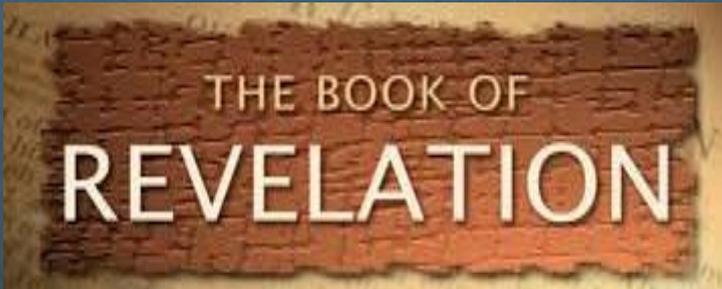


From My Bible

Sermon Notes & Outlines



by

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Introduction

These messages are compiled from study notes and outlines of my own and many others. I hope they are a help to you.

I'm sure that all of us have at times "borrowed" or "used" a sermon we heard or read somewhere along the way. A thought, a word, or an idea jumped out to us from another preacher and we took that thing and ran with it. You have probably used an outline from a preacher brother but ended up preaching something that was uniquely different. Same idea, it just came out differently when you preached. Using your own thoughts, experiences, and illustrations.....the message became your own.

I heard an old-time preacher once say, "*Any message worth preaching ought to be worth preaching again!*" Well, I have certainly preached some sermons again and again. I have borrowed from others to preach theirs again too. Please use these messages as the Lord leads and preach His Word over and over again!

I make no claim of complete originality for this material. Also, please remember that these messages are not expected to substitute for your own personal study of the Word of God! The thoughts and ideas are given as a catalyst to help begin your ideas on a given passage of Scripture or trigger a seed thought to get you going. It is my prayer that the "stuff" contained here will further kindle the fire of God's message that is already in your heart. Your own thinking, praying, and studying will be necessary to guide you into the delivery of His Word to your own people.

May these sermons become *messages* from the Lord that He uses in your own life as He has used them in mine.

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What's Coming?

Text - Revelation 1:1-3

Introduction: The devil certainly must hate every book of the Bible, but there are two books that he especially despises—the Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation. He hates Genesis because it tells how everything commenced. He hates Revelation because it tells how every concludes. Someone has pointed out that Satan is not found in the first two chapters of Genesis or the last two chapters of Revelation. In Genesis we see the doom of the devil is announced and in Revelation his doom is accomplished. Genesis says that he will be defeated and Revelation shows that he will be defeated. It is no wonder that the first and last book of the Bible have often been the objects of his scorn.

Saying that, let's begin our study of the book by considering the first three verses of the book. Verses 1-3 lay the foundation of the book and provide the key that unlocks the door to all we will see in the book. If the door of understanding is to be opened, we need the key that unlocks the door. That key is found in the first three verses.

1. THE Person THAT IS REVEALED IN THE BOOK

Christ is revealed in many ways throughout the book. I appreciate Sam Gordon's outline of the book:

(Chapters 1-3) Jesus is the Lord in the midst of the Churches

(Chapters 4-5) Jesus is the Lamb in midst of the throne

(Chapters 6-18) Jesus is the Lion in the midst of the nations

(Chapters 19-20) Jesus is the Lover in the midst of the wedding

(Chapters 21-22) Jesus is the Light in the midst of eternal glory

A) *The Return of Jesus Christ*

B) *The Reign of Jesus Christ*

2. THE Prophecy THAT IS REPORTED IN THE BOOK

A) *The Message of These Prophecies*

B) *The Method of These Prophecies*

3. THE Promise THAT IS RECEIVED IN THE BOOK

A) *Those That Read the Words of the Book*

B) *Those That Heed the Words of the Book*

One of the blessings in heeding the Book of Revelation is a reward for loving the Lord's appearing. Paul said, "*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*" (2 Tim. 4:8).

WHAT'S COMING? We are about to find out and we are going to have a blessed time doing so!

A Sneak Preview

Text - Revelation 1:7-8

Introduction: When the movie *The Passion of the Christ* was soon to be released in theaters, during the weeks leading up to its showing in theaters, there was what is called trailers of the movie that were shown on TV. A trailer is a short description containing clips of the movie. It is what we sometimes call a sneak preview. As we come to Revelation 1:7-8 we are given a trailer of what lies ahead in the book. These two verses are a trailer of all the events that we will see transpiring over the next 22 chapters. In these two verses we are given a sneak preview of the eternal drama entitled *The Revelation of the Christ*.

As the events of the future are revealed in the Book of Revelation we see that are both glorious and grievous events. There are things that will occur that will thrill the saint and terrify the sinner. We are given a trailer or a sneak preview of all these events in our text. As we saw in our first study, the Book of Revelation is “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*” (1:1). The book is about more than prophecy. It is a book about a PERSON – *Jesus Christ*. When we look at this Biblical and prophetic trailer we first see Jesus Christ as:

1. THE Coming ONE

Verse 7 begins with the word, “Behold.” The word describes someone calling out for the attention of another. It would be like someone hollering at another, “Hey, you!” The word is found 25 times in the Book of Revelation. It is a word calling for our attention. John says, “Hey everybody, here is something you need to listen to.” What is it that John wants us to know? He tells us, “*Behold, He (Jesus Christ) cometh with clouds.*”

A) *The Divine Promise of His Coming*

Rev. 1:7 – “*Behold, he cometh...*”—There are 1,845 references to it in the Old Testament, and a total of seventeen Old Testament books give it prominence. Of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, there are 318 references to the Second Coming, or one out of 30 verses. Twenty-three of the 27 New Testament books refer to this great event.

B) *The Different Phases of His Coming*

John’s description of Jesus coming and every eye seeing him reminds us of the different phases of His coming. The Bible speaks of two separate returns of Jesus Christ. The first time He comes back, He will come FOR the saints (The RAPTURE). The second time He comes back, He will come WITH the saints (The RETURN / REVELATION).

2. THE Conquering ONE

In verse 7 John not tells us that Jesus will come again and that every eye shall see him, he also says, “*and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him.*” As I said a moment ago, the coming in which every eye shall see Him, He is seen returning as a victorious Commander to conquer and rule and reign upon the earth.

At the event when every eye shall see Him, He returns to the earth where He was crucified. However, this time He does not come to hang on a tree. He comes to sit upon a throne. The first time He came as *Saviour*. This time He is coming as *Sovereign*.

3. THE Controlling ONE

Remember the name “the Almighty” means that Jesus is the “ALL-RULING” One. He is in charge and He is in control. The name is used 8 times in Revelation:

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 4:8, “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

Revelation 11:17, “Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.”

Revelation 15:3, “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”

Revelation 16:7, “And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”

Revelation 16:14, “For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

Revelation 19:15, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

Revelation 21:22, “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”

Jesus Christ is the Almighty! It may not appear that He is in control when you look at the things going on in this world, but the truth of the matter is, He is orchestrating world affairs leading to events we will study throughout the Book of Revelation.

A) The Statement of Christ's Control

Jesus said, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending.*” Four times in the Book of Revelation Jesus makes this assertion with slight variation. In Revelation 1:11 He says, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.*” In Revelation 21:6 He says, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.*” Then in Revelation 22:13 He combines them all together and says, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*”

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter. What Jesus said would be the same as we saying “I am A through Z.” As the Alpha is the One by whom all things *commenced*. As the Omega, He is the One by whom all things *concludes*. He got it all started and He is the One who will bring it all to a close. As the first and last I think of the first and last book of the Bible:

In Genesis we see the first man, Adam reigning on the earth. In Revelation we see the last man, Christ ruling over the earth.

In Genesis the darkness and the seas are created. In Revelation there is no more darkness or sea.

In Genesis, a bride, Eve, is presented to her husband. In Revelation we see the Church, the redeemed bride, presented to her Husband, Jesus Christ.

In Genesis we see the tree of life in the midst of the Garden of Eden. In Revelation we see the fruit-bearing tree in God's new creation.

In Genesis we see the beginning of sin and how it brings death and a curse. In Revelation we see sin completely removed and there is no more curse or dying.

In Genesis we see Satan appearing for the first time. In Revelation He appears for the last time.

In Genesis we see man driven from the presence of God. In Revelation we see man brought into God's presence, never to be separated again.

In Genesis we see men looking for a city by faith. In Revelation we see redeemed sinners dwelling in that city for all eternity.

In Genesis we see Paradise lost. In Revelation we see Paradise regained.

He set things in motion in Genesis and in Revelation we see Him bringing all things to fulfillment. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is in control!

B) The Scope of Christ's Control

The scope of His control is seen in the words, "*which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*" First, He was in the control in the past. Secondly, He is in control of all things right now. Thirdly, He is in control of the things that have even happened yet, but will happen in the future. From eternity past to eternity future, He is in control.

Someone might read the Book of Revelation and wonder if such things could and will really happen. The answer is yes! He will make them happen. He is steering the affairs of this world in the direction so that everything He said would happen, will happen.

A Glimpse Of The Glorified Christ, Part 1

Revelation 1:4-20

Introduction: And as we continue to study John’s description of the Lord Jesus Christ, let’s see:

The Eyes of Jesus: Penetrating! Vs. 14 “*His eyes were as a flame of fire!*”

This is symbolism. Today we might say, “And his eyes had x-ray vision” or “his eyes burned a hole right thru me!”

A person pretends to be something that they’re not, and someone comes along and says, “they don’t fool me, I can see right thru them!”

Sobering thought...the penetrating eyes of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we can fool our boss, the preacher, friends, kids, parents, spouse (not often)

News flash: You can’t fool God!

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and *sharper than any twoedged sword*, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

2. The Feet of Jesus: Pursuing! vs. 15 – “*his feet like unto fine brass*”

In OT, brass is always a symbol of judgment. v. 16 “sharp two-edged sword”

3. The Voice of Jesus: Powerful!

vs. 15 –“*voice as the sound of many waters*” –cp. Ps. 29:3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 (“*the voice of the Lord*”)

Imagine the voice of God, that is so powerful that it can be heard around the world! The voice of the glorified Lord Jesus Christ.

vs. 16 –“*out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword*”

This is the Sword of God mentioned in Heb. 4:12. It’s the Sword of the Spirit from Eph. 6, part of the whole armor of God... “the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God”

4. The Glory of Jesus: Praiseworthy! vs. 16
“*Countenance as the sun*”

We’ve already seen his *clothes* are golden, his *hair* is like snow, *feet* like brass, *eyes* like fire, *voice* like crashing waves, But the most amazing feature may just be His *face*...like the sun at noon! You can’t look at the sun, much less the noonday sun!

In Acts 9 Paul got a brief glimpse of that face and was struck blind for 3 days...Moses had to stand in the cleft of a mountain just to see the back of our Lord’s head (countenance)...no wonder Rev. 21 says the city of Heaven has no need for sun or moon to shine, for the glory of God lightens it, and the Lamb is the light thereof! Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb! He is praiseworthy!

A Glimpse of the Glorified Christ, Part 2

Revelation 1:4-20

Introduction: Revelation = Unveiling – “APOCALYPSE”

Strong's Greek Dictionary #602. Gr. *Apokalupsis*, *Disclosure*:—*appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation.*

There are many descriptions of Christ in the OT and the NT, but none like this one today. It's the only time we see Him in His glorified, unveiled presence. v. 9—It has been 60+ years since John has seen or heard from Jesus, yet He's still believing, still preaching, and that's why he's incarcerated now!

John is in exile on Patmos, undoubtedly w/ ordinary, common criminals. But what happened next is anything but common or ordinary...John paints us a picture now of what Jesus looks like...in the only terms his vocabulary can handle.

*What did John see?

1. Christ, the Human One

In Bethlehem, Jesus took on human flesh. Amazingly, He retained that form, though glorified, even after He ascended to Heaven.

v. 13 “son of man” This underscores His humanity.

Jesus is the God-Man. 100% God / 100% Man...as much God as if He had not been man, as much man as if He had not been man!

Born as a man / crucified as a man / resurrected as a man / ascended as a man / will return as a man in a literal, glorified body. Throughout all eternity he exists for us...the God-man. The first thing John saw was a resurrected, glorified Christ...in human form.

2. Christ the High Priest

v. 13 these are the garments of the high priest, in Exodus 28.

Question: What has Jesus been doing since He left this earth? Resting? Twiddling His thumbs? No! He's busier today than He was while on earth...fulfilling the role of High Priest for you and for me. 3 jobs (ministries):

1. Intercession Hebrews 7:25

2. Intervention 1 John 1:9

3. Inspection In v. 13 Jesus, the high priest, is in the midst of the 7 golden candlesticks.

3. Christ, the Holy One v. 14 – symbolism: Isaiah 1:18.....Purity / Holiness / Righteousness

When John got a glimpse of the glorified Christ, he didn't walk up and shake His hand. He didn't pat him on the back, or even try to speak...he fell on his face as dead!!

How Holy Jesus is

How Un-holy you are

All will someday see the glorified Christ, face to face. Will you have reason to fear?

Some fear walking down the aisle. Let me say kindly but clearly that you will come down the aisle...either today of your own accord, or rolled down in a casket here or elsewhere!

The Book of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

Introduction: The "Key" to the interpretation of the Book of Revelation is its "Threefold Division" found in Revelation 1:19

I. Things Past

"The Things WHICH THOU Hast Seen."

The Vision of Christ in the midst of the "Candlesticks."

Chapter One

II. Things Present

"The Things WHICH ARE."

The Seven Churches

Chapters Two and Three.

III. Things Future

"The Things WHICH SHALL BE Hereafter"

Beginning with the 4th chapter unto the end of the Book.

1. Things thou hast seen
God's Glory -ch. 1
2. Things which are
God's Grace -ch. 2-3
3. Things which shall be
God's Government -ch. 4-22

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Revelation 2 and 3

Introduction: In Rev. 2 & 3, the Lord Jesus writes 7 letters and gives each of these 7 literal churches an X-ray of their true spiritual condition. And it's not wrong for us to read someone else's mail, in this case, because our Lord wants ALL churches to read these letters and give heed to these letters.

Don't miss this: These 7 letters have a 3-fold application...

1. Contemporary APPLICATION

Apostle John was a pastor...no doubt God used him to write down these letters from his pastor's heart...these 7 literal churches that he knew personally, for they existed in his day.

2. Composite APPLICATION

All 7 messages are for all churches in all centuries throughout this church age. The messages in these 7 letters apply directly to us.

3. Chronological APPLICATION

A complete panorama of church history can be found in these 7 letters. From the apostolic church of John's day, to the day in which we now live. For example:

EPHESUS—THE Careless CHURCH—A.D. 30-100—abandoned their first love—turned devotion into duty. They started out deeply in love w/ Christ. Read Ephesians and you'll hear Paul speak of their love for Christ 20 times! And that was the general state of the church at large in the first century: they had left their love, devotion turned to duty, careless!

SMYRNA—THE Crushed CHURCH—A.D. 100-300—v. 10, “10 days” Study church history and you will see that the 2nd and 3rd centuries hosted 10 great waves of persecution...the 10 Roman persecutions, from Nero to Diocletian.

PERGAMOS—THE Compromising CHURCH—A.D. 300-500...Now the church moved out of the catacombs and into the cathedrals. But they compromised with the world.

THYATIRA—THE Corrupted CHURCH—A.D. 500-1500 (the dark ages)

Works salvation became their theme, and the gospel of grace was corrupted. It’s the Roman Catholic Church plain as day.

SARDIS—THE Crippled CHURCH—A.D. 1500-1700

The Reformation and Martin Luther brought about a remnant who escaped the clutches of Thyatira. But though they once again found grace they held onto enough of their past liturgy to cripple their future.

PHILADELPHIA—THE Consistent CHURCH—1700-1900—the revival...a church for which the Lord did not have one word of rebuke. The best days of Christianity since the early days happened right here.

LAODICEA—THE Cooled OFF CHURCH, lukewarm church—1900-present...we live in this period of church history. You and I live in the Laodicean church age, but we can be a Philadelphia church during this Laodicean age. (other combinations of all the above also exist). You see, today in the Laodicean age we still have all seven of these types of churches. But which one will we be?

The Church at Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

City – vs. 1 – “Ephesus”

Christ – vs. 1 – “...These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand...”

Compliment – vs. 2, 3, 6

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:

Criticism – vs.4 - “...I have somewhat against thee...”

Cure – vs. 5 – Remember, Repent, Return

Counsel – vs. 6 – “Revelation 2:6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Challenge – vs. 7 – “...to him that overcometh”

The Church at Smyrna

Revelation 2:8-11

The second Church that received a letter from the Lord by the hand of John was the Church at Smyrna. The letter the Church at Smyrna received was one of commendation. It is interesting that in this letter there is not one word of complaint but all praise. It was also a letter of comfort. As we shall see, this Church needed an assuring word. This letter from Jesus was a word of encouragement at a time of discouragement. It was also a letter of challenge. You could say that the Lord admonished them to “Keep on keeping on!”

When this Church was founded no one is sure. This is the only time the Church at Smyrna is mentioned in the Bible. It is commonly believed that Paul organized this Church while on his third missionary journey. History tell us that at one time, one of the most famous name’s in early Church history, Polycarp served as pastor of the Church.

1. THE CHURCH’S Reproach FOR CHRIST

The name Smyrna means “bitter.” It comes from the word “myrrh,” which speaks of the fragrance or perfume that comes from myrrh being beaten or crushed. The name is a fitting one for the Church for this was a Church that experienced bitter times. The name served as more than designation of where they lived. It was a description of how they lived.

A. *The Fierce Persecution Of The Church*

B. The Future Persecutions Of The Church

2. THE CHURCH’S Riches IN CHRIST

In spite of their poverty, Jesus said, “But thou art rich” (Vs.9). If they didn’t have anything how could they be rich? Their riches lay in the fact that they lived by a different set of values than many Christians today.

A. Their Thoughts Were On Another World

B. Their Treasures Were In Another World

3. THE CHURCH’S Rewarding BY CHRIST

Jesus said, “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Vs.10). What encouragement it must have meant to them when Lord told them He knew what they going through as a Church. He told them not to fear the things they were going through or would go through in the future. His closing words were no doubt the very words they needed to keep on keeping on.

A. The Commitment For The Rest Of Their Life

B. The Crown At The End Of Their Life

Jesus promised them, “I will give thee a crown of life” (Vs.10). Their faithfulness had not gone unnoticed and neither would it go unrewarded. The crown Jesus spoke of was the “stephanos” or the Victors crown. This was a crown that was given in athletic games. It was the reward of the victorious athlete. It was also given when a man had faithfully performed the work of a magistrate. At the end of his term of office, he would be given this crown.

Jesus was saying, “Keep on keeping on, for it will be worth it someday.” Jesus praised their faithfulness and promised that one day he would reward them. May God help us to keep on keeping on! It will be worth it all someday.

The Church at Pergamos

Revelation 2:12-17

City – vs. 12 – “Pergamos” meaning “much married”

Christ – vs. 12 – “...he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;”

Compliment – vs. 13

“I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

Criticism – vs. 14-15 – “But I have a few things against thee”

The Doctrine of Balaam
the Nicolaitans

The Doctrine of

Cure – vs. 16 – Repent

Counsel – vs. 17 – “He that hath an ear”

Challenge – vs. 17 – “To him that overcometh”

The Hidden Manna
Name

A White Stone

A New

The Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18-29

THREE THINGS FOR THE CHURCH

1. Appreciation —vs. 19

Six Positives:

- Works
- Charity
- Service
- Faith
- Patience
- Works

2. Accusation —vs. 20-23

Jezebel:

- Her Claim
- Her Teaching
- Her Seduction
- Her Fornication
- Her Idolatry
- Her Adultery
- Her Children
- Her Lack of Repentance

3. Admonition —vs. 24-29

- Watch Out for the Doctrine of Seduction
- Watch Out for the Depths of Satan

The Church at Sardis

Revelation 3:1-6

Introduction: If we had been evaluating these seven Churches, Sardis would probably have been the one with which we were the most impressed. Yet, when the Lord Himself wrote to the Church at Sardis, He did not have one good thing to say about them. The Church at Sardis reminds us that the things that *most impress us* are the things that *least impress the Lord*. We might have said this church was alive, but God said it was dead.

1. THE Name THAT WAS DECEIVING

The Lord usually began His letters by commending the Churches for the positives. But in the case of Sardis, since there was nothing good the Lord could say about them, He started by condemning the negatives. There were no positives to commend.

A. Its Appearance – Lively

Jesus said, “*Thou hast a name that thou livest*” (Vs.1). From a human perspective this was a most impressive Church. I am sure that it never had a shortage of preachers that wanted to be pastor when its pulpit was vacant. It was no doubt considered a model Church in its day. It had a “name.” The Church was well known. If you had visited Sardis and asked for directions to the Church, anyone could have directed you. It was known through-out the land.

B. Its Assessment – Lifeless

We would give it two thumbs up, but God gave it two thumbs down. Jesus said plainly and very abruptly, “*Thou art dead.*” They had a label but no life. They had a reputation but no

reality. They had a form but no force. Instead of being the Temple of the Living God, they were the morgue of the lifeless group. Vance Havner said that ministries go through four stages: a man, a movement, a machine, and a monument. The Church at Sardis was in the monument stage.

Not all the members were in this pathetic and tragic condition. There were a few that were still breathing. Jesus said, *“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments”* (Vs.4). There was a magnificent minority among the mummified majority.

2. THE Need THAT WAS DEMANDED

The need was for Revival. The Lord’s instructions were simply a call for revival. He called for the reviving of the corpse. They were dead and needed to live again. First, the Lord called for:

A. A Prompt Response

Jesus said, *“Be watchful”* (Vs.2). It was a call for stirring out of their slumber. It was a command to wake up. They needed to open their eyes to the seriousness of their condition. They needed to realize how bad things were and *“strengthen the things which remain”* (Vs.2).

They were dead and needed to wake up and live. They were going in one direction and needed to be going in the opposite direction. The words *“ready to die,”* describes the last spark of life. They were like coals that were about to go out and die. The fire had gone out and it was a matter of time when the last spark would die. They were in a desperate condition and desperately needed reviving.

B. A Perpetual Review

Jesus said “*remember*” (Vs.3). The word means to keep on remembering. It is a command to never allow ourselves to forget. They were to keep on recalling and reviewing their condition. They must “*hold fast*” (Vs.3), and see to it they remained alive. They must “*repent*” (Vs.3), and make things right with God, so the Church would be revived and not die.

If there is a Church that should speak to our hearts it is Sardis. If there is a message that should be heard and heeded in these days it is the message Jesus gave Sardis. As a pastor, as deacons, as leaders, and as members, our great concern and prayer should be for life in the church!

The Church at Philadelphia

Revelation 3:7-13

Introduction: This is the church most churches want to be. It is a church with a revival atmosphere about it. It is given no condemnation, but it is highly praised by the Lord.

Note three things about this church:

1. Highly Commended
2. Deeply Challenged
3. Greatly Compensated

The Call to Behold vs. 7-11

“Behold!” – vs. 8, 9, 11

His Righteousness & Resources

All Things Under His Control

All Saints

All Sinners

All Situations

The Call To Behave vs. 12-13

Divine Initiative - “I will” (3 times)

He Makes Us

He Marks Us

Divine Invitation – “He that hath an ear...”

The Church at Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-22

Introduction: One writer has said that the letter to the Church at Laodicea was the saddest of the letters sent by Christ. I would agree and add that it was not only the saddest, but also the sternest. John Stott says of all the letters' none is more appropriate to the twentieth century than this letter. It of all letters is best descriptive of the Church in this day.

1. THE Indifference OF THE CHURCH

A. The Condition That Was Described By The Lord

Jesus said, “*I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot*” (Vs.15). Then Jesus declared “*thou art lukewarm*” (Vs.16). A lukewarm Church is always a hindrance to the cause of Christ. Indifference and apathy have turned many away. Furthermore, we see:

B. The Condition That Was Disgusting To The Lord

Jesus felt very strongly about their lukewarm condition. He said, “*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth*” (Vs.16). In plain everyday language, Jesus said their condition made Him sick at His stomach.

According to a scale developed by the Princeton Research Center to measure levels of spiritual commitment, only one in ten Americans (10%) can be called “highly committed.” I do not think I am being judgmental when I say that most Christians could not care less.

2. THE Ignorance IN THE CHURCH

What was even worse than their indifference was that they were ignorant to the fact. Jesus said, “*Because thou sayest, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;’ and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*” (Vs.17). They were in a terrible condition and were not even aware of it.

A. They Were Boastful

The words, “*Because thou sayest*” (Vs.17), indicates they were boasting that they were rich and did not have a need in the world.

B. They Were Blind

They considered themselves mighty but God called them “*miserable*” (Vs.17). The word means “pitiable.” They were a people that deserved pity rather than praise.

They considered themselves to have plenty but God said they were “*poor*” (Vs.17). The word speaks of a “beggar.” They were rich in material things but bankrupt in spiritual things.

They considered themselves to be blessed, but God called them “*blind*” (Vs.17). Instead of having a vision they were seeing visions.

They considered themselves needless, but God called them “*naked*” (Vs.17). The great tragedy of it was that they did not even know how bad their condition was.

3. THE Invitation TO THE CHURCH

What a story of God’s grace and mercy. Even though they made God sick, He still opened His arms to them and compassionately offered them a chance to make things right. First, we see that the Lord asked them to:

A. Trade With Him

Jesus said to them, *“I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see”* (Vs.18). Simply put, God was telling them to do business with Him. They needed gold, raiment, and eyesalve from Heaven and God was offering to give them all they needed.

These believers knew exactly what God was saying. The city of Laodicea was a city of great banking interests, thus they understood the admonition *“buy of Me gold.”* It was a city in which a fine quality of wool was made and from this wool choice garments made, thus they understood the admonition *“clothe thyself.”* Nearby was a famous school of medicine where they manufactured ointment and medicines, hence the appeal *“anoint thy eyes with eyesalve.”*

A Church that has become complacent is in desperate need of doing business with God. Instead of being concerned with everything around us, we should be concerned with things above us. As an old mystic said, “There are only two places for God’s people; in the dust and in heaven.” God is calling for the indifferent Church to get in the dust and do business with Him.

B. Turn To Him

Jesus said, *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent”* (Vs.19). They are warned that a sick God can be a severe God. What nauseates Him aggravates Him. He calls on them to turn to Him and again be *“zealous”* (Vs.19). The word means “boiling.” He was telling them that instead of being indifferent they were to be boiling with zeal. They were to get on fire for Him.

Jesus called for the Church to “*repent*” (Vs.19). They were to get their indifference right. They were to confess it as sin and again be set on fire. His invitation to them was, “*Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me*” (Vs.20). God was asking to be allowed in their life and Church. It was His invitation to bless them. He was knocking and offering. If they would wake up and wise up, and do business with Him, He would come in and bless them.

In St. Paul’s in London hangs Holman Hunt’s famous painting of this text. The artist pictures Christ standing by the closed door with vines growing over it with His hand uplifted to knock. In the other hand He carried a light. The hinges are rusty, there is no knob on the outside of the door; it must be opened from the inside. The story is told of a little girl and her father that were viewing the painting. They stood there and looked for the longest at the picture. Finally the little girl looked up at her father and asked, “Daddy, did He ever get in?”

I think we will let the little girl’s question conclude our study of this church.

Behold the Throne!

Revelation 4:1-2

Introduction: Beginning in Chapter 4 we move into a new section of the Book of Revelation. The words "after this" indicate that a new section is beginning. This new section involves future events that are kicked off by the return of Jesus Christ for His people. This return of Jesus Christ is what is often called the rapture. You do not find the word "rapture" in the Bible, but the truth and thought is there. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; When we talk about the rapture we are talking about that moment when every saved person that is living on the earth will suddenly be caught away or raptured out of this world.

As we began the FUTURE section of Revelation, it's time to Behold the Throne!:

1. THE TIME THAT IS Stated

John now speaks to us about a certain period of time. In verse 1 John speaks of that "which must be hereafter." Our attention is now drawn to the future and the things that will happen both on earth and in heaven. John's record of the future covers from the Rapture of the church to the end of all things, ch. 4-22.

2. THE TRUMPET THAT IS Sounded

In verse one John hears "as it were a trumpet talking with him." Trumpets are found at least 6 times in Revelation. We find trumpets are often associated with future events. The Bible often speaks of the trumpet in relation to the rapture. We read in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." We also read in 1 Corinthians 15:52, "In a

moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

3. THE THRONE THAT WAS Seen

We read in verse 2, "And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne."

What will occupy us when we first get to Heaven? We are not going to be thinking about streets of gold and gates of pearl. Our thoughts will not be on our heavenly mansion. John saw One sitting on the throne. Our occupation in heaven will be worshipping the One who sits upon the throne. As the years of eternity pass we will worship our Saviour and Redeemer. That will be our eternal occupation.

Would you not agree with me that the sweetest words we will ever hear are the words, "Come up hither!"

Worthy Is The Lamb

Revelation 5:1-14

Introduction: Revelation 5 is a continuation of the heavenly scene found in chapter four and is perhaps the most important chapter in the book. Have you ever buttoned a shirt or coat and put the wrong button in the wrong hole? If so, you know that the buttons and holes will not line up. If you don't understand what is going on in this chapter you will never rightly understand what is going on in the rest of the book. Chapter 5 is the key to understanding the rest of what happens in the book.

1. A SCENE OF Weeping

A) *The Search* We read in verse 2, the word "worthy" speaks of one that is deserving or has the right to open the book.

1) *None Worthy In Heaven*

We read in verse 3, there was not one "man in heaven." There are some great men in heaven; Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Elisha, David, Solomon to name a few. Add to that list the names of man great men from all ages; Paul, Peter, Spurgeon, Moody, and Finney. However, as great as they were, not one said a word. Not a single word from any of the patriarch's, prophets, nor preachers.

2) *None Worthy In the Earth*

The search was expanded to the earth and not one "in the earth" spoke up. No king or queen, emperor, president, or politician dared say a word.

3) *None Worthy Under the Earth*

The search was expanded even further to "under the earth." The search even reached into the regions of Hell. Not even the evil tyrants and dictators of time or history let out a whimper, not one of the demons uttered a sound, not even Satan himself.

Notice that the angel did not ask who was willing. There have been many that were willing to rule the earth: Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. They were willing, but the question was who is worthy. There was not found one that was worthy to open the book, read the book or even look upon the book (Cp. Vs. 4).

2. A SCENE OF Wonder

We read in verse 5, the word "prevailed" means "to conquer, overcome." Who had prevailed and was found worthy to open the book? It was the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Root of David that had prevailed. John saw the Lord Jesus as the worthy One. Suddenly John was no longer weeping, but standing in awe and wonder. He saw Jesus as:

A) The Prophesied Ruler

John saw Jesus as the "Lion of the tribe of Judah." In Genesis 49:8-10 we are given a prophecy. The prophecy was "Messianic" that one day there would come someone of the tribe of Judah who would rule and reign. The Lord Jesus, as the Lion of the tribe of Judah was the promised Messiah Who come and set up His kingdom on the earth.

B) The Proper Ruler

John saw the Lord Jesus as the rightful ruler of the earth. He also saw Him as the "Root of David." It was prophesied that the Messiah would be of the lineage of David, of royal

lineage. As the root of David John saw him as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

C) The Proclaimed Ruler

A third description of the Lord Jesus is in verse 6 where John saw Him as "a lamb." He saw the Lord Jesus as a Lamb "as it had been slain." John saw the Lord Jesus bearing the scars of suffering and death. The word "slain" speaks of being "slaughtered, butchered." John saw the Lord Jesus as having died a brutal and violent death. In Heaven we will see the scars in the hands and feet and side of the Lord Jesus, scars on His head, face and back. They will be an eternal reminder of the price He paid for us.

As the Lamb He is further described as "having seven horns." Horns are a symbol of power. The number seven speaks of completeness and perfection reminding us that Jesus is the Omnipotent One. He also saw Him as having "seven eyes." He sees and knows all things for He is the Omniscient One. He saw Him as having "seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth" speaking of how He is everywhere and is the Omnipresent One.

Adam lost the title deed to the earth, but the Lord Jesus, butchered like a little lamb, broke the bonds of death, Hell and grave and three days later, stepped out of the tomb and proclaimed, "I AM HE THAT LIVETH AND WAS DEAD: AND BEHOLD I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, AMEN; AND HAVE THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH." In Revelation 5 He steps forward to say, "The time has come for me to take back that which belongs to me."

3. A SCENE OF Worship

We see in verse 7 that the Lord Jesus steps forward takes the book. When He does, all of Heaven comes unglued. They

break forth in singing and shouting! Heaven becomes a scene of worship!

A) *Personal Worship* – vs. 7-10 “every one of them” (vs. 8)

B) *Universal Worship* – vs. 11-13

There will be "many angels" and "beasts and the elders." Even the angels will even get in on our worship. John saw "every creature" in heaven and on the earth join in the worship. It was a scene of universal worship.

They sang a seven-fold doxology:

Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power

And riches And wisdom And strength And honor
And glory And blessing

The whole universe shouts, “Blessing and honor and glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

C) *Eternal Worship* – vs. 14

We read in verse 14, "And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth forever and ever." It was not praise for a moment but for all eternity. That will be our heavenly occupation. For all of eternity we will worship and praise the Lamb that sits upon the throne.

The Four Horsemen of Revelation

Revelation 6:1-8

Introduction: This chapter, through Chapter 19, describes the seven years called the Tribulation Period and the Great Tribulation.

Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:3-24

The breaking of the four seals is symbolized by the Four Horsemen.

I. The White Horseman of Deception-Antichrist

Revelation 19:12 “crown”

The Accomplishments of this Rider.

Daniel 9:27

The Appointment of this Rider

II. The Red Horsemen of Dissension - War

The Condition that are shattered.

Matthew 24:6-7

The Conflict that is started.

Daniel 8:24

“a great sword”

III. The Black Horseman of Devastation-Famine Matthew 24:7

Extreme Conditions.

Expensive Conditions

“measure of wheat” *“denarius”*

IV. The Pale Horse of Death & Hell Followed

pale = ashen

The Population Death Affects.

“fourth part of the world”

The Procedure Death adopts.

“sword” *“death”* *“beasts”*

Tribulation Praying

Revelation 6:9-17

Introduction: The 5th and 6th seals move us into the Great Tribulation. In one we have a heavenly scene, the other an earthly scene; in one a request to be heard, in the other a request to be hid; in one those who are comforted, in the other condemned; in one faithful ones, fearful in the other.

I. The Faithful Ones Praying in Heaven.

What is Seen in these Martyrs. v. 9

What is Sought by these Martyrs. v. 10

What is Said to these Martyrs. v. 11

II. The Fearful Ones Praying on Earth.

The Horrible Events God's Wrath Brings. v. 12-14

The Horrifying Effects God's Wrath Brings. v. 15

Where will you be in the Great Tribulation?

The Great Tribulation Harvest

Revelation 7:1-17

Introduction: Chapter 7 is the “eye of the storm,” a calm before the next winds stir up. In the first half, we see a great harvest of souls. John4:35

I. The Storm that is Suspended (v. 1-3)

“four winds” “four angels” “the four corners of the earth” “the four winds of the earth”

The Course of the Storm is Controlled *“to hurt the earth”*

“holding the four winds/four corners”

The Force of the Stormed is Contained “east” “ascending”

II. The Servants that are Sealed (v. 4)

The Identification of the 144,000

The Preservation of the 144,000.

A seal’s purpose:

provided preservation

prevented molestation

Revelation 6:8, 14:1

The Occupation of the 144,000

Matthew 24:14

III. The Saints that are Slain (v. 9)

A Redeemed Multitude in Heaven

“clothed with white robes” “palms in their hands”

“have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” “before the throne”

A Rejoicing Multitude in Heaven (v. 10, 11-12)

A Rewarded Multitude in Heaven (v. 15-17) We see how they:

Stand – *before the throne of God.*

Serve – *serve Him day and night in His temple*

Are **Satisfied** – *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more*

Are **Sheltered** – *neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat*

Are **Sustained** – *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters*

Are **Solaced** – *and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes*

It's Time for the Trumpets

Revelation 8:1-13

Introduction: In Chapter 8, we see the opening of the seventh seal, and the sounding of the seven trumpets.

I. The Period that is Described

The Silence that Overcomes Heaven.

No singing, no shouting

The Severity that Overwhelms Heaven.

Trumpets sound God's judgments

II. The Prayers that are Defined

The Prayers that are Ascending to God.

The Prayers that are Answered by God.

III. The Part that are Designated

The Desolation caused by the First Trumpet.

The Destruction caused by the Second Trumpet.

The Death caused by the Third Trumpet.

The Darkness caused by the Fourth Trumpet.

ARE YOU READY?

Death's Five Month Holiday

Revelation 9:1-12 26:12-33

Introduction: Since death entered the world, every hour and minute have seen victims taken. When the fifth trumpet sounds, the very horrors of hell are turned loose on the earth.

I. The Pit that is Unlocked.

The Occupants of the Pit. II Peter 2:4 Jude 6

The Opening of the Pit. Ezekiel 28:14-15 Isaiah 14:12-15

II. The Prisoners that are Unloosed.

The First Description of the Demons.

The Further Description of these Demons.

Ephesians 6:12

III. The Punishment that is Unleashed.

The Target of their Punishment.

The Time of their Punishment.

One woe is past; and behold there come two woes more hereafter.” v. 12

The worst is yet to come.

The Angel with the Little Book

Revelation 10:1-11

Introduction: Revelation 7 gives us the interlude between the 6th and 7th seal. In Chapter 16, we have a brief interlude between the 6th and 7th bowl of wrath. Revelation 10 is the interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpet.

“And I saw.”

I. What is Reflected in the Angel.

“another mighty angel come down from heaven.”

Revelation 18:21

The Appearance of the Angel.

“clothed with a cloud” “down from heaven”

“a rainbow was upon his head”

Psalm 9:8, Psalm 96:13, Joel 3:12

The Authority of the Angel.

“had in his hand a little book open.”

Revelation 5:7, Joshua 1:3, Isaiah 54:5, Psalm 72:19

II. What is Revealed by the Angel.

“that there should be time no longer”

“the mystery of God should be finished”

Powerfully Communicated

“cried with a loud voice, as a lion roareth.”

Partially Concealed

“when he cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

Psalm 29:3-9, Daniel 8:26, II Corinthians 12:4

Personally Confirmed

“there should be time no longer.”

II Peter 3:9

“the mystery of God should be finished.”

III. What is Received from the Angel.

“And I went unto the angel, and said upon him, Give me the little book.”

“And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up.”

The Sweetness of the Book.

“sweet as honey”

The Sourness of the Book.

“and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.”

Oh, blessed thought that Christ will reign. O terrible thought that many will be the objects of His unbridled wrath. Like John, we must tell others and warn them to flee from the wrath to come.

Rebuilding of the Temple

Revelation 11:1, 2

Introduction: We are in the interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpet sounding, i.e., Revelation 10:1 – 11:14.

I. The Past Destruction of the Temple.

A. The Temple's Glorious Consecration

I Kings 5:5, 6:1, 6:14, 6:38, 8:63

The Temple's Grievous Desecration

Haggai 2:3, Ezra 3:12, Matthew 24:2

II. The Prophetic Construction of the Temple.

A Rebuilt Temple Indicated to Prophecy.

Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15, Daniel 12:11, Thessalonians 2:4

A Rebuilt Temple Illustrated in Prophecy.

Revelation 11:1-2

III. The Present Preparation for the Temple.

The Problems that are Eliminated.

The Plans that are Existing.

A Tribulation Party

Revelation 11:3-14

Introduction: The interlude between the 6th and 7th trumpet continues with the introduction of two witnesses.

I. The Deeds of the Two Witnesses.

A. The Purpose of their Ministry.

“witness” = martyr

“prophesy” = to speak forth

“clothed in sackcloth” = garment of a prophet

“two” = number of witness and testimony Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, Acts 1:8

The Protection of their Ministry.

“he must in this manner be killed”

The Power of their Ministry.

“These have power...as often as they will.”

II. The Deaths of the Two Witnesses.

The Cause of their Death.

“the beast”

“ascendeth out of the bottomless pit”

“their dead bodies”

The Celebration of their Death.

“send gifts one to another”

III. The Deliverance of the Two Witnesses.

The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses.

The Rapture of the Two Witnesses.

“Come up hither”

“The second woe is past; and behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”

The Woman and the Red Dragon

Revelation 12:1-6

Introduction: Chapters 12-14 take us back to the beginning of the Tribulation Period. We see four characters in Chapter 12: a woman, a dragon, a man-child, and Michael the Archangel.

I. The Appearance of the Woman.

The Clothing of the Woman

Genesis 37:9

The Child of the Woman.

Matthew 1:11, Genesis 3:15, Romans 9:4, 5

John saw the Lord Jesus as the Ruling One.

Revelation 19:15

John saw Christ as the Resurrected One.

I Thessalonians 4:17, John 1:10-11

II. The Adversary of the Woman.

The Features of the Red Dragon.

Dragon = fierceness and brutality

Red Dragon = war, bloodshed and death

Revelation 6:4, John 8:44, Ezekiel 28:12

The Fall of the Red Dragon.

Isaiah 14:12-15

III. The Affliction of the Woman.

A Hated People.

Genesis 3:15

A Hiding People

Matthew 24:15-22

A Helped People

This war has been going on through the ages, and it will reach its culmination during the Tribulation Period. It is a spiritual war between Satan and Christ.

Are you on the winning side?

The Antichrist

Revelation 13:1-10

Introduction:

I. The Satanic Authority of the Antichrist.

Daniel 7:7-8, Revelation 6:2, II Thessalonians 2:3

“a beast” Revelation 17:15

The Symbols of His Authority.

17:9 - *“seven heads”* 17:12 - *“ten horns”* *“ten crowns”*

Daniel 7: a leopard, a bear and a lion

The Source of His Authority.

Daniel 7:7 Revelation 13:2

II. The Social Acceptance of the Antichrist.

Fascinate the World. *“wonder”*

Matthew 24:24 *“great signs and wonders”*

Captivate the World.

III. The Spiritual Assault of the Antichrist.

“upon his heads” is *“the name of blasphemy.”*

The Objective of His Words

The Object of His War

The False Prophet

Revelation 13:11-15

Introduction: In our last study we saw a beast coming out of the sea who is the *Antichrist*. In this study we are going to look at a beast coming out of the earth. This beast is identified as *The False Prophet*. We see here the devil, the antichrist, and the false prophet. (*The Unholy Trinity*)

The antichrist will create a one-world government. The false prophet will create a one-world religion. Satan is behind both. Let's see 3 things about the false prophet:

I. THE Master OF THE FALSE PROPHET

A) Personality of His Master

We read in verse 1, “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth.” The false prophet is described as having “two horns, “like a lamb.” and “he spake as a dragon.”

B) Power of his Master

Verse 2 says that, “he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.” We saw in verse 2 that “the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

II. THE Mission OF THE FALSE PROPHET

A) Promotes the Work of the Antichrist

The words “before him” in verse 2 mean “in the presence of”

B) Proclaims the Worship of the Antichrist

We read in verse 12 that the false prophet “causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

Daniel 11:36 tells us he “shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods.”

The Bible says in 2 Thess. 2:4 he will be one, “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

III. THE Miracles OF THE FALSE PROPHET

A) Diverse Miracles

We read in verse 13, “And he doeth wonders.” The word “wonders” speaks of miracles. The false prophet will amaze and astound the world.

B) Deceptive Miracles

We read in verse 14, “And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth” The whole purpose of the miracles is to seduce and deceive the people.

The world in which we live is quickly being prepared for both the Antichrist and his False Prophet. The further I go in Revelation the more grateful I am that we are on the winning side. How about you?

The Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16-18

Introduction: In our previous studies from chapter 13 we met two beasts. We saw one rising from the sea and learned that he is the Antichrist who will establish a one-world government. Then we saw a beast rising out of the earth and learned that he is the False Prophet who will establish a one-world religion.

666.....perhaps no number, apart from the number 13, has possessed so much apprehension and fear and gave rise to so many theories and speculations. In our world and society, it has become the number that symbolizes Satanism and the symbol of a future apocalypse.

I. The Place of the Mark.

“mark” = a scratching or etching

a stamp or badge of servitude, i.e., a brand

Forced upon All People.

“small and great” “rich or poor” “free and bond”

Found upon All People.

II. The Purpose of this Mark.

Commercial Purpose.

“might”

Controlling Purpose.

III. The Provider of the Mark.

Name of the Beast.

“name”

Number of the Beast.

“number of his name”

Nature of the Beast.

666 - Revelation 13

The Mark, The Name, & the Number of the Beast

Introduction: 666.....perhaps no number, apart from the number 13, has possessed so much apprehension and fear and gave rise to so many theories and speculations. In our world and society, it has become the number that symbolizes Satanism and the symbol of a future apocalypse.

I. The Mark of the Beast

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Revelation 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Revelation 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore

upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and *upon* them which worshipped his image.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

II. THE NAME OF THE BEAST

Judas Iscariot, the son of perdition

John 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

III. THE NUMBER OF HIS NAME

SIX - The Number of "Man"

Man was made on the Sixth day.

His appointed days of labor are Six.

The Hebrew slave was to serve Six years.

For Six years the land was to be sown and to rest during the seventh.

The kingdoms of this world are to last for Six Thousand Years.

Moses was compelled to wait for Six days on the Mount before God revealed Himself unto him. Ex 24:15-18.

It is significant that the "Number" of the Beast is 666. This is the day when men are seeking the "Deification of Man," and his powers, and dethroning the "Son of Man," and they will reach the consummation of their desire when they for Commercial Reasons (Re 13:15-17) will worship the Beast.

This is "Man's Day," and its symbol is Six, which stops short of seven.

When the Battle is Over

Revelation 14:1-5

Introduction: We move from tragic earthly scenes to thrilling heavenly scenes --- from the antichrist to the real Christ.

I. The Identification of the 144,000.

Zechariah 8:3, Joel 3:17

The Seal of God's Protection

"Father's name"

Revelation 7:3-4

The Scene of Divine Preservation

Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, John 10:28

II. The Celebration of the 144,000.

The United Sound of Their Celebration.

The Unique Song of Their Celebration.

Psalm 98:1, 40:2-3

III. The Dedication of the 144,000.

They were not Defiled

Revelation 17:1

They were not Disobedient

“follow”

They were not Deceitful

“guile”

“fault”

“redeemed from among men”

John gets a glimpse of when the battle is over for this 144,000. No wonder there is such a glorious homecoming for them. They had fought a good fight and kept the faith. Such a homecoming was just part of the reward for the life they lived.

It's Time to Get the Bowls Out

Revelation 15:1-8

Introduction: Scenes on earth and Heaven are in great contrast: earth's scenes are of wrath and judgment; Heaven's scenes are of worship and joy. The mercy and long suffering of God's wrath is over.

I. The Revealing SIGN in Heaven.

Revelation 12:1, 3

Declares the FINALITY of God's Wrath.

tetelestai = "filled" "It is finished."

Describes the FULLNESS of God's Wrath.

"vials" = bowls "full of the wrath of God"

Revelation 14:10

II. The Rejoicing SAINTS in Heaven.

Matthew 13:40

STANDING Saints.

Revelation 4:6 & Revelation 12:11

SINGING Saints.

the "song of Moses" & the "song of the Lamb"

III. The Restricting SMOKE in Heaven.

God's ANGELS and an Open Temple.

Revelation 4

God's ANGER and a Closed Temple.

II Chronicles 7:2 Revelation 14:9-11

Matthew 25:1-10 Matthew 25:13

Today God is still offering salvation to all who will come. But there will come a day when He will no longer give men a chance to be saved. I don't know about you, but I am glad that one day I said yes.

From the Vials to the Valley

Revelation 16:1-9

Introduction: In Revelation we find a series of three judgments that are dispensed in seven stages. There are the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven vials. As we move into chapter 16 we come to the seven vials. We read in vs. 7, “And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.”

In chapter 16 these seven angels are sent on their mission of pouring out the contents of the seven vials. We read in verse 1, “And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”

The content of these 7 vials is the wrath of God that is poured out on the earth. Verse 7 speaks of these vials as being “full of the wrath of God. In the seven vials God's wrath is poured out without restraint or restriction.

In chapter 14:10 we saw that, “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation.” We saw that the words “without mixture” speak of that which is undiluted. Now God's wrath is being poured out in an undiluted measure. There is no mercy being extended.

One might say, “How could a God of love do such a thing?” Yet, we see that He is just in all His actions. He is a holy God and the wrath that He pours out is right.

We read in Psalm 19:9, “The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.”

In these final acts of God's wrath we see every Christ rejecting nation and person getting their just due. *Notice:*

First Vial. Rev 16:1-2.

When the "First Vial" is poured out a "noisome and grievous sore" will fall upon the men who have the "Mark of the Beast," and who "worship his Image." This is a repetition of the "Sixth Egyptian Plague." **Ex** 9:8-12. If that was literal why should not this be? The "literalness" of these "Vial Judgments" is the key to the literalness of the whole Book of Revelation.

Second Vial. Rev 16:3.

When the "Second Vial" is poured out, the sea (Mediterranean) will become as the "blood of a dead man," and every "living soul (creature, for creatures have souls) in the sea will die. Something similar, though not so great in extent, happened when the "Second Trumpet" sounded. **Re** 8:8-9.

Third Vial. Rev 16:4-7.

When the "Third Vial" is poured out the "rivers" and "fountains of water" will become "blood." This is a repetition of the "First Egyptian Plague." **Ex** 7:19-24. Those will be awful times when there will be nothing to quench the thirst but "blood."

Fourth Vial. Rev 16:8-9.

When the "Fourth Vial" is poured out men will be "scorched with great heat." This is the only plague for which there is no Egyptian parallel, and as the others are literal so must it be. The Prophet Malachi refers to it. **Mal** 4:1. The effect of this plague will be not to make men repent, but to cause them to **Blaspheme the Name of God.**

Fifth Vial. Rev 16:10-11.

When the "Fifth Vial" is poured out there will be "darkness" over the whole kingdom of the "Beast," and men will gnaw their tongues for pain." This will be a repetition of the "Ninth Egyptian Plague." **Ex** 10:21-23. Notice that this Plague follows the Plague of "Scorching Heat," as if God will hide the sun whose heat was so hard to bear. The effect of the "Darkness" will be to make men "gnaw their tongues" for **pain**, and for their **sores**, showing that these "Vial Plagues," overlap or follow each other rapidly.

Sixth Vial. Rev 16:12.

When the "Sixth Vial" is poured out the river Euphrates will be dried up so the kings of the East (India, China, Japan) and their armies may cross over and gather for the great Battle of Armageddon. This will be a repetition of the opening of the Red Sea and of the river Jordan. The Prophet Isaiah foretells this—

"The Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the **Egyptian** (Red) **Sea**, and ... shake His hand over the **River** (Euphrates), and smite its seven streams, so men can go over **Dry-Shod**." **Isa** 11:15-16.

These nations will be gathered by "Three Unclean Spirits" like frogs, that shall come out of the mouth of the "Dragon," and the "Beast," and the "False Prophet." **Re** 16:13-16. They will be the "Spirits of Demons," the "Seducing Spirits" of those days. **1Ti** 4:1. It was such a "Lying Spirit" that deceived King Ahab and led him to his death. **1Ki** 22:20-38.

Seventh Vial. Rev 16:17-21.

When the "Seventh Vial" is poured out a "great voice," probably the voice of the One who cried on the Cross—"It is

Finished," will cry—"It is Done," and there will be a "Great Earthquake" that will divide into three parts the "Great City" and the cities of the Nations (the 10 Federated Nations), London, Rome, Paris, etc., and "Great Babylon" that shall be rebuilt by that time, and whose destruction by an earthquake is foretold in chapter eighteen, will fall. This earthquake is foretold by the Prophet Zechariah. **Zec 14:4-5.**

In the "Great Hail," every stone of which shall weigh about a 100 pounds, that will fall on men, we have a repetition of the "Seventh Egyptian Plague." **Ex 9:13-35.** The Law required that the "blasphemer" should be "stoned" (**Le 24:16**), and the "**Blasphemers**" of the "**End Time**" shall be stoned from **HEAVEN.**

Battle of Armageddon. Re 19:11-21.

The "Tribulation Period" will close with the great "Battle of Armageddon." As we have seen the armies of the East and the West will be assembled in the Holy Land by the "Demon Spirits" that shall be sent forth from the mouths of the "Satanic Trinity." The field of battle will be the "Valley of Megiddo," located in the heart of Palestine, the battlefield of the great battles of the Old Testament. The forces engaged will be the "Allied Armies" of Antichrist on the one side, and the "Heavenly Army" of Christ on the other. The "time" will be when the "**Harvest of the Earth**" **IS RIPE**, (**Re 14:15**), and at just the right moment when the "Allied Armies" of Antichrist are about to take the city of Jerusalem.

The Prophet Zechariah says—"Behold the '**Day of the Lord**' cometh." When—"I will **Gather All Nations Against Jerusalem to Battle** ... Then shall the **Lord Go Forth and Fight Against Those Nations.**" **Zec 14:1-3.**

This "going forth" is graphically described in **Re 19:11-21.** When He came the first time to Jerusalem as King, He rode on

a "colt," the foal of an ass, (**Mt** 21:1-11), this time He shall come on a "White Horse." His eyes will be as a "flame of fire" and on His head shall be "many crowns," and He shall be clothed in a vesture "dipped in blood." Not His own blood but the blood of His enemies.

The issue of the "Battle of Armageddon" will never be in doubt. The previous summoning of the birds and beasts of prey, prove this. Before the destruction of the army of Antichrist, he and the False Prophet will be cast "alive" into the "Lake of Fire." This shows that they are not "Systems" but "Persons," and as Enoch and Elijah were taken to Heaven **without dying**, so Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into the "Lake of Fire" **without dying**, and will be still there and alive when Satan is cast in a 1000 years later.

Before Antichrist is seized and cast into the "Lake of Fire," Satan will make his exit from his person, and after the battle is over, Satan will be bound and cast into the "Bottomless Pit," where he will be "sealed up" for 1000 years. This is the culminating act of the "Tribulation Period."

The Future of the One-World Religion

Revelation 17:1-18

Introduction: In chapter 17 we see the judgment of Babylon as a religious system. In chapter 18 we will see the judgment of Babylon as a political and commercial system. Those two chapters go back to describe the world system led by Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet, and God's judgment upon that system. This judgment had been anticipated and now the details of that destruction are given.

During the tribulation, the world will become very religious. So much so, all the religions of the world will unite as a one-world religion under the leadership and direction of the antichrist. This one-world religion is described in verse 1 as "the great whore," a title descriptive of its seductive powers. In verse 5 it is described as "BABYLON THE GREAT." Babylon in the Bible speaks of both a place and a system. As a place it is located in Iraq. As a system it symbolizes all false religion.

The roots of this religious system and Babylon are found in Genesis 11:1-9. There we find a time when everyone spoke the same language. Let me point out three features about the people:

Sinfully disobedient ... (11:2) We read they journeyed from the east. When a person goes in an westerly direction it is symbolic of a person turning the back to the light (sun rises in the east). They were turning their back to the light God gave them.

Selfishly dependent ... (11:3-4) They said "Let us ... make a name." They were a forerunner of modern day humanists that have no room for God in their life or a need of God.

Spiritually distorted ... (11:4) They wanted to build 2 things – a city and a tower. The city speaks of the physical longing of their heart. The tower speaks of the spiritual longing of their heart. It was a tower topped by the heavens or the top of the tower was dedicated to the heavens. It was not a tower dedicated to the God Who created the heavens, but to the heavens that were created by God. It was a temple dedicated to astrology. It was the beginning of false religion, that is why they were judged of God. Babylon henceforth symbolizes all the false religions of the world

In the end time Babylon speaks of a one-world religion. Let's notice this one-world religion as defined by Revelation 17. First, think with me of:

I. The ESTABLISHMENT of a One-World Religion.

The AUTHORITY of the Great Whore. (*v 1*)

The ALLIANCES of the Great Whore. (*v 2-3*)

The APPEARANCE of the Great Whore. (*v 4*)

The ABOMINATIONS of the Great Whore. (*v 4*)

The ACTIONS of the Great Whore. (*v 6*)

II. The EXPLANATION of a One-World Religion.

The RISE of the Beast. (*v 8*)

The RULE of the Beast. (*v 9-13*)

III. The EXTERMINATION of a One-World Religion.

The Beast DIVORCES the Great Whore. (*v 14-16*)

The Beast DEVOURS the Great Whore. (*v 17*)

This reminds me that GOD HATES RELIGION. Religion of any kind, especially a One World Religion headed for judgment.

God will judge the Antichrist, but He will first judge the One-World Religion.

The Collapse of the Global Economy

Revelation 18:1-8

Introduction: We are nearing the hour in Revelation when the Lord Jesus will return to this earth to set up His Kingdom on the earth (Rev. 19). As we shall see, the Lord Jesus will take back that which rightfully belongs to Him and will rule and reign on the earth for 1,000 glorious years. This time is what we call the *Millennium*. In Revelation 17-18 we see that before Christ sets up His kingdom, He will destroy the kingdoms of this world. In Revelation 17 we saw an religious system represented by the great whore, the mother of harlots and Babylon. During the tribulation all the religions of the world will unite and form a one-world religion headed by the false prophet who rides on the back of the antichrist.

The antichrist will use this one-world church to rise to power. Then having gained a place of world leadership, he will turn against this religious system and destroy it. We read of that destruction in Revelation 17:16, “And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.” They will destroy the one-world religion, unaware that they are actually carrying out God’s purpose and judgment. We read in Revelation 17:17, “For God hath put it in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of the God shall be fulfilled.” The actions of the antichrist and the leaders under his control are actually dictated by God and are God’s judgment upon this religious system.

As we move into Revelation 18 we see Babylon not only representing an religious system, but also an economic system. This is a commercial and political system controlled by the antichrist. During the tribulation, the world will not only unite

under one religious banner, but also be united by a global economy.

Now as you look at Babylon in chapter 18, it is referred to as a city (Vs. 10, 16, 18, 19, 21). Chapter 17 ended with the words, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” Bible scholars have long debated as to whether or not an actual and literal city is being referred to. In all likelihood it is referring to an actual city, but a city that represents the commercial and political rule of the antichrist because it the city from which he rules.

For this study we will refer to it as a city and a representation of the commercial and political system controlled by the antichrist. Let’s notice this city by first considering:

1. A CITY DEBASED WITH DEMONS

The angel describes the city in verse 2 as “the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” Here is a city with a great presence of demonic activity. John speaks of this city as:

A) The Habitation of Demons

On different occasions in Revelation we have seen large numbers of demons released on the earth. It would seem that at the end of the tribulation period these demons are gathered in Babylon. It is like God is gathering all the rotten eggs in one basket before disposing of them.

Los Angeles is known as the city of angels, New York City as the Big Apple, and Las Vegas as sin city. Here is a city that will be known as the home of all the demons of the earth. You can imagine the wickedness and immorality of such a place. It will be a city of unprecedented evil and wickedness.

B) The Hold of Demons

He describes it in verse 2 as “the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” The word “hold” and “cage” are the same and it is a word that speaks of a prison. Like grotesque carrion birds, the demons will hover over the city, controlling and enslaving the city in their evil grip.

We think about the grip Satan and his demons have on the world today. It is nothing compared to what it will be like during the tribulation and especially at the end as they dwell and dominate this city. It will be an evil control unrestrained and uninhibited.

2. A CITY DEFILED WITH DRUNKENNESS

We read in verse 3, “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” Being drunk with her wine is a frequent description of Babylon’s influence and control over the nations and leaders of the world. The committing of fornication carries the idea of becoming a part of the antichrist’s evil religious and commercial empire and system. Being drunk speaks of how the world and its leaders are intoxicated or possessed with this system.

A) Intoxicated With the Philosophy of Babylon

Again he describes in verse 3 how they “have committed fornication with her.” The nations and leaders of the world will lust after her, passionately desiring to be a part of this system. They will be so seduced and influenced by the philosophy of the antichrist they will swallow his lies and accept his role and rule in the world.

B) Intoxicated With the Prosperity of Babylon

John describes in verse 3 how “the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” Controlling the commerce of the world, the antichrist will control great wealth. The world will cash in on the financial prosperity of the antichrist. Men’s god will be gold and their creed will be greed. The world has always been intoxicated with riches, wealth and material things. The passion of this world is get all you can.

3. A CITY DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION

In verse 4 John says, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, ‘Come out of her, My People, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’” Another angel comes with a message to God’s people. It is a call for God’s people to not have any part with such a philosophy and system. It is a call for separation and consecration.

The call and command of God has always been the same. We read in 2 Corinthians 6:17, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you.” God has always wanted His people to be distinct and different.

The message of this angel is that God is about to judge Babylon and He does not want any of His people to be a part of that judgment. “Be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues” is his message and warning. God’s people are not to be seduced or influence by this world.

A) God Remembers Babylon’s Sin

We read in verse 5, “For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquity.” The word “reached” means to be “glued” or “welded together.” The idea is of

piling up. Like bricks piled up on one another to form a building, their sins have piled up like the Tower of Babel and reached to heaven.

B) God Rewards Babylon's Sins

In verse 6 we read that God will, "Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled to her double." The word "reward" means "to pay a debt" to "give back that which is due." God will pay Babylon back double. Double has been her sins, double will be her punishment. Her cup has overflowed with a magnitude of sin, and her judgment will be accordingly.

In verse 7 John describes what will be the attitude of the antichrist and his kingdom: "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she hath said in her heart, 'I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.'" Instead of glorifying God, she glorifies herself. God says that He will not share His glory with another, and to the degree, to which she robbed God of His glory, so will be her torment and sorrow.

The word "deliciously" means to be "wanton, to revel." It comes from a word that means to be "headstrong." She has lived with the attitude, I will do what I want, as I want. She sees herself as a queen that no one can touch or harm. However, God says that to the degree you have lived, to that degree will be your torment and sorrow.

In verse 8 we see the torment and sorrow that will come upon her. We read, "Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God Who judgeth her." Her destruction and judgment will not be progressive but swift and sudden. In the course of one day God will send death and

famine producing great mourning, which will be followed by her being burned with fire. It is a judgment and destruction that is certain and sure for “strong is the Lord Who judgeth her.” God is strong. No one can frustrate His purposes and stop Him from carrying His plans and purposes.

I love Isaiah 43:13 which states, “Yea, before the day was I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?” No one can stop God from doing what He desires. There will come a day when a man will rise to power and rule the world. This man, the antichrist, will have his time, but his time is marked and limited. In the end, the real Christ will manifest His power over Him and all the world, revealing that He alone is God and Christ.

A Church Wedding In Heaven

Revelation 19:1-10

Introduction: As we move into Revelation 19 we have some of the most exciting scenes in the entire Bible. As we came to the end of Revelation 18 we came to the end of the seven-year Tribulation Period. The Tribulation ends with the Lord Jesus returning to the earth in chapter 19 to take back that which is rightfully His. Just before Jesus returns, there will be a Church wedding. This Church wedding is described in verses 1-10. First, notice:

1. THE WEDDING CELEBRATION

A) *Delightful Expressions of Praise*

“Alleluia” is used throughout (Vs. 1,3,4,6).” *It simply means, “praise the Lord.”*

B) *Distinct Expressions of Praise*

In verse 1 John heard “a great voice of much people.”

In verse 4 we see “the four and twenty elders and the four beasts” participating in this celebration.

In verse 5 John also hears “a voice” that comes “out of heaven.” identifying these as “servants”.

C) *Descriptive Expressions of Praise*

Each expression of praise is aimed at some particular attribute and characteristic of God.

2. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

As we look at this Church wedding in heaven we see a beautiful wedding.

A) The Guests That Are Present

Notice in verse 9 a reference that is made to certain guests that are present: “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

The word “called” simply means “invited.” These called ones are distinct from the bride or “wife” that is referred to in verse 7. Obviously, a bride would not be sent an invitation to her own wedding. Who are these guests?

B) The Bride That Is Prepared

We read in verse 7 that the “wife hath made herself ready.” I don’t think I have ever seen an ugly bride. I have seen one or two that came close, but for the most part, all brides are beautiful.

The Bible tells us that the bride of Christ will be dressed in “fine linen.” It is also described as “clean and white” that speaks of the purity of the bride. The bride’s wedding garment is called “the righteousness of the saints.”

C) The Groom That Is Praised

Notice carefully the words in verse 7, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor unto Him.” In our day and time, all attention is giving to the bride. The Groom was always the center of attention in Bible days.

3. THE WEDDING CERTAINTY

The wedding scene closes with the angel who has given John a tour of future saying in verse 9, “These are the true sayings of

God.” It is a glorious scene John has seen and the angel assures him of the certainty of it happening.

A) The Truth of All Prophecy

You can mark it down! You can believe everything you read in Revelation. It is the “true sayings of God.”

B) The Theme of All Prophecy

We read in verse 10, “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, *See thou do it not*: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

John is so moved he falls down to worship the angel that has allowed him to see all this. The angel stops him and tells him that he is no more than what he is—a servant of God. He reminds him that God alone is worthy of worship. In so doing he makes the statement that Jesus is “the spirit of prophecy.” The angel reminds John that every prophecy in the Bible has been about Jesus. All the prophecies in both the Old Testament and New Testament are about Jesus.

The Millennium

Revelation 20:1-6

Introduction: This is the “thousand years” chapter (mentioned six times here), which describes the Millennium. The word “millennium” means “thousand years” in Latin. There will be a literal thousand-year kingdom on earth for several reasons:

- (1) To fulfill the OT promises to Israel, Luke 1 :30-33;
- (2) To give a public display of Christ’s glory to the nations of earth;
- (3) To answer the saints’ prayer of ”Thy kingdom come”;
- (4) To fulfill the promises to the church that saints will reign with Christ;
- (5) To bring about the complete redemption of nature as promised in Rom. 8: 19-22;
- (6) To give mankind one final trial under the sovereign rule of Christ.

I. BEFORE the Millennium (20:1-5)

The Battle of Armageddon is now over, and the Beast and False Prophet have been cast into Hell. Christ now lays hold of that old serpent, Satan, and casts him into the bottomless pit. Some of Satan’s followers are already chained (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6), but now the “old serpent” himself is imprisoned. The Beast came out of the bottomless pit (17:8) and was cast into Hell; but Satan’s final judgment is not yet come.

After Satan is cast down, there is a resurrection of the Tribulation saints who gave their lives in faithful service to Christ. By this time, then, all saved people have been raised to reign with Christ. This is known as the first resurrection. It extends from the rapture of the church (1 Thess. 4:13) to the resurrection of the saints described in Rev. 20:4. All who are raised in the first resurrection are saved people; they will not experience the second death, which is Hell. See John 5:24-29. The OT saints believed in a resurrection “of the dead”, but they knew nothing of the resurrection “from the dead” taught in the NT (see Mark 9:9-10).

The Bible makes no mention of a “general resurrection.” The saved are all raised (at different times) in the first resurrection; the lost are raised at the second resurrection. A period of 1,000 years will elapse between the first and second resurrections. Nobody in the first resurrection will be lost, and nobody in the second resurrection will be saved.

II. DURING the Millennium (20:6)

The millennial kingdom will be the divine rule of Heaven upon earth. Christ will rule with a rod of iron, permitting no injustice or sin.

Jerusalem will be the center of the kingdom (Isa. 2: 1-4), and the disciples will reign with Christ (Matt. 19:28). Israel will be in its land, sharing the glory of Christ, its rightful King. There will be peace on earth among men and animals (Isa. 11:7-9 and 54:13-14). Each person will be suited to his or her best job, and perfect efficiency and joy will fill the earth. Of course, since these human beings on earth are still human (apart from the church and resurrected saints, who have glorified bodies), children will be born with sinful natures. At the close of the Millennium, many people will still give only outward obedience to Christ but will not submit to Him from the heart. One of the main purposes of the Millennium is to prove

conclusively that mankind cannot be changed, even under a perfect rule in a perfect environment. For, at the end of the thousand years, Satan will be able to muster a huge army to rebel against Christ. If people are not changed by the grace of God, nothing else will change them.

III. AFTER the Millennium (20:7-15)

A. The final BATTLE (vs.7-10).

Satan is loosed at the end of the thousand years, and he gathers a huge army to fight Christ. This rebellion proves that a rule of perfect law cannot change the human heart; sinners would rather follow Satan. These armies will attack the millennial Jerusalem, but fire from Heaven will devour them. Satan will be captured and consigned eternally to the lake of fire. Note that the Beast and False Prophet are still suffering in Hell a thousand years after being taken! There is no way to get out of Hell once you are there. It is a place of eternal torment.

B. The final JUDGMENT (vs. 11-15).

John now sees a throne of judgment, the Great White Throne. It is great, because all of the sinners of history will stand before it. It is white because it represents the unchanging holiness of God; He is not a respecter of persons. Heaven and earth flee away; there is no place for the lost sinner to hide! The Judge on the throne is Jesus Christ (John 5:22-23). Today He is the Savior of the world; on that day, He will be the righteous Judge.

There is a resurrection. Death gives up the bodies of lost sinners; Hell gives up the soul. This brief moment when the body and soul of the lost sinner are joined before Christ's judgment throne is the only relief from punishment these sinners will know before being cast into the Lake of Fire! All

lost sinners will be there: small and great, rich and poor; there will be no escape (Heb. 9:27).

What books are involved in this final judgment? The Bible will be there, according to John 12:48. The very Word that sinners hear and reject today will judge them on the last day. There is the Book of Life, containing the names of the saints. If a person's name is not found in the Book of Life, he or she is cast into Hell (v. 15). Also present is the book containing the deeds people have done. God is a Righteous Judge; He keeps a record of their deeds and will punish each one justly. Certainly those who knew the truth and deliberately disobeyed it will be punished with greater severity than those who did not know the truth. Hell will have degrees of punishment in the same way that Heaven has degrees of reward (Matt. 11:20-24).

There will be no opportunity for sinners to argue their case. When the books are opened and the facts revealed, they will stand speechless before Christ (Rom. 3: 19). God will judge every lost sinner condemned. All those who share in the second resurrection must face the second death---eternal Hell.

Satan and sin have been judged; human rebellion has been put down; now God can usher in the new Heavens and new earth--eternal bliss for the people of God!

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:9-27

Introduction: In our last study we began looking at the vision John saw of Heaven. We looked at verses 1-8 and saw how God will one day make all things new. This present Heaven and earth will exist no more, and it will be replaced with a new Heaven and earth.

As we look at verses 9-27 we learn more about this new Heaven and earth. The focus turns to what is often referred to as the New Jerusalem. It is described in verse 10 as a “great city” and the “holy Jerusalem.” It is called the “New Jerusalem” in verse 2. It is the place that I believe Jesus spoke of preparing when He said in John 14:2, “I go to prepare a place for you.”

Let’s look at this city and the Heavenly home of the saved that John saw. First, let me say a word about:

1. THE DESCENSION OF THE CITY

We read in verses 10-11, “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” John saw the New Jerusalem descending out of Heaven. First, notice its:

A) Preparation by God

John saw the city as a city “from God.” In verse 2 John says that he saw the new Jerusalem “coming down from God out of Heaven.” This is a place from God. God is the architect,

designer and builder of this Heavenly city. This is a city of divine origin.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:10 that Abraham “looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.”

As I mentioned earlier, just before Jesus went back to Heaven He said in John 14:2, “In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” The city that John sees coming down from Heaven is that place. It is the place God has prepared for all who saved.

Furthermore, take note of this city's:

B) Glorification of God

In verse 11 the Bible speaks of this city as, “Having the glory of God.” John adds that “her light was like unto stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.” The glory of God will radiate from this city. It bears the mark of its creator in every facet and detail.

The word “light” actually speaks of its brilliance. To John, the city was like one great and brilliant light and that being the glory of God.

John described this brilliance as a “jasper stone.” The word “jasper” does not speak of jasper as we know. The word speaks of a stone like our diamond. John saw this city as one big diamond refracting and reflecting the glory of its designer and creator.

Everything about Heaven will be a reflection of the glory of God. His glory will be manifested in an unlimited and unconfined way.

You remember Moses sought to see God's glory. We read in Exodus 33:18 that Moses prayed, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." God said to Moses in verses 21-23, "And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen."

Moses could not look upon the unlimited and unconfined glory of God. But in Heaven, God's glory will not be restricted. His full glory will be manifested, so much so, the New Jerusalem will be a one great light.

Secondly, notice not only the descent of this city, but also:

2. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY

Beginning in verse 12 we are given a more complete description of the New Jerusalem. Let's notice this description by first looking at:

A) The Details of the City

In verse 12 we read that the city has "a wall great and high." The city is surrounded by a huge wall. As John gives us the details of this city we learn that in this wall were "twelve gates" (Vs. 12).

In verse 13 we learn that there are, "On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates."

Verse 12 also tells us that at each of these gates there were "twelve angels." These angels are no doubt placed there to attend to both God and His people.

Verse 12 also tells us that on each of these 12 gates are “name written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.” The names of the 12 tribes of Israel are inscribed on the gates celebrating through all of eternity God’s covenant relationship with Israel, the people from whom the Savior and the Scriptures came. The arrangement of the gates is much in the same fashion as the tribes camped around the Tabernacle, three tribes to each side.

In verse 14 we learn that “the wall of the city had twelve foundations” and that inscribed in these foundations are “the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” These twelve foundations celebrate and commemorate the Church, which upon the apostles was built. At the top of each gate was the name of a tribe of Israel and at the bottom was the name of an apostle.

After giving us details about the city, John gives us:

B) The Dimensions of the City

We read in verse 15, “And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.” The angel pulls out a Heavenly ruler and shows us how massive this city is.

It is explained in verse 16 that the “city lieth foursquare” and that the “length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.” In other words, the city layout is in a cube.

When the angel measures the city it is found to be “twelve thousand furlongs” in its height, breadth, and length. The word “furlong” is the Greek word *stadia*. A stadion was about 607 feet, thus this city measures approximately 1,380 miles in either direction. To give you an ideal of how large that is, were that city to be superimposed on the present-day United

States, it would extend from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Colorado to the Atlantic Ocean.

Based on certain assumptions about the design of the city and the number of the redeemed who will live in it, Henry M. Morris calculates that each person's "cube" would be approximately seventy-five acres on each side.

Some of you have always wanted a big house, well; God is preparing you a huge one!

In verse 17 we read that angel "measured the wall" that surrounds this city and found it to be "an hundred and forty and four cubits." Most agree that the angel was measuring the thickness of the wall and it was found to be 72 yards thick or 216 feet thick.

John goes on to describe the materials that are used in this wall. In verse 18 we read, "And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." As we saw earlier, the jasper is what we know as a diamond. These massive walls are translucent like a diamond for which the glory of God to shine through.

The city itself is made of pure gold. If you were to walk up on the outside you could see through the walls a gigantic city made of pure gold. No brick, wood or stone structures in this place. They are all made out of pure gold.

In verse 19 John turns to the "foundations of the wall of the city." He describes how these foundations are "garnished with all manner of precious stones."

The first stone that he describes is the "jasper," which we have already seen is the diamond.

The second is the "sapphire," a brilliant blue stone.

The third is “chalcedony,” an agate stone from the Chalcedon region of what is now modern Turkey. This stone is sky blue in color with colored stripes.

The fourth is the “emerald,” a bright green stone.

The fifth is “sardonyx,” a red and white striped stone.

The sixth is “sardius,” a common quartz stone found in various shades of red.

The seventh is “chrysolite,” a transparent gold or yellow-hued stone.

The eighth is “beryl,” a stone found in various colors, including shades of green, yellow, and blue.

The ninth is “topaz,” a yellow-green stone.

The tenth is “chrysoptase,” a gold-tinted green stone.

The eleventh is “jacinth,” a blue or violet-colored stone in John's day.

The twelfth is “amethyst,” a purple stone.

A glorious panoply of beautiful colors deck these massive walls.

In verse 21 the gates that set in these walls are described. We read, “And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every gate several gate was of one pearl.” These gates are not made or overlaid with pearl, they are each one pearl. Remember the height of these walls. These are pearls that are no doubt of the same height.

John Phillips has this comment about these gates being made of pearl: “How appropriate! All other precious gems are metals or stones, but a pearl is a gem formed within the oyster—the only one formed by living flesh. The humble oyster receives an irritation or a wound, and around the offending article that has penetrated and hurt it, the oyster builds a pearl. The pearl, we might say, is the answer of the oyster to that which injured it. The glory land is God's answer, in Christ, to wicked men who crucified Heaven's beloved and put Him to open shame. How like God it is to make the gates of the new Jerusalem of pearl. The saints as they come and go will be forever reminded, as they pass the gates of glory, that access to God's home is only because of Calvary. Think of the size of those gates! Think of the supernatural pearls from which they are made! What gigantic suffering is symbolized by those gates of pearl! Throughout the endless ages we shall be reminded by those pearly gates of the immensity of the sufferings of Christ. Those pearls, hung eternally at the access routes to glory, will remind us forever of One who hung upon a tree and whose answer to those who injured Him was to invite them to share His home.”

Also in verse 21 we read, “and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.” You ladies get so excited about your gold earrings, necklaces and etc. God is use gold to pave the streets in this Heavenly home.

What a glorious place the New Jerusalem is going to be. Imagine living in such a place. If you are saved, it will one day be a reality. Lastly, notice the:

3. THE DISTINCTION OF THE CITY

Beginning in verse 22 John sees certain things that set this city apart from any other city. We have already seen that certain things will not be found in this city. We saw in our last study that verse 4 tells us, “And God shall wipe away all tears from

their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Now we learn of other things that will not be found in this city.

First, we see there is:

A) No Sanctuary

We read in verse 22, “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” There had been a temple on earth and throughout Revelation we have seen a temple in Heaven. But now, there is no longer a temple.

Why? There will be no need to go anywhere to worship. We will be in the very presence of the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb. There will be no need for a church, chapel or cathedral. Every moment we will constantly be in His presence. The symbols are replaced with the realities.

Secondly, there will be:

B) No Sun

We read in verse 23, “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.” In Heaven there will be no cycles of time such as day and night as we have now. There will be one eternal day and the light of the city is the glory of God.

J. A. Seiss writes:

That shining is not from any material combustion,—not from any consumption of fuel that needs to be replaced as one supply burns out; for it is the uncreated light of Him who is

light, dispensed by and through the Lamb as the everlasting Lamp, to the home, and hearts, and understandings of his glorified saints.

When Paul and Silas lay wounded and bound in the inner dungeon of the prison of Philippi, they still had sacred light which enabled them to beguile the night-watches with happy songs.

When Paul was on his way to Damascus, a light brighter than the sun at noon shone round about him, irradiating his whole being with new sights and understanding, and making his soul and body ever afterwards light in the Lord.

When Moses came down from the mount of his communion with God, his face was so luminous that his brethren could not endure to look upon it. He was in such close fellowship with light that he became informed with light, and came to the camp as a very lamp of God, glowing with the glory of God.

On the Mount of Transfiguration that same light streamed forth from all the body and raiment of the blessed Jesus.

And with reference to the very time when this city comes into being and place, Isaiah says, "the moon shall be ashamed and the sun confounded,"—ashamed because of the out-beaming glory which then shall appear in the new Jerusalem, leaving no more need for them to shine in it, since the glory of God lights it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

We read in verse 24, "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." The word "nations" refer to people of every walk of life and every ethnicity. People from every tongue and tribe will occupy this wonderful city.

The “kings of the earth” that “bring their glory and honor into it,” in my opinion, refer to the saints of God that ruled and reigned upon the earth. The last thing we see that distinct about this city is that there is:

C) *No Sin*

We read in verse 25, “And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.” In ancient cities, walls were to protect the city and at night the gates would be closed to keep invaders and criminals out. You want have to worry about such things in Heaven.

We read in verse 27, “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.” There will be nothing unholy or unclean about this city. The only people there are those who have their names in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

What a city! What a home! It is breathtaking when we read about it. Yet, there is more to learn about it in chapter 22 which will be focus of our next study. Look at the words of one poet who wrote:

*Beautiful Zion, built above! Beautiful city that I love!
Beautiful gates of pearly white! Beautiful temple, God it's light!
Beautiful trees, forever there! Beautiful fruits they always bear!
Beautiful rivers gliding by! Beautiful fountains never dry!
Beautiful light, without the sun! Beautiful day revolving on!
Beautiful worlds on worlds untold! Beautiful streets of shining gold!
Beautiful Heaven where all is light! Beautiful angels clothed in
white! Beautiful songs that never tire! Beautiful harps through all
the choir! Beautiful crowns on every brow! Beautiful palms the
conquerors show! Beautiful robes the ransomed wear!
Beautiful all who enter there! Beautiful throne for God the Lamb!
Beautiful seats at God's right hand! Beautiful rest, all wanderings
cease! Beautiful home of perfect peace!*

What Will It Be Like In Heaven?

Revelation 22:1-5

Introduction: In our last study we looked at the description of Heaven that is given to us in chapter 21. As we move into chapter 22 we are given further descriptions of our future home. As we look at verses 1-5 we are told of what Heaven will be like for all who are saved.

What we will do in Heaven? Will it be just eternal nothing? Will we just sort of hang around Heaven, strolling and strumming our way through forever? Or will it be that we will have something to do, something to plan for, some responsibility, some goal and objective that's going to demand all of our powers to put in motion to effect? Now those are the questions we want to answer.

Part of understanding what we will do in Heaven is to first of all understand what we will not do in Heaven. We will not do wrong, and that will eliminate a lot of problems. We will not do wrong. We will not sin, none of us will ever sin any time. We will never have to confess our sin. We will never have to struggle with sin. We will never have to apologize for anything to anyone forever. Isn't that wonderful? We will never have guilt. We'll never feel bad about anything. We'll never have to make anything right. We'll never have to write a letter to correct what we said or what we did. We'll never have to clarify anything. We'll never have to call somebody up to explain what we really meant. We'll never have to straighten out anything that's confused because nothing will ever be confused and nothing will ever be wrong so nothing will ever be straightened out. We'll never have to fix anything. We'll never have to repair anything. We'll never have to adjust anything. Nothing will ever be out of adjustment. We'll never have to replace anything, nothing will ever wear out. Nothing will ever malfunction. We'll never have to help anybody

because nobody will ever need any help. We'll never have to deal with Satan. We'll never have to deal with demons. We'll never have to deal with sinners. We'll never have to defend ourselves against attack, we'll never be attacked.

We'll never be sad. We'll never cry. We'll never be alone. We'll never be lonely. We'll never be hurt emotionally. We'll never be hurt physically. We'll never need to be cured. We'll never need to be counseled. We'll never need to be coddled. We'll never need to be entertained.

We'll never be less than totally filled with absolute joy. We will never have to do anything special to anyone any time because everything we do will be special to everybody all the time. We will never grieve. We will never lose anyone, lose anything, miss anyone. We will never have to be careful because we couldn't make a mistake anyway. We will never have to plan for contingencies or emergencies. There will never be a "plan B". We will never have to avoid danger, there will be no danger.

It's incredible to think about all that, isn't it? And that's just a start.

What we've been saying in summing up the essence of Heaven is that it is perfect holy paradise with unmixed and unending joy in a perfected body and soul dwelling with the Lamb and with God in intimate fellowship and vision forever. That's Heaven.

But what will we do? Well, I don't want to disappoint you but I can't be specific about what you will do and I can't even be specific about what I will do because the Lord hasn't chosen to reveal all that to us. But in general we can be somewhat specific about what we'll all do categorically.

1. OUR ETERNAL HOME

As John continues his tour of the New Jerusalem, the capital of Heaven, we read in verse 1, “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

John sees a beautiful river that flows through the city. The Bible says in Psalm 46:4, “*There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*” The Psalmist no doubt had in mind the river John describes in Revelation 22:1.

2. OUR ETERNAL HEALTH

John not only saw a river, but he also saw a tree. We read in verse 2, “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.”

John saw on both sides of the river a tree of life. This tree is a counterpart to the tree God had placed in the Garden of Eden. We read of that tree in Genesis 2:9, “And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

3. OUR ETERNAL HONOR

In verse 5 we read, “and they shall reign for ever and ever.” At the very beginning of Revelation we read in 1:6 that God “*hat* made us kings and priests.” Also, in Revelation 3:21 the promise was given, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

In Heaven we will reign as kings and priests, enjoying the blessings of such honor. There will be many blessings we will

enjoy throughout eternity, but nothing better than serving the Lord.

WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE IN HEAVEN? It is beyond description.

Some Last Words From Jesus

Revelation 22:16-21

Introduction: We now come to the end of the Book of Revelation. It has been a wonderful journey as we have traveled with John. We have seen what will happen in the future for both those who are saved and lost.

We have seen how things will play out on the earth *politically, socially, economically* and even *spiritually*. As we saw in the very beginning of our study, Revelation is more than a book about prophecy.

It is a book about a *Person*. It is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1). He that we saw in the very beginning that stands “in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks” who declared himself to be the “first and the last” and is “alive for evermore” will come back again, taking back that which rightfully belongs to Him, and will rule and reign upon this earth, afterwards ushering in a New Heaven and a New Earth. Revelation is a book about Jesus. It is only fitting that as we come to the closing verses of the book, He has a *personal* word for all people of all ages.

As we conclude our study of Revelation, notice these LAST words from Jesus.

- **The Last Invitation vs. 17**
- **The Last Warning vs. 18-19**
- **The Last Promise vs. 20**
- **The Last Prayer Vs. 20**
- **The Last Benediction vs. 21**

Some Closing Words From Jesus

Revelation 22:16-21

Introduction: We now come to the end of the Book of Revelation. It has been a wonderful journey as we have traveled with John since. We have seen what will happen in the future for both those who are saved and lost. We have seen how things will play out on the earth *politically, socially, economically* and even *spiritually*. As we saw in the very beginning of our study, Revelation is more than a book about prophecy. It is a book about a *Person*. It is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:1). He that we saw in the very beginning that stands “in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks” who declared himself to be the “first and the last” and is “alive for evermore” will come back again, taking back that which rightfully belongs to Him, and will rule and reign upon this earth, afterwards ushering in a New Heaven and a New Earth. Revelation is a book about Jesus. It is only fitting that as we come to the closing verses of the book, He has a *personal* word for all people of all ages. As we conclude our study of Revelation, notice these closing words from Jesus.

1. HIS PERSONAL CONFIRMATION

Jesus says to us in verse 16, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” There are a couple of things Jesus wants to nail down before the book is concluded. First, He:

A) Confirms His Prophecy

He first confirms that He is the sender of the book. He makes it very clear that he was the one who sent the angel “to testify unto you these things.” The angel had been a divine messenger, commissioned by the Lord Jesus Himself.

The word “testify” simply means a “witness.” It speaks of someone bearing record or giving their testimony. Jesus had sent him on a heavenly mission that we might be informed of what the future held. In Rev. 22:6 we read, “And He (Jesus) said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true.” The prophecies of Revelation are true because they are the words of the Lord Jesus. They are as truthful as He is truthful. They are as reliable as He is.

In case there is someone who may be skeptical or doubtful of the reality of what this book proclaims, Jesus is reminding us that He is the Sender of this book, therefore every word in it is true. When it comes to Revelation you have our Lord’s own personal confirmation that every word is true. Therefore, when it tells us that Jesus will come back, we can be certain He will come back. When it tells us that certain events will take place on this earth, we know with absolute certainty they will occur. When it tells us that this present heaven and earth will be destroyed and replaced with a new heaven and earth, it is as certain as if it had already happened. He also:

B) Confirms His Person

He declares in verse 16, “I am the root and the offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.” The reliability of His message is Who He is. The authority of His person gives authority to His prophecy. He declares Himself to be both the “root” and “offspring” of David. As the “root” He is the ancestor of David. As the “offspring” He is the descendant of David. What seems to be a paradoxical statement is actually a declaration of His deity. He is the God-man! In His deity He is the “root” or ancestor of David. In His humanity He is the “offspring” or descendant of David.

He also declares Himself to be the “bright and morning star.” In Biblical times, to call someone a star was to elevate and exalt that person. As the morning star announces the arrival of

the day, so the Lord's coming will announce the end of this world's darkness and the dawn of His glorious kingdom. We could say it this way. Jesus as the Bright and Morning Star indicates that there is a NEW DAY coming. Praise God there is a new day coming! As the songwriter said:

Some glorious morning sorrow will cease, Some glorious morning all will be peace;

Heartaches all ended, Labor all done, Heaven will open Jesus will come.

Some golden daybreak Jesus will come; Some golden daybreak, battles all won,

He'll shout the victory, Break thro' the blue, Some golden daybreak, for me, for you.

Secondly, we not only see in His closing words His personal confirmation, but also:

2. HIS PERSONAL INVITATION

We read in verse 17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." In these words there are two distinct invitations, delineated by the word "Come." Let's notice these two occurrences of the word "Come." In the first we see:

A) A "Come" From Those Longing

The first "Come" is actually a prayer: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come." Jesus had declared in verse 12, "Behold, I come quickly." Now both the Holy Spirit and the bride say, "Come." The Holy Spirit is asking the Lord Jesus to come back and subdue His enemies and establish Himself as the

King of kings and Lord of Lord's. The bride, all who are saved, echo that prayer and cry out, "Come."

It is much like John's reply to everything in verse 20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." It is a "come" that expresses the longing of the Holy Spirit and the believer for the return of the Lord Jesus. Compare 2 Timothy 4:8. Are there not times when you long for the return of the Lord Jesus? Are there not times when with John you pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus?" There are times when all long for His return. We all get weary of the burdens and battles of life. Praise God, one day the battle will be over. There is not only the "Come" that is from those who are longing, but there is also:

B) A "Come" For Those Lost

The second "Come" is seen in the words, "And let him that heareth say, Come." In this "Come" a personal invitation is given by Jesus Himself for those who are not ready to join in with those who are calling out for the Lord to come. It is our Lord's own personally invitation for the lost to come to Him. The invitation continues in verse 17, "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The Lord Jesus is inviting every lost person to come. Salvation is offered freely to whosoever wil drink.

Praise God, one day I heard His invitation to come. How about you? When I think about the future that is revealed in Revelation, I am glad that I did accept His offer. His offer to unlimited. It is an invitation to "whosoever." It doesn't matter what a person has done or who they are. They can come! They are invited to come. You have the Lord's own personal invitation.

3. HIS PERSONAL ADMONITION

In His closing words the Lord has a very strong warning concerning His Word. We read in verses 18-19, “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.” Such an admonition is found elsewhere in the Scriptures. For example, we read in Deuteronomy 4:2, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

Also in Deuteronomy 12:32 we read, “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.” We read in Proverbs 30:5-6, “Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” This prohibition that in Revelation is one that applies to all Scripture. Let’s notice that the word of admonition:

A) Biblical Addition

In verse 18 He talks about adding to His word. No one is to add any new revelation to the Scriptures. Now, understand that this is a claim that the Scriptures are complete. Sometimes we hear about certain books that are not included in the Bible. Liberals often treat these as if inspired as the books that are in the Bible. Let me just go on record and say that if they were inspired they would be in the Bible. What is in the Bible is what God wanted in the Bible. There is nothing left out of the Bible that should not be in it, and I should add, nothing left out that should have been in it. The Bible is a complete book.

One of the things that bothers me about the Charismatic movement is the “revelations” people are supposed to be having. The Bible is God’s revelation. He does not give additional revelation. I can’t come along and say, “God is going to bless you with a big car and nice house,” unless I have such substantiated and verified by the Bible. All such revelations are merely fleshly and not Biblical.

God’s warning is that if one seeks to add the Bible, as Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, and other false prophets have done in recent times, they will face divine vengeance. The warning is that God, “shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Vs. 18). Furthermore, the warning includes:

B) Biblical Subtraction

In verse 18 the warning involves taking away from the Bible. The acts of divine vengeance in subtracting from the word involves: “God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

To subtract from God’s Word is to be cut off from all God’s blessings—even salvation. Any revision of the Scriptures invokes God’s condemnation. His Word is to never be tampered with. Some act as if it is a minor thing to add to or take away from the Bible, but it is far from minor. It is an act that brings eternal wrath. The Bible is not some you play with, trifle with, or take lightly. It is the Word of God and God never tolerates a tampering with His Word.

That is why I take serious how I handle the Word of God. I am not fearful of man. I am fearful of God. If I make some mad by preaching the Bible, I never lose a minute’s sleep over it. But if I make God mad, I am in serious trouble. After giving us His personal confirmation, invitation and admonition, John closes with these words in verses 20-21, “He which testifieth

these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.” One final time we are reminded that Jesus is coming again. The book of Revelation is our glimpse into the future when He will come. Until He comes, He will give grace to enable us to keep pressing on. I close with the words of John, **EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!**

The Last Chapter

Revelation 22:1-21

Introduction: As things draw near on the end of Revelation, you will notice the pace of John describing things speeding-up, and the detail getting less and less. The emphasis will be upon making sure all the “bases are covered”, and then closing out the greatest Book ever written, leaving the student of the word of God to search out the details in the pages of the other 65 Books of the Bible. In chapter 22, details will be choppy and short. Watch how the tone of the Book changes in verse 6, and how Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the apostle John, New Testament Christians, and those hearing the word of God, all attempt to get a few last words in before closing the Book on time.

A. New Jerusalem, the Capital City (22:1-5)

1. The center of the city: the throne of God and of the Lamb. This is where God the Father dwelt all the past 6,000 years.
2. The source of the river of the water of life:
 - a. Matches the river in Eden (Gen 2:10)
 - b. Matches the river in the Millennium (Ezek 47:1-12)

NOTE: Jesus refers to this water in John 4:10,14

3. The street by the river: lined with the Tree of Life (22:2)

NOTE: Notice the importance of the number 12. Twelve manners of fruit, twelve months, twelve gates of pearl, twelve foundations, twelve apostles, twelve tribes.

a. Twelve manners of fruit - a single tree bearing twelve kinds of fruit! Special kind of tree.

b. For the purpose of the healing of the nations

c. Not affected by the curse imposed upon the old earth
“Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new!”

4. The sight of His face: Nothing shall compare to just one look at His face (22:4)! The great thing to consider is not just that I want to see His face, but rather that Jesus Christ wants to see MY face!!!

5. The sealing of His name: marks of ownership, forever!
We have seen this before with God’s people:

a. 144,000 witnesses (7:3), and here (22:4)

b. As well as with Satan’s people (13:18)

6. The sun is out-done: by the glory of His appearance!
We have seen this before also:

a. Moses coming down from Mt Sinai

b. Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration

c. Paul on the road to Damascus

B. The Testimony of Jesus Christ (22:7) - “Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

1. Based upon the sayings of this Book: True and Faithful (22:6; 3:14; 19:11; 21:5)

NOTE: See how the tone of the Book changes at verse 6. Up to this point, chronological information is given, then Jesus Christ begins to “wrap things up” from here on out.

2. For the purpose of “showing His servants the things which must shortly come to pass” (22:6)

3. No matter what, Jesus is coming (22:7), and you had better “keep my words,” and NOT just hear them (James 1:22)!

4. Based upon eye-witnesses: “What I write, I actually did see” (22:8; cp. 1 John 1:1-3; 2 Pet 1:16; Gal 1:15-18)

5. Make sure you don’t get caught up in all the spectacular (streets of gold, pearly gates, etc), and miss the Saviour! John started to worship the escorting angel instead of GOD for the SECOND time!

6. Get the word out (22:10-15):

a. Don’t seal this Book! (22:10; Cf Daniel 12:4) - It must be read, and read again, and lived!

b. The time is at hand, “I come quickly” (22:12)

c. Get off the fence! Get right, or get wrong! (22:11)

d. “I am what everybody is looking for” (22:13)

e. The tree of Life is available once again (22:14; Cf Gen 3:22). Having “right” to the tree of life, not just “access,” but “authority” whereas some wont.

f. The choice is clear (22:15)

7. Jesus says, “I am the God-Man” (22:16): Notice that He is not only the “root of Jesse” (Creator of Jesse), but also “the offspring of David” (Cf Ps 110:1; Mt 22:41-46; & See notes on Rev 5:5)!

C. The Final Pleas (Requests, 22:16-21):

1. Sinner, come to the water of life:

a. Pleaded by the Holy Spirit first (He always has to work in the heart of a person first), then by the Bride (N.T. Christians), then by those that hear the plea (it propagates itself).

b. An open invitation unto “all who are a thirst” (Mt 5:6), and based upon “whosoever will” (man’s free-will). NOTE: You can lead a horse to water but...!

c. Come and drink *F R E E L Y* (Cf Gen 2:16 with 3:2) - It has already been paid for!!!

2. Anyone, don’t mess with the Book:

a. God is DEAD-SERIOUS about the “corrupting” of the “words” of the Bible! Don’t add to, or take away from them!

b. God promised to preserve the very words of this Book, and He intends on letting no one “corrupt” them (2 Cor. 2:17)!

3. Even So, Come Lord Jesus (22:20-21):

a. Jesus gives the final announcement: I am ready to close out the opportunity for man to get in on my plan for the ages.

b. John wants everyone possible to get in on it, but looks forward to Christ's return, because when everything is all said and done, the only hope for this world is the second coming!

c. But until then, Christian, we need the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with you (22:21)!