



WHAT'S
NEXT

VISIONS OF REVELATION



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What's Next?

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This book is your **key to understanding the future!** This key will unlock the mysteries of the last book of the Bible, Revelation. You will now be able to understand its apocalyptic messages, the mysteries of the FUTURE, and many of the secrets of the universe!

THE GLOBAL CRISIS

We are living in a time of global turmoil. People are hurting! They hunger to know what the future holds. The economy is terrible. Every day brings fresh problems. People are living in fear of financial loss, sudden death, terrorism, war, and natural disasters. People are crying out for answers! *Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What will happen next? What will happen to me when I die?*

Two thousand years ago, Jesus gave His disciple, John, a number of visions foretelling the future from John's day to our day and a thousand years beyond. The Angel of God told John to write these visions down in a book. The name of the book is Revelation, the last book of the Bible. The opening statement of the book tells us where the information comes from, and how that information came to us.

The apostle, John the Revelator, wrote, **“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place. And He sent it and signified it by his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, and to all things that he saw” (Revelation 1:1, 2, NKJV).**

Revelation means *revealing*. In the book of Revelation, God reveals the future before it happens. God gave us the visions of Revelation to show His servants (faithful followers) “What’s next!” Jesus “sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John who bore witness . . . to all things that he saw.” Both Jesus and His angel delivered the information to John in visions. John wrote what he saw in the book titled Revelation.

The very name of the book tells us that in these visions God has “revealed” to us many of the future events before they happen. The book of Revelation reveals how to survive the coming global disasters and be ready when Jesus Christ returns to take His faithful children home with Him.

In the very first vision in this collection of visions called Revelation, Christ promises to bless everyone who “reads, hears and keeps” these visions fresh in their minds!

God Will Bless You!

God promises that He will bless you as you seek to

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understand the last book of the Bible, and God does not lie. Christ says, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Revelation 1:3).

If we desire the blessing God promises to those who “read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy,” we must begin at once to *make the study of the book of Revelation a priority!* As we do this, God will pour out His *power* upon us, and provide us with knowledge and security both now and later through the coming conflict. God will use this final crisis to save His children. God says, “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:22).

What's Next? is a study guide that makes it much easier for you to understand Revelation, the last book of God's Word. If you want to know important future events *before* they happen, you will enjoy What's Next? Any person can pick up this small study guide and very quickly increase their understanding of the book of Revelation.

We live in a busy world where thousands of things demand our attention. This basic study guide offers everyone something about which to become excited. You will understand these prophecies much more quickly and easily.

THE ABC'S OF GREAT REVIVAL

Many people are beginning to realize their need for a great revival but do not know where to begin. One author, in writing about the book of Revelation says, “When we . . . understand what this book means to us, there will be . . . a great revival,” (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 113).

The reason more people do not study and understand the book of Revelation is that it seems too difficult for them. Many authors write long books with big words and difficult-to-understand concepts, which seem beyond the scope of many normal, everyday people. There are those who love Bible prophecy and clearly understand the book of Revelation. However, the majority, even among committed Christians, do not understand it. Many think they are just not knowledgeable enough to wade through a large book on Revelation.

You Can Understand Revelation!

God has promised special blessings to those who study Revelation. Would God ask us to study a book and even promise to give us a special blessing for doing so, if we were not able to understand it? Of course not!

REVELATION'S FOUR SECTIONS

God did not give John the visions of Revelation in chronological order so that each of the 22 chapters of Revelation follows one another in time sequence. The events in the second chapter of most books occur after the events of chapter one, and the events in chapter three occur after those in chapter two. This is not so in Revelation.

The book of Revelation is like four books in one. There are three sections in the first half of Revelation, chapters 1 through 11, and one section in the last half of Revelation, chapters 12 through 22. The first three sections in the first half of Revelation are largely historical, meaning most of the things predicted in the first half of Revelation have already happened. The fourth section, which is the entire second half of Revelation, is largely eschatological, which

means that most of those things spoken of in the last half of Revelation have not yet happened. Most prophecies in the last half are unfulfilled prophecies.

REVELATION 1–3

SEVEN LETTERS FROM GOD

The First Section

You will find seven letters from God in Revelation 1-3. In each of these seven letters to the church and its leadership, Jesus says, “I know your works.” Christ knows what you are doing each day, both the good and the bad.

Christ told John what to write to the churches at (1) Ephesus, (2) Smyrna, (3) Pergamos, (4) Thyratira, (5) Sardis, (6) Philadelphia, and (7) Laodicea. Christ’s letters to these seven churches have a dual application. God not only spoke to seven individual churches and their leaders, but He also predicted exactly what would happen within the Christian church from the resurrection of Christ to the second coming of Christ.

Christ divided the years from His resurrection down to His second coming into seven historical periods. He

gave John, in vision, seven letters addressed to both those Christians who were living in those seven churches and those living during the seven historical periods from the time known as Ephesus, the time of the apostles, to Laodicea, the time in which we now live. The historical period of the seven churches is a period of approximately 2,000 years.

Below we read the words Christ says to the seventh church age, to the church that is active just before He returns the second time. He says that they think they are spiritually “rich, wealthy and have need of nothing.” In reality, He says, the churches of our day are “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” and “do not know” their true condition. He calls for the modern Christian of the 21st century to repent. He promises that those who do “repent” and “overcome” will sit with Him on His throne!

“To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, *I know your works*, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your

eyes with eye salve, that you may see. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Revelation 3:14–21).

Christ will return during the seventh and final church period known as Laodicea. Read Christ’s counsel to His church in the 21st century, those who are living now, just prior to His second coming. You will find it in the last verses of Revelation, chapter three, written to God’s end-time people whom He calls Laodicea, meaning *lukewarm*. God calls those who claim to follow Him just before Christ comes again “lukewarm” and calls for them to repent.

If you have a red-letter edition of the Bible, which shows all the words spoken by Jesus in red letters, you will notice that most of the material in the first three chapters of Revelation is in red. Christ spoke to John and told him to write these seven letters. This first vision of the seven churches is information Christ gives to encourage and counsel His church through seven different time periods over the approximately 2,000 years from the early Christian church until He comes again.

REVELATION 4–7

THE BOOK WITH SEVEN CHAPTERS

The Second Section

You will find “The Book with Seven Chapters” in Revelation 4-7. **“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals” Revelation 5:1.**

Here the book of Revelation calls Jesus Christ the “Lamb of God.” Christ opens each of the sealed chapters, one seal (one chapter) at a time. In this second parallel prophecy, Christ reveals the events taking place on planet Earth during seven specific periods, beginning immediately after His death on Calvary’s cross. This seven-sealed book foretells the spiritual fall of God’s church through the centuries from the days of the apostles until the return of Christ to take His faithful children home to heaven.

The White Horse

“The Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer” (Revelation 6:1, 2, NKJV).

One may see the progressive fall of God’s church in the first four sealed chapters. In these first four chapters of this sealed book, God uses four horses to represent the changes that would come to His church. The first rider, on a white horse, represents the early church, right after Christ’s resurrection, going out and victoriously sharing the gospel.

The Red Horse

“He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword” (Revelation 6:3, 4, NKJV).

The time eventually came, however, when the church actually became a persecuting power, pictured here as a rider on a red horse with a sword in his hand. History tells us that the church turned on its own members, killing more than fifty million in a period of just over

one thousand years of rule. The crime of many whom the church was responsible for killing was the terrible “crime” of reading the Bible. “It was the policy of Rome to obliterate every trace of dissent from her doctrines or decrees. Everything heretical, whether persons or writings, she sought to destroy. Expressions of doubt, or questions as to the authority of papal dogmas, were enough to forfeit the life of rich or poor, high or low. Rome endeavored also to destroy every record of her cruelty toward dissenters. Papal councils decreed that books and writings containing such records should be committed to the flames” (*The Great Controversy*, 61).

One book that Rome could not destroy was *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. George Fox wrote it over four hundred years ago. God pictures the apostate church, in Revelation 17:6, as “drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus” (NKJV).

The Black Horse

“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine’” (Revelation 6:5, 6, NKJV).

The black horse is next. The rider of the black horse comes holding the scales of death. A voice screams out, “A quart of wheat for a day’s wages.” There seemed to be a spiritual famine for the Word of God. The same voice said, “Do not damage the oil and the wine!” Even though the established Christian church rebelled against God, the Spirit of God and His graces were not wholly snuffed out (Revelation 6:6, NKJV).

Through this period of time, God always had those who remained true to Him. It was against the law to own a Bible. The Church of Rome considered it a terrible “crime,” punishable by death. The Church of Rome shut out Jesus, the “light of the world,” and darkness replaced the light of the gospel. It was the time of the black horse; we call it the “dark ages.” Superstition controlled daily life.

The Pale Horse

“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth” (Revelation 6:7, 8, NKJV).

The pale-colored horse of death galloped forward, and spiritual death filled the church. The four horses are just the first four chapters of this mystery book of the future.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1–4, the apostle Paul likewise

foretold this colored portrayal of the spiritual fall of God's church. John speaks of it in Revelation 2:5, and Daniel foretells this fall of the church in Daniel 7:25. The prophecies of this book with seven sealed chapters foretell how the church would eventually become a persecutor of those who truly love Jesus and kill many in the name of serving God. During the time of the sixth seal, Christ will come to save His persecuted children. The bright overpowering light that surrounds Christ, the Creator of the suns and stars, will kill the persecutors as they vainly try to hide in the dark caverns of the earth at Christ's second coming.

Other Texts that Foretold The Fall of the Church

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus . . . Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the *falling away* comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians. 2:1–4, NKJV).

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent” (Revelation 2:5, NKJV).

“He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and

shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand” (Daniel 7:25, NKJV).

“After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons,’ . . . And I heard another voice from heaven saying, ‘Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues’” (Revelation 18:1–4, NKJV).

Before Jesus comes again the “Christian” churches, whom He calls “Babylon the great,” will be totally fallen. God refers to all the “fallen” churches as “Babylon the great” and calls His own people to leave the fallen churches before He destroys them. He says, **“Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”** Revelation 18:4.

REVELATION 8–11

SEVEN TRUMPETS OF WAR

The Third Section

You will find “Seven Trumpets of War” in Revelation 8-11. The seven trumpets predicted the progressive break-up of the pagan Roman Empire and events in the political world from the resurrection of Christ to the second coming of Christ. These seven angels with the seven trumpets give us details in regard to the prophecies found in Daniel chapters 2 and 7 at the point of the break-up of the Roman Empire into ten divisions. The first four trumpets deal with the downfall of the Western part of the Roman Empire between A.D. 351 and 476, followed by the eastern part of the empire and events in the political world. Christ returns during the period known as the seventh trumpet. Revelation 11:19.

“Then the seventh angel sounded. . . . Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail” (Revelation 11:15–19, NKJV). (See Daniel and Revelation by Uriah Smith)

REVELATION 12–22

FIRST WAR TO FINAL WAR

The Fourth Section

You will find “The First War to Final War” in the last half of Revelation, chapters 12–22. This is the fourth and final section of Revelation.

“And *war* broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail” (Revelation 12:7,8, NKJV).

This very real warfare began in heaven and is continuing on planet Earth. This warfare has touched every man, woman, and child that has ever lived. Satan introduced sin and death into this universe. Christ will win this warfare and destroy Satan, sin, and death. He will give us the victory in the warfare that is now taking place on earth between Satan and the followers of Christ.

To What Event Does Each of These Four Sections Point?

The first three parallel sections began about 2,000 years ago just after Christ died on the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven. In addition, all four sections lead us to the second coming of Christ when there will be “*lightnings and thunderings and voices.*”

Four parallel visions begin after Christ rose from the grave and take us to His second coming, at which time there will be “*lightnings and thunderings and voices.*”

(1) Revelation 4:5

(2) Revelation 8:5

(3) Revelation 11:19

(4) Revelation 16:18

Section four, however, does not stop with Christ's second coming. It continues for over 1,000 years. In the last three chapters of Revelation, God tells us what life will be like during the 1,000 years after Christ's return and beyond, when His followers will forever have homes in His beautiful City, New Jerusalem.

Section four begins in Revelation 12 with the first war that was ever fought. Strangely, Christ and Lucifer, known as Satan, the angels who remained loyal to Christ, and those who joined Lucifer's rebellion fought the first war in heaven.

Christ will be completely victorious and bring the war that began in heaven to a fair conclusion. Soon Christ will come for His faithful followers. Christ and the redeemed

will spend a thousand years in heaven together. At the end of that 1,000-year period, Christ and the redeemed will return to planet Earth. At that time, Christ will destroy the surface of this world by fire, and then re-create the earth with majestic splendor. He will turn earth into a wonderful paradise for those who follow and serve Him. (See Revelation chapters 20 and 22.)

Christ Will Deliver His Followers with “Lightnings, Thunderings, and Voices”

When God delivered His children from Egyptian persecution and slavery, He did it with thunder and hail and lightning as well as several other plagues. “And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent *thunder* and *hail*, and the *fire* ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained *hail* upon the land of Egypt” (Exodus 9:23). When God delivers His children at the second coming of Christ, He will again use a number of plagues that include thunder and hail and lightning.

God says, **“And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great . . . and every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of *the plague of the hail*; for the plague thereof *was exceeding great*”** (Revelation 16:18–21).

Italics added for emphasis).

God will fight for His children with His mighty Word. When Christ speaks the words “It is done,” the hail will fall and the earth will quake. God will destroy those who seek to hurt His people with huge hailstones and the mother of all earthquakes. God says, “You will be punished by the LORD of hosts. With thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring fire” (Isaiah 29:6, NKJV). God’s Word predicts that Satan will deceive the entire world into persecuting God’s obedient children and that God will rise up like a mother bear protecting her cubs and fight in their defense.

The fourth and last section differs from the first three sections in the first half of Revelation. The last section begins with Satan’s war with God the Father and Christ in heaven. It continues until sin, Satan, sinners, and death are no more. Christ then restores universal peace and happiness to this world. The most important part of Revelation for those living in the 21st century is the last half because it deals with more events that are still in our future than the first half does.

Chapter Six

A QUICK OVERVIEW THE LAST HALF OF REVELATION

- **Chapters 12, 13 and 14** cover the history of the war in heaven before God created the world, up to the time of Christ's second coming.

- **Chapters 15 and 16** reveal details about the seven last plagues that precede the second coming of Christ.

- **Chapter 17** provides details to the identity of the worldwide religious apostasy, which God has named "Babylon" that will exist upon the earth before Christ's second coming.

- **Chapter 18** records God's last call to come out of the religious apostasy that God calls Babylon. In chapter 18, the entire world will mourn and weep at the financial collapse brought about by the destruction of the religious

empire known as Babylon.

- **Chapter 19** Christ comes as a warrior to deliver His children from the religious persecution that takes place worldwide just prior to His second coming.

- **Chapter 20** details the events that occur during the 1,000 years after Christ returns.

- **Chapters 21 and 22** explain the rewards God has for His children. God tells us a little bit about life in paradise.

The Last Eleven Chapters: War between Christ and Satan

The last half of Revelation uses the word *war* seven times. Notice them below:

1. **“There was *war* in heaven” (Revelation 12:7).**
2. **“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make *war* with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).**
3. **“Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make *war* with him?” (Revelation 13:4).**

4. “And it was given unto him to make *war* with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Revelation 13:7).

5. “These shall make *war* with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings” (Revelation 17:14).

6. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness, he doth judge and make *war*” (Revelation 19:11).

7. “And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make *war* against him that sat on the horse, and against his army” (Revelation 19:19).

We will now examine the last of the four great visions of Revelation, the last eleven chapters of both the Bible and the book of Revelation. We will examine it chapter by chapter, beginning with chapter 12 and continue to the very end of the Bible, Revelation chapter 22.

REVELATION 12

SATAN'S FOUR WARS

REVELATION 12 does not go into a lot of detail but covers the following events. The devil began his war against Christ in heaven. He lost that battle, and Christ cast him out of heaven to planet Earth.

“War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan” (Revelation 12:7-9, NKJV). ⁽¹⁾

The First War

No one has a photo of the devil, but the Bible tells us that he was a beautiful, majestic angel of God. His name was Lucifer. He wears no red pajamas and carries no pitchfork.

Lucifer (Satan) deceived one-third of all the angels of heaven into rebelling against God. Christ threw Satan and the angels who chose to rebel with him out of heaven. Satan, the devil, resumed his war against Christ on planet Earth. He tricked our first parents, Adam and Eve, into sin. Christ stepped down from His throne in heaven and transformed Himself into a human baby born in Bethlehem. He came to die in our place and save us from eternal death. As soon as He was born into the human family, in the town of Bethlehem, the devil and his angels attempted to destroy Christ.

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having *seven heads and ten horns*, and seven crowns upon his heads. The dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. . .” (Revelation 12:3-5, NKJV).⁽²⁾

God Compares His Church to a Woman

God compares His true Christian Church “who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus” to a virtuous woman. In turn, God compares the churches that apostatize to a harlot woman, a whore. See Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23–27; 23:2–4; Daniel 7:23; Revelation 17:3–6, 15, 18.

God foretold that Satan would use seven great mon-

archies to persecute the woman of Revelation, God's true church. We will discover more about the seven-headed dragon in the next chapter.

Satan's Four Wars!

- **One** – Lucifer (Satan) lost the battle with Christ in heaven, and Christ cast him out and cast out those angels who joined his rebellion also (Revelation 12:7).

- **Two** – Satan lost his battle to destroy Christ on earth. He was unable to destroy Christ when He was born in Bethlehem. He was unable to prevent Him from dying the death we deserve so we could obtain eternal, everlasting life. He was unable to hold him in the grave. We serve a risen Savior! (Revelation 12:1–5).

- **Three** – God's Word mentions the 1,260 day-year period in Revelation 12:6; 12:14; 11:2; 11:3; 13:5 and Daniel 7:25. It began in the year AD 538. Justinian made the bishop of Rome supreme over the Christian churches in 533 but there was no one to enforce that order until Justinian ousted the Ostrogoths in the year AD 538. The papacy did not begin with Peter, who never went to the city of Rome. It officially began in 538, hundreds of years after Peter was dead. God predicted that this apostate system would rule supreme for 1,260 years. During this 1,260-year period, the papacy was responsible for torturing and killing more than fifty million people with whom she, the Church of Rome, disagreed!

NOTE ¹- See *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, an accurate history book of millions of people killed by the papacy. George Fox wrote it back in the 16th century, and you may still buy it in most of the Christian bookstores today!

NOTE ² - The papacy did not begin with Peter, who never went to the city of Rome. It officially began in the year 538, hundreds of years after Peter was dead.

NOTE ³ - From the books of Ezekiel and Numbers, we know the Bible key for one "day" is a year. "I have laid on you a day for each year" (Ezekiel 4:6). "Each day . . . one year" (Numbers 14:34).

Satan appeared to win the 1,260 day/year war of Revelation 12 by torturing and killing more than fifty million Christians. In reality, however, whenever a Christian is killed, that Christian sleeps the victorious sleep of death until the resurrection. In reality, Satan loses again (Revelation 12:6).

"The woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days" (Revelation 12:6, NKJV).

The bishop of Rome (the pope) ruled supreme and persecuted God's people for the next 1,260 years until the year 1798, when Napoleon's general took the pope prisoner. (538 plus 1260 = 1798.)

Justinian actually declared the bishop of Rome supreme five years before 538, but the bishop could not act

supreme while the Ostrogoths ruled Rome. Justinian's armies overthrew the Ostrogoths in the year 538. The bishop of Rome ruled supreme for the next 1,260 years until the year 1798, when Napoleon's general took the pope prisoner.

AD 538 (Pope supreme)

 +1260 years (Length of papal persecution)

= AD 1798 (Pope Pius VI taken prisoner)

NOTE¹ Emperor Justinian made the bishop of Rome supreme in the year AD 538.)

NOTE² The 1260 years ended in 1798—the French general Berthier took Pope Pius VI prisoner.

• **Four** – Satan's fourth attack in chapter 12 is in verse seventeen. This is the devil's last attack on God's people, "who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." This refers to Christians who keep God's fourth commandment as well as the other nine. Thus, we know that the devil will bring religious persecution on Christians who keep the Seventh-day Sabbath holy just prior to the second coming of Christ. Satan will make war on the Remnant. God defines them as the last true Christians alive just before Jesus Christ returns that "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." They will win this final war through the victory that Christ purchased for them at the cross.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make *war* with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

The devil began his warfare in heaven and continued it on earth. The dragon's attack on the virtuous woman of Revelation 12 is a symbol of Satan's hatred and attack on God's church, God's people, who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17). ⁽³⁾

Why Did Satan Begin the First War in Heaven?

In Revelation 12:17, we notice the word “**war**” and the words “*keep the commandments of God*” are in the same sentence. Lucifer, also known as Satan, rebelled against God and against “the commandments of God.” He hates Christ, who tells us, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

Satan hates Christ, His commandments, and those who obey Christ's commandments. Satan does not want man to love Christ or to show Christ we love Him by obeying His commandments. The first war Satan fought in heaven was over the commandments of God, and the final war he fights against Christ's followers is over God's commandments.

“When the Saints go marching in”

O when the saints go marching in;

O when the saints go marching in;
O Lord, I want to be among the number
when the saints go marching in

In Revelation, God gives us two ways to identify those God calls “saints,” those who “go marching in” to God’s beautiful city, New Jerusalem! Notice the verses below. God says that His “saints” “keep the commandments of God” through power that comes from Jesus. God says that they have “the faith of Jesus.” In other words, they are God’s commandment-keeping Christians. That means they also keep the second commandment and the fourth commandment. Therefore, one of the identifying marks is that they worship on Saturday, the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment, not on Sunday, the first day of the week, as the majority believe and worship.

Two Ways to Identify God’s “Born Again” Saints
“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Revelation 22:14).

FIRST: The people whom God calls saints “keep the commandments of God.” Therefore, one of the identifying marks of God’s saints is that they worship on Saturday,

the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment, not on Sunday, the first day of the week.

SECOND: The people whom God calls saints have **“the faith of Jesus.”** They are born-again Christians who **“keep the commandments of God.”** They are not necessarily physical Jews, but, instead, are the spiritual “Jews” of the New Testament.

REVELATION 12

THE SEVEN-HEADED DRAGON

“**N**ow a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born” (Revelation 12:1–4, NKJV).

In Revelation 12, we read that Christ threw Satan out of heaven. The seven-headed dragon represents both the devil and the seven kingdoms that he has used to try to

both kill Christ when He was born in Bethlehem and to persecute the children of God. In fact, the seven heads of the seven-headed dragon of Revelation 12:3 and the seven heads of the seven-headed beast of Revelation 13:1 are the very same.

Let's look at two quotes, one from a Protestant source and one from a Roman Catholic source. They are both right. The Roman Catholic source, however, only identifies the first six heads of the seven-headed dragon and beast.

First: The *Protestant* source says “the seven great monarchies which have oppressed the people of God; namely, Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Greece, pagan Rome, and papal Rome.” The devil used pagan Rome to attack Christ and to crucify Him. The devil used all of these seven great monarchies to make war on God's faithful followers (*Bible Readings for the Home*, 1914 Edition, page 265).

- 1. Egypt**
- 2. Assyria**
- 3. Babylon**
- 4. Persia**
- 5. Greece**
- 6. Pagan Rome**
- 7. Papal Rome**

Notice the last five kingdoms follow one another. Persia overthrew Babylon and occupied the territory occupied by Babylon. Greece did the very same thing to Persia, and pagan Rome did the very same thing to Greece. Papal Rome, the Church of Rome, replaced pagan Rome and became an even greater persecutor than those that came before it.

Second: A *Roman Catholic Bible* says, “The seven heads are seven kings, that is, seven principal kingdoms or empires, which have exercised, or shall exercise, tyrannical power over the people of God; of these, five were then fallen, viz.: the Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Persian, and Grecian monarchies: one was present, viz., the empire of Rome: and the seventh and chiefest was to come, viz., the great Antichrist and his empire” (Douay-Rheims Version or Catholic Bible, in a note on Rev. 13:1).

NOTE: “*Chaldea*” is another name for *Babylon*.

Why does the Roman Catholic Bible say “five were then fallen . . . one was present . . . and the seventh and chiefest was to come”? Obviously, the ones who wrote the Roman Catholic Douay-Rheims Version of the Bible added this comment because they saw the relationship between Revelation chapter 13 and 17:9–11 as herein quoted.

“Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition” (Revelation 17:9–11, NKJV).

Some people, in wrestling with who the seven heads are, have added “Communism,” “France,” and/or, certain individuals. The book of Daniel, in the Old Testament of the Bible, helps us understand the book of Revelation.

Daniel 7 tells us that the word *beast* always represents kingdoms and not individuals or a belief system.

Each of the seven heads of the seven-headed dragon of Revelation 12 and the seven-headed beast of Revelation 13 represent a **“kingdom”** (see Daniel 7:23), not individuals. Daniel 7 speaks of only four of these seven “beasts,” also known as seven heads, and also known as seven kingdoms.

Is Communism One of the Seven Heads?

Daniel 7 begins with the kingdom of Babylon. Some think that since the first **“beast”** of Daniel 7 is Babylon; that the first head of the seven-headed beast should symbolize Babylon. God’s vision to Daniel began with Babylon, the kingdom that ruled the world in Daniel’s day.

God’s vision to John in Revelation chapter 12, however, began thousands of years earlier with the **“war in heaven”** (Revelation 12:7). For this reason, it appears that these seven persecuting heads begin with earlier persecuting kingdoms, namely Egypt and Assyria.

God considers neither Communism nor France important enough to mention in the Ten Commandments. Egypt is so important, however, that God mentioned it in the very first of the Ten Commandments.

God says, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2, 3, NKJV).

God spoke of Egypt because Satan successfully used Egypt to persecute God's children. God put Egypt as an earlier persecuting power. Did God also put Assyria first before Babylon? The answer is yes. God put Assyria before Babylon, not the author of this small book. God speaks through the writings of the prophet Jeremiah and says, **“Israel is like scattered sheep; the lions have driven *him* away. *First the king of Assyria devoured him; now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has broken his bones*” (Jeremiah 50:17).** God tells us that Assyria and Babylon were two of the first of the seven powers to persecute and oppress God's children.

God's Word declares, “Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to *Assyria*” (2 Kings 17:5–7).

The Seven heads of the Dragon which persecute God's faithful children are:

- 1. Egypt**
- 2. Assyria**
- 3. Babylon**
- 4. Persia**
- 5. Greece**
- 6. Pagan Rome**
- 7. Papal Rome**

REVELATION 13

THE TWO BEASTS

We noticed in chapter 12 how God uses a woman as a symbol of His church. In chapter 13 God tells us about two “beasts.” What do these two beasts of Revelation represent? We have seen from Daniel 7:23 that “beasts” represent kingdoms. Thus, we know that the two beasts of Revelation 13 are two kingdoms or governments.

In this chapter, God reveals the devil’s method of warfare just before Christ returns. As we study together, we will discover the identity of the two end-time international powers, the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth. These two “*beasts*”—two “*kingdoms*”—persecute those who “*keep the commandments of God,*” not allowing them to “*buy or sell*” and make laws that they should “*be killed*” (Revelation 12:17; 13:15–17.)

The Beast from the Sea

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw *a* *beast* rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads a blasphemous name” (Revelation 13:1, NKJV).

(4)

The “Sea Beast?”

What international power does the “sea beast” represent? The “sea beast” of Revelation 13 comes up in a heavily populated area of the earth. How do we know this? Water is a symbol for **“many people.”** **“Then he said to me, ‘the *waters* which you saw . . . *are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*’” (Revelation 17:15, NKJV).** Since the beast rose “up out of the sea,” this kingdom rose in a populated portion of the earth. It arose in Europe.

“And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. All the world marveled and followed the beast. And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months” (Revelation 13:3, 5, NKJV).

This wounding (in 1798) is the same as the going into captivity. (Revelation 13:10). This is in direct fulfillment of the 1,260-day prophecy (1,260 actual years). The deadly wound began healing and the papacy was re-estab-

lished a couple of years later in the year 1800, with less power than in the past. Since her “*deadly wound*” began healing after 1800, the papacy has been quietly regaining her power. She plans to fight for world domination.

NOTE: *From the book of Ezekiel, we know the Bible key for one “day” is a year. “I have laid on you a day for each year” (Ezekiel 4:6).*

God’s Word tells us that the “*beast*” from the “*sea*” is a great kingdom that was to rule forty-two months, which is 1,260 prophetic days or 1,260 years (42 months x 30 = 1,260 days or 1,260 actual years). At the end of the 1260 years this kingdom was to receive a “*deadly wound*” that would be “healed.” Did such an event occur?

As we learned in the notes on Revelation chapter 12, Emperor Justinian made the bishop of Rome supreme in the year 538. What took place 1,260 years later? That was the year a French general inflicted a “*deadly wound*” on the papacy, when he and his army entered Rome in 1798 and took the pope prisoner. Berthier, the French general, abolished the papal government in 1798. Stripped of his power, both civil and ecclesiastical, the captive pope, Pius VI, died in exile at Valence in France, August 29, 1799.

“He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints” (Revelation 13:10, NKJV).

The Beast from the Earth

“And I beheld *another beast coming up out of the earth*” (Revelation 13:11).⁽⁵⁾

What nation does the “earth beast” represent? To understand which nation this “*beast coming up out of the earth*” represents, we will need to understand some of the prophetic symbols. God’s Word says, **“The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues”** (Revelation 17:15, NKJV).

A beast coming up out of water, “*the sea,*” means a kingdom rising from a more heavily populated part of the earth. Therefore, a “beast” coming up out of the earth suggests a nation rising up out of a sparsely populated area of Planet Earth. Time-wise, the “earth beast” was to rise around 1798—about the time the “sea beast” received its deadly wound and went into captivity. The only nation that arose to power around that time from a sparsely populated area of planet Earth is the United States.

“He had power to . . . cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed . . . And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast” (Revelation 13:15–17).

God’s Word foretells that just prior to the second coming of Christ, the two great powers, represented by the “sea beast” and the “earth beast,” will work together to enforce a law that will bring persecution on those who

serve God. Then we shall see the fulfillment of the words of the apostle Paul. He wrote, *“All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”* (2 Timothy 3:12).

NOTE: *Every one who will be ready when Jesus returns must pass the Final Test revealed in this last book of the Bible, Revelation! Will you pass that test? Will you be true to Jesus when you are threatened with economic boycott and death?*

REVELATION 14

THREE LAST WARNING MESSAGES

In this chapter, God's people battle Satan and his evil angels using the sword of the spirit, the word of God. They carry God's last warning message to "*every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people*" (Revelation 14:6). All of God's remnant people follow Christ by faith as He finishes His work in His sanctuary in heaven. They plant the seeds of God's last warning message, the three angels' messages, throughout the entire world.

First Warning

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 'Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven,

and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters' . . . Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle . . . He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped” (Revelation 14:6, 7, 14, 16).

A person might ask why the Bible tells us that *“the hour of his judgment is come”* in verse 7 but does not tell us about Christ’s second coming until seven verses later in verse 14? The reason is that God’s judgment comes first, like *“a thief in the night.”* Most people believe that the judgment of all humanity will occur after Christ comes the second time. They do not realize that the judgment of those who claim to be Christ’s followers is taking place right now, even as you read these pages.

God’s judgment will close shortly before He comes in the clouds of glory. At that time, Christ will say, **“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”** *“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be”* (Revelation 22:11, 12).

When Christ speaks those words, the judgment of the living is over and He will bring His “reward” with Him. The judges of planet Earth always sentence or release the person on trial after the trial is over. In other words, *the judge gives out the “rewards” at the close of the*

trial, not before. Thus, we know that the judgment of the living is over *before* Christ returns, because when He returns He brings His “rewards” with Him.

We can learn much about the judgment that is going on now in heaven by studying the earthly temple, also called “the sanctuary,” which was a miniature of God’s great temple in heaven and the work God is doing there.

(6)

Second Warning

“And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (Revelation 14:8). (7)

“Her fornication” is her false teachings. This “fall” of “Babylon” foretells a time when the church will reject Bible truth concerning God’s law, and His pre-advent judgment, and thus will lead all nations to accept her unscriptural beliefs.

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen . . . Come out of her, my people, so you will not share in her sins and so that you will not receive her plagues” (Revelation 14:8, 18:2, 4, NKJV).

Many churches that claim to follow Christ have turned away from His teachings. In other words, Jesus Christ says, “God will pour out His plagues on the disobedient churches.” Come out of them, My children, so that you will be safe.

Those churches, known as Babylon, have not yet completely fallen as of the writing of this book. They are falling now. Babylon will be completely fallen when the church unites with the world governments to persecute those who **“keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”** Revelation 14:12; 12:17; 13:17.

1. Where does God say most of His people are?

“In Babylon!”

2. What does God say His people must do?

“Come out of Babylon!”

3. Notice God does not say, “go out of Babylon.” If you hear a person calling you to come out of your house, where is that person?

He is outside calling you out, also.

4. If you hear God calling you to come out of Babylon, where is God?

God is withdrawing from those churches that are part of Babylon. He is calling you to follow Him out also! Listen to His voice and follow your sacrificing Savior out of Babylon!

5. Will you choose today to follow your Savior out of Babylon? Follow the One who loves you so much He shed His blood so that you can live forever!

“Come out of her, My people” “so that you will not share in her sins” “so that you will not receive any of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

Follow Jesus out of Babylon and “raging storms may

What's Next?

round us beat,” but we’ll have “a Shelter in the time of storm. We’ll never leave our safe retreat,” for we’ll have “a Shelter in the time of storm. A shade by day, defense by night, a Shelter in the time of storm; No fears alarm, no foes affright, a Shelter in the time of storm.”

Where Is God?

God is withdrawing from those churches that are part of Babylon. He is calling His people to come out, too! Listen to His voice! He says, “Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues” (Revelation 18:4).

God Says, “My People Are in Babylon”

God says, “*BABYLON is Fallen, is Fallen. COME OUT of her MY PEOPLE.*” If you recognize yourself as being in one of the churches that make up “spiritual” Babylon you are saying, “I am God’s child,” because that is where God says His children are. Who am I to argue with God? Praise the Lord that you are His special child and that He cares enough for you to call you out of Babylon. God sent two angels to Sodom to warn His child, Lot, to leave Sodom. God is sending you the messages of three angels, to call you out of Babylon. (See Revelation chapter 14).

Jesus Warns Us, “Remember Lot’s Wife!”

You know the story of “Lot’s wife, ”as recorded in

Genesis. Lot left Sodom and God spared his life. His wife turned back and lost her life. Lot could have argued with God that he had lived in Sodom all his life and had many friends there; that Sodom was not such a bad place to live. Did God actually expect him to leave his home, and his friends? Yes, He did. Did God destroy Sodom? Yes, He did. Will God also destroy Babylon? Yes, He will. You are His child and He is calling you out of Babylon. He expects no less of you or me than He expected of Lot. (Luke 17:32; Genesis 19.)

Do You Love Christ Enough to Follow Him out of Babylon?

God has not called you to leave your home like Lot yet, but He is calling you to come out of Babylon. Child of God, I urge you to obey Christ who says, *“He that is unwilling to take up His cross is unworthy of Me.”* The cross was a cruel form of torture. Christ chose to die on the cross out of love for you. God is calling you to follow Him out of love for Him. Do you love Him enough to obey His voice, leave the church you grew up in, and follow Him all the way out of Babylon?

Where does God say the majority of His children are just before He comes to get them? He says that they are in the churches that make up “spiritual” Babylon. Does God condemn His children for being in Babylon? No! God loves His children and calls them out. God does not condemn His children, but He does condemn “Babylon.”

Therefore, if you have chosen Christ as your Master, you are probably in one of the churches that constitute Babylon, because that is where God says His people are.

You are not condemned for belonging to one of these churches that God calls “Babylon,” but God will condemn everyone who remains in these fallen churches that God calls “Babylon.” Those who remain in these “fallen” churches will be condemned and receive the last “*seven plagues.*” All of those who are following their master, Jesus Christ, will hear His call and come out. Lot was not condemned for living in Sodom, but his wife lost her life when God called them out of Sodom and she turned back, hoping to go back to Sodom. Child of God, your Master, Jesus Christ, is calling you to follow Him. Listen to His voice and you will be safe! (Genesis 19.)

What a Shock!

Many Christian leaders condemn God’s warning message just as the religious leaders condemned Christ. Two thousand years ago the religious leaders said, “*Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed?*” It is sad but a large number of Christian leaders today are fighting against the unpopular truths of God’s Word, teaching that God has sealed the books of Daniel and Revelation. Many teach that God does not want us to understand these prophecies. However, by rejecting unpopular messages from Revelation, they are rejecting God.

Come Out of Babylon!

Why is God calling *His people* to come out of Babylon? He is calling His people out in order to protect them from the soon-coming plagues and destruction! For more information on the fall of Babylon, the end-time spiritual apostasy, look in comments on Revelation 17 and 18 in this book and the endnotes.

Third Warning

“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, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation” (Revelation 14:9, 10).

“Worship the Beast?”

In Revelation 14:9 and 10, God urges us not to receive the “mark” of the first “beast” (kingdom or government) of Revelation 13. Just two verses later Christ contrasts those who “receive” the “mark” of “the beast” with the “saints” who do not receive the mark of the beast but “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” The mark therefore involves the breaking of God’s Ten-Commandment law.

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of

Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).⁽⁸⁾

God’s “saints” are those who choose to obey God, keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus. However, those who do not obey God, worship the beast and his image. They receive his mark and must suffer the seven last plagues.

“All, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave” receive *“the mark of the beast.”* The only exception is a small group of people who really understand God’s plan of salvation and who let God write His law in their hearts. They put God first. They are those who have **“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 13:16; 15:2, 3; Hebrews 8:10).

The Mark?

The majority of this world’s population does not understand the “mark of the beast.” In Revelation chapter three, God speaks to the people alive today just prior to the second coming of Christ. God explains that the majority of church-going people, just before Jesus comes again, think that they are honoring God. However, they don’t even know that they are dishonoring God and are breaking His Ten-Commandment law. God overlooks some of our ignorance and loves us in spite of our ignorance.

God foretells in Bible prophecy that in this coming global crisis, the nations of this earth are going to pass

laws that will seek to force all to break one of God's Ten Commandments. Satan hates God's children and God's law. The churches and religions of the world will unite to oppose God's commandments, thinking that they are honoring God. Here is how God describes the spiritual condition of the churches just prior to the second coming of Christ.

He says, **"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because *YOU SAY, 'I AM RICH . . . AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING'*—and *DO NOT KNOW THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, MISERABLE, POOR, BLIND, AND NAKED*—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne"** (Revelation 3:15–21, NKJV).

NOTE: Capitals and italics added for emphasis.

God says that the church just prior to the second coming of Christ *think that they are “rich, wealthy, and have need of nothing.”* However, *they “do not know” they are spiritually “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”* Notice, God’s Word pictures a people who attend church and they feel spiritually rich but who in reality are spiritually *“poor, blind, and naked.”* They are ignorant of God’s last warning message in the fourteenth chapter of Revelation. They are, therefore, in danger of being unprepared for the final conflict that will soon sweep over planet Earth just before Jesus returns. Many feel that they know it all and do not need to understand the three messages of Revelation 14 that prepare a people for the second coming of Christ. Jesus tells us that these people are “poor, blind, wretched, and naked,” and *they are very ignorant of their condition* (Revelation 3:14–21).

The Third Message of Revelation 14

The “mark of the beast” message is the third of three messages that prepare those in this world for the second coming of Christ. When Jesus comes back the second time the entire world will be divided into two groups, those with the seal of God and those with the mark of the beast.

Let us look at the seal of God. God says, “***Seal up the law among my disciples***” (Isaiah 8:16). God put the seal of His law in the fourth commandment. This is the only commandment, of all ten, that includes both the

Lawgiver's name and His title. The fourth commandment tells us that He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Let us look at how, over the years, man has tampered with God's divine law. The Church of Rome removed God's second commandment (as seen in their Catechisms) and divided the tenth commandment into two parts. Thus giving the impression that they still believe in the Ten Commandments, when in reality, there are only nine remaining in the Catechism. The Church of Rome also changed the fourth commandment. When we speak of the fourth commandment, we are referring to Exodus 20 and not to the Catechism of the Church of Rome.

The *Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion*, in answer to a question as to the day that the fourth commandment tells us to keep holy, says; "During the old law Saturday was the day sanctified; but *the church*, instructed by Jesus Christ, and directed by the Spirit of God, has ***substituted Sunday for Saturday***; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day."

NOTE: Italics added for clarity.

Papal writers tell us, "The very act of changing the Sabbath into Sunday, which Protestants allow . . . because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church's power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin" (*An Abridgment of the Christian Doctrine* by Henry Tuberville, 58).

The Church of Rome Says

“During the old law Saturday was the day sanctified; but the church ...has *substituted Sunday for Saturday*; so now we sanctify the first, not the seventh day” (*Catholic Catechism of Christian Religion*).

“The very act of *changing the Sabbath into Sunday*, which Protestants allow of; . . . because by keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the church’s power to ordain feasts, and to command them under sin” (*Douay Catechism of 1649*).

God Says

In contrast to what the Church of Rome says, God says: “***I am the Lord, I change not***” “If you love me, keep My commandments” (Malachi 3:6; John 14:15).

Papal Rome received Sunday from pagan Rome, and paganism got it from the first rebel, the angel who rebelled against God and His law. In fact, God’s Word teaches us that Satan will make war with those who obey God’s Law, including the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth Commandment. He will “**make war with**” those “**who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ**” (Revelation 12:17; Exodus 20:8–11).

Whom Will You Obey?

Whom do you love the most—God or the Church of Rome? Millions of people do not even know that they

are following a man-made law by observing Sunday above the Sabbath of God.

Question: What does God call those who keep His Sabbath day holy after men have attempted to change His Sabbath day into Sunday?

“Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the *REPAIRER OF THE BREACH*, The RESTORER of Streets to Dwell In.”

“If you turn away your foot from THE SABBATH, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken” (Isaiah 58:12–14, NKJV).

NOTE: Capital letters added for clarity.

Answer: God calls the individual who honors His *Seventh-day Sabbath* by keeping it holy a “*Repairer of the Breach*.” Satan, who hates God and His law, made a breach in God’s holy law. He attempted to change God’s Sabbath day commandment from Saturday, the seventh day of the week, to Sunday, the first day of the week. *Those who keep God’s seventh-day Sabbath holy are repairing the breach that Satan made in God’s law.*

GOD'S SIGN

“Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that *sanctify* them. And *hallow MY SABBATHS*; and they shall be a **SIGN** between me and you, that ye may know that I am the LORD your God” (Ezekiel 20:12, 20).

NOTE: Capital letters added for clarity.

GOD'S FLAG

God made the *Seventh-day Sabbath* the sign of Himself as our Creator and Savior and *His special sign of holiness*. God tells us that His Seventh-day Sabbath is His sign of authority. Satan hates God and His Ten Commandments and decided to hoist Sunday, the first day of the week, as his counterfeit flag in opposition to God's flag. Satan did such a good job that he has fooled most of the world. (Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:8–11; Ezekiel 20:12, 20; Revelation 13:14).

The Church of Rome commands us to keep the first day of the week and disregard God's memorial of creation, the Seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment. To obey God's commandments we must disobey the Church of Rome, and to honor and obey the Church of Rome's commandments requires that we disobey God's commandments. To obey one is to disobey the other.

The change of the Sabbath is a sign or mark of the authority of the Church of Rome, the first beast (the first kingdom, or power) of Revelation 13. Therefore, the change of the Sabbath from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday the first day of the week, is “the mark of the beast.”

Revelation chapter 14 tells us that just before Christ returns, God’s people will preach and teach God’s last three warning messages to everyone on planet Earth to prepare the world for the second coming of Christ.

THE FIRST MESSAGE:

“Fear God, and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment is come” (Revelation 14:7, NKJV).

THE SECOND MESSAGE:

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen . . . come out of her, my people . . . so that you not receive any of her plagues” (Revelation 14:8; Rev. 18:1–4, NIV).

THE THIRD MESSAGE:

“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture [without mercy]” (Revelation 14:9, 10; 18:2–4).

No One Has the Mark Today!

Does anyone have the mark of the beast now? No! No

one will receive the mark of the beast until the time when the laws of the world will force all to honor Sunday worship. The world will unite in punishing and persecuting those who honor God and keep His seventh-day Sabbath holy. Those who love God supreme will honor Him and obey His fourth commandment that says, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates" (Exodus 20:8-10 NKJV).

God's Seal and New Jerusalem!

The mark of the beast is the mark of the beast power's authority. When the nations of this world enforce papal authority with worldwide Sunday laws, then those who choose to obey that authority above the authority of God will be choosing the mark of the beast. Every person in the entire world will have either the mark of the beast or the seal of God. All people will honor either God's sign or the devil's mark. Those who accept God's seal will enter the New Jerusalem, and those who accept the mark will ultimately perish.

Please Choose life!

God says to modern man, "You can choose to believe Me or to disbelieve Me. If you believe and obey Me, I will

take care of you. I will save you. On the other hand, if you choose to disbelieve, you will be choosing death. Please choose life!”

By faith, we can call on God’s promise of safety. **“In the time of trouble He shall hide me . . . in the secret of His tabernacle, [The sanctuary]” (Psalm 27:5).** Enter God’s sanctuary in heaven, by faith, and see Christ in His work of Judgment and let Him write His holy law in your heart.

Conclusion!

“Let us hear the *conclusion* of the whole matter: Fear God, and *keep his commandments*: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). **“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).**⁽⁸⁾ Jesus speaks again and He says, **“If you love Me, Keep My commandments.” (John 14:15).**

God tells us in Revelation 14:12 that only those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus,” will be ready to meet Christ when He returns to planet Earth. Moreover, His judgment is taking place in His sanctuary in heaven at this very moment. Only those who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” will pass the final test, survive the last seven plagues, be protected by the angels of God, and find an eternal home in God’s holy city, New Jerusalem (Revelation 14:6, 7; Revelation 16, 21, 22).

REVELATION 15
**HUMAN PROBATION
CLOSES!**

Revelation 15 brings us to the time when God will close His work of salvation and the judgment, which God has been accomplishing for us in His temple (sanctuary) in heaven. In Revelation 14 God's people, just prior to Christ's second coming, proclaim "the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:6, 7).

Note: emphasis provided.

Christ Says "It is Done!"

God tells that His work of judgment will soon be over with these words: **"The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."** Christ

stands up and says, ***“It is done.”*** **“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work”** (Revelation 15:8; 22:11, 12).

In the now completed judgment, God will have made His final decision of who are among the saved and who are among the lost. God will have sealed His people with His own invisible seal. He will also accept the choice of the lost who have chosen the mark of disobedience, the invisible “mark of the beast.” It is not a mark on the body but a choice to follow the rebellion against God that began thousands of years ago in heaven and has continued upon planet Earth. (See Revelation 12:7, 17.)

Christ compared His second coming to the world-wide deluge when God used nature to destroy the majority of people living on planet Earth at that time. He said, “As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” The world’s probation closed in Noah’s day when God’s angel shut the door on the ark, seven days before the first drop of rain fell (Matthew 24:37–39).

How Many Got into Noah's Ark?

By not entering the ark of safety, all the people to whom Noah preached decided their own fate before the flood. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark for seven days before the flood came. The world's probation closed after Noah made his final appeal. Only Noah, his wife, his three boys, and their wives got on board the ark.

God shut Noah and his family in the ark of safety and shut the world out. No one could open the door again until after the flood. The world did not know that they had sealed their own fate when they chose not to enter the ark of safety (Matthew 24:37–39).

Today we can enter God's ark of safety; His temple, *by faith*, as our prayers rise and enter the ears and heart of Christ in His temple in heaven. Soon probation will close and **“no man”** will be **“able to enter the temple.”** It will be too late to learn to pray. It will then be too late to learn God's last message of love from Revelation, the last book of the Bible. We must ask God to seal us with the seal of the living God *NOW*. If we choose to follow Christ in a life of loving obedience, we will be safe during the seven last plagues.

Human Probation Closes!

REVELATION 16

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

“**A**nd the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled” (Revelation 15:6, 8).

In chapter 16, God’s angels pour out the seven “vials of the wrath of God” on those who choose to remain in Babylon, which includes all who do not *“keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Revelation 12:17).

“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. 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 16:1, 2).

God will have a good reason to pour out His wrath on those that choose to rebel against God. Why? Because the end-time churches will unite with the governments of the world and persecute God’s obedient and faithful children, who “keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 12:17).

Just before Christ returns great plagues will bring great sorrow. Jesus tells us, “*all the*” people “*of the earth will mourn.*” Matthew 24:30.⁽⁹⁾

God calls His battle for His persecuted children “*the seven last plagues*” or “*the vials of the wrath of God*” (Revelation 15:1; 16:1).

First Plague

The first plague is that of foul, smelling and painful sores on those with the “mark of the beast.”

“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” (Revelation 16:2).

Second Plague

The second plague turns the oceans into blood, killing everything in the oceans.

“The second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea” (Revelation 16:3).

Third Plague

The third plague turns the waters into blood, bringing a terrible drought that results in much death.

“The third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood” (Revelation 16:4).

In the second and third plague, the oceans and rivers become **“blood, as of a dead man.”** Millions of people and the creatures in the ocean and rivers die for lack of clean water. Those with “the mark of the beast” will not have clean water to drink, but God will send angels to give those with **“the seal of God,” “bread”** and clean **“water” (Isaiah 33:16).**

NOTE: When the plagues fall, everyone will have either “the seal of God” or “the mark of the beast” (Revelation 7:1–3; 9:4; 14:9, 10).

What will happen to those who have “the seal of God”? God will protect and feed those who chose to serve and obey Christ (Revelation 14:12).

“A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee” (Psalm 91:7).

No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In *their* hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:10–12, NKJV).

“Bread will be given him, His water *will be sure*” (Isaiah 33:15, 16; 1 Kings 17:6).

NOTE: God’s angels will provide protection, food, and water for those who have opened their hearts to obey God, those who “keep the commandments of God,” and whom God seals with the seal of God (Revelation 12:17; 7:2; 9:4. Ezekiel 20:12, 20).

Those whom God has sealed with His seal will rejoice during this time because their **“bread”** and **“water will be sure.”** In addition, they know that this crisis is the sign that Jesus is coming soon. During this time, they will **“re-joyce in the Lord.”** They will rejoice in the God of their salvation. This is the very time that the prophet Habakkuk foretold in the third chapter of Habakkuk.

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:17, 18).

Revelation chapter 14 tells us that the time will come when everyone on planet Earth will either worship “the beast and” receive “his mark” or “keep the command-

ments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:9–12). God seals and protects all of His people who “*keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*” from these coming plagues. They patiently wait for Jesus who will soon come again and deliver them in power and great glory (Revelation 7:2).

Fourth Plague

The fourth plague causes the sun to scorch men with great heat.

“The fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire” (Revelation 16:8).

In the fourth plague, millions will die from the overwhelming heat of the sun and the lack of clean water to drink. God will provide “*bread and water*” for those with “*the seal of God.*”

Fifth Plague

The fifth plague results in darkness, cold, and pain.

“The fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain” (Revelation 16:10).

Sixth Plague

The sixth plague convinces everyone that Babylon's leaders are wrong and the people turn upon their leaders.

“The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared” (Revelation 16:12).

NOTE: Both God the Father, and Christ, the Son of God are kings. Jesus Christ is a king from the east according to God's Word. Jesus said, “For as the lightning *comes from the east* and flashes to the west, *so also will the coming of the Son of Man be*” (Matthew 24:27).

In Bible prophecy, the word “*waters*” is a symbol for many people and nations. **“Then he said to me, ‘*The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues*’” (Revelation 17:15).** This drying up of the great river Euphrates is the drying up of the support of “*peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*”

When all these plagues fall, the people who support the leaders of spiritual Babylon will turn against their own leaders, who taught them to be disloyal to God's commandments. Their leaders had previously taught them that they would never go through these plagues but rather that they would be secretly raptured out of this world be-

fore the plagues would fall. God foretells their final awakening to the fact that they are lost in the words *“the water thereof was dried up.”* As we already noticed in Revelation 17:15, waters mean people support, and the drying up of the waters foretells the time when the people all around planet Earth finally realize they have been duped by the great religious systems.

Those whom their spiritual leaders have deceived will turn against them, saying, “You lied to me, now I am lost.” They will kill many of those who deceived and betrayed them with promises of eternal life but actually led them down the “broad way” that leads to eternal death. The Bible calls that moment, the moment when **“the great river Euphrates . . . was dried up.”** When they turn upon their former spiritual leaders, we know that the King of Kings (from the east) will arrive shortly. His promise is, **“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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also”** (Revelation 16:12; John 14:2, 3).

One author puts it like this, “The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute

those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. ‘We are lost!’ they cry, ‘and you are the cause of our ruin;’ and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them the most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed” (*The Great Controversy*, pages 655, 656).

“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (Revelation 16:15).

The Secret Rapture?

Christ says He will come *“as a thief”* in the night—after five plagues have already fallen. The people, who believe in the secret rapture theory, believe that Christ will come secretly and “rapture” them out of this world *before* any of the seven last plagues fall. Notice, however, that when Christ says, *“Behold, I come as a thief”* (Revelation 16:15), five plagues have already past.

- 1. “Foul and loathsome sores came upon the men who had the mark of the beast”**
- 2. “The sea . . . became blood as of a dead man.”**

3. **“The rivers and springs of water . . . became blood.”**
4. **“The sun” scorched “men with fire.”**
5. **“Darkness,” cold, and “pain”** fell on those who had the **“mark of the beast.”**

All of these things happened and still Christ had not yet come “as a thief” in the night (Revelation 16:15). *Christ comes* “as a thief” in the seventh Plague, not before the plagues, but rather, *during the last plague!*

For these reasons, we can know for sure that the secret rapture is just another one of the counterfeit false doctrines of Babylon. This doctrine gives people the false hope of a second chance. Some have decided, “If I’m not ready when Christ comes the second time in a secret rapture I will prepare for His third coming, three and a half years later.” *This is a false hope!* Satan designed this counterfeit hope to prevent people from properly preparing to meet Christ when He comes the second time.

“But the day of *the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up*” (2 Peter 3:10).

Peter tells us, in the Bible, that His **“thief in the night”** coming will cause **“the heavens”** to **“pass away**

with a great noise, and the elements” to “melt with fervent heat;” and “the earth and the works that are in it” to “be burned up.” That is one very noisy, very hot experience that *everyone will hear, see, and feel*. When Christ speaks in the Bible of His coming “*like a thief in the night*” He always emphasizes that His coming will be “*a surprise*.” It is always “*the hour*” of His coming that is like *a thief in the night*, but nowhere in the Bible does Christ tell us that He will come secretly. There is no “secret” rapture! Look up “rapture” in a Bible concordance and you will not find it because it is not in the Bible! Follow Jesus closely and He will take you through the coming crisis successfully!

“There came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, *It is done*. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a *great earthquake*, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a *great hail* out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was *exceeding great*” (Revelation 16:17–21).⁽¹⁰⁾

NOTE: Emphasis added

Seventh Plague

Christ comes to take His people home during the seventh plague amidst the mother of all earthquakes—every building and mountain in the world falls and 50–75 pound balls of ice finish destroying the cities of planet Earth.

“The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. *Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.* “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:14, 15, NIV).

The words “It is done” are the “sharp sword” that comes out of His mouth. All nature responds with a wild celebration. Giant balls of ice fall and all nature dances, with mountains falling and islands disappearing. Christ comes as a mighty warrior to save His children.

Truth Is Backwards!

Most of the religious teachers that lived when Christ walked the hills of Galilee and of Judea believed the Messiah would come as a mighty warrior. They got it backwards. He came meekly as a lamb. Today many of the great religious teachers teach that Christ is coming meekly in a secret rapture. Today, most of the modern church

leaders have it backwards again. He is coming as a mighty warrior to save His children in a time of great crisis and kill their enemies and “every eye shall see Him” (Revelation 1:7).

Babylon Has Three Parts

“Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath” (Revelation 16:19 NKJV).

Some people think that Babylon is only the Church of Rome. God’s Word, however, teaches us that *Babylon has three parts*. “Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.” When Christ says, **“It is done,”** He will have defeated the three parts of Babylon—paganism, the papacy, and apostate Protestantism. Paganism has never risen. It has always been **“fallen.”** The papacy “fell” several centuries ago, and backsliding Protestantism is spiritually “falling”. When it, the third part of Babylon, becomes totally fallen, God will destroy Babylon.

“Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore” (Revelation 18:21, NKJV).

REVELATION 17

WHO IS SPIRITUAL BABYLON?

Chapter 17 is a flashback. It takes place before the closing scenes of Revelation 16. In this chapter, God identifies Babylon, those religious organizations that have deceived the world into persecuting God's true children, who "keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17). God calls her "*Babylon the great,*" "*the great harlot,*" "*the great whore.*"

"I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and

scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication” (Revelation 17:1–4, NKJV).

In a photograph at Pope John Paul’s funeral, we saw the pictures with the bishops in *purple* and cardinals in *scarlet!*

“Upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, The *Mother* of Harlots and Abominations of The Earth.” “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered . . .” (Revelation 17:5,6).

NOTE: Babylon = Modern church apostasy! ⁽¹¹⁾

BABYLON

Revelation 14:8; 17:3–6

Two Types of Christianity

Revelation 12:1 and Revelation 17:3–6 defines the two classes who call themselves Christian. Today there are many different types of Christians. God, however, says *there are only two types of Christians*. (1) There are those who follow the beast and his image that God calls “*Babylon*” and (2) there are *those who “keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Matthew 7:13–28; Revelation 12:17).

God puts all Christians in one category or the other.

In which category do you want to be? There are only two choices, the popular “fallen” woman who rides a beast (the union of church and state) or the unpopular woman (church) robed in the *sun—the son*, Christ, “*the light of the World.*”

Daniel tells us, “**The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth**” (Daniel 7:23). Thus, we know that whenever God uses the word *beast* in Bible prophecy He is talking about a “kingdom.”

Since a woman in Bible prophecy represents a church, and a beast represents a kingdom or government, when God says in Revelation 17:3 that the harlot woman, Babylon the Great (the spiritually fallen church), rides the beast, it means that the church is going to take control of the government. Anytime a church or churches control a civil government, that church or those churches always persecute those churches with differing beliefs. Since God’s true followers are always a minority in this world, they will be the ones whom the majority persecute. This is exactly what God told will happen shortly before Christ returns. (See Revelation 17:3-6; Matthew 7:13, 14.)

NOTE: The word *beast* in Bible prophecy is God’s symbol of a government.

Babylon, “The Great Whore”

Babylon is the church that controls “*the kings of the earth*” (governments of this earth).

God calls those churches that apostatize just before

the second coming of Christ, “*the great whore*” for two reasons:

First, God calls those churches who apostatize, “the great whore” because of their non-biblical beliefs that they borrowed from paganism.

Second, God calls those churches “the great whore” because they are planning to control the governments of the world to enforce their (false) religious beliefs.

If a woman turns from her husband and chooses “new lovers” who provide her money for love, she becomes a whore. God says that those churches that choose “new lovers,” “*the kings of the earth*” (the governments of earth), become part of Babylon, “**the great whore**” (Revelation 6:14, 15; 17:2, 18; 18:3, 9; 19:19).

In Revelation, God tells us that Babylon (those who follow the beast and his image) is the church that controls “*the kings of the earth*,” the governments of this earth. The great whore is a whore because she no longer depends on Christ for power and now depends on her control of governments for power. This is the reason God calls the churches that used to serve Him “whores.” Instead of being faithful to Him they have “new lovers,” the governments of planet Earth, “*the kings or kingdoms of the earth*” (Revelation 6:14, 15; 17:2, 18; 18:3, 9; 19:19).

The two women of Revelation represent two forms of Christianity, the persecuted church in the wilderness and the church “*with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication*” (Revelation 12:6, 14; 17:2). It was 1984 when

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the United States first established diplomatic ties with any church. In that year, the United States established diplomatic relations with the Church of Rome. Whenever a church and state combine in this way, God calls it spiritual adultery.

NOTE: God says that *Babylon* includes “*that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.*” In 2008 the FCO reported that “currently, *the Holy See has full diplomatic relations with 173 countries*, the EU, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta” (A quote taken from The British Foreign Commonwealth Office online; see Revelation 17:18).

Who is Spiritual Babylon?

REVELATION 18

THE FALL OF SPIRITUAL BABYLON

Revelation 18 is a flashback to Revelation 14:6–16; God’s last appeal to His people prior to His second coming to come out of Babylon, the spiritually fallen churches, before He destroys it.

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 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” (Revelation 18:1–3).

Just before Christ returns, the spiritually fallen churches

will unite their power to control the governments of the world as a way to deal with global catastrophe and urge religious laws upon everyone. When the churches of the world reach out and control the governments, Babylon will be completely fallen and God's judgment will follow swiftly.

“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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward her even as she rewarded you” (Revelation 18:4–6).

Today the majority of the Christian churches that God calls Babylon are falling spiritually. God says that His children are in “Babylon” just before Christ comes again and that He is calling them to come out of those churches that do not *“keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”* (Revelation 12:17; 14:12; 22:14).

“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” (Revelation 18:8).

God tells us that He will destroy those religious organizations that He calls *“Babylon the great.”* Will we listen to His voice and “come out” before it is too late? *“Babylon the great”* is falling and soon be completely *“fallen.”* When that occurs God will destroy Babylon, those

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religious groups and people who persecute and hate His people who **“keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus”** (Revelation 6:15–17 and Revelation 16, 18, and 19).

The Fall of Spiritual Babylon

REVELATION 19
**THE ARMIES
OF HEAVEN**

Revelation 19 is also a flashback to Revelation chapter 16 when Christ sends His angels to pour out “the vials of God’s wrath.” Christ fights the great whore and the armies of earth with His Word, the sharp sword that comes out of His mouth.

“I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes War. “

“His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule

them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” Revelation 19:11–16, NKJV).

Christ’s sword is His word. “It was by His Word that Jesus healed disease and cast out demons; by His word He stilled the sea, and raised the dead; and the people bore witness that His word was with power.” (*The Desire of Ages*, 390.) Moreover, it was by His Word that Christ spoke this world into existence (John 1:1–3). Read the first chapter of Genesis and notice the words “**And God said**” repeated on each day of creation.

It is hard to understand, but *God actually creates through speaking*. Before God speaks, there is nothing, and after God speaks, there is life. Both God’s power to create is in the very words He speaks and His power to destroy is in His very words. His words are more powerful than an actual sword. His Word will change your life forever!

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army (Revelation 19:19).

Christ’s sword is His word. When He says, “**It is done,**” heaven exults over the destruction of Babylon as Christ and His armies defeat “*the kings of the earth, and their armies*” (Revelation 16:17–21; 19:19).

“And the rest (the kings of the earth and their

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armies) were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh” (Revelation 19:19, 21).

REVELATION 20
**THE NEXT 1000
YEARS**

Chapter 20 brings us back to the timeline after His people are safe in heaven with Him for 1,000 years. Those who asked Jesus to forgive their sins, who loved Him, and kept “the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus,” live with Christ for a thousand years in heaven (Revelation 14:12).

“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. The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (Revelation 20:4, 5).

In chapter 20, Satan resumes his warfare against

Christ after spending the 1,000 years in solitary confinement on planet Earth.

“He laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:2).

Those who did not choose God’s remedy for sin, Jesus Christ’s sacrificial death, remain dead during this 1,000-year period. Satan and his evil angels are alone on planet Earth. The earth at that time will be dark (like a “bottomless pit”) for a thousand years, a place of solitary confinement for the devil and his angels.

The devil, at that time, will have no one to tempt. He will be “bound” by circumstances for 1,000 years. The righteous are in heaven during this 1,000-year period, and the wicked are dead.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations” (Revelation 20:7, 8).

After the 1,000 years, God’s city will come down upon planet Earth. (See Revelation 20:9; 21:3, 10.) Christ then speaks, and His voice raises the vast number of wicked back to life. The righteous will be safe inside the city with God the Father, Christ, and His angels. The wicked will be outside the city with Satan and his angels.

“I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books

were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works” (Revelation 20:11, 12).

“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them” (Revelation 20:9).

The wicked live for a certain time outside the city of God on the broken earth. At this time, Satan is “loosed.” He now has people to tempt again. Satan deceives the wicked, appearing to them as “an angel of light.”

Satan, his angels, and the wicked unite. They determine to attack the city of God, hoping to take it by force. As they surround the city, Christ appears above the city on a Great White Throne and judges the wicked. Fire falls to the earth, consuming everybody and everything outside the city of God. This fire envelopes all of the earth. God gives those inside the city eternal life, and God reduces everything and everybody outside the city, including the devil, to ashes.

Home in God's Holy City

God's people, saved through the ages, will forever call God's City, New Jerusalem, home. Those who love God will travel to other solar systems and other worlds and will always have a home in the Holy City, sitting next to the

King of kings who sits upon His throne. (See Revelation 3:21; Ezekiel 28:14, 18.)

REVELATION 21

**HOME
AT LAST**

“**A**nd 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; And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the

city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass” (Revelation 21:10, 19–21).

All those who passed through the battles victoriously, by means of the blood of Jesus Christ, inherit eternal life and have a home in God’s great city, the New Jerusalem.⁽¹³⁾

REVELATION 22

ETERNAL JOY AND SECURITY

Hallelujah! Christ has conquered and there will be war no more! Never again will people kill each other. In Revelation chapter 22, God tells us more about the beauties of life in God's holy city, New Jerusalem. We will always be able to talk face to face with God the Father and with Christ, God the Son. God's name, His character, will forever be in our minds.

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His ser-

vants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name *shall be on their foreheads*” (Revelation 22:1–4, NKJV).⁽¹⁴⁾

The apostle Paul writes, “Without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*” (Hebrews 11:6). The devil doesn’t want you to realize the fantastic “rewards” that God plans for you to have throughout eternity. The devil, Satan, wants us to picture eternity as a nebulous strumming of harps on the clouds or similar gibberish. He doesn’t want us to come to God and find this fabulous gift of eternal life in a real paradise. Christ has purchased all of this for us! He paid the full punishment by dying the death our sins deserve so He could purchase us the life He deserves!

Eternal life will be much like life now, only immeasurably better! There will be springs of living waters and the tree of life, which produces a dozen different types of fruit every month. Eating of this fruit protects against death, and its leaves protect us from all illness, so there will be no need of hospitals, doctors, nurses, funeral homes, or graveyards. The streams will always be clear, pure, and never dry up. Nature will be more beautiful than ever, with no more deserts, weeds, blood-sucking insects, or mean wild animals. The animal kingdom will be at peace. Instead, there will be a world of supreme beauty, prepared as a gift for those our Lord rescued. The flower-covered plains rise into hills and mountains with majestic peaks of

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great beauty. It is among all this beauty that God makes a home for His children.

Christ extends to us His warning, His invitation, and His blessing. He says:

“Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie” (Revelation 22:14, 15, NKJV).

The last six chapters (19-24) are a quick review of the events that happen after Christ returns.

THE HARVEST OF PLANET EARTH

The end of Revelation 14 fast-forwards to God's final harvest, the second coming of Christ. At harvest time, the farmer takes care of two things, the crop and the weeds. First, Jesus saves those who have responded to His loving appeal. Second, Jesus cleanses the universe of all sin, sinners, Satan, and unhappiness forever. Jesus spoke of this twin harvest in Matthew 13:39–43. In one harvest, the righteous, whom Jesus Christ calls *“good seed,”* *“will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father”* (Matthew 13:43).

“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And He that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped” (Revelation 14:14, 16).

Christ Destroys the Persecutors

In the harvest of the wicked, Christ said that the weeds will “**be gathered and burned in the fire.**” Christ, sadly, destroys those who do not respond, those who persecute His children (Matthew 13:41, 42).

“And another angel came out from the altar, and cried, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:18, 19).

The combination of the violent anger of the lost who are now totally controlled by the devil and the anger of God in the seven last plagues has killed all the unholy people of the earth—priests, the rulers, and everyone who fought against His chosen people, whether they were rich or poor. The brightness of His glory blots them from the face of the whole earth. “At that day the slain of the LORD shall be from *one* end of the earth even to the *other* end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground” (Jeremiah 25:33).

When Christ has taken His people to the City of God, He does not even leave one living person on planet Earth. The prophet Isaiah tells us, “See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants. The earth will be completely

laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left" (Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 6, NIV).

"I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil, and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up. He set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while" (Revelation 20:1–3, NKJV).

Have you ever talked on the telephone and said, "I'm sorry, but I can't come over, I'm all tied up?" I have spoken that way before. Did I mean that my wife had gotten angry with me and tied me up in ropes or chains and I was helpless to move or unable physically to come over? No! Of course not! I had something else that I was doing that I felt was more important than coming over to your house right now.

Will God chain the devil with "chains" made out of metal? No! Of course not! God will bind him with a chain of circumstances. God will not permit him to travel throughout the universe. He will be isolated to planet

Earth. With the righteous in heaven, and the wicked dead asleep in the sleep of death on the earth, the devil and his angels have no one to tempt. Time will hang heavy upon them. It will drag slowly by for one thousand years. Super stupendous! God will isolate the devil and his rebel angels for a thousand years with nobody to tempt.

FINAL WAR!

“**T**hen I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having a key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him so that he could deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things, he must be released for a little while” (Revelation 20:1–3, NKJV).

The phrase *bottomless pit* pictures the earth in a state of disorder and darkness. The Bible says, “**In the beginning,**” the earth “**was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.**” The Hebrew word here translated “deep” (Genesis 1:2) in the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testa-

ment, is the same word that is translated “*bottomless pit*” in Revelation 20:1–3. Revelation teaches that God will bring the earth back, partially at least, to this condition.

Looking forward to the great day of God, the prophet Jeremiah declares, “I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger” (Jeremiah 4:23–26, NIV).

For a thousand years, Satan will travel back and forth in the devastated earth, looking at the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time, Satan will experience extreme pain. The judgment of the lost takes place during this 1,000 year period between the first and the second resurrection.

God gives judgment to His children. “The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 7:22, NIV).

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and

reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4, 6, NKJV).

During the 1,000 years, the righteous will judge both unholy people and unholy angels. The apostle Paul writes, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world . . . Do you not know that we will judge angels?” (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, NKJV).

Jude declares, “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6, NKJV).

“But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection” (Revelation 20:5, NKJV).

The Next 1,000 Years

The Lord descends from heaven with all His holy angels, bringing His people with Him. “And in that day, His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake,

In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with You” (Zechariah 14:4, 5, NKJV).

“The City is laid out as a square; its length as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forth-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald” (Revelation 21:16–19, NKJV).

Brilliant

The foundations of the city and its walls were made of all kinds of precious stones of varying colors: *white, green, pink, orange, yellow, blue, gold, red, purple.*

Spectacular Color!

Brilliantly colored foundations surround the lower part of the city for hundreds of miles in each direction. In addition, the brightest rainbow ever seen covers the city in *spectacular color*. The city and its walls rest on twelve foundations, each one having the name of one of the twelve apostles of Christ written on it. The city has

twelve gates—three gates on each side. The city is always full of daylight due to the light, brighter than the sun, coming from God. The River of Life clear as crystal flows from the throne of God through the city. The Tree of Life loaded with twelve different types of fruit spans the river, with part of its trunk on either side.

As the New Jerusalem, in its dazzling splendor, comes down out of heaven, it rests on the place purified and made ready to receive it. Christ, with His people and the angels, then enter the Holy City.

Christ speaks, calling all of the lost people that had ever lived back to life again. Satan thinks he has one last chance to succeed in his rebellion. He thinks, “If I could just train and equip all of these people, together with the angels that have followed me, I will have a super army. I will attack New Jerusalem, and I will achieve my dreams of being God.”

Satan works with new energy. He works miracles and tells those who were raised from the dead, “I am God, and it was my power that brought you out of the grave. “Look,” he says, “at that beautiful city. That is my city. That is where you will live once we capture it back from the evil enemy.” Satan puts on a real show. He makes the weak people strong and electrifies all with his enthusiasm. Everyone is excited and works hard building a mighty army. We do not know how long they spend, but they prepare vast military weapons of war and lay plans on how to attack and conquer the beautiful city, New Jerusalem.

General Satan lays his plans first with his angels and then with other generals that have fought great wars in their former lives. Big names are there, like Napoleon and Adolph Hitler and Alexander the Great. We do not know all their names at present, but we know that they are skilled military leaders. Military leaders and angels organize the lost billions into companies and divisions.

At last, Lucifer gives the order to march, and his super army moves on. There has never been, in all of history, such a mighty army or one better equipped with military hardware. Putting together all the armies that had ever fought could not compare to this one army made up of Satan, his angels, and the billions that chose to rebel with him.

Kings, generals, soldiers, and multitudes follow in vast companies, each under its chosen leader. With military perfection, they march over the earth's cracked and uneven surface to the City of God. Jesus then shuts the gates of New Jerusalem. The lost are shut out, and the saved are safely inside. Satan and his armies surround the city and prepare to attack.

Now Christ takes charge of the situation. Everyone sees Him. High above the city, on a foundation of shining gold, Christ sits on an elevated throne. His people, the saved of all ages, are all around Him!

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the lamb,

clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9, NKJV).

“I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:11, 12, 15, NIV).

Jesus opens the books of record and looks at the wicked. All of their sins are fresh in their minds. They see just how far they drifted from the path of righteousness and holiness. They see just how far selfishness and rebellious choices carried them away from God’s great law of love. Then they finally realize how very unthankful they were for the numerous times God protected them. It seems to be branded on their minds in living fire. They see the hatred they showed for those who truly cared for them, the rejection of God’s message of warning, of God’s messengers, and His mercy. It all appears as if written in letters of fire.

WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

We all look up, and every eye focuses on the cross above God's throne. Like a panoramic movie with the sky as the movie screen, the scenes of Adam's temptation and fall appear in the sky. Next, we watch the actual scenes of the human birth of the King of kings in Bethlehem.

We see Joseph putting straw and a blanket in a donkey's food box, preparing a place for the baby king to sleep. Mary wraps up her newborn baby, gently rocking her baby. She nurses the newborn King and gently puts her newborn in the place prepared by Joseph.

Everyone continues watching and we see the video scenes from Christ's simple, obedient childhood. As we look, we can see Him walking down to the side of the river talking with John the Baptist. John baptizes Jesus. We see Jesus holding the hand of John as John eases Christ

down under the water of the Jordan River. Jesus is coming out of the water, and we hear the voice of God. The Father speaks, saying, “This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.” At this very moment, a form of a dove comes down from the sky, and we know this to be the sign of anointing by God the Holy Spirit.

Next, we see Christ miraculously healing the sick and hear Him teaching others the plan of salvation. At last, we see Him spending a night that begins in prayer in the garden of Gethsemane and ends with Herod and Pilate’s soldiers torturing Christ. We see Pilate’s soldiers laughing at Christ and making a crown of long, sharp thorns for His head. Blood runs down His face and His beard as the soldiers laughingly beat the long, sharp thorns into His head. “So you are a King. How do you like the crown we made you? Ha, ha, ha.”

The crowds beat him, mock Him, and drag Him this way and that way. Pilate’s soldiers whip His back. Their whip has chunks of metal and bone imbedded in it. It is so designed as to cause greater blood loss and suffering. We watch as Christ’s blood runs down His back. Christ lies down on the cross. Roman soldiers bring their hammers and drive nails through His hands and His feet. Together they lift Christ on the cross and let the cross drop into the hole prepared for it. The jolt as it thuds to the bottom of the hole causes flesh to tear close to the nails in His hands and feet. These soldiers appear satisfied as they see the extra pain they caused in letting it drop into the

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hole. Christ's face is so full of pain, and with all the blood, He is hardly recognizable.

The Cross in Living Detail

The entire wicked world stands beneath the great white throne, accused of rebellion against God and His government. They now see that God judges them by how they treated Christ and His followers. God's law has everything to do with how we treat Christ and others. The first four commandments show us how to love God, and the last six how to love our fellow men and women.

“All this, “I might have had!”

Jesus says, **“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”** They are without excuse; and God orders the sentence of eternal death against them. (Matthew 25:40). “All this,” the lost cry out in agony, “I might have had!” As if entranced, the wicked see Christ crowned with a crown of many crowns.

UNIVERSAL PEACE

God considers the devil a defeated foe. In this scripture passage, He speaks of the future death of the devil, when God will reduce him to ashes, as though it had already happened.

“Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and *I expelled you, O guardian cherub*, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings” (Ezekiel 28:16, 17, NIV).

“By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to *ashes* on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All

the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more” (Ezekiel 28:18, 19, NIV).

“Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.” *“The Lord is angry with all nations; His wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them. He will give them over to slaughter.”* “On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot” (Isaiah 9:5; 34:2; Psalm 11:6, NIV).

Fire Comes Down from God

Christ sends fire down from God to the earth. The fire from above the earth meets the fire below the earth and all the vast stores of coal and oil unite. The entire earth is one vast seething fire. Everything is on fire except for the city of God. Fierce, hungry flames burst from every opening in the cracked surface of the earth. Even the rocks are on fire. The day that will burn as an oven has arrived. **“That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and *the elements will melt in the heat.*”** The earth’s surface seems like a vast boiling lake of fire. It is the time of the judgment and punishment of ungodly men (2 Peter 3:12, NIV).

The wicked receive their just reward in the earth. They **“will be stubble; and the day that comes will burn them up, says the Lord of hosts.”** Some die immediately, while others suffer many days. *God punishes all “according to*

his deeds” (Malachi 4:1; Romans 2:6, NKJV).

“The voice of a great multitude,” “as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,” shouts: **“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!”** (Revelation 19:6, 7, NKJV).

While God wraps the earth in the fire of destruction, the righteous are safe in the Holy City. On all those that God raised in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. While God is a destroying fire to the wicked, He is both a sun and a shield to His people (Revelation 20:6; Psalm 84:11).

The Fire Removes All Trace of Sin

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1). The fire that burns up the wicked, purifies the earth. “Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the saved the fearful price of sin” (*The Great Controversy*, 674).

One reminder alone remains. Jesus Christ will always have the wound marks of His crucifixion. The scars on His wounded head, His side, His hands and His feet, are the only reminders of the cruel work that sin has caused. The prophet Habakkuk saw into the future. He saw Christ in His glory and said, **“His Splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.”** From His pierced side and hands had come the

blood that reunited man to God. This is Jesus Christ's glory. This is **“the hiding of His power” (Habakkuk 3:4)**.

Christ is “mighty to save” those who accept His love, and He is strong to execute justice upon those who hate and hurt His children. The scars He received when He was tortured on the cross will be His highest honor. Through the eternal ages, the nail and spear scars Christ received on the cross of Calvary will shout out to each individual in God's great universe. “God loves you!” and “God's power has saved you!”

PARADISE AT LAST

God has finished His original purpose in the creation of the earth. He has finally made it the eternal home of the redeemed. “The righteous will inherit the land, and dwell in it forever.” “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, No mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (Psalm 37:29; 1 Corinthians 2:9, NIV).

Flowers, Mountains and Majesty

In the New Earth, Jesus Christ leads His family to springs of living waters. The Tree of Life produces its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for everyone’s well-being, making sure to prevent all illness. The streams are clear and pure and never dry up, and nature is more beautiful than ever, with no more deserts and no more weeds, bloodsucking insects, and vicious wild animals.

The animal kingdom is at peace. There is supreme beauty, prepared as a gift for those our Lord rescued. The flower-covered plains rise into hills and mountains with majestic peaks of great beauty. It is among all this beauty that God makes a home for His children.

“My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.” “No longer will violence be heard in your land.” *“They will build houses” and live “in them.” “They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.”*

“No longer will they build houses and others live in them or plant and others eat . . . My chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands” (Isaiah 32:18; 60:18; 65:21, 22, NIV).

There, wilderness and the solitary place will be glad for them. “The desert will rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” “Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.” “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together and a little child will lead them. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain” (Isaiah 35:1, KJV; 55:13; 11:6, 9, NIV).

Pain-Free Forever!

The redeemed will never feel pain again. No one will ever cry again. No graveyards will ever exist again anywhere. *“There will be no more death or mourning or*

crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” **“No one will say, I am ill and the sins of those who live there will be forgiven.”**

God’s home is with men, and **“he will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God”** (Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 33:24; Revelation 21:3, NIV).

In the City of God, *“there will be no night.”* No one will need or want sleep. No one will be tired in doing God’s will and praising Him. *No one will need to go to the emergency room, the hospital, or the drug store.* Instead, we will all eat from the Tree of Life with its twelve different types of fruit and we will eat its leaves as preventive medicine. **“The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations”** (Revelation 22:2, NIV).

We Always Feel Great!

We notice something different! We are so full of enthusiasm. We are always feeling great—as fresh as a bright summer morning.

“There shall be no night there; they need no lamp, nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever” (Revelation 22:5, NKJV).

The light of the world is now our sun in the sky. God will be the light of the world, and His brightness will be far brighter than the sun. The light from God the Father and from Christ does not go out; it floods the Holy City

with unfading daylight. The redeemed walk in the glory of endless day.

One Awesome Adventure!

The one thing we find so overwhelming is the fact that we now have the honor and joy of talking to God face to face. We will never be lonely again. Life, now, is just one wonderful adventure! We learn new things every day. It is all new to us, and we are having so much fun discovering worlds upon worlds that we knew nothing about when we lived on planet Earth. We are all thrilled as Jesus, our Creator and Redeemer, teaches us about His universe. Together with the angels, prophets, and apostles that we once only read about in the Bible, we explore the universe. It is far better than my wildest dreams!

Everybody treats each other with love, kindness, and cooperation. We are all part of the same family now. We are all God's redeemed children forever and ever!

“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known” (Revelation 21:22; 1 Corinthians 13:12, NIV).

On earth, we saw just a reflection of God in His creation of nature and in His dealings with men. However, now we see Him “face to face.” We stand in His presence and see the glory of His face. God is happy to see

What's Next?

how happy He has made us. We know everyone by name. Adam, Eve, Moses, Elijah, Peter, Paul, and Mary are all family. “The whole family in heaven and earth” is forever united (Ephesians 3:15).

Not only are we growing larger physically, we are constantly learning new things, and our bodies and minds are never tired. ***We have boundless energy!***

SPACE TRAVEL ADVENTURES!

Each day is a new adventure! We are constantly reaching out for what once was “the impossible dream.” We discover that now all our “impossible dreams” are not only possible, but we are actually reaching our dreams and our highest hopes. In addition, the travel through space is exhilarating!

In our journeys to these worlds—world upon world of unfallen beings—we find complete openness. Those we meet as we travel are not proud and arrogant. They love to share their treasures of knowledge and understanding they have gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God’s creation. We, in turn, share with them how merciful and kind God was to suffer in our place that we might live with God and share His eternal throne (Revelation 3:21).

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth

and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing. To him who sits on the throne and to the lamb be praise and honor and glory and power for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:13).

Read more at *<http://www.prophecymadeeasy.com>*

APPENDIX

If revival and life are important then it is vitally important to begin studying the book of Revelation. May God richly bless and reward you with *His triple blessing as you “read,” “hear,” and “keep those things which are written therein” (Revelation 1:3).*

One author, in speaking of the last book of the Bible (Revelation) says, *“When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival” (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 113, emphasis added).*

God bless you. He will pour out His Holy Spirit upon you in great showers of blessings as you begin to read, study and understand God’s final message for all mankind! Ask Him to do exactly what He said He would do. Ask Him for His triple blessing. He assures you and says, **“Ask and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7).**

For additional information, see *Prophecy Made Easy!* The endnotes all point to additional comments on the various parts of Revelation from “Revelation Made Easy” that are discussed more completely in the book *Prophecy Made Easy* which you may read absolutely free at www.prophecymadeeasy.com.

The Great Controversy In More Than Eighty Languages

What’s Next? is a very brief commentary on the last book of the Bible, Revelation. In its brevity, it cannot answer all your questions, nor does the author intend it to do so.

The author points you to the 700-plus-page book *The Great Controversy*, available in more than 80 languages. Read it free in 31 languages at www.prophecymadeeasy.com. Also, read another book by the author called *Prophecy Made Easy*, watch videos from the video library and television in several languages, and take Bible courses in several languages.

You will find the help you need to answer your deepest questions about Bible prophecy, salvation, eternal life, and the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

END NOTES

In writing *What's Next?*—the author has freely borrowed from his previous book *Prophecy Made Easy*. All the “chapter” references in the endnotes below refer the reader to the additional explanatory chapters from the author’s book *Prophecy Made Easy* and the book *The Great Controversy*. For more information on the subjects below, turn to the chapters given below in *Prophecy Made Easy* at **www.prophecymadeeasy.com**.

Also, note the references to an amazing book sold in millions in more than 80 languages, *The Great Controversy*, available to read free online at the above website in 31 languages.

¹ Revelation 12:7–9—Satan, the devil—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 2; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 29

² Revelation 12:3–5—The Ten Horns—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 15.

³ Revelation 12:17—The Dragon Attacks the Woman—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 26; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 36.

The Great Controversy is available in more than 80 languages worldwide.

⁴ Revelation 13:1—The First Beast—Revelation 13—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 15; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 25.

⁵ Revelation 13:11—The Second Beast—Revelation 13—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 16; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 25.

⁶ Revelation 14:7—The Judgment—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapters 9–13; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 20.

⁷ Revelation 14:8—Babylon—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapters 7, 8, 26; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 21 and chapter 38.

⁸ Revelation 14:7, 9–12—The Mark of the Beast—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapters 15–19; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 25.

⁹ Revelation 16—Armageddon & the Seven Last Plagues—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapters 25–28; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 39.

¹⁰ Revelation 16:17–21—The Seventh Plague—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 28; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 40.

¹¹ Revelation 17:1–6; Revelation 18—Babylon—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapters 7, 8, 26; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 38.

¹² Revelation 20—The 1,000 Years & Final Fire—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 29; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 41.

¹³ Revelation 21—New Jerusalem—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 30; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 42.

¹⁴ Revelation 22—Paradise—*Prophecy Made Easy*, chapter 31; *The Great Controversy*, chapter 42.

Read these chapters at <http://www.prophecymadeeasy.com>

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

In regards to God's Ten Commandments we have two choices #1 We can disobey God's law or #2 we can seek God's help to obey His law.

1. God calls disobedience to His Ten Commandment law "**Sin.**" and says it results in death (1 John 3:4 Romans 6:23).

2. God calls obedience to His Ten Commandment law "**love**" and says it results in life! Jesus says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Jesus finishes the book of Revelation promising that "those "who do His commandments" will possess eternal "life" and eat from "the tree of life."

Jesus says, "Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie" (Revelation 22:14, 15).

What are the Ten Commandments to which Christ calls us to obey? Read them below and find them in the book of Exodus, chapter 20.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

God spoke His Ten Commandments Saying,

1. "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 'You shall have no other gods before Me.'
2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."
3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain."
4. "*REMEMBER the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.*"
5. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days

may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

6. “You shall not murder.”
7. “You shall not commit adultery.”
8. “You shall not steal.”
9. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
10. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.”

QUESTION – What is LOVE? ANSWER – Love is the Ten Commandments lived out in a person’s life!

The first four commandments on the first table of Stone teach us how to love God.

The last six on the second table of stone teach us how to love the people around us.

Today Christ invites you to join him in an adventure that will never end! Christ Invites you with the words “Come! . . . let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17.