ch. 1

- What is now - present - chs. 2-3
- What will take place - future - chs. 4-22

### The Seven Churches of Revelation



## Chapter 2 The Seven Churches

- Remember the four applications:
  - Written to seven existing churches
  - Seven divisions of church history
  - Seven types of churches in existence today
  - Seven characteristics that can exist in any church or Christian
- Ephesus - 33 A.D. (Pentecost) To 100 A.D.
  - The Apostolic Age
- Smyrna - 100 A.D. To 312 A.D. (Conversion of Constantine)
  - Time of great persecution
  - Attempt to stamp out Christianity
- Pergamos - 312 A.D. To 600 A.D. (Beginning of the rise of the papacy)
  - From persecution to patronage
  - Edict of Toleration
    - Religious liberty granted to Christians
    - Ministers exempt from taxes and military service
  - 325 A.D. Christianity made official religion
  - 378 A.D. Theodosius decreed everyone in the Roman Empire must become a Christian

- Thyatira - 600 A.D. To 1500 A.D. (Protestant Reformation/ Revolution)
  - Beginning of monasticism - emphasized separation and isolation
  - 600 A.D. Gregory named as first Pope
  - 622 A.D. Mohammed launched religion
  - Beginning of Crusades
  - 1229 A.D. Inquisition began/Bibles banned and burned
  
- Sardis - 1500 A.D. To 1750 A.D. (End of the Religious Wars)
  - Renaissance began
  - 1517 A.D. Martin Luther's 95 grievances posted
  - Translated Bible into German
  - Zwingli and Calvin preached against sins of the church
  - Charles V ordered death of anyone reading Bible
  - 100,000 martyrs in the Netherlands
  
- Philadelphia - 1750 A.D. To 1900 A.D. (Revival and Modern Missions Movement)
  - Yoke of Catholicism gone
  - State dictated theology remained
  - Rise of Puritanism
  - Pilgrims came to America seeking religious liberty

- 1780 A.D. Sunday School founded by Robert Raikes
- 1793 William Carey begins modern missions
- 1900 Days of Revival under Whitfield, Wesley, Finney, Moody
- Truth of Second Coming was rediscovered
- Laodicea - 1900 A.D. To Rapture
  - Modernism led to liberalism
  - Preaching of social gospel, salvation by works, justification by character and good deeds
  - Worldliness and carnal Christianity
- Form
  - Resemble early imperial letter edicts
  - Compare to Old Testament Covenant formulas
  - Similar to covenant lawsuits of Amos 2-4
- Common outline for all letters
  - Greetings are the same
  - Good psychology: commend first; censure follows
  - In each successive letter, less to commend and more to censure (Philadelphia is exception)

#### Verse 1

- Ephesus = desired one

- Commercial, political, religious center of Asia Minor
- Population = 225,000
- Approximate geographic center of Roman Empire
- Religion focused on Diana, Asian goddess of fertility (Acts 19:35)
- Sizable Jewish population
- Paul labored here for 3 years, followed by Timothy and John
- Title of Jesus:
  - He that holds the 7 stars and walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks
    - Protector and sustainer
    - Knows what is going on in His churches

#### Verse 2

- Commendation
  - accomplishment, discrimination, endurance
    - Labor = toil, heaviness of labor accomplished only by those willing to work even when weary
    - Spiritual discernment
      - Refused to fraternize with loose Christians; practiced church discipline;
      - Tested the spirits
        - I John 4:1-5:5

1. Confess Jesus Christ come in the flesh (4:1-3)
2. Hearing and obeying those who are of God (4:4-6)
3. Loving God and fellow Christians (4:7-20)
4. Obedience to His commands (5:1-5)

Verse 3

— Remained faithful to the Word and the Lord

Verse 4

- Condemnation
  - Abandoned first love
    - Passion and fervor cooled to cold, mechanical orthodoxy

Verse 5

- Counsel
  - Remember faith you once had - give heads to Christ
  - Repent - give hearts to Christ
  - Repeat first works - give hands to Christ
  - Judgment threatened - church will come to an end

Verse 6

- Additional commendation
  - Hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans
    - Followers of Nicolas, early deacon
    - Niko = conquer Laos = people

- Deeds
  - Similar to teachings of Balaam (vv. 14-15)
  - Assaulted church with sensual temptations
  - Separated physical from spiritual
  - Attempted to establish an ecclesiastical order: bishop, archbishop, cardinal, pope

#### Verse 7

- Challenge
  - Emphasis switched from church to individual
  - Overcomer = conqueror, one who prevails over evil through faithfulness to Christ (I John 5:5)
  - Three kinds of individuals:
    - Those without ears - not attuned to Holy Spirit, not born again
    - Those dull of hearing - in rebellion against Spirit
    - Those spiritually minded - willing to hear what the Spirit says
  - Tree of life = eternal life, promise of heaven
  - Paradise
    - Persian word for pleasure garden
    - Symbolizes restoration to perfect fellowship

## Verse 8

- Smyrna = myrrh
  - Used for perfume and anointing dead bodies
  - Modern day Izmir, Turkey
  - Port city, well-protected harbor
  - Destroyed by Lydians in 627 B.C.
  - Refounded in middle of 4th century B.C.
  - Became a chief city in Roman empire
  - Famous for science, medicine, architecture
  - Population = 200,000
  - Intensely loyal to Rome/emperor worship
  - A.D. 23 - first city to build temple honoring Tiberias Caesar
  - Large actively hostile Jewish population
  - Temple of Bacchus, god of wine located in city
  - Significant church in 2nd century
  
- Title of Jesus
  - First and last = Sovereign Creator, Lord of History
  - Dead and came to life = hope of resurrection

## Verse 9

- Commendation
  - the work of the church
  - tribulation of church - opposition of Jewish community
  - poverty of church - due to confiscation of property
  - blasphemy of Jews – physically Jews/ spiritually pagans
  - opposition inspired by Satan
    - Satan is Hebrew for accuser (Ze. 3:1)
    - Devil is Greek for accuser

- No Condemnation

## Verse 10

- Counsel
  - Do not fear
    - Devil is behind it
    - Be faithful and endure
    - Tribulation is temporary - 10 days
      - Could refer to 10 intensive periods of persecution at hands of 10 emperors
        - Nero - 64-68 A.D.
        - Domitian - 90-96 A.D.

- Trajan - 104-117 A.D.
  - Marcus Aurelius - 161-180 A.D.
  - Severus - 200-211 A.D.
  - Maximinius - 235-237 A.D.
  - Decius - 250-253 A.D.
  - Valerian - 257-260 A.D.
  - Aurelian - 270-275 A.D.
  - Diocletian - 303-312 A.D.
- Crown of life promised to faithful

Verse 11

- Challenge
  - Not hurt by second death
    - First death is physical
    - Second death is spiritual and eternal/annihilation and eternal torment

Verse 12

- Pergamos = citadel; thoroughly married
  - Built on 1000 foot hill in a broad fertile plain
  - State church married to political system
  - Modern day Bergama

- 20 miles inland from Aegean Sea
- Capital of Roman province of Asia Minor for 250 years
- Ancient seat of culture
- Library rivaled Alexandria - 200,000 volumes
- Important religious center for pagan cults of Athena, Asklepios, Dionysius(Bacchus), Zeus
- First city in Asia to build temple to Caesar ( 29 B.C.)
- One of few cities given the right to impose capital punishment, symbolized by the sword
- Title of Jesus
  - He who has the sharp two-edged sword
    - Long, broad, heavy, sharp on both edges (1:16, 2:12, 16; 6:8; 19:15, 21)
    - Jesus holds it
    - Refers to Christ's word of divine judgment

### Verse 13

- Commendation
  - works
  - where you dwell - Satan's throne
    - place of worship for Asklepios
    - persecution of Christians

- church living in the world, became worldly
- Satan working through political leaders
- notorious center of heathenism
- hold fast to my name/did not deny faith
  - Antipas martyred

#### Verse 14

- Condemnation
  - compromise
    - tolerated teachings of Balaam (Nu. 22-25)
      - Moabite women seduced Israelite men to intermarriage
      - polluted socially and spiritually
    - tolerated teachings of Nicolaitans (see above)
      - ecclesiastical hierarchy
      - led to same behavior as Balaam
  - merging of church and state

#### Verse 16

- Counsel
  - Repent or be judged by God's Word

## Verse 17

- Challenge
  - Hidden manna
    - spiritual bread the world cannot see = Jesus Christ (Jn. 6:51)
    - opposite of food offered to idols
    - Eternal life sustained by God
  - White stone
    - athlete's prize = admission pass to winner's celebration
    - stone of acquittal
  - New name
    - admission pass into eternal glory

The Indulged Church Age  
A.D. 312 - 606

- Constantine's sign/conversion
- Protector and defender of Christianity
  - Authorized 50 copies of Scripture
  - Edict of Toleration
  - Showered favors on church
  - Pagan temples taken over by Christians
- Led to compromise of Christian standards

— Adopted pagan rituals for the church

- Rosary
- Celibacy of priests and nuns
- Prayers for the dead
- Sign of the cross
- Worship of saints and angels
- Mass instituted
- Worship of Mary
- Priests dressed differently
- Purgatory introduced
- Worship conducted in Latin
- Prayers offered to Mary

Verse 18

- Thyatira = continual sacrifice
  - Probably founded by Alexander the Great
  - Located in the Lycus River valley, 27 miles from Sardis
  - Center of a number of trade guilds
  - Unions of tanners, potters, weavers, dyers, robe makers -- each dedicated to pagan deity
  - Lydia, Paul's convert, from Thyatira

- Principal deity of the city - Apollo
- Under Roman rule for 3 centuries
- No natural defenses

- Title of Jesus

- Son of God (see 1:13)
- Eyes like flame of fire - insight, anger
- Feel like fine brass/bronze –judgment

Verse 19

- Commendation

- Six words: works, love, faith, service, patience/ perseverance, doing more

Verse 20

- Condemnation

- Permitted false teacher to enslave and lead astray
- Did not repent when had opportunity
- Who is Jezebel?

- OT wife of Ahab

- Led God's people into idolatry - Baal
    - Teachings led to sexual immorality and eating of foods offered to idols

— Accused of spiritual harlotry, witchcraft, involvement in pagan cults

- Prototype of evil empire in chs. 17-18

- Pseudonym for false teacher in the church

— Representative of those who brought paganism into the church

— Priestess at a pagan temple, fortune-teller passing self off as prophetess

— Pagan religious leader, part of cult that involved female prophetesses

— Prominent woman devotee of Diana

#### Verse 21

- Given opportunity to repent but did not

#### Verses 22-23

- Destined to be disciplined

— Sickness

— Death of children/followers

- Death is second death

— Church will know Jesus looks at our innermost being/judged according to works

#### Verses 24-25

- Counsel

- Directed at the faithful
  - do not have this doctrine
  - have not known the depths of Satan
- No other burden
- Hold fast

#### Verses 26-29

- Challenge
  - Overcome and keep works until the end
    - Position of leadership in millennium
    - The Morning Star
      - Jesus is the Morning Star (22:16)
  - The Church of the Dark Ages (606 A.D. To Tribulation)
  - Increased merging of paganism with Christianity
    - Pagan doctrines added to church
      - First pope, kissing pope's foot, worship of images and relics, use of holy water, canonization of dead saints, celibacy of priests, prayer beads, inquisition, indulgences, transubstantiation, Bible forbidden to lay people, purgatory, seven sacraments, tradition became equal to Bible, etc.
  - Thyatira = continuing sacrifice
    - Denies finished work of Christ

- Attempted to earn salvation by works

Chapter 3  
Verse 1

- Sardis = escaping
  - Capital city of Lydia, prominent in Asia Minor
  - Fifty miles east of Smyrna; 30 miles south of Thyatira
  - Seated on natural acropolis - 1,500 feet above valley floor
  - Primary industry: harvesting and dyeing wool
  - Extensive fruit orchards, jewelry factories, gold mines
  - World's first coins thought to have been minted here
  - Captured twice (Cyrus in 546 B.C. and Alexander in 334 B.C.) by stealth not force
  - Destroyed by earthquake in 17 B.C.
- Title of Jesus
  - Seven spirits of God = Holy Spirit (1:4)
    - Also indicates watchfulness
    - Spirit is key to vitality
  - Seven stars = pastors of these churches (1:16, 20)
- Commendation
  - None
- Condemnation

— You have a name but are dead

- Physical life and activity do not imply spiritual life
- Living on past reputation

Verses 2 & 3

- Counsel

— Wake up and stay awake

- Be watchful
- Strengthen that which remains
- Remember what and where you were
- Hold fast, occupy
- Repent

— Or else

- I will come as a thief

— Possible reference to Rapture

— Sudden and unexpected judgment on church not prepared for His coming

Verse 4

— Defiled = to smear, pollute, or stain

— Garments = character

- A few in the church still godly, judged worthy

## Verse 5

- Challenge
  - Three-fold reward
    - White robes of victory
    - Permanent listing in Lamb's Book of Life
    - Personal acknowledgment by Christ

### The Dead Church Age 1500 A.D. To Tribulation

- Began when Luther nailed 95 theses on church door in Wittenburg, Germany (Beginning of Reformation)
- Salvation by faith
- Sardis = escaping ones (escaping from darkness of Catholicism)
- Churches became state churches
  - Eliminated need for acceptance of Christ
  - Tendency to please government, not God
  - Did not change many customs and teachings of Rome
    - Infant baptism
    - Sprinkling
    - Sacraments
    - Ritual and formality continued

## Verse 7

- Philadelphia=brotherly love
  - 30 miles SE of Sardis, on a hillside
  - Modern day Alashehir
  - Founded 190 B.C. by Attalus II, King of Pergamos
  - Named because of unusual devotion to brother
  - Important commercial stop on major trade route called Imperial Post Road
  - Rich volcanic soil supported rich agriculture: grapes
  - People lived outside of the town because of fear of earthquakes
  - “Missionary city”—founded for purpose of spreading Greek language and civilization into barbarous regions
  - Chief deity = Dionysius. Emperor worship not a problem
  - Vital Christian community until close of 14<sup>th</sup> century, conquered by Turks
  
- Title of Jesus
  - Holy and True
    - Common description in book (4:8; 6:10; 15:3; 16:7; 19:2, 11)
    - Holy=sinless, perfect nature of the Father; separate
    - True=one who speaks truth; genuine, authentic
  - Key of David

- Sovereign authority
  - Controls entrance into kingdom
  - Reference to Eliakim (Is. 22:20-25)
- Opens and no one shuts
- opportunity to preach the gospel

#### Verse 8

- Commendation
  - I know your works=proclamation of gospel
  - Little strength=minority status of believers
  - Kept my word=believed and obeyed
  - Have not denied my name=did not fall under pressure

#### Verses 9 & 10

- Christ's Promise
  - Vindication
    - False religionists subdued before them
  - Preservation
    - Raptured before tribulation (11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5)
    - Keep = guard; from = out of
    - John expected universal cosmic suffering soon

## The Seventy Weeks of Daniel Daniel 9:24-27

- Seventy weeks means seventy units of seven years
  - Seven = unit of seven, not seven days
  - Context reveals how much time is involved
- Three divisions of Seventy Weeks of Year - Daniel 9:25
  - Seven sevens of years equals 49 years
    - From decree of Cyrus to rebuilding of walls around Jerusalem took 49 years
  - Sixty-two sevens of years equals 434 years
    - Times of trouble
    - Period of silence from God until John the Baptist
    - Time of weakness in Israel - Romans
    - Period ends when Anointed One is cut off - crucifixion of Christ
    - From Rebuilding of Temple to Crucifixion of Christ = 434 years
  - The Gap
    - Daniel 9:26 - War will continue until the end
    - Isaiah 61:2 - The year of the Lord's favor = Christian dispensation; culminates in day of vengeance = Tribulation
  - One week equals 7 years
    - The ruler, Antichrist, will come

- Will make a covenant with Israel for one week (7 years)
- Will break covenant in the middle of the 7 years
- Condemnation = None!

#### Verse 11

- Counsel
  - Coming quickly = hopeful event
  - Hold on to what you have = keep believing
  - So that no one else will receive your crown

#### Verse 12

- Challenge
  - Pillars = unshakeable, eternal, secure place
  - Never go out - reference to fear of earthquakes. No need to fear
  - 3-fold combination of names
    - Name of God imprinted = character of God, protection
    - New Jerusalem = place of eternal life
    - New name

#### The Church Age: 1750 to Rapture

- Philadelphia marked by vitality
  - Revivals in Europe and America

- Produced modern day missions movement - open door
- Printing of Bible in language of people
- People took Bible literally
- Increased interest in doctrine of Second Coming

#### Verse 14

- Laodicea = justice of the people; please the people
  - 40 miles from Ephesus
  - Wealthiest, most important commercial center in the region
  - Known for three industries:
    - Banking
    - Wool
    - Medicine -- especially eye salve
  - Inadequate water supply; forced to build an aqueduct
- Title of Jesus
  - The Amen = the final truth
  - The Faithful and True Witness = completely trustworthy; His word can be accepted with absolute authority
  - The Beginning of the creation of God = the beginning, initiator, originator of creation
- Commendation = None!

## Verses 15, 16 & 17

- Condemnation
  - Lukewarmness = indifference, no power
    - Hierapolis famous for hot springs; Colosse for cold, refreshing mountain springs.
    - Laodicea had dirty, tepid water that flowed for miles through an underground aqueduct
    - Church was comfortable/complacent
    - Result: spit them out of His mouth
  - Arrogance - took full credit for being rich and self-sufficient
    - In reality, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

## Verse 18

- Counsel
  - Buy refined gold = true Christian wealth
  - Buy white garments = righteousness
  - Buy eyesalve = to see the truth
  - Be earnest and repent

## Verses 19 & 20

- Two possibilities
  - Written to unbelievers

- God loves them, too (John 3:16)
- God chastens them (2 Tim. 2:25)
- Highly unlikely since none of the other letters written to unbelievers.

— To believers

- Context demands Christ seeking to enter His church
- Could have demanded believers come to Him, but He came instead

Verse 21

- Challenge

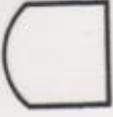
— Overcomers will sit with Him on His throne

- We will share the privilege and authority that Christ enjoys
- We will have same relationship with Jesus as He has with the Father

Laodicean Church Age  
1900 to Rapture

- Most disgusting of the churches
- Picture of modern-day apostate church
- Arises from three preceding ages
- Could be called “the apostate ecumenical church”

# THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF REVELATION

	 <b>EPHESUS</b> The Apostolic Church Rev. 2:1-7	 <b>SMYRNA</b> The Persecuted Church Rev. 2:8-11	 <b>PERGAMUM</b> The Indulged Church Rev. 2:12-17	 <b>THYATIRA</b> The Pagan Church Rev. 2:18-29	 <b>SARDIS</b> The Dead Church Rev. 3:1-6	 <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> The Church Christ Loved Rev. 3:7-13	 RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH <b>LAODICEA</b> The Lukewarm Church Rev. 3:14-22
	A.D. 30-100	A.D. 100-312	A.D. 312-606	A.D. 606-Tribulation	A.D. 1520-Tribulation Protestant Reformation	A.D. 1750-Rapture	A.D. 1900-Tribulation
COMMENTATION I know you...	Good works, labor, patience. Hated Nicolaitans.	Works, tribulation, poverty.	Works. Held fast my name. Has not denied my faith.	Good works, love, service, faith, patience.	Works. A name that you live.	Works. Missions. Little strength. Kept my word. Not denied my name.	Not one word!
CONDEMNATION	You have left your first love.	Not one word!	You have false teachers of Balaam and the Nicolaitans.	You allow Jezebel to teach idolatry and compromise.	You are dead. Works not complete.	Not one word!	You are lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.
COUNSEL I counsel you...	Remember from where you are fallen and repent.	Fear not. Be faithful.	Repent.	Hold fast what you have until I come.	Watch. Strengthen the things that remain. Remember, hold fast and repent.	Hold fast what you have.	Buy gold tried by fire and white raiment. Anoint your eyes. Be zealous and repent.
CHALLENGE To him that overcomes...	Will give to eat of the tree of life	Will not be hurt by the second death.	Will give hidden manna and a white stone.	Will give millennial leadership and the Morning Star.	Will be clothed in white raiment. I will not blot his name out of the book of life.	Will make him a pillar and write upon him the name of God and My new name.	Will grant to sit with me on my throne.

## Chapter 4

- The Rapture. Or not the Rapture. That is the question.
  - Some scholars say: Not a veiled reference to the rapture
  - Other scholars say: Rapture not explicitly taught here, but easy to see that Rapture takes place between 3:22 and 4:2
    - Chs. 1-3 represent churches on earth; chs. 4-5 present vision in heaven; ch. 6 introduces Tribulation period
    - No mention of church in chs. 6-18
    - Extensive use of Old Testament language in chs. 4-18 indicate message is directed to Israel
    - Similarities of 4:1, 2 with other teaching on Rapture (see 1 Th. 4:13-18)

## Verse 2

- In the Spirit = not a dream
- Throne = symbol of sovereign rule and authority (7:15; 11:19; 16:17, 18)
  - Focus of ch. 4
  - Occurs 13 times
  - 11 times refers to God's throne
  - Fixed point in heaven
  - Some consider it the center of the universe

## Verse 3

- Description of God
  - Like Jasper
    - Crystal clear in 21:11
    - Probably referring to diamond
    - Represents purity and holiness
    - Symbol of wisdom
  - Like Sardius/carnelian
    - fiery bright ruby stone
    - Named for city near which it was found - Sardis
    - Used as symbol of marital happiness
    - Represents shed blood of Christ
  - Stones are first and last stones in breastplate of the High Priest (Ex. 28:15-21)
    - Reminds us that One on throne is High Priest
    - Stones in order with names of the tribes of Israel
      - First = Reuben which means “behold a son”
      - Last = Benjamin which means “son of my right hand”
    - Remind us of the ideas of glory and sacrifice
- Around the throne = an emerald rainbow

- Green is the color of life
- Circle represents eternal life
- Rainbow is sign of God's faithfulness

#### Verse 4

- Twenty four thrones/twenty four elders
  - Number 24 used 6 times in Old Testament
  - Always associated with priests
  - Thrones represent authority
  - White robes represent righteousness of Christ
  - Golden crowns rewards for earthly deeds

- Identification of the Elders

- Heavenly beings of an especially high order who assist in the administration of the universe
  - Problem: elders are redeemed (5:9); angelic beings are not redeemed
- Twelve patriarchs and twelve apostles
  - Represent all the redeemed

#### Verse 5

- Lightnings, thunderings, voices
  - Sign of an approaching storm

- Firestorm of righteous fury
- Symbols of God's judgment
- Reminds of God's presence on Sinai
- Seven lamps = Seven Spirits of God = the Holy Spirit

#### Verses 6-11

- Sea of Glass - see Ex. 24:10
  - No sea in heaven (21:1)
  - Crystal pavement; floor for God's throne
  - Represents stability
- Four living creatures/beings
  - Cherubim and Seraphim
    - Not identical to Ezekiel's description but close (Ez. 1:4-24; 10:15)
    - Same as Isaiah's seraphim (Is. 6)
    - Frequently referred to in connection with God's presence, power, and holiness
  - Full of eyes
    - Comprehensive knowledge and perception
  - Symbolic language = like
    - Lion symbolizes strength and power

- Calf/ox, a beast of burden, symbolizes humble service
  - Man shows rational being
  - Eagle shows fulfill service to God swiftly
- Six wings = seraphim
- Constantly singing God's praise
- Holy, holy, holy = 3 times holiest
  - Power
  - Eternity
- Leaders of worship
- Give glory, honor, and thanks to God
    - Glory = brilliance, majesty of God
    - Honor = divine characteristic meaning preciousness
    - Thanks = what is due Him because of His goodness
  - In response, elders worship
    - Fall down = deliberate act of humility
    - Cast their crowns = only God is worthy to receive rewards
    - Singing the song of creation

Chapter 5  
Verse 1

- Scroll
  - Parchment formed from papyrus and skins
  - Averaged 15 ft. in length
  - Written inside and on back = contract
    - Title deed of the earth
    - New Covenant of promised kingdom
    - Testament of assurance
    - Lamb's book of life
    - God's redemptive program
    - History of the future
  - Sealed with 7 seals
    - Romans sealed wills 7 times
    - Hebrew title deeds required 3 seals

Verse 2

- Strong angel
  - Gabriel = strength of God
  - Michael = major role in end-time events (Dan. 12: 1-3)
  - Authority to speak in God's presence

- Loud voice denotes authority, urgency, importance
- Question: Who is worthy?

Verse 3

- No man!

Verse 4

- John's response - heartbroken
  - Moral inability of mankind to open scroll
  - Could not see what was inside
  - As long as scroll unopened, Satan controls the earth; God's program unfulfilled

Verse 5

- Elder responds
  - Stop crying
  - Someone worthy found
    - Lion of the tribe of Judah
      - Gen. 49:8-10 = earliest title of Messiah
      - Lion = King of Beasts
        - Speaks of strength and fierceness
      - Judah = ruling tribe

- Root of David
  - Is. 11:1ff = Messianic title
  - Descendant of David
- Has prevailed/conquered
  - To open scroll by loosing seven seals

#### Verse 6

- The Lamb (little pet lamb)
  - In the midst of the throne
    - Has stepped down from Father's right hand
  - As though it had been slain
    - Passover Lamb brought into house 4 days before sacrifice (Ex. 12: 3-6)
    - Scars visible
    - Seven horns = power
    - Seven eyes = Holy Spirit

#### Verse 8

- Worship of the Lamb
  - When He took the scroll
  - 4 creatures and 24 elders
    - Fell down = prostrate = humility

- Look at what they are holding
  - Harp = ancient stringed instrument accompanied songs and prophecies (I Sam. 10:5)
  - Bowls of incense = prayers of the saints
    - Golden bowls part of Temple worship
    - Incense a large part of OT rituals
    - Symbolized prayers rising to God (11:17, 18; 13:7, 9, 10; 14:12; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20, 24; 19:8; 20:9)

Verses 9 & 10

- New Song
  - J. Vernon McGee: The old song is the song of creation; the new song is the song of redemption.
  - OT references
    - Ps. 33:3; 96:1; 144:9
  - Anticipates final redemption about to begin
  - Tells why Jesus is worthy

Verses 11 & 12

- The angelic choir joins the worship
  - 10,000 times 10,000 = myriads of myriads = innumerable
  - Saying: Worthy is the Lamb
    - To receive: (7 qualities that demand praise)

- Power = authority
- Riches = everything belongs to Him
- Wisdom = understanding
- Strength = ability to perform miracles, conquer, create, destroy
- Honor = Rewards of God and His people
- Glory = image of God
- Blessing = worship

Verse 13

- The universe joins the worship
  - Every creature alive or dead from days of Adam will praise Jesus (Ph. 2:9-11)

Verse 14

- Amen = absolute agreement

Chapter 6  
Verse 1

- The Beginning of Tribulation
  - Most awesome period of time world has ever known
  - Primary purpose: to shake human beings from false sense of security
- Three Chronological Judgments
  - Seals, Trumpets, Bowls – chs. 6-16
  - Concurrent or consecutive?
  - Build in intensity
- Seal Judgments
  - Cover approximately 21 months
  - Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
    - Purpose is to convey world conditions

Verse 2

- First Seal – White Horse
  - Identity of first rider key to understanding other three
  - Antichrist
    - Purpose is to conquer
      - Carries a bow = aggressive warfare
      - No arrow = conquer by diplomacy

— Ushers in a false peace

— Crown = one-world, socialist government

- Preparations for One-World Government in Ez. 38-39

- Russia seeks to conquer Israel

- God destroys Russia

- Antichrist steps in to bring peace

- Takes place no later than beginning of Tribulation

- Takes minimum of 7 years to burn implements of war (Ez. 39:9)

- Will not be burning during Millennium

Verses 3 & 4

- Second Seal - Red Horse

- Symbol of war

- Some nations will rebel against Antichrist's one-world government

Verses 5 & 6

- Third Seal – Black Horse

- Symbol of famine

- Often follows war

- Inflation skyrockets

- Balances = scarcity of food

- Penny = person's wage for one day (Mt. 20:2, 9)
- Three measures of barley = pint
- Day's work required to buy food for one person
- Common people hit hardest; wealthy not affected

Verses 7 & 8

- Fourth Seal – Pale Horse
  - Signifies death
    - War, famine result in ¼ of world population dead

Verses 9-11

- Fifth Seal -- Prayers of the saints
  - Under altar of incense (5:8)
  - Martyred for faith
  - Crying out for vengeance
    - Not rebuked
    - Will be answered in God's time
  - White robes = garments of the redeemed

Verses 12-17

- Sixth Seal – Cosmic disturbances
  - Beginning of the Wrath of the Lamb

— Seven phenomena of nature

- Earthquake
- Sun darkened
- Full moon like blood
- Stars fall
- Sky recedes as scroll
- Mountains
- Islands

— Affects seven groups of men – worldwide panic

- Kings
- Great men
- Generals
- Rich
- Strong
- Slave
- Free

## Chapter 7

### Verse 1

- Introduction
  - Parentheses between sixth and seventh seal
  - Answers question: Who is able to stand
    - 144,000 Jewish evangelists on earth (vv. 1-8)
    - Their converts in heaven (vv. 9-17)
  - Story of the greatest revival of all time

### Verse 1

- Four Angels - have power to harm the earth and sea
- Four corners - four quadrants of the compass
- Four winds - figurative expression indicating all the earth's winds

### Verses 2 & 3

- Fifth angel - delays the judgments
- Seal - signet ring
  - Implied authenticity, ownership
  - Protected contents
  - The Mark of God
- Servants = doulos = bondservants

- Mission is to preach the gospel
- Result is worldwide soul harvest

#### Verses 4 - 8

- Who are the 144,000?
  - Seventh Day Adventists say faithful of their communion
  - Jehovah's Witnesses teach they are overcomers who endure to the end
  - Flying Roll says their blood so cleansed they cannot die; immortal life on the earth
  - Jewish Christian missionaries
    - 12,000 from each tribe
    - Two tribes excluded: Dan and Ephraim
    - Replaced by Levi and Joseph
      - Both tribes guilty of idolatry
      - Tradition states that Antichrist will come from Dan (Testimony Of Dan 5:6-7)
    - Firstfruits of redeemed Israel
- Will Holy Spirit be on earth during Tribulation?
  - Scofield's note on 2 Thess. 2:1-12 says Holy Spirit taken out of the world when church is raptured
  - Most prophecy scholars believe Paul meant the Holy Spirit in the church removed but Holy Spirit will still be

- Taken out of the way = step aside, out of the way (2 Thess. 2:7)
- Joel 2:28-32 - concerns work of God on earth during Tribulation

#### Verse 9

- A great multitude = redeemed and martyred during Tribulation
  - From all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues
  - Clothed with white robes
  - Carrying palm branches = celebration of victory

#### Verses 10-12

- The Song of Salvation
  - Salvation is theme
  - Comes solely from God and the Lamb
  - Angels rejoice with sevenfold declaration of worship
    - Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might

#### Verses 13 & 14

- Identity of the multitude
  - Not members of Church or Old Testament saints
  - Redeemed of the Tribulation
  - Distinct group of saints with own relationship to Christ
  - From the Great Tribulation – 3:10; 6:1, 9, 12

- Washed their robes = salvation's cleansing
- Blood of the Lamb = atoning sacrifice

Verses 15-17

- Eternal rewards of Tribulation saints
  - Before the throne of God
  - His protecting presence
  - Every need supplied
  - Tears wiped away

Chapter 8  
Verse 1

- Opening of the Seventh Seal
  - Earthquake
  - 7 Trumpet Judgments (8:1-9:21)
  - 7 Bowl Judgments (16:1-21)
- Silence in heaven
  - Opposite the usual sound pattern
  - Awe and anticipation at reality of judgments

Verse 2

- Seven angels – stand in presence of God
  - Archangels – 1 Enoch
    - Michael and Gabriel
    - Make announcements of great significance
  - Trumpets
    - Zephaniah 1:14-16 – day of trumpet
    - Numbers 10:1-9
      - Gathering for a feast
      - Gathering for war
      - Anointing of a King

— Announcing judgment

- Judgments more intense than seals, less destructive than bowls
  - Occur during final 3 ½ years of tribulation
  - First four announce divine destruction of earth’s ecology
  - Final three involve demonic devastation of earth’s inhabitants

Verses 3 & 4

- Eighth angel
  - Jesus
    - He alone is worthy to receive prayers of saints
  - Another powerful angel
    - Jesus only referred to as “the angel of the Lord
  - Holds special position of service before the altar
  - Golden censer
    - Pan suspended on rope used to transport fiery coals from brazen altar
    - Incense placed on top of coals – symbolized prayers of saints
  - Cry of Christians
    - “Thy Kingdom Come”
    - Avenge us

### Verse 5

- Fire hurled to the earth = answered prayers
- Altar a place of substitute, a type of the cross
  - Fire consumed the substitute
  - Since inhabitants of earth rejected the Substitute, fire consumes them
- Noises, thunderings, lightnings, earthquake
  - Firestorm of righteous fury
  - Noises = voices of horror breaking into the silence

### Verse 6

- Angels prepared to sound
  - Prepared by appointment
  - Five of the plagues of Egypt repeated in book of Revelation – Jer. 23:7, 8; Joel 2:30-31

### Verse 7

- The First Trumpet = judgment on earth
  - Hail, fire, and blood – Ex. 9:13-25
    - Volcanic eruptions caused by earthquake?
    - 1/3 of trees and all of grass burned
      - Grass where burned trees located?
    - Immediate destruction/terrible consequences

— Soil erosion, floods, mudslides, air pollution

Verses 8 & 9

- Second Trumpet = judgment on sea
  - Sea = Mediterranean Sea
  - Like a great mountain
    - Huge asteroid or meteor surrounded by gases
    - Nuclear missile
  - Consequences
    - Impact creates tidal wave
    - Destroys 1/3 of world's ships
    - 1/3 of sea becomes blood
      - Red tide or actual blood – Ex. 7:19, 20

Verses 10 & 11

- Third Trumpet – judgment on fresh water
  - Great star = celestial body
    - Probably comet – leaves fiery trail
    - Disintegrates – scatters over globe or
    - Buries deep into earth
  - Wormwood = bitter herb from Bible (Dt. 29:18; Pr. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; Lam. 3:15)

- Affects 1/3 of world's rivers
- Poisons 1/3 of all fresh water supply
- Many will die from drinking water or of thirst

#### Verse 12

- Fourth Trumpet = judgment on heavenly bodies
  - 1/3 of sun, moon, and stars darkened
    - Reduce intensity
    - Reduce time they shine
    - Caused by smoke, dirt, debris caused by earthquake or nuclear holocaust?
  - Consequences
    - Radical drop in temperature
    - Meteorological, botanical, biological cycles
    - Worldwide famine

#### Verse 13

- Three woes = three remaining trumpets
- Angel = eagle
  - The raptured church
  - Angel
  - Eagle

Chapter 9  
Verses 1 & 2

- The Fifth Trumpet
  - A star fallen from heaven
    - Not falling
    - Star = Angel (Rev. 1:20)
      - Referred to as “him”
      - Is given a key
      - Good angel or bad angel?
        - Tim LaHaye - “God entrusts with key”
        - Fallen angels do not reside in heaven
        - Rev. 20:1
  - Key to bottomless pit
    - The abyss mentioned 7 times in Revelation (1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3)
      - Place of torment and isolation
      - Prison for some of the demons
      - 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6 = angels who sinned
        - God cast down to hell = tartarus
        - Lower than Hades; reserved for most wicked humans and fallen angels

- Demons feared it - Mt. 8:29
- Ultimately, these angels will be cast into lake of fire

### Verse 3

#### — Locusts

- Grasshopper-like insect
- Descends in swarms; strip bare all vegetation
- 1950s - swarm devoured everything for several hundred thousand square miles in Middle East
- One swarm covered 2,000 square miles by Red Sea
- Life span of 5 months

#### — Specially prepared locusts

- John uses word “like” 9 times
  - Difficult to describe
  - To be interpreted spiritually
- Outward form of demons
- Compare with Joel 2:1-5
- Power as the scorpions
  - Victim rolls on ground in agony, foams at mouth, grinds teeth in pain
  - Demons inflict physical/spiritual pain

## Verses 4 - 6

- Under God's control
  - Not interested in normal food
  - Can't harm Christians
  - Mercy of God limits torment to 5 months
  - Will not kill their victims
    - Tormented will seek to die, but can't

## Verses 7 - 10

### — Description

- Shaped like a horse
  - J. Vernon McGee: German word for locust = hay-horse;  
Italian = little horse
- Crowns like gold = idea of authority
- Crowns like gold = idea of authority
- Face like a man - idea of rationality
- Hair like a woman - Jer. 51:27
- Teeth like a lion - fierce, powerful, hungry
- Breastplates of iron = invulnerable
- Sounds like horses and chariots
- Tails like scorpions

— Their leader was Abaddon/Apollyon

- King of demons
- Names means destroyer

Verse 12

— One woe is past

- First of the final three
- Woes = horrible torment

Verse 13

- The Sixth Trumpet

— More severe - torment and kill

— The Golden Altar

- Normally a place of mercy, now a cry for vengeance

Verse 14

— Four angels = leaders of demonic cavalry

- Holy angels never bound
- Will be freed to accomplish God's judgment

— Euphrates

- Place of firsts

— First attack on human race

- Sin first came to earth
- Death first came to man
- First war fought here

- Place of boundaries

- Boundary of Eden
- Boundary for Israel
- Easternmost boundary of Egypt
- Boundary of Persian Empire

- Symbol of Israel's enemies

#### Verse 15

- Four angels released

- Hour, day, month, year = God's predetermined plan/precise timing
- Will kill 1/3 of world's population
  - 1/4 killed in ch. 4
  - 1/3 killed in ch. 9
  - 1/2 of world's population dead

#### Verse 16

- Angels command a vast army

- Human army from Asia? Probably not.

- 200,000,000 horsemen from hell? Probably.
- Horses do the killing
  - Probably the incorrigibles - those who have hardened their hearts to the point of no return

#### Verses 17 - 19

#### — Description of the horsemen

- Breastplates same color as the fire, smoke, and sulphur fumes
- Some compare colors to China
  - Flag is red and yellow
  - Army wears dark blue uniforms
  - Often called the Yellow Peril
  - Fire-breathing dragons = national symbol
  - Wrong understanding; literal description of demon-like evil spirits

#### — Description of the horses

- Heads like lions
- Out of their mouths come fire, smoke, brimstone
  - Brimstone = yellowish, sulfuric rock
  - When ignited produces burning streams of suffocating gas
- Fire, smoke, brimstone comes out of mouths

- Tails like serpents
- Able to vent destructive forces in both directions

### Verses 20 & 21

#### — Response of mankind

- Refusal to repent

#### — Sins representative of man's defiance

- Worship demons and idols
- Murder
- Sorcery = pharmacy/drugs
- Sexual immorality
- Thefts

## Chapter 10

- Interlude (10:1-11:14)
  - Between 6th and 7th trumpets
  - Description of conditions
  - To encourage and comfort His people
  - Almost halfway through Tribulation

### Verse 1

- Another mighty angel
  - Jesus Christ?
    - Clothed with a cloud = Jesus returns in cloud
    - Rainbow on His head = rainbow around throne (4:3)
    - Face like the sun = Rev. 1:16
    - Feet like pillars of fire = Rev. 1:15
    - Roars like a lion = Jesus is Lion of the Tribe of Judah
  - Probably not
    - Another = “another of the same kind”
    - Jesus never appeared as angel after incarnation
    - Takes oath upon Creator = Jesus
  - A mighty angel

- Not one of the seven, but high ranking
- Rev. 5:7, same word = strong angel
- Has great authority
- Clothed with a cloud = presence of God and return of Jesus
- Rainbow = sign of God's faithfulness
- Face like the sun = shekinah glory of God
- Feet like pillars of fire = firm resolve

#### Verse 2

##### — Little book

- Same as book in 5:1
- Title deed of the earth, prophecy of judgment

##### — Right foot on sea/left foot on land

- Roman custom of triumph
- Demonstrates sovereign authority

#### Verses 3 & 4

##### — Seven thunders

- Symbol of the voice of the Lord
- Only proclamation in Revelation sealed up

—Until God's time (Rev. 22:10; Dan. 8:26)

- Too horrible to write/world can't take it
- Too sacred to be divulged
- Warnings of further judgments
- Many speculations
  - Seven crusades
  - Seven nations of the Reformation
  - Pope's edict against Luther

Verses 5 & 6

- Raised his hand = taking oath/solemn vow
  - Unusual action for angel
  - Emphasizes authority and power of God
- Delay no longer
  - Chronos = time or delay
    - Time goes on after this
    - Humanity living in God's delay
  - God's patience is over
  - Initiates the last plagues of the Day of the Lord (11:15)
  - Time of the disciples has come (Mt. 24:3)
  - Prayers of martyred saints answered

## Verse 7

- The mystery = to shut or to close
  - Several occurrences in Bible
    - Rapture = I Cor. 15:51
    - Israel's blindness = Rom. 11:25
    - God's wisdom = I Cor. 2:7
    - Christ and the church = Eph. 5:31, 32
    - Christ in us = Col. 1:26, 27
    - Kingdom of heaven = Matt. 13
    - Godliness = I Tim. 3:16
  - God about to disclose a truth
  - Revealed through Christ and apostles (Ep. 3:3-5 and Rom. 16:25)
  - Mystery
    - Final consummation of all things
    - Salvation
  - Declared to prophets (Am. 3:7)

## Verses 8 - 10

- John told to take the book and eat it
  - Graphically illustrates taking in God's Word
  - Form of commission

— John's reaction

- In mouth, sweet as honey
  - Sweet anticipation of God's glory
  - Knowledge of final victory
- In stomach, bitter
  - Seeing God's wrath
  - Future of the unrepentant

Verse 11

— Prophecy again

- Call to warn men from all over the world

## Chapter 11

- Beginning of John's commission
  - Actions of the Gentiles, Antichrist, God, Witnesses
  - Reactions of the nations and residents of heaven

### Verse 1

- The Temple
  - Reed
    - Hollow, bamboo-like cane plant
    - Found in Jordan Valley
    - Light weight and rigid
    - Used as measuring rod (Ez. 40:3, 5)
  - Measuring the Temple
    - Signifies ownership (Rev. 21:15; Zech. 2:1-5)
    - Could refer to punishment
  - Altar
    - Bronze altar?
      - In courtyard because worshipers present
    - Incense altar?
      - Located inside Temple

— Bronze altar not rebuilt because in outer court

— Renewed sacrificial system

— Preparations to rebuild the Temple

- Priests being trained
- Priests clothing weaved from pure linen
- Silversmiths and metal workers making vessels
- Musical instruments being made
- Attempts to breed red heifer
- Mobile model of Temple

— Plans made

— Money raised

— Rebuild in 9-18 months

- Daniel implied Temple by mid-Tribulation
- Jesus authenticated prophesy (Mt. 24:15)
- Paul verified (2 Thess. 2:1-13)

— Count the worshipers = find none

Verses 2 & 3

— Outer court not measured

- Court of the Gentiles

- Separated from inner court by low wall
  - Symbolizes God's rejection of the unbelieving Gentiles
  - Or because only Holy of Holies and Holy Place will be rebuilt
- Tread holy city underfoot
- Future devastation of Jerusalem by forces of Antichrist during last 3 ½ years of Tribulation
- Two Witnesses
- Required to confirm testimony (Dt. 17:6; 19:15; Mt. 18:16; Jn. 8:17; Heb. 10:28)
  - Culmination of God's testimony to Israel
  - Message of judgment from God and gracious offer of gospel to all who will repent
  - Prophecy during first half of Tribulation
    - Counteract lies of Antichrist
    - Preach of things to come
    - Help those who accept the Lord return to normal thinking
- Sackcloth = coarse, rough cloth
- Expressed penitence, humility, mourning (Gen. 37:34; 2 Sam. 3:31; 2 Kin. 6:30)
  - Witnesses mourning
    - Wretched wickedness of world

— God's judgment

— Desecration of Temple and holy city

- Wore sackcloth when ministering to people deeply involved in sin

#### Verse 4

— Imagery from Zechariah 3 & 4

- Near fulfillment = rebuilding of Temple by Joshua and Zerubbabel
- Far fulfillment = Ministry of two witnesses

— Two olive trees and lampstands

- Olive oil used in lamps
- Oil symbol of Holy Spirit
- Symbolize spiritual revival

#### Verses 5 & 6

— Identity of Two witnesses

- Moses and Elijah

— Moses strikes earth with plagues; Elijah stops the rain

— Jewish tradition expected Moses and Elijah to return (Dt. 18:15-18; Mal. 4:5, 6; Jn. 1:21)

— Both Moses and Elijah present at Transfiguration

— Both Moses and Elijah use supernatural means to provoke repentance

— Elijah taken up alive into heaven; God buried Moses where body never found

— Length of drought = same as that brought by Elijah (James 5:17)

- Elijah and Enoch

— Two men who never died

— Protected by supernatural power

— Power to shut heaven

— Waters turn to blood

#### Verse 7

— The Beast = first of 36 references

- The Antichrist ascends from bottomless pit = indicates his power is satanic
- Reference to death and resurrection

— Kill them

- Antichrist hates the Witnesses
- When ministry completed, God allows death

#### Verse 8

— Bodies lie in street

- Expresses contempt
- Forbidden in Old Testament (Dt. 21:22, 23)

— Great City = Jerusalem

- Sodom = immorality
- Egypt = materialism

Verse 9

- Three and a half days
  - Entire world will watch

Verse 10

- Rejoice and send gifts = Antichristmas
- Those who dwell on the earth = unbelievers

Verse 11

- Breath of life from God
  - God vindicates His faithful witnesses by resurrecting them
  - Cameras will be focused; whole world watch in terror
  - Final confirmation they were men of God

Verse 12

- Ascended to heaven
- Enemies saw them; many changed their minds
- Verses 11 & 12 used by mid-Tribulationists
  - Witnesses are not New Testament Christians
  - No saints included

— No mention of church for 3 ½ years

#### Verse 13

— People in panic

— Earthquake kills 7,000; destroys 10% of buildings

— The rest = Jews still living not yet trusting Christ

— Gave glory to God = great revival

- Genuine experience of salvation
- Key fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy (12:10; 13:1); Paul's prophecy (Rom. 11:25-27)

#### Verse 14

— Second woe = 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet

- Interlude ends
- Final judgment begins

#### Verse 15

### ● The Seventh Trumpet

— Initiates nothing on the earth

- Introduces next series of judgments
  - Seven bowls = final judgments
- Introduces activities to be defined later
- Details of events of entire Tribulation

— Ch. 12 - Persecution of God's children

— Ch. 13 - Antichrist

— Ch. 14 - A heavenly vision

— Ch. 15 - Last half of Tribulation

- Declaration of authority

- Kingdoms of this world = kingdom of Antichrist

- One ruler = Satan (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Cor. 4:4)

- Powers influence nations to do evil; human rulers hostile to Christ

- Have become Their kingdom

- God's and Christ's

- Forever and ever = ages of ages

Verses 16 - 18

- Reaction to the declaration

- 24 elders worship

- Thanksgiving

- He is alive

- Exercising authority

- Proclamation

- Nations filled with rage (Ps. 2)

- Dead will be judged
  - Saints rewarded: Old Testament (Dan. 12:1-3; Rev. 22:12; 1 Cor. 3:8; 4:5); raptured church (1 Cor. 15:51, 52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18); Tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4)
  - Unbelievers condemned (Rev. 20:15)

Verse 19

— Heavenly temple opened

- Temple = throne of God
- Ark of His covenant = symbolized God's presence, atonement, and covenant
  - Top of the ark = mercy seat
- Lightnings, noises, thunderings, earthquake, and hail = judgment coming out of Holy of Holies

## Chapter 12

- Introduction
  - Heavenly recap of great conflict from before creation until the midpoint of the Tribulation
    - Satan's fall - Isaiah 14:12
    - Gen. 3:15 - promise of deliverance
    - Satan's war to destroy the seed of the woman
  - Entire Christian dispensation is omitted
    - Daniel's 70 weeks of years
      - 483 years until Messiah cut off
      - 7 years of tribulation

### Verse 1

- Sign
  - symbol pointing to someone else
  - First of 7 signs in last half of Revelation (12:3; 13:13, 14; 15:1; 16:14; 19:20)
  - Woman
    - Roman Catholics say Mary
    - The Church
    - Others say particular religion
      - Mary Baker Eddy - Christian Science

- Israel - Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9-11
  - Jacob's interpretation
    - Sun represented Jacob/Israel
    - Moon represented Rachel
    - Stars represented sons
- Clothed with the sun = glory, dignity, exalted status of Israel
- Moon = possibly God's covenant relationship with Israel
- Stars = twelve tribes of Israel

#### Verse 2

- Cried out in pain = travail of childbirth
  - Israel as mother giving birth (Is. 26:17, 18; 54:1; 66:7-12; Hos. 13:13; Mic. 4:10; 5:2, 3; Mt. 24:8)
  - Pain because captive nation

#### Verse 3

- Another sign
  - Enormous red dragon = Satan
    - Red dragon = force behind bloodshed
    - v. 9 "ancient serpent" = Garden of Eden
    - v. 9 "devil" = used in gospels for slanderer/accuser
    - v. 9 "Satan" = adversary

—v. 10 “accuser of brethren” = current job

- Seven heads

—7 past worldly kingdoms: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and final kingdom of Antichrist

—Seven stages of Roman empire

- Ten horns

—10 future kingdoms (Dan. 7:7, 20, 24)

—Total military and political control

—Horns = power

- Seven crowns

—3 of 10 kings subdued by Antichrist concentrating power in 7 crowns

#### Verse 4

- Satan’s original rebellion Is. 14; Ez. 28

—Stars = angels; 1/3 = millions possibly

- Attempt to stamp out the seed of the woman

#### Verse 5

— A male Child = Jesus Christ

- Rules with rod of iron = millennial kingdom

- Caught up to God = ascension

## Verse 6

- Wilderness = God's protection
  - Area of Moab, Ammon, Edom (Dan. 11:40)
  - Petra
    - mountainous area in Jordan
    - 20 miles south of Dead Sea
    - Volcanic crater where Edomites lived
    - Abandoned city carved into rocks
- 1,260 days = midpoint of Tribulation
  - Antichrist breaks covenant with Israel
  - Puts stop to temple worship
  - Sets up abomination of desolation
  - Devastates Jerusalem
  - Jews flee for their lives (Mt. 24:16ff)
  - God preserves them

## Verses 7 - 12

- War in heaven
  - Counterpart to events on earth
  - War has always existed but intensified
  - Fallen angels led by Satan

- Heavenly hosts led by Michael
  - Commanding general
  - Superior to most angels but lower in created order to Satan - Is. 14 and Ez. 28
  - Previous confrontations
    - Jude 9 - contended for Moses' body
    - Dan. 10:13 - hindered by "prince of Persia"
  - Protector of Israel - Dan. 12:1
- Battle is fierce; Satan loses
  - Banished from heaven
  - Lashes out at earth/Israel
- Heaven rejoices
  - Satan no longer accuses Christians
  - Christ exercises authority
  - Believers overcome
    - Blood of the Lamb
    - Word of their testimony
    - Willingness to die for the cause of Christ
- Satan's time is short; efforts intensify

## Verses 13 & 14

- Satan will personally take command
- God will protect His people
  - Wings of a great eagle
    - United States airlift?
    - Graphic description of God's protection
      - Ex. 19:4 - brought Israel out of Egypt
      - Dt. 32:9-12 - God's protection
    - Demonstrates God's faithfulness to Israel
- Israel flees to a place prepared
  - God knows the future
    - Jordan building new roads and bridges into Petra; improving utilities
  - God will provide for Israel throughout remainder of Tribulation

## Verses 15-17

- Serpent/Satan spewed water
  - Satan diverts actual rivers and bodies of water into desert
  - Satan attempts to flood Israel with false teachings
  - Symbolic of a great army (Is. 59:19)
- Earth opened up

- One of the numerous earthquakes
  - God's judgment as in days of Korah (Num. 16)
- Satan goes after all believers, Jew or Gentile

## Chapter 13

- Introduction
  - Events take place at midpoint of Tribulation
  - Interlude continues
  - Describes work of Antichrist and False Prophet during entire 7 years Tribulation
    - Antichrist = political powerhouse
    - False prophet=religious powerhouse

### Verse 1

- Then I stood = He stood = Satan
- Sand of the sea
  - Nations of the world
  - The abyss
  - Masses of humanity
- Beast rising out of the sea
  - Monster = vicious killing animal
    - Symbolic - no such animal as described
    - Composite kingdom/Ruler of the kingdom
      - Antichrist - not used to refer to specific person
    - 7 heads, 10 horns, 10 crowns

— See 12:3

— 7 heads

- Roman Emperors
  - \* Five before John
  - \* Sixth = Domitian
  - \* Seventh = Antichrist

— 7 heads = 7 world governments and 7 hills where world religion located

- Assyrian
- Egyptian
- Babylonian
- Medo-Persian
- Greek
- Roman
- Revised Roman Empire
  - \* Run by Antichrist
  - \* Made up of 10 divisions
    - \* Canada and United States
    - \* European Union - Western Europe
    - \* Japan
    - \* Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pacific Islands
    - \* Eastern Europe
    - \* Latin America
    - \* North Africa, Middle East
    - \* Central Africa

- \* South and Southeast Asia
- \* Central Asia

- Numerical imagery of Dan. 2:41, 42

- 10 toes on statue's feet

- Beast is final world government
    - Strengths of various world powers mixed with weakness
    - Ultimately crushed

- Blasphemous name = identifying self as god

Verse 2

- Composite world government

- Leopard = ancient Greece (Dan. 7:6)

- Military swiftness and agility

- Bear = ancient Medo-Persia (Dan. 7:5)

- Kingdom's ferocious strength/stability

- Lion = ancient Babylon (Dan. 7:4)

- Fierce, all-consuming power

- Daniel's fourth beast = Roman Empire

- Nondescript

- Bestial kingdom in dominant control of earth

## Verses 3 & 4

- Deadly wound was healed
  - Roman Empire destroyed and revived
  - Death (fake or real) and resurrection of Antichrist
    - Take place during rebellion of 3 kings later subdued by Antichrist?
    - Resurrection = attempt to duplicate Jesus' resurrection
  - World marveled = follow unquestioningly

## Verse 5

- He was given
  - God establishes limits
    - Mouth to blaspheme
    - Authority for 42 months
    - Will set up worship of himself

## Verse 6

- Blasphemy against God
  - His name = attributes
  - His tabernacle = heaven
  - Those who dwell in heaven = angels and glorified saints

### Verse 7

- Make war with the saints
  - Will massacre God's children

### Verses 8 - 10

- All will worship him
  - If name not written in Lamb's Book of Life
    - Contains names of all who will receive Jesus
- Lamb slain = God's eternal plan
- Believers called to hear, understand, and persevere

### Verse 11

- Another beast = final false prophet
  - Promotes Antichrist's power
  - Convinces world to worship Antichrist
  - Chief proponent of satanic religion
  - Comes out of the earth
    - Symbol of land of Israel
      - False prophet will have Jewish roots
      - Possibly an apostate Jew who leads Israel into covenant with Antichrist
    - Symbol for the abyss

— False prophet sent and controlled by demon

— Implies prophet subtler than Antichrist

— Two horns like a lamb

- Lambs do not have horns
- Describes relative weakness
- Wolf in sheep's clothing
- Masquerading as Christ

— Spoke like a dragon

- Satan's mouthpiece

Verse 12

— Exercises authority of first beast

- Same kind of satanic power
- Worldwide influence
- Close relationship to Antichrist

— Causes to worship Antichrist

- Establishes false world religion
- Corresponds to Holy Spirit

Verse 13

— Great signs

- Same phrase used of Jesus' miracles (Jn. 2:11)
  - Counterfeits Christ's miracles
  - Attempt to convince the world more powerful than God's witnesses

Verse 14

- Make an image
  - Replication of Antichrist
    - Erected in temple = abomination of desolation
    - Former false religion abolished
    - Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Mt. 24:15; 2 Th. 2:4)

Verse 15

- Causes image to speak
- Causes non-worshippers to be killed

Verse 16

- Causes to receive the mark of the beast
  - On right hands or forehead
  - Roman marks
    - Slaves and soldiers identified by tattoos
    - Mystical cults identified form of worship
  - Pious Jews

— Phylacteries = pouches of Scripture

— On left hand or foreheads

- Rev. 7 - 144,000 witnesses marked on foreheads
- Rev. 14 - have names of Jesus and the Father on foreheads

Verses 17 & 18

- Used to engage in daily commerce
- Spiritually fatal
- False prophet's way of merging church and state

— Numbering of name = 666

- First calls for wisdom
- Number is 666
  - 6 is one short of perfection = human imperfection
  - 3-fold repetition reiterates Antichrist is a man
  - Name has numeric equivalent of 666

Chapter 14  
Verses 1, 4, & 5

- Scene
  - Takes place in heaven
    - Jesus not on earth until Second Coming
    - Mt. Zion = heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22-24)
    - 144,000 Jewish evangelists have been martyred
      - Debate over identity
        - Jewish evangelists of ch. 7
        - Most outstanding saints
        - The Lamb's army in preparation for Armageddon
    - Father's name on forehead = belong to God
    - Not defiled with women (v. 4)
      - God's ability to keep believers pure
      - Celibacy
      - Faithful in marriage
      - Did not commit spiritual fornication
    - Follow the Lamb
    - Purchased = bought with blood of Jesus
    - Firstfruits
      - Set apart for special service

- Representative of more converts to follow

— No deceit = speak truth (v. 5)

— Without fault = not sinless but sanctified

Verses 2 & 3

— Singing in heaven

- Harp accompaniment
- A new song = song of redemption
- Understood only by 144,000

Verses 6 & 7

- First of five angels

— Midst of heaven = zenith

— Everlasting gospel = the good news

— Urging people to change allegiance from beast to Lamb

— Proclaimed to the whole world = no excuses

— Loud voice = urgency = last chance?

— Two choices

- Follow Antichrist and die spiritually
- Fear God and live spiritually

— Hour of His judgment = last moment to repent before God's wrath

## Verse 8

- Second Angel
  - Pronouncement of judgment
  - Babylon has fallen
    - City of Satan – long history of witchcraft, idolatry, astrology, etc.
    - Entire worldwide political, economic, religious kingdom of Antichrist
    - Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies (Is. 14:22 and Jer. 50 & 51)
  - Fallen, fallen = two separate falls
    - False religion
    - Governmental
  - Wine of the wrath of her fornication
    - Intoxicated with pleasures
    - Rebellion, hatred, idolatry toward God
    - Maddening wine = demon possession?

## Verses 9 - 11

- Third angel
  - Warns of consequences of worshiping the beast or taking his mark
  - Reap what you sow verses

- Babylon makes nations drink maddening wine so she is made to drink wine of God's fury

- Full strength = not mixed with mercy, love, or grace

- Unimaginable torment with burning sulfur (fire and brimstone)

- Lake of fire = eternal hell
- Tim Lahaye – worshipers will experience on earth as well as hell
- Never rest

Verses 12 & 13

- Blessings on the saints

- Patient endurance characterized by obedience
- Rest from labors
- Deeds follow – investment of faithfulness to Jesus today earns eternal dividends (Mt. 6:20)

Verse 14

- The Battle of Armageddon foretold (16:12-16; 19:11-20)

- Literal battle

- Between forces of Antichrist and Jesus

- End of Tribulation period

- Ushers in millennium

- Son of Man = Jesus
  - Cloud – Dan. 7:13, 14; Acts 1:11
  - Golden crown = victor’s crown; identifies Him as King
  - Sickle = harvesting tool to cut grain
    - Represents swift and devastating judgment (Joel 3:13; Mt. 13:39-42)
    - Never used for gathering of the righteous

Verses 15 - 16

- Fourth angel
  - Out of the temple = from the presence of God
  - Harvest of the earth
    - Urges Jesus (instruction from God) to reap
    - Ripe = totally ripe, rotten, withered
      - Time of judgment has arrived
        - Hour to reap = only the Father knows

Verses 17 - 20

- Fifth angel
  - To reap grape harvest
  - Angel had power over fire = altar of incense

- Represents prayers of the saints(6:9-11; 8:3-5)
  - Call upon God to avenge their blood
  - Prayers answered
- Earth's vine = Antichrist and those who follow him
- Winepress = horrible slaughter
  - All of the enemies of God are killed
  - Blood like juice of stomped grapes
    - Flows up to horses bridles = 4 ft.
    - 1600 furlongs = 184 miles
    - Josephus' report on Jerusalem
      - Blood put out fires
  - Millions will die

## Chapter 15

- Shortest chapter in Revelation
  - Combined with ch. 16
  - Introduces Great Tribulation
    - Last 3 ½ years
    - 7 bowl judgments
    - Events in heaven prior to final judgment

### Verse 1

- Third great sign = symbol of revelation
  - Sun – clothed woman = Israel in 12:1
  - Great red dragon = Satan in 12:3
  - Seven angels with seven last plagues in 15:1
- Great and marvelous
  - Most significant
  - Terrible nature and amazing result
  - Final act of God's judgment

### Verse 2

- Sea of glass = platform for God's throne (4:6)
  - Clear as crystal in 4:6

- Mixed with fire in 15:2
  - Represents judgment?
  - Represents fiery persecution of Tribulation saints

- Tribulation saints

- Come out of sea of humanity
- Overcome the beast
- God gives harps to sing and play

Verse 3

- Sing two songs
  - Song of Moses – Exodus 15:1-21
    - Deliverance from Egyptian army
    - Song of victory – Overcomers can identify with this song
  - Song of the Lamb
    - Celebrates God's reign
    - Reveals who Jesus is = Almighty God
      - Great and marvelous works = creation and redemption
      - Almighty = omnipotent
      - Just and true = accurate and reliable
      - King of the Saints/Ages = sovereign, eternal king

#### Verse 4

— To be feared

- He alone is holy
- He will be worshiped by all
- His righteous acts revealed through judgments

#### Verse 5

- Temple of the tabernacle of the testimony
  - Testimony = God has always kept His covenants
  - The Ark of the Covenant contains 10 Commandments
    - Those who reject grace judged under the law

#### Verse 6

- Seven angels
  - Come out of presence of God
  - Clothed in linen with golden bands
    - Fabric represents holiness (19:14)
    - Signifies royal priesthood and untarnished glory
  - Prepared to pour out wrath of God

#### Verse 7

- Seven golden bowls = shallow saucers

- Used in temple worship
- Pictures divine judgment dumped on inhabitants of earth who reject His Son

Verse 8

- Temple filled with smoke
  - Glory and power of God (Ex. 19:16-18; 40:34-35; I Kings 8:10; Is. 6:4)
- No one can enter
  - No changing of mind
  - No hope of mercy
  - No delays

## Chapter 16

- Introduction
  - Severity of judgments
    - Extent of God's wrath
    - Extent of God's love
  - Trumpet vs. Bowls
    - Similarities:
      - Afflict earth, sea, fresh water, luminaries
    - Differences:
      - Bowls move more quickly, more severe, attack only unbelievers, less thoughts of repentance

### Verse 1

- Loud voice from Temple
  - Who alone is in the Temple? God (15:8)
  - Instructs angels to pour out His wrath
    - Great distress – Mt. 24:21
    - Cannot symbolize or spiritualize

### Verse 2

- First Bowl Judgment = fowl and loathsome sore
  - Boils (Ex. 9:9-11; Job 2:7)

- Open sores of Lazarus (Lk. 16:21)
- Antichrist cannot heal these

#### Verse 3

- Second Bowl Judgment = sea creatures die
  - Second trumpet (8:8, 9) and first plague of Egypt (Ex. 7:20-25)
  - Stench, rampant disease
  - Interferes with commercial shipping and destroys fishing industry

#### Verses 4 - 7

- Third Bowl Judgment = fresh water to blood
  - Similar to third trumpet (8:10, 11) first plague in Egypt (Ex. 7:17-20)
  - Short supply due to prolonged drought
  - Cannot drink, bathe, or wash their sores
- Fresh water angel?
  - Expresses God's eternity and justice
    - Unbelievers reap what they sow = "just due"
  - Martyred saints agree

#### Verses 8 - 9

- Fourth Bowl Judgment = sun becomes deadly killer
  - Fourth trumpet reversed

— Earth will burn like a furnace (Mal. 4:1)

- Extreme heat
- Melting polar ice caps
- Uncontrollable fires
- Nothing to drink but blood
- Admit that God exists if only to curse Him

Verses 10 - 11

- Fifth Bowl Judgment = kingdom of Antichrist is darkened

— Darkness = judgment (Is. 60:2; Joel 2:2; Mk. 13:24, 25)

— Similar to ninth plague in Egypt (Ex. 10:21)

- People afraid to move from their places for three days

— People will gnaw their tongues

- To alleviate suffering?
- Symptom of insanity?

— People continue to blaspheme God of heaven

- Title used only twice in New Testament (16:11; 11:13)
- Reject God because of hardness of heart

Verses 12-15

- Sixth Bowl Judgment - two parts

- Euphrates dries up
  - Called “great river” 5 times in Scripture
  - Flows 1800 miles
  - Forms eastern boundary of land God promised to Israel (15:18; Dt. 1:7; 11:24; Jos. 1:4)
  - Formed eastern boundary of Roman empire
  - Turkey can control flow with Ataturk Dam
  
- Demon forces deceive armies of the world
  - Kings of the east = kings from the sunrising = Oriental nations of the world
  - God draws them to battle to destroy them
    - May rebel against Antichrist
    - May be act of anti-Semitism
  
- Three unclean spirits = demons
  - Like frogs = vileness
  - Work miracles to deceive kings of the world
    - Supernatural wonders
    - Deceive kings into invading Israel (mt. 24:24, 25; 2 Thess. 2:9; Joel 3:2-4; Zech. 14:1-3)

Verse 15

- Christ’s challenge to living saints

- Thief = surprise
- Challenge
  - Remain faithful
  - Be ready for His return

Verse 16

- Armageddon – only place used in Bible
  - Hebrew name for Mt. Megiddo
  - 60 miles north of Jerusalem, west of Jordan River
  - Staging area for the battle

Verses 17 - 21

- Seventh Bowl Judgment – It is done!
  - Completion of God's wrath
  - Devastating earthquake and atmospheric calamities
  - The Great City
    - Jerusalem? (See Zech. 14:1-8)
    - Babylon? (See Rev. 14:8)
  - Cities of the nations – all destroyed
  - Every island fled – all earth's topography changed (2 Pet. 3:10)
  - Hailstones

- Weighed between 66-135 pounds

— Men blasphemed God

Chapter 17  
The Destruction of Babylon – Pt. 1

- Identity
  - Mother of Prostitutes
    - Spiritual adultery
    - Mother of all false religions
  - City
    - Birthplace of mother of prostitutes
    - Birthplace of self-government
    - Birthplace of city dwellings
    - Birthplace of one-world government/religion

Verses 1 - 2

- Seven Angels = seven bowl judgments
- The punishment
  - John invited to view
  - Great harlot = false religion = anti-bride
  - Many waters = the nations of the world (v. 15).
    - Sitting on waters = sovereignty
  - Kings committed fornication
    - Political leaders

- Idolatry = false religion = state religion
- Wine of fornication = influence on mankind

### Verse 3

- In the Spirit
  - Literal transportation?
  - Vision?
- Desert = good place to meet God, clear vision
- Woman = the harlot of v. 1 = Babylon = false religious system
- Scarlet beast = Antichrist
  - Scarlet = colors of royalty, nobility, wealth
  - Blasphemy = self-deification
  - Seven heads/ten horns = extent of alliances

### Verse 4

- Purple and scarlet = royalty, nobility, wealth = successful prostitute
- Golden cup
  - Evidence of wealth
  - Defiled by immorality
  - Deceives the nations

## Verse 5

- Name on forehead
  - Typical of Roman prostitute
  - 3-fold title reveals origin and action
    - Mystery
      - Mystery = truth once hidden now revealed
    - Babylon the Great
    - Mother of Harlots and Abominations

## Verse 6

- Woman drunk with blood of saints
  - Ecumenical system tolerant of everything but Christianity

## Verses 7 - 8

- Interpretation of vision
  - Three mysteries
    - The woman
    - The beast = both king and kingdom
      - Was, is not, will ascend
        - Reference to false resurrection
        - Beast existed before and will exist again

— Bottomless pit = abyss

- Beast has Satanic ties to demonic spirits

— Book of Life = the roll of the elect

- Written in eternity past – before time began

Verses 9 - 10

- Seven heads = seven hills = seven kings/kingdoms

— Relationship between woman and hills

- Heads attached to beast, not woman
- Heads do not identify location
- Woman sits on beast, not just heads

— Seven kings/kingdoms = Gentile empires

- Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia,
- Greece, Rome, Antichrist (Dan. 2:37-45)
- Alternate view = Roman emperors
- Five fallen, one is, other to come = first five gone out of existence....

Verse 11

— The eighth

- Antichrist both seventh and eighth kingdom

- Seventh before resurrection; eighth after resurrection

Verses 12 & 13

- End-time world government

— Ten kings = sub-rulers over administrative districts (see Dan. 2 and 7)

- Revived Roman Empire?
- European Economic Community?
- No kingdom = no historical figure
- Authority for one hour = brief time
- Puppet kings

Verse 14

- Make war = Battle of Armageddon
- The Lamb (Jesus) wins because God determined it; He is sovereign
- Those with Him = believers

Verse 15

— The waters = power base for false religious system

Verses 16-18

- Political rulers will hate the harlot/false religious system

— Use then destroy at midpoint of Tribulation

— God puts it in their minds

- Antichrist in power only as long as God allows
- He too is puppet king

Chapter 18  
The Destruction of Babylon – Pt. 2

- Political Babylon = union of nations
  - Differences between chs. 17 & 18
    - After this (18:1)
    - Another angel (18:1) = not same as angels of ch. 17
    - Names of Babylon different (17:5 vs. 18:2)
    - Religious Babylon destroyed by kings of the earth (17:16); Political Babylon destroyed by the judgment of God (ch. 18)
    - Kings rejoice in ch. 17; lament and weep in ch. 18

Verse 1

- Another angel
  - Not one of the seven
  - Has great authority
  - Illuminates the earth

Verse 2

- Babylon is fallen
  - As if already taken place = prophetic future
    - Babylon will be rebuilt (Is. 13-14; Jer. 50-51)
      - Destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah (Is. 13:19)

— Ruins never inhabited (Is. 13:20)

— Becomes habitation of demons, foul spirits, and unclean things

Verse 3

● Wine of her fornication

— Religious Babylon lured nations into spiritual drunkenness and idolatry

— Political Babylon seduces world into materialistic stupor

Verse 4

● Come out of her, my people

— Tribulation saints in the city

— Called to leave

● Do not become involved with her sin

● Do not become victims of God's wrath

Verse 5

● Her sins have reached to heaven

— God doesn't overlook sin

— Judgment may be delayed but it will come

Verse 6

● O.T. law of retaliation

— Offer no mercy, receive no mercy

- Repaid according to deeds
- Double = full, overflowing

#### Verse 7

- In the measure that she glorified herself
  - Self-deceived
    - Queen = godless city, proud and haughty
    - Am no widow = self-sufficient boast
- God's response
  - Torture and grief = glory and luxury

#### Verse 8

- Destroyed in one day
  - Death angel pass over
  - Will grieve and mourn over lost money
  - Famine will come
  - Burned to the ground

#### Verses 9 – 20

#### Lament Over Babylon's Destruction

- Political leaders will weep (sob openly) and lament (despair)
  - Loss of city signals doom of empire

- They will shake in fear
- They will weep over loss of customers

Verses 12 & 13

- Goods of an affluent society (Jas. 5:1-3)
  - Purple – worn by royalty
  - Silk – once so scarce, outlawed
  - Citron wood – from North Africa, used for ornamental purposes
  - Marble – imported from Africa, Egypt, Greece
  - Expensive perfumes
  - Bodies and souls of men – slaves

Verses 14 – 16

- Babylonian dream destroyed
- Business men will not go near
- Realize power, beauty, wealth cannot protect

Verses 17 - 20

- Sudden destruction = one hour
  - Leaders weep openly
  - Merchants grieve

- Seamen's cry like the cry for Tyre at destruction by Alexander the Great
- Threw dust on head – ancient expression of grief
- Caused by nuclear explosion?
- Thick layer of black tar 10 feet below the surface
- God has avenged you – justice has prevailed
  - Old Testament prophets
  - New Testament apostles
  - Tribulation saints

#### Verse 21

- Another mighty angel = 3
- Great millstone = large, heavy, round, flat stone
  - Used for grinding grain
  - Gentiles used for execution (Mt. 18:6)
  - Symbolizes sudden, violent, eternal destruction of Babylon (Is. 13; Jer. 50-51)

#### Verses 22-23

- End of normalcy
  - No music
  - No industry

— No preparing of food

— No power for light

— No weddings

Verse 24

- God's wrath completed

## Chapter 19 The Heavenly Hallelujah Chorus

- Hallelujah = transliteration
  - Appears 4 times in New Testament all in this chapter
  - Means “Praise the Lord”
    - God’s deliverance of His people (v. 1)
    - God’s meting out of justice (v. 2)
    - God’s permanent crushing of man’s rebellion (v. 3)
    - God’s sovereignty (v. 6)
    - God’s communion with His people (v. 7)
  - Ultimate victory
  - Brief glimpse of eternity

### Verse 1

- After these things = a time key
  - After Tribulation/before millennial kingdom
- Great multitude
  - Angels – doubtful
  - Tribulation saints \*
  - All saints
  - Saints and angels

- Song of praise
  - Salvation = deliverance
  - Glory = God's moral glory in judgment
  - Power = ability to overcome enemies

Verse 2

- Reasons to rejoice
  - False religion can do no more harm
  - Blood of martyred saints avenged

Verse 3

- Hallelujah over destruction of city/political Babylon
  - Everlasting destruction

Verse 4

- 24 elders = representatives of the church (4:4)
  - Five times 24 elders express themselves in praise
    - 4:10-11 = honoring God for creative power
    - 5:8-9 = worship the Lamb who is worthy
    - 7:11-12 = celebrate arrival of multitude of Gentiles in heaven
    - 11:16-18 = worship God when announces the world has become kingdom of Christ

- 19:4 = praise for God's judgment

Verse 5

- Voice from throne – angel, God, Jesus?
  - Invitation to praise

Verse 6

- Thunderous response
  - Because He reigns
  - Because kingdom is coming to earth

Verses 7 - 10

The Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- Where and When?
  - J. Vernon McGee – Marriage in heaven/ supper on earth
  - Tim LaHaye – both in heaven
    - V. 11 shows Jesus in Glorious Appearing
  - Hal Lindsey – beginning of Millennial Kingdom
  - Tim LaHaye – at end of Tribulation, after the Judgment Seat of Christ, and before Millennial Kingdom

Verses 7 - 8

- Wedding = A time of rejoicing
  - Betrothal – often when couple are children

— Presentation – the festivities, often lasting several days, preceded the ceremony

— Ceremony – exchanging of vows

- The Marriage

— Church betrothed to Christ in eternity past (Eph. 1:4; Heb. 13:20).

— Church presented to Christ at Rapture (Jn. 14:1-3; I Th. 4:13-18)

— Ceremony ends at the Supper

- Who?

— Bridegroom = the Lamb = Jesus

- John the Baptist

— Jesus is the Lamb (Jn. 1:29)

— Jesus is the bridegroom (Jn. 3:29)

— Bride

- Israel? No

- All the redeemed? Possibly

- The Church? Eph. 5:32

— Bride makes herself ready

- Accepted the invitation of the Bridegroom = Salvation by grace (Eph. 2:8-9)

- Makes herself as lovely as possible = Created to do good works (Eph. 2:10)

— Dressed in fine linen = righteous acts of the saints

#### Verse 9

- Blessed = happy, honored
- Invited guests
  - Not the church
  - John the Baptist = friend of the Bridegroom (Jn. 3:29) = last of the Old Testament Saints
    - Will be in heaven/have their reward
    - Not part of the Church
  - All the believing dead from Adam to Christ's resurrection plus Tribulation Saints

- True sayings of God = literal sayings

#### Verse 10

- Fell at his feet = overwhelmed
- Jesus alone is worthy of worship
- Testimony of Jesus = spirit of prophecy

#### Verse 11 The Honeymoon

- The climax of the Bible

- Old Testament Prophets prophesied
  - Jesus predicted
  - New Testament writers wrote about
  - Revelation builds to this point
  - Precious to saints; terrifying to Antichrist and followers
- One thousand years long
  - Different from the Rapture
 

<u>Rapture</u>	<u>Glorious Appearing</u>
*Meet in the air	*Comes to earth
*No judgment	*All judgment
  - Glorious Appearing – Mt. 24:27-31
    - Attended by signs and natural phenomena
      - Come visibly
      - Sun, moon, stars give no light
      - Sign of the Son of Man appears
      - All nations mourn
      - Second installment of the Rapture
    - Comes on white horse
      - Roman triumphal procession – conquering king not humble servant
    - Faithful and true

- Will do what He says He will do
  - Acts 1:11 – will come in same way
  - Zech. 14:3-5 – will come to same place
- Makes war = the purpose of His coming
  - The holy wrath of God against sinners
  - The Battle of Armageddon

#### Verse 12

- Eyes like flame of fire = insight, knowledge, anger
- Many crowns = royalty, authority, majesty
  - Crown = diadem
  - Conquering kings wore crowns of conquered countries
- Unknown name = unfathomable mysteries

#### Verse 13

- Robe dipped in blood
  - Great battles fought against sin, Satan, death
  - Blood shed on Calvary
  - Symbol of what is about to take place – Is. 63:1-6
    - God's promises vindicated
    - Day of vengeance

— The Word of God

- Only John uses this title for Jesus

Verse 14

- Armies in heaven

— Church from Pentecost to Rapture, Holy Angels, Martyred Tribulation saints, Old Testament Saints

— Armies will not fight

- Totally unarmed
- Dressed in white linen (v. 8)

Verses 15 & 16

- Jesus is armed with sharp sword

— Power to kill His enemies

— Comes from mouth = power of His word

- Rules with rod of iron

— Swift, righteous judgment in Millennial Kingdom

- Winepress of wrath

- King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Verses 17 - 21  
The Great Supper of God

- Unparalleled holocaust – The Battle of Armageddon – The Day of the Lord
  - Is. 66:15, 16; Joel 3:12-21; Ez. 39:1-4, 17-20; 2 Th. 1:6ff; 2:8; Mt. 25:31-46
  - Not so much a battle as execution; God declares victory before battle begins
  - Menu: Kings, military men, all who forget God
- Two captured; 200 million dead
  - Antichrist and False Prophet Captured
    - Judged immediately
    - Cast alive into lake of fire
  - Birds gorge themselves on corpses

## Chapter 20 The Millennium

- Thousand year reign of Christ
  - Jesus returns
  - Satan's rule ends
  - Planet made new and beautiful (David Jeremiah)
  - Fulfillment of prophetic message (Hal Lindsey)
  - Age of righteousness; utopia (Tim LaHaye)

### Verse 1

- Ordinary angel
  - Key to Abyss/Bottomless pit (2 Pe. 2:4)
  - Great chain in hand

### Verse 2

- Laid hold of Satan/demons
  - Dragon = ferocity and cruelty
  - Serpent of old = Garden of Eden
  - Devil/Satan = slanderer, adversary
- Millennial Views
  - Premillennialism
    - Literal 1000 years

- Jesus' reign on earth
- Postmillennialism
  - Symbolic 1000 years
  - Golden age of righteousness
  - Ushered in by spread of gospel
- Amillennialism
  - 1000 years = long period of time
  - Old Testament prophecies fulfilled spiritually in church

#### Verse 3

- Satan bound and chained
  - No longer deceives nations
    - Survivors of Tribulation will have children, grandchildren
    - No temptation for 1000 years; no test of faith
  - Released for brief period
    - So God can make permanent end of sin
  - Released for brief period
    - So God can make permanent end of sin

#### Verse 4

- Those given authority to judge

— The church and martyred Tribulation saints

- Souls of the beheaded = tribulation martyrs

— Beheaded = general term for execution

#### Verse 5

- Rest of the dead

— Bodies of unbelievers of all ages

- The redeemed of the Old Testament - Dan. 12:2
- The redeemed of the Tribulation - Rev. 20:4

- First resurrection

— Resurrection of life

- Includes the just - Luke 14:14
- Those who are Christ's - I Cor. 15:23
- Better resurrection - Heb. 11:35
- The redeemed of church age - I Thess. 4:13-18

— Resurrection of the condemned

- Unconverted receive final bodies suited for torment in hell

#### Verse 6

- Blessed = privilege of entering kingdom

— Blessed = happy

- Holy = separated
- Priests = minister to and serve
- Reign = royal and political priesthood
- Thousand years = length of earthly reign of Jesus
- Second death = never suffer consequences of their sin

#### Verse 7

- Satan bound for 1000 years
  - No temptation and sin
  - No sickness and disease
  - People live to be hundreds of years old - Is. 65:20
  - Population explosion
- Satan released for short time
  - God no respecter of persons
  - Satan released to reveal character of Christ-rejecting sinners

#### Verse 8

- Satan deceives the nations
  - Proves something is wrong with very nature of man's heart - rebellion is our nature
- Battle of Gog and Magog - Ez. 38-39

- Name given to army of rebels - names of ancient enemies of the Lord
- Attempt to accomplish what he failed to do at Armageddon
- Gathers great horde - like sand of seashore
  - Turn against Christ because they love unrighteousness or rebel by willfulness

#### Verse 9

- Beloved city = Jerusalem = camp of God's people
  - Capital city during Millennium
  - Saints living around Jerusalem
  - City surrounded by Satan and army
    - Consumed by fire from heaven

#### Verse 10

- Deceived - into suicidal assault against Christ
- Tormented day and night

#### Verses 11-15

#### The Great White Throne Judgment

- Tim LaHaye
  - Most awesome passage
  - Ultimate encounter with God

- Our accountability to God defined
- John MacArthur
  - The final judgment of all unbelievers
  - The resurrection of condemnation – Jn. 5:29
- Jack Hyles
  - To determine how hot Hell is for unbelievers

#### Verse 11

- Final judgment – Matt. 10:15; 11:22, 24; 12:36, 41, 42; Luke 10:14; John 5:22-29; 12:48; Acts 17:31; 24:25; Rom. 2:5, 16; Heb. 9:27; 2 Pet. 2:9; 3:7; Jude 6
- Takes place in indescribable void between end of the present universe and creation of new heaven and earth
- Great White Throne
  - Thrones mentioned 50 times in Revelation
  - Judgment throne
    - Elevated, pure, holy
    - God sits on throne in person of Jesus Christ – Rev. 21:5, 6; Jn. 5:22-29; Acts 17:31
- Earth and heaven fled away
  - The created, contaminated universe

— “Heaven” used to describe both the physical skies and the place where God is

- Heaven contaminated by Satan’s sin?

— 2 Peter 3:10-13

- Great noise = crackling of fire
- Universe incinerated by atomic reaction

— Elements disintegrated

- Universe is uncreated

— Flees because of Jesus’ presence on throne

#### Verse 12

- The dead

— All walks of life

— Unredeemed

- Standing before God

— To be sentenced as condemned prisoners

- Books

— Record of every thought, word, deed of sinful men – Dan. 7:10

- The Book of Life

— Mentioned 8 times in New Testament; a book in which names are written mentioned 3 times in Old Testament

— Views

● Tim LaHaye – two books

— Book of Life contains names of all living

— Lamb's Book of Life contains names of those belonging to Jesus

● Hal Lindsey – one book

— Book of Life contains names of all living minus names of those who reject Christ

— Becomes Lamb's Book of Life in 21:27 because all names left in it are believers

● Judged according to works

— Thoughts (Lk. 8:17), words (Mt. 12:37), actions (Mt. 16:27) compared to God's perfect standard (Mt. 5:48; I Pet. 1:15, 16)

— Implies degrees of punishment in Hell

Verse 13

● The unrighteous dead raised

— Even those drowned or buried at sea

— Body comes from grave and reunited with soul from Hades; both cast in Lake of Fire

Verse 14

● Second death

- Both body and soul cast into Lake of Fire
- Unbelievers will wish to die but cannot
- Hades ends because temporary abode of the dead no longer necessary

Verse 15

- Destiny sealed

## Chapter 21

- The Eternal Future/God's Ultimate Purpose
- Review
  - All sinners of all ages in Lake of Fire
  - Whole universe uncreated
  - New universe created by God
    - Eternal dwelling place of the redeemed

### Verses 1 - 2

- New heaven and earth = replacement
  - Will last forever (Ps. 102:25, 26; Is. 65:17; Luke 21:33; Heb. 1:10-12)
  - Hal Lindsey says new earth not the principal residence of believers
  - Tim LaHaye says new earth will be the Christian's heaven
  - I say, New Jerusalem will come down to new earth
    - Capital city of heaven
    - Already in existence (Jn. 14:1-3)
    - Descends from its place on high
    - Holy City –separated unto God; without sin
    - Prepared by God for His people
- No more sea

- More room for more people
- Change the climate, reduce storms
- Eliminate social barriers

- Adorned as a bride

- Important metaphor for the church (Mt. 25; Ep. 5:25-27)

Verse 3

- Unbroken fellowship with God

- Currently Holy Spirit dwells in hearts of believers
- Then God will dwell with His people
- Fixed and permanent relationship

Verse 4

- Wipe away every tear

- Nothing sad, disappointing, deficient, wrong in heaven
- May lose ability to remember loved ones who rejected Jesus Christ

- Old order passes away

- God brings an end to sin and death
- Everything associated with sorrow will pass away

Verses 5 - 6

- Everything recreated

- A divine declaration
- God always speaks truth
- Has power to create
- Has first and last word in all things
- The water of life = lasting spiritual water
  - Given to those who have earnestly sought Jesus

Verses 7 – 8

- Two kinds of people
  - Overcomer = anyone who exercises saving faith in Jesus (I John 5:4, 5)
  - Unbelievers = through fear, unbelief, or lust for sin rejected Jesus
    - Cowardly = too afraid to accept Jesus
    - Unbelievers = reject Jesus
    - Vile = defiled with abominable sins
    - Sexually immoral = fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals, etc.
    - Practitioners of magic = astrologers, witches, Satan worshipers
    - Idolaters = worshiping anything other than God
    - Liars = deceivers

Verses 9-21

- The Holy City's Description

- Beyond ability to comprehend
- Comparing unknown to known

Verse 9

- God's nature: love and judgment
- The Lamb's wife = the Bride = the Church = The Holy city
  - City more than buildings

Verse 10

- In the Spirit
  - Prophet under Spirit's control
  - Vision
  - Supernaturally transported

Verse 11

- Glory of God = God's presence
  - Pure light like jasper
    - Opal, diamond, topaz
    - Crystal clear
    - Symbol of purity and holiness

Verses 12 - 14

- The City

- Surrounded by wall (216 ft. thick )
  - 12 gates (four walls, three gates each)
  - Angels at each gate
  - Security?
  - Suggests exclusive city?

- Twelve foundations
  - One for each apostle
  - Foundations stacked or columns

Verses 15 - 17

- Gold reed
  - 10 feet long standard
  - Measure = God's ownership
- Length, breadth, height equal
  - Perfect cube or pyramid?
  - 12,000 furlongs/stadia = 1400-1500 miles
    - New York to Dallas
    - Eastern Seaboard to Mississippi River and Canadian Border to Gulf of Mexico
    - 20 billion residents would have 1 cubic mile

## Verses 18 – 21

- Construction
  - Walls of jasper – beautiful, hard, transparent
  - City of pure gold – like clear glass
  - Foundations covered with precious stones
    - Jasper = clear gem; glass with gold cast
    - Sapphire = clear blue gem; hard as diamond
    - Chalcedony = sky blue/greenish agate with translucent, colored stripes
    - Emerald = bright green stone
    - Sardonyx = parallel layers of red and white
    - Sardius/Carnelian = from quartz family; range from orange-red to blood-red
    - Chrysolite = transparent gold tone
    - Beryl = mineral; ranges from emerald green to light blue
    - Topaz = yellow or yellow-green color
    - Chrysoprase = modern aquamarine color
    - Jacinth = transparent, red or reddish-brown today; John saw blue or shining violet
    - Amethyst = clear quartz crystal ranging from purple tint to intense purple

## Verse 21

- Gates of pearl – one pearl per gate
  - Reminder of Christ's suffering
  - Emphasizes God's great wealth and generosity
- Great street
  - One street in city or one street called great?
  - Made of pure gold

## Verse 22

- No Temple
  - Temple in heaven - 3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 15:5
  - None in eternity
    - Temple not a building but the Lord God Himself - see 7:15
  - No need for temple in eternity
    - God is the temple - John MacArthur
    - Temple is a symbol of separation from God
    - Temple is a symbol of fellowship with God - Tim LaHaye

## Verse 23

- No natural light - only supernatural

## Verses 24- 26

- The nations = the peoples
  - From root word for Gentiles
  - Could mean Gentiles who received Christ
  - Redeemed people from every nation and ethnic group will dwell in heaven's light
  - Kings = men of renown, political leaders who have been saved
  - Open gates always so worshipers can glorify God

## Verse 27

- Nothing unholy allowed

## Chapter 22

- Last Chapter of the Bible
  - Contains
    - Few answers
    - Further explanation of eternal home
    - Christ's final promise
    - A final invitation
    - Final warning
  - Symmetry
    - First two chapters describe God's creation and heaven-like conditions prepared for man
    - Last two chapters describe eternal heaven God reestablishes for man
    - Between = the great conflict

### Verse 1

- River of water of life
  - Necessity of water – God is source
  - Symbolizes continual flow of eternal life
  - Symbol of Holy Spirit
  - Possesses life-giving powers
  - Restores, refreshes, abundant, satisfies

## Verse 2

- Tree of life
  - Adam and Eve forbidden to eat after the Fall
  - Symbol of eternal life and blessing
  - 12 fruits = abundant variety
  - Continuous supply
  - Leaves for healing/health
    - Cure illnesses in heaven?
    - Reason for no illness in heaven?
    - Health of national relationships

## Verse 3

- No more curse
  - Pain in childbirth; labor = work; sickness and death (physical and spiritual)
  - Curse lifted in new creation
  - We will serve Him
    - J. Vernon McGee – Who knows but what God will give to each saint a world or a solar system or a galactic system to operate. Remember that Adam was given dominion over the old creation on this earth.
    - J. Dwight Pentecost in *Things to Come*
      - Fellowship – I Cor. 3:12; I Jn. 3:2; Jn. 14:3; Rev. 22:4

- Rest – Rev. 14:13
- Full knowledge – I Cor. 13:12
- Holiness – Rev. 21:27
- Joy – Rev. 21:4
- Service – Rev. 22:3
- Abundance – Rev. 21:6
- Glory – 2 Cor. 4:17; Col. 3:4
- Worship – Rev. 19:1; Rev. 7:9-12

#### Verse 6

- Truthfulness of these words
  - Full assurance that prophecy is trustworthy
  - Jesus is the source; given to the angel; delivered to John
- His servants
  - Members of 7 churches of Asia minor
  - All believers since
- Must shortly take place
  - Shortly means surely
  - Involves entire revelation
  - Have already started

### Verse 7

- I am coming quickly!
  - Jesus' return is imminent – a hopeful event
  - Jesus' return is sudden – very fast when it happens
  - Blessed = happy
  - Keeps = to guard as a treasure
  - Importance not to predict future but to change lives

### Verses 8 & 9

- John resumes speaking
  - Confirms truth of his revelation as an eyewitness
  - Fell down to worship angel (again)

### Verse 10

- Do not seal the words
  - Daniel's prophecies sealed (Dan. 8:26; 12:4-10)
    - Did not understand some things
    - Fulfillment was long time off
  - These prophecies already unfolding, need to be proclaimed

### Verse 11

- Destiny is sealed on basis of acceptance or rejection

### Verse 12

- Christ's personal promise: I am coming quickly
  - Imminence is the issue
  - Bringing rewards according to work (I Cor. 3:10-15; 4:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:10)

### Verse 13

- Three titles of God
  - Identifies Jesus as deity

### Verse 14

- Blessed are those who do His commandments/wash their robes
  - Symbolizes forgiveness of sins
  - Based on accepting Jesus
- Seven beatitudes of Revelation
  - 1:3 – reads, hears, and keeps words of prophecy
  - 14:13 – those who die in the Lord
  - 16:15 – he who watches and keeps his garments
  - 19:9 – those called to marriage supper of the Lamb
  - 20:6 – who has part in the first resurrection
  - 22:7 – who keeps the words of this prophecy
  - 22:14 – who do His commandments/wash their robes

## Verse 15

- Jesus' list of those denied entrance
  - Dogs = anyone of low moral character
  - Sorcerers = involved in witchcraft, etc.
  - Sexually immoral
  - Murderers
  - Idolaters
  - Liars

## Verse 16

- Angel delivers the message
- To the 7 churches of Asia Minor (and to us)
- Root and offspring of David = Messiah
  - Source of David's life and descendant of David
- Bright and Morning Star
  - Shatters the darkness of man's night
  - Heralds the dawn of God's glorious day

## Verse 17

- God's final call
  - Spirit and Church invites those tired of living without Jesus to drink the water of life

## Verses 18 & 19

- Warnings against altering biblical text
  - Dt. 4:2; 12:32; Pr. 30:6; Jer. 26:2
  - Risks the wrath of God
    - Plagues of the prophecy
    - Eternal damnation
  - Not directed at Bible-believing commentators that make mistakes
  - Examples:
    - Jesus is really the archangel Michael (Jehovah's Witnesses)
    - Hell is really the grave (JW)
    - God, rather than Jesus, was once a mortal human being (Mormons)
    - Worthy humans are going to become gods and goddesses (Mormons)
    - God is a cosmic force, not a personal being (New Age)
    - Eve's sin was a sexual affair with Satan (Moonies)

## Verse 20

- John's response: Hurry up, Lord!

## Verse 21

- Grace makes salvation possible