

THE REVELATION

This is the record of future events that Jesus Christ revealed. God gave Jesus this revelation^a so that He might reveal to His servants on earth the future happenings that will take place very quickly.^b Jesus then sent His angel with the message to His servant John.

²John faithfully wrote down everything God said, and everything that Jesus Christ solemnly told him. He also wrote about everything he saw.

³Both the person who reads and those who listen to the words of this prophecy being read will be blessed if they continue to act upon the counsel and instructions given here,^a because the time is near.^b

Greetings to the Seven Churches

⁴This is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.^a

May undeserved blessings and peace of mind be given you from God, whose everlasting duration embraces all the past, present, and all time to come; and from the seven Spirits^b in front of His throne; and from Jesus Christ, God's faithful witness to man.

⁵Jesus was the first to be raised from among the

dead, and He is the Ruler of all the kings of the earth! All praise to Him who loved us so much that He washed our sins from us by shedding His own blood for us.

⁶He has also made us to be kings and priests who will serve His God and Father! To Him be glory and superior power to reign forever and ever! So be it!

⁷Look! He^a is coming with the clouds!^b Everyone will see Him, including those who had plunged a spear into His side. And everyone in every nation on earth will cry in remorse as they remember how they had treated Him.^c Yes, that's how it will be. So be it.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," the Lord declares. "I am in the present, I have been in the past, and I always will be. I am the One with unlimited power."

John's Vision of the Risen Lord

⁹I, John, your brother, and also your full partner in patiently bearing all the indignities, privations, and sufferings for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom, was exiled on the island of Patmos because I had been preaching God's message and taking a bold stand for Jesus Christ.

1:1a If Jesus receives His knowledge of future events from the Father, just who is Jesus Christ? See Appendix 246, page 512, for the answer.

1:1b ... *in a brief period of time, when they once begin to happen.*

1:3a He is no doubt referring here to the instructions and warnings, especially in the second and third chapters.

1:3b *One thing is sure, you have only a limited time in which to act upon them.* Life is so brief and so uncertain for all of us. We must act upon God's truth **NOW**.

1:4a ... *in Asia Minor* (the western part of present-day Turkey).

1:4b Or *the sevenfold Spirit of God.*

1:7a Jesus Christ.

1:7b Clouds are appropriate symbols of majesty and glory. The term could refer to His shekinah glory. Speaking of His second coming, Jesus Himself said He would come "*with a majestic display of*

power and great glory." Matthew 24:30. *The clouds* could also refer to the multiplied millions of His angels who will accompany Him, or to the multiplied millions of His redeemed ones who have been caught up to meet Him, and now return with Him.

1:7c Those left on earth at this time of shocking, astounding, crushing, and profound truth will be those who have ignored or rejected Him. Now they will realize their disastrous folly, as He comes to be their judge. 6:12-17; Zechariah 12:10-14. It's at this time that all who have remained faithful to God will be taken up into Heaven to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:29-31. Those remaining on earth at this time will face Jesus as their Judge, as Christ related in Matthew 25:31-46. Those who survive this judgment will be the new generation of people on earth. They will be the nucleus for a great repopulation of the new earth. See Matthew 25:31-46, and the note there.

¹⁰One day the Holy Spirit came upon me; it was the Lord's day.^a Then I heard a loud voice behind me that sounded like a trumpet.

¹¹"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last!" the voice loudly announced. "Write down in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the province of Asia^a: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹²Immediately I turned to see who was talking to me, and I saw seven golden lampstands.^a

¹³Standing among the lampstands was someone who looked like the Son of Man^a! He wore a robe that reached down to His feet, with a golden sash around His chest.

¹⁴The hair on His head was as white as wool, or like snow, and His eyes were like blazing flames of fire.

¹⁵His feet gleamed like fine brass glowing in a furnace. And His voice sounded like the thundering cascade of a mighty waterfall.

¹⁶In His right hand, He held seven stars, and out of His mouth went a sharp, double-edged sword.^a His face glowed with radiance as brilliant as when the sun shines at noon.

¹⁷When I saw Him, I collapsed at His feet as a dead man. But He then put His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last."^a

¹⁸"Yes, I am the One who lives forever. It is true

that I died. But look! I will now continue alive forever and forever! You can have full confidence in that statement! Not only that, but I have the keys to release the dead from their death, and from the world of the dead as well.

¹⁹"So first write down the things you have just seen. Then describe conditions as they are now. And last, write down the things that are poised and ready to take place, after conditions as they are now, are things of the past."^a

²⁰"Now let Me unveil for you the mystery about the seven stars you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the pastors^a of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands you saw are the seven churches.^b

The Message to Ephesus

2 "To the pastor of the church in Ephesus write, "The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands has this to say to you:

²"I am well aware of all you've been doing—how hard you have worked, and how you patiently continue faithful to Me in spite of all kinds of opposition. I know that you refuse to tolerate sin among your members, that you've tested those who say they are sent by Me^a and are not, and have found them to be liars.

³"And you haven't become exhausted and given up as you've patiently continued your work for Me.

1:10a The first day of the week, Sunday.

1:11a ... in Asia Minor.

1:12a Or *menorahs*.

1:13a Jesus. Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:44, etc.

1:16a Like a sword that is both sharp and double-edged, God's word can penetrate immeasurably deep into the heart and soul. Hebrews 4:12. Such a portrayal is a striking picture of the penetrating power of God's truth. When backed by intense and earnest prayer, God's truth has the power and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to direct it to the most vulnerable area of the mind and heart.

1:17a Jesus is saying, "I always live. I have lived thru the past, and will live thru all eternity to come. Therefore I can fulfill all My promises, and accomplish all that I purpose to do."

1:19a God's message in this book is actually divided into three parts: 1) The first part is found in chapter one ... *the things you have just seen*, that is, the vision of Christ walking among the pastors and people of His churches. 2) The second part is chapters 2 and 3, where He speaks to the pastors—to the pastors of that time, and also of today. He speaks here of *conditions as they are now*, as He

walks among His churches and sees and hears everything that is said and done. 3) And *the things that are poised and ready to take place* is the third part, from chapter 4 thru 22. This part deals with the time of the end of the age, which appears to be upon us now.

1:20a The Greek, *aggelos*, means *a sent one, a messenger*. It many times refers to angels, but in this case the *stars* refer to the pastors or chief elders in these churches, and in churches today.

1:20b The churches, the assemblies of God's people, are the lampstands (v 12) that are to hold forth the light of the Great News by their lives and by their witness, under the challenge, direction, and example of each pastor. Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-15; Romans 10:9-10.

2:2a Literally *apostles*, meaning *one who is sent, a messenger*.

2:5a The lampstands are the churches (1:20), and each member is a responsible part of Christ's Church. What is Jesus saying to you here?

2:6a The Nicolaitans were seemingly a sect who claimed they received their teaching from Nicolas. Acts 6:5. They lived in unrestrained indulgence,

⁴“But there is something about you with which I am not at all pleased: You don’t love Me now as you did at first!

⁵“Look back now and remember how much you loved Me in the beginning, and realize how far you have fallen in your coldness and indifference. Turn from your coldness, and do the things you did in the beginning when your love for Me was intense! But if you refuse to turn, I will come to you suddenly and remove your lampstand from its place!^a

⁶“But you have this in your favor: You hate the lewd way the Nicolaitans^a live, which I also hate!

⁷“If you have been given ears for the purpose of hearing, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches!^a To the one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world, I will give the right to eat the fruit from the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of God’s Paradise.”^b

The Message to Smyrna

⁸“To the pastor of the church in Smyrna write, ‘The One who is the First and the Last, who was dead and came back to life, has these things to say to you:

⁹“I am well aware of all you’ve been doing, and of the persecutions and poverty you’ve endured. But the truth is, you are rich!^a And I know all about the harsh charges being made against you

by some who say they are God’s people.^b But they are not God’s people; they belong to the church^c of Satan.

¹⁰“Don’t in any way be afraid of the things you are about to suffer. Yes, the devil is about to throw some of you into jail so you may be tested. You will suffer persecution for ten days.^a But you must continue to be faithful to Me, even if you must die because of your stand for Me and the truth.^b Then I will give you the crown of life.^c

¹¹“If you have been given ears for the purpose of hearing, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches! The one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world will not be hurt in any way by the second death.”^a

The Message to Pergamos

¹²“To the pastor of the church in Pergamos write, ‘The One who has the sharp, double-edged sword has these things to say to you:

¹³“I am well aware of all you’ve been doing. And I know where you live—in the city where Satan is in charge. But still, you continue to honor My name! And you have been honest with My word and haven’t omitted or explained away certain of My warnings and other teachings in order to please certain people instead of Me,^a even during the days when Antipas, My faithful witness, was killed right there among you in the city where

claiming their salvation was a gift from God and had nothing to do with how they lived. Jesus said He hated such teaching (2:15) and the way these people lived. He warned (2:16) that unless the church stopped allowing such teaching and living, He would judge and severely punish these people. No doubt the people in a church who allow such teaching will also be judged.

2:7a ... *because this all applies to you as members as well as to your pastor.* The messages to these seven churches are in the singular. Christ is speaking to the pastor of each church. They are the ones who are mainly responsible for the condition of the churches. But much of the messages apply to the members as well. Every Christian is to study hard to become well grounded in God’s truth, and to demand that the full truth be preached and taught. The deacons or elders are especially responsible to see that this is done. And each member is responsible to make sure that the deacons or elders are doing their job in this respect.

2:7b Only to those who conquer sin and triumph over Satan does Christ make this promise. To not be allowed to eat the fruit from the Tree of Life means

to not be allowed into Heaven.

2:9a You are rich in peace and happiness now, because you have God’s forgiveness and the promise of everlasting life with Him. Though you may have little or nothing now, you own everything, because your Father is fabulously wealthy! And you will soon inherit all He has prepared for you (John 14:1-3; Romans 8:14-18), but only on the condition that you *conquer Satan and the temptations of the world.*

2:9b Literally *Jews.*

2:9c Literally *synagogue of Satan.*

2:10a Any persecution is really of short duration, even if it lasts for the remainder of life—when compared to an endless eternity with the Lord.

2:10b Or *even unto the time of your death.* See v 26; Matthew 10:22; 24:13.

2:10c Everlasting life.

2:11a What will happen to those who don’t? The conflict is real, and at stake is eternal life or the second death, which is the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15.

2:13a Literally *And you did not deny My faith.*

Satan lives.

¹⁴“But I have a few things against you: You tolerate teachers in your church who teach the people in the same way that Balaam did. He taught Balak how to cause the downfall of Israel by having his women seduce the men of Israel to sin by encouraging them to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.^a”

¹⁵“Also, you have some there who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans,^a which is a teaching I hate with a passion.

¹⁶“So change your mind and attitude about tolerating such teaching! Otherwise, I will suddenly come to you and fight against such people with the double-edged sword that comes out of My mouth.^a”

¹⁷“If you have ears with which to hear, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches! To the one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world, I will give some of the hidden manna^a to eat. And I will give him a white stone. On the stone will be engraved a new name that no one will know except the one receiving it.”

The Message to Thyatira

¹⁸“And to the pastor of the church in Thyatira write,

“The Son of God, whose eyes pierce and penetrate like blazing flames of fire and whose feet are like fine brass glowing in a furnace, has these things to say to you:

¹⁹“I am well aware of all you’ve been doing. I know how you’ve proved your love for both God and man, by your service, faith, and perseverance. And you’re doing even more now than you did in the beginning.

²⁰“But I have several things against you, all because you are allowing that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach. In doing so, she is continually deceiving My servants, causing them to commit fornication^a and to eat things

offered to idols.

²¹“I have given her time to stop her fornication,^a but she isn’t willing.

²²“So pay close attention to My warning: I will throw her into a sickbed, and cause those committing adultery with her to experience awful suffering, unless they immediately stop their sinning.

²³“I will kill her followers by means of fatal epidemics of disease. Then everyone in the churches will know that I am the One who continually investigates and explores the minds and hearts of every one of you. And I will give to each of you according to what your deeds deserve.

²⁴“But as for the rest of you in Thyatira, who have not followed this evil teaching, and have not learned by experience what they call “the deep things” (which are actually from Satan), I say to you, I will put no further burden on you.^a”

²⁵“But you must hold firmly to the truth you have, and live lives that are pure until I come for you.^a”

²⁶“To the one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world, and continues right up to the end of life to live as I have commanded him to live and serve,^a I will give him power and authority over the nations.

²⁷“I am giving the same promise to you that I received from My Father, when He said,

You will shepherd the nations with a scepter of iron. As easily as clay pots are shattered, You will break in pieces all who oppose You.^a

²⁸“I will also give you the morning star^a as your own.

²⁹“If you have ears with which to hear, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches!”

The Message to Sardis

3“To the pastor of the church in Sardis write, The message to you from the One who has the seven Spirits of God^a and the seven stars, is this:

2:14a Voluntary sexual intercourse between persons of the opposite sex, who are not lawfully married to each other. The meaning of the Greek word also includes homosexuality, bestiality, and all other sexual immorality.

2:15a See 2:6 note.

2:16a The sword of the Lord is His word, especially His word of command. When the Word of God (John 1:1), the Lord Jesus, speaks, things happen! Make sure that His word regarding you will be a blessing, not a curse.

2:17a Food by which they will be nourished forever. But then consider what will be the case with

all who fail to conquer Satan and his temptations. See Philippians 2:12-13.

2:20 & 21a See 2:14 note.

2:24a ... *than the burden you’ve experienced of having these people with you, and your burden to purify the church.*

2:25-26a See Colossians 1:23 note.

2:27a Psalm 2:9. What kind of reign will this be, and who will they reign over? See Appendix 232, page 492.

2:28a Even though no one knows for sure what this gift will be, it will no doubt be of extremely great worth.

"I am well aware of all you've been doing. You have the reputation of being alive and full of energy, but you are dead!

²"Wake up! And strengthen the little good in your ministry that yet remains, which is also about to wither away and die! Because I have not found you to measure up at all to the way you have been commanded by God to live, to witness personally, and preach.

³"Look back now and remember how eagerly you yourself listened to the Great News, and so gladly received it. Turn now from your present lack of deep concern for the souls and lives of others, and continue to obey the message of the Great News that now applies to you as a pastor. And be sure of this: If you ignore My warnings, and refuse to shape up, I will come upon you as suddenly and as unexpectedly as a thief. You won't know when My judgment will strike.^a

⁴"But you have a few people even in Sardis who have not polluted their lives. They are the ones who will walk the streets of Heaven with Me, clothed in white, because they have shown themselves worthy of being called My followers.

⁵"Those who conquer Satan and triumph over the temptations of the world will be dressed in white and live in Heaven with Me. And I will not blot their names out of the Book of Life. But I will tell My Father and His angels that these are the ones who belong to Me.^a

⁶"If you have ears with which to hear, then give very close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches!"

The Message to Philadelphia

⁷"To the pastor of the church in Philadelphia write,

"This is what the One who is holy, who faithfully follows thru on all His warnings as well as on all His promises, has to say to you:

"I have the key of David. What I open, no one

is able to shut, and what I shut, no one can open.

⁸"I am well aware of all you've been doing. I am also aware of the little strength you have, but you have obeyed My instructions and have not renounced My name. Therefore, look, I have opened a door in front of you that no one can shut.

⁹"And listen! As for that group^a that follows Satan, those liars who claim they are My followers^b but are not, I will make them come and bow at your feet. And they will acknowledge that I have indeed loved you.

¹⁰"Because you have obeyed My command to patiently persevere, I will also protectively guard you thru^a the time of trial that will come upon the whole world to test those who live on earth.

¹¹"Listen! I will come suddenly! Hold on tightly to what you have, so that no one robs you of your crown.^a

¹²"I will make the one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world to be a pillar in the Temple of My God. He will be a part of My Temple^a forever. I will also write the name of My God upon him, and the name of the city of My God. This city is the New Jerusalem that will come down out of Heaven from My God. I will also write My new name on him.

¹³"If you have ears with which to hear, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches."

The Message to Laodicea

¹⁴"To the pastor of the church in Laodicea write,

"This is what the One who remains firm in His declarations (the Faithful and True Witness, the Lord and Ruler^a of God's creation), has to say to you:

¹⁵"I am well aware of all you've been doing, and that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

¹⁶"So because you are lukewarm, neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of My mouth.^a

3:1a Or *the sevenfold Spirit of God*.

3:3a A minister of Christ has the greatest opportunity of all people to be rich in God's heavenly Kingdom. But woe to the minister who is not faithful.

3:5a See Matthew 10:32,33 notes.

3:9a Literally *synagogue*.

3:9b Literally *Jews*.

3:10a Literally *to watch over protectively, to guard*. The sense is protection and preservation during this time. He doesn't say *take you from* or *take you out of*. Evidently referring to the time of great tribulation predicted by Christ, at the end of

the age. Matthew 24:21,29.

3:11a The prize of eternal life. 2:10; James 1:12.

3:12a Each true Christian is even now a Temple (a dwelling place) of God. v 20; John 14:23.

3:14a The primary meaning of the Greek word *arkay* is our word *beginning*. But the secondary meaning *lord, ruler*, etc. seems to apply here, as it does where the same Greek word is used in Luke 12:11; 20:20; Romans 8:38; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12, etc. where rulers are clearly referred to. The Scriptures do not teach that Christ was created by God. He was begotten (born) of the Father.

¹⁷“Because you say, ‘I am rich! I’ve become wealthy, and there’s nothing I need that I can’t have.’ But you don’t realize how utterly wretched you really are. You are miserable, poor, blind, and naked!

¹⁸“I most strongly warn and counsel you to buy gold from Me that’s been refined in the fire, so that you may be rich indeed. Buy white clothes from Me, so you can put them on and hide your shameful nakedness. And buy eye salve from Me, so you may anoint your eyes and be able to see.^a

¹⁹“I rebuke and warn every single person whom I love dearly, and I punish them if they disregard My warnings.^a Therefore be zealous and in earnest about turning^b from your lukewarmness.^c

²⁰“Listen to Me! I am standing outside, knocking at the door of your heart. If anyone takes notice of My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and we will begin a close, friendly relationship with each other.^a

²¹“To the one who conquers Satan and triumphs over the temptations of the world, I will give the prize of sitting beside Me on My throne, just as I conquered^a and then sat down beside My Father on His throne.

²²“If you have ears with which to hear, then pay close attention to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches!” ’ ’

John Sees the Glory of God’s Throne

4 After seeing and hearing all this, I saw a door that had been opened into Heaven. Then I heard the same voice I had heard before, that sounded like a trumpet. “Come up here,” it said, “and I will show you what must happen as the work and witness of the churches is drawing to a close.”

²Instantly I was in Heaven in my spirit, and there before me was a throne with Someone sitting on it!

³The One seated there was magnificent in splendor, like a most beautiful jasper stone, and like a ruby-red carnelian. And a rainbow, glowing with the colors of an emerald, encircled the throne.

⁴In a circle around the throne itself were 24 other thrones. And on these thrones were seated 24 elders dressed in white and wearing crowns of gold.

⁵From the throne in the center came flashes of lightning, then rumblings, followed by loud, crashing thunder. Seven torches were ablaze in front of the throne, which are the seven spirits^a of God.

⁶Also in front of the throne was a sea of glass, as clear as crystal. Then toward the middle, close to both sides of the throne, were four living creatures. They were totally covered with eyes, both in front and behind.

⁷The first living creature looked like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth was like an eagle in flight.

⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings which were also covered with eyes, even under their wings. And continually, day and night, they never stopped saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty One.

He is the great Eternal One, existing from all eternity past, existing now, and He shall continue to exist for all eternity to come—forever!”

⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

¹⁰the 24 elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and lay their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹“You, O Lord, the One who has unlimited power, are worthy to receive glory and honor, because it was You who created all things. And

3:14-16a See Matthew 10:32-33, and the notes.

3:18a ... see *things as they really are, from eternity’s sense of values.*

3:19a Hebrews 12:5-8; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:5-6.

3:19b Literally *repent*. Repent means to turn from the wrong you are doing to doing what is right. It’s not enough to be sorry, but you must turn—not only turn from, but turn to what you should be and to what you should be doing.

3:19c ... *and become possessed with zeal about becoming totally pleasing to God and about the eternal life that can be yours.*

3:20a This really happens. Open your heart in all

sincerity and ask Jesus to be your Lord and your Savior, and you will experience God’s forgiveness for all past sins, and the load of guilt removed. You will also experience refreshing and delightful fellowship with your God and Savior.

3:21a ... *the same temptations that now press upon you* ... Hebrews 4:15.

4:5a *Or the sevenfold Spirit* ...

5:6a Jesus, the Savior. John 1:29,36.

5:6b Symbols of power and authority. Deuteronomy 33:17; 1 Kings 22:11; Zechariah 1:18-19; Daniel 7:24.

5:6c Symbols of intelligence and complete knowledge.

all things were created and continue to exist in order to bring about all You have planned.”

The Scroll and the Lamb

5 Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne. It had writing on both sides, and was sealed with seven seals.

²Next I saw a powerful angel cry out with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and unroll the scroll?”

³But no one in Heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll and read what it said.

⁴In great disappointment, I cried bitterly because no one could be found who was worthy to open and read the scroll, or even look at its message.

⁵But then one of the elders said to me, “Don’t cry. Look! The Lion of the tribe of Judah, King David’s Great Descendant, has won the victory! He can break the seven seals and open the scroll.”

⁶So I looked, and there, standing in the center of the throne area where the four living creatures are, and surrounded by the elders, I saw a Lamb^a that looked as if He had at one time been killed. He had seven horns^b and seven eyes,^c which are the seven Spirits^d of God that have been sent out into every part of the earth.

⁷He walked over to the One sitting on the throne and took the scroll out of His right hand.

⁸As He did so, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.^a

⁹Then they sang a new song:

You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were put to death.

And with the blood of Your death, You redeemed us to God out of every tribe, language, people, and nation.

¹⁰**You have caused us to become servants of our God**

as kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth.

¹¹Then I heard thunderous shouting. And when I looked for the cause, I saw thousands upon thousands of angels who had joined the living creatures and the elders around the throne. There were actually millions and millions of them!

¹²With a loud voice they were shouting:

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and praise!

¹³Then I heard every creature in Heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that they contain, shouting:

Praise, honor, glory, and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!

¹⁴Then the four living creatures said, “So may it ever be!” And the 24 elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

The Opening of the Seven Seals... An Overview of Things to Come

6 Then I watched^a as the Lamb broke open the first of the seven seals and began to unroll the scroll. As He did so, I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come and see this!”

²When I looked, there before me was a white horse, and the one sitting on the horse had a bow.^a He was given a crown, and he went forth conquering, with determination to conquer the whole world.^b

³When the Lamb had broken the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come and see this!”

⁴Out came another horse. It was fiery red.^a Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth, causing men to kill one another, and a gigantic sword was given him.^b

⁵When the Lamb had broken the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come and see

the Jews. But as the Great Pretender he will *destroy many by peace*. Daniel 8:25. He will no doubt be acclaimed by many as just the man the world has needed and has been looking for.

He will be given a certain amount of power, as represented by the *crown*. Not satisfied with the authority given him, he will go forth to *conquer* the rest of the world. For Scriptures regarding Antichrist see Daniel 7:1-17; 8:1-27; 9:24-27; 11:21-45; Revelation 13:1-18; 17:7-11; 19:19-20.

6:4a An emblem of bloodshed and fiery destruction.

6:4b The *fiery red horse* undoubtedly represents

5:6d Or *the sevenfold Spirit of God*.

5:8a Our prayers are as beautiful and aromatic as incense to God.

6:1a An overview of the broad outline of end-time events is given us in this chapter. Remember, this is the overview chapter. In the chapters that follow, many of the details are given.

6:2a An emblem of military power.

6:2b The rider on the *white horse* is no doubt the Antichrist of the end times. The symbol of the white horse may indicate that he will appear at first to be *an angel of light*. 2 Corinthians 11:14. He will very likely appear on the scene as the Great Deliverer of

this!” When I looked, I saw a black horse. Its rider held a pair of scales in his hand.

⁶Then I heard a voice from among the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat or three quarts of barley for a day’s wages.^a And be very careful not to waste the olive oil or the wine.”

⁷When the Lamb had broken the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living creature say, “Come and see this!”

⁸When I looked, I saw a sickly yellowish pale horse. The name of its rider was Death, and Hell followed right on his heels. They were given power over a quarter of the earth, to kill by means of war, famine, disease, and wild animals.^a

⁹When the Lamb had broken the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been killed because they had lived in obedience to God’s command, and had been faithful in sharing the Great News with others.^a

¹⁰With a loud voice they cried out, “O Lord, You who are holy, who follows thru in all of Your promises and warnings, how long will it be until You judge the people on earth and punish them for killing us?”

¹¹White robes were then given to each of them. And they were told that they should keep resting a little while longer, until their fellow servants and brothers and sisters, who were about to be killed as they were, had joined them.

¹²I then watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal, and there was a most violent earthquake! The sun became a darkened orb, as if it were covered with sackcloth made of goat hair,^a and the moon looked like blood!

war. He takes *peace from the earth*. The opposite of peace is war. Antichrist will be the cause of many of these end-time wars. In vss 1-2 it is said that he will *go forth conquering, with determination to conquer the whole world*. The *gigantic sword* would seem to indicate extensive and powerful military equipment.

6:5-6a The rider on the *black horse* has a *pair of scales in his hand* to measure food—a symbol of famine. Bread by measure and weight signifies scarcity of food. The *quart of wheat* was a slave’s daily ration, an amount usually purchasable for one-eighth of a laboring man’s daily wage. Ordinarily one could buy eight quarts of wheat or 24 quarts of barley for a day’s wages, but at this future time, only one quart of wheat or three quarts of barley can be bought for the same day’s wages.

This informs us that food prices will be much higher in proportion to other goods. Food prices will be *eight times higher* than they normally are

¹³And the stars in the sky fell to earth, like late figs drop from a fig tree shaken by a strong wind.^a

¹⁴Then the sky disappeared like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain was leveled and there were no longer any islands.

¹⁵When all these things happened, the rulers on earth, the great men, the military leaders, the rich and powerful, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

¹⁶And they cried out to the mountains and to the rocks to crush and cover them. “Fall on us!” they pleaded, “and hide us from the eyes of the One who sits on the throne and from the terrible anger of the Lamb!”^a

¹⁷“Because the terrible Day of Their anger has come, and who will be able to escape Their judgment?”^a

144,000 People of Israel Sealed

7Next I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, to keep them from blowing on the land or on the sea or against any tree.

²Then I saw another angel come up from where the sun rises in the east. He had the seal of the living God, and he called out loudly to the four angels who had been given power to devastate the land and the sea, saying,

³“Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”^a

⁴Then I heard how many had been marked on the forehead. There were 144,000. They were

because of its scarcity. You can imagine what other food will cost if it will take a day’s wages of a laboring man to buy only one quart of wheat, which would make about two small loaves of bread.

6:8a *Death and Hell* are personified here. *Death* is riding a *pale horse*, and *Hell* is *following*, though not necessarily on another horse. Death will ride wherever the hand of Antichrist is raised. There will be literal hell on earth as a result of the wars, famines, and diseases during this time. The *wild animals* could refer to germ warfare. Or it could mean that all animals on earth will become savage by nature and fiercely attack mankind.

6:9a Ezekiel 3:16-21; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:9-10.

6:12a Isaiah 2:17-21; 13:10; 50:3; Joel 3:14-16; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 16:17-21.

6:13a For a possible explanation of these falling stars see Appendix 240, page 496.

6:16a Luke 23:26-30. In their blind foolishness,

from every tribe of Israel.

⁵⁻⁸There were 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

The Enormous Crowd

⁹Then I saw an enormous crowd of people—far too many for anyone to count—from every race, tribe, nation, and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They wore white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

¹⁰They were all loudly shouting,

Our salvation^a has come to us from our God who sits upon the throne, and from the Lamb!

¹¹Then all the angels standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures fell to their knees and bowed low before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

¹²**It is all so true! Praise and glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Indeed, may it ever be!**

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are all these people dressed in white robes? Where do they come from?”

¹⁴“Sir,” I replied, “you must know.”

“Yes,” he said, “these are the people who have come out of the Great Tribulation. They have washed their robes and bleached them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵“That’s why they are here in front of the throne of God, continually serving Him day and night in His Temple. *And as their Father,*^a the One who sits on the throne will make them most welcome

and gather them around Him in His own home.

¹⁶“Never again will they grapple with famine or the pangs of unquenched thirst. Nor will they ever again suffer thru scorching heat from the sun, nor any other burning heat.

¹⁷“Because the Lamb in front of the throne will be their Shepherd, and He will lead them to gushing springs of the water of life. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Seventh Seal Is Opened

8When the Lamb had broken the seventh seal, there was silence in Heaven for about half an hour.^a

²Then I watched as the seven angels who stand before God were each given a trumpet.

³Then another angel, holding a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. A great quantity of incense was given him to add to the prayers of God’s people,^a after which he offered all of it upon the golden altar before the throne.

⁴And the fragrance of the burning incense mixed with the prayers of God’s people went up before God from the altar where the angel had poured them.

⁵Then the angel filled the incense burner with fire from the altar, and hurled the burning contents upon the earth. There were flashes of lightning, then rumblings, crashing thunder, and an earthquake.

The Blowing of the Trumpets

⁶Then the seven angels got ready to blow their trumpets.^a

they will hope to hide from God. But the eyes of the Lord are everywhere (Proverbs 15:3), and there is no escaping His judgment. Even those crushed into the earth will be raised later for judgment.

6:17a They now admit that the horrendous judgments of the last days have been warnings from God of the Great Judgment Day, when all will stand before Him for judgment.

The events taking place in the first eight verses of this chapter provide an overall picture of conditions on earth during the seven or more years of the period known as the time of the Great Tribulation, with particular emphasis on the last 3 1/2 years. But the events of vs 12-17, as revealed under the sixth seal, tell us what will happen immediately following the battle of Armageddon. Pictured here are the same events that are again recorded in Revelation 16:17-21, and also in Isaiah 2:10-21. Compare these verses in Isaiah with those in chapter 16 to better understand their relationship. The verses here are

simply the last part of the preview covering end-time events.

7:3a These judgments will begin when the earth has become fully ripe for judgment, when sin and lawlessness abound as never before (Daniel 8:23-25) after the Holy Spirit steps aside to allow people to sin without His restraint. 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

7:10a The Greek word literally means *safety, deliverance, preservation*. Secondary meanings are *welfare, prosperity, victory*. In the Christian sense, *deliverance from punishment and admission to eternal life*. Our deliverance from sin and its consequences is to be ascribed solely to God. Even so, that doesn’t end our responsibility to meet the conditions for so great a salvation.

7:15a Implied.

8:1a All Heaven seems to be in awe in anticipation of the momentous events which are about to begin.

8:3a As the end-time judgments appear to be near at hand, there will evidently be much praying on

⁷When the first angel blew his trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood were hurled down upon the earth. And a third of the trees on earth were burned up, and all the green grass in that area was also consumed by the flames.^a

⁸Then the second angel blew his trumpet. And something like an enormous mountain, all aflame, was thrown into the sea. And a third of the sea turned to blood.

⁹A third of all life in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.^a

¹⁰When the third angel blew his trumpet, a gigantic star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the sources of water.

¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. And a third of the fresh water supply became polluted with the wormwood, and many people died because of the contaminated water that had now become bitter.

¹²Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet. And the sun, moon, and stars were struck,^a so that they all lost a third of their brilliance. This caused the earth to receive only two-thirds of its normal light and heat both day and night.^b

¹³Then I saw an angel flying in midair, and heard him call out in a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe! to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the frightful judgments that will strike the earth when the three other angels blow their trumpets."

9 Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star^a that had fallen from Heaven to earth. He was given the key to the bottomless pit.

²When he opened the pit, smoke poured out of it like smoke from a colossal furnace, so that the smoke darkened the sun and sky.

³And from out of the smoke came swarms of locusts upon the earth, and each was given power to sting as poisonous and painfully as that of a scorpion.^a

⁴They were told not to harm the grass or trees of the earth, or any other green thing, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

⁵They were not permitted to kill them, but to torture them for five months. The torture they inflicted was like the extremely agonizing pain experienced when a scorpion strikes a person.

⁶During those five months people will try to kill themselves, but they won't be able to. No matter how many times or ways they try to commit suicide, they will not be able to die.^a

⁷And the locusts looked like horses armored for battle. On their heads they wore what appeared to be crowns made of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

⁸Their hair was long like women's hair, and their teeth were long and sharp like those of a lion.

⁹On their chests they had what looked like iron

the part of God's true people.

8:6a Scriptures point to the fact that evil will abound on earth during the last days of this age. Daniel 8:23; 2 Timothy 3:13. One of God's judgments upon this evil world will be to allow such a man as the Antichrist to arise and cause such havoc. But then God will also send other great judgments on the earth, as will be revealed from these seven trumpet judgments. These will be literal judgments on the earth from God.

8:7a Some Greek texts state that *a third of the earth was burned up* along with the trees and grass. If the trees and grass are burned, no doubt everything else in that third of the earth will also go up in flames.

8:9a This appears to mean that all sea life and all the ships in that third of the sea will be destroyed.

8:12a We are not told what God will use to strike this blow.

8:12b Such excessive dimming of the sun will have adverse results in regard to crops, heat, etc. It will result in frightfully frigid winters and extremely cool summers. The end result will be that many crops will not ripen, and will therefore not be edi-

ble. This great loss of food, and dreadfully piercing, frigid weather will cause great suffering and death to legions, both among man and beast.

9:1a In this case not an actual star, but an intelligent being.

9:3a It would appear that these locusts are actually evil spirits who are given, at least for this assignment, the bodies of locusts.

9:6a Evidently the torment from these scorpions will be so extremely painful that many people will try to commit suicide. God will be giving them a taste of Hell, in warning. But we are told that *they will not be able to die*. It will be most unusual for people to desire death and be completely unable to find it. But the same will be true in Hell...suicide will be impossible there as well.

9:11 & 14a Evidently fallen angels.

9:14-19a *The four angels tied up at the great Euphrates River* are fallen ones, because good angels are never bound. They are actually four powerful demons — fallen angels. They will be the leaders in the great slaughter mentioned in these verses.

Evidently this slaughter by demon forces (vss 13-

breastplates, and their wings made a roaring and thundering sound like a vast army of horse-drawn chariots furiously charging with abandon into battle.

¹⁰They had tails like scorpions, with stingers in them. So their power to torture people for five months was in their tails.

¹¹Their king was the angel^a in charge of the bottomless pit. In Hebrew his name is Abaddon, but in Greek it's Apollyon, meaning the Destroyer.

¹²That was the first horrible woe. But after these horrendous experiences there are still two horrible woes yet to come.

¹³Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet. When he did so, I heard a distinct voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar in front of God's throne.

¹⁴The voice said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels^a who are tied up at the great Euphrates River!"

¹⁵So the four angels, who had been kept in readiness for that very hour, day, month, and year, were released to kill a third of the human race.

¹⁶Then I heard the number of horsemen in their great cavalry. There were two hundred million (200,000,000) of them!

¹⁷This is how the horses and riders in my vision looked: The breastplates of the riders were fiery red, deep blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of those horses looked like lions' heads. And from out of their mouths came surging streams of fire, smoke, and flaming sulfur.

¹⁸One-third of the human race was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the flaming sulfur that came out of their mouths.

¹⁹But the power to destroy is not only in the heads but also in the tails of these horses. Because their tails are like serpents, having heads, which they also use in doing great harm.^a

²⁰But the rest of mankind, those not killed by these plagues, still refused to stop all the evil they were doing. They still continued to worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.^a

²¹Nor did they stop their murdering, their witchcraft and drugs, their fornications,^a or their thievery.

The Angel and the Small Scroll

10 Then I saw another powerful angel coming down out of Heaven. He was draped in a cloud, with a rainbow over His head. His face was as brilliant as the sun, and His feet and legs were like pillars of fire.^a

²In His hand He held a small scroll that had been unrolled. He placed His right foot on the sea and His left foot on land.

³Then He shouted with a loud voice, as loud as when a lion roars. When He did so, the seven thunders answered with a roar.^a

⁴I was about to write down what the seven thunders had said, when I heard a voice from Heaven say to me, "Keep to yourself what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down."^a

19) will take place in a relatively short period of time. These are probably not horses as we know them. If God uses demon forces for this plague, the horses will no doubt come from this same underworld. How horses can be spirits is not known. God could even create the horses for this particular mission if He so chose. The riders upon the horses, however, are no doubt fallen angels, who are now the demons of the underworld.

The possibility of this invading army being a human army still exists, of course. An army under Antichrist, could use modern vehicles of war unrecognized by John, who could only call them horses.

Whether demon or human forces are used by God, they will be literal. Men will be killed by real *fire* and by real *smoke* and by real *brimstone*. The power of these demons or men will be in the horses or vehicles they ride. They will be deadly both from the front and the rear.

This will be a horrendous time of death and destruction. Revelation 6:8 tells us that a possible one-fourth of the population of earth will be killed

by hunger and by other means. That would leave only three quarters of the population left. If one third of those left are now killed by the horseman, that would mean that the earth would be depopulated by 50 percent. And when you consider the other wars and carnage taking place at the same time, one begins to wonder just how many will be left on earth before the end comes, and Christ returns to set up His Kingdom on earth.

9:20a From the wording in v 20, it appears that man may literally fall back again to the worship of actual *idols*, especially when these idols are mentioned along with *demon* (or devil) *worship*.

9:21a See 2:14 note.

10:1a This Angel is evidently Christ.

10:3a "The Jews were accustomed to call thunder the seven voices, and to regard it as the voice of the Lord (Psalm 29), in the same way that they regarded lightning as the fire of God (Job 1:16)."—*Pulpit Commentary*

10:3-4a Here is one part of the Revelation that

⁵Then the angel I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised His right hand toward Heaven.

⁶And He most solemnly declared by the name of God, who lives forever and ever, who created Heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them, saying, "There will be no more delay!

⁷"But during the period of time when the seventh angel is blowing his trumpet, and even when he is about to blow it, God's whole purpose in human history will be in the process of being completed. All that He had previously announced to His servants the prophets will then be brought to complete fulfillment."

⁸Then the voice I had earlier heard from Heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go and take the little scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land."

⁹So I went to the angel and said to Him, "Please give me the little scroll."

"Yes," He said, "take it and eat it. In your mouth it will taste as sweet as honey, but after you swallow it, it will give you a bitter pain in your stomach."

¹⁰I then took the little scroll out of the angel's hand and ate it. It did indeed taste as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had swallowed it, my stomach turned sour.

¹¹Then the angel said to me, "Now you must prophesy further about the fate of many people, nations, languages, and kings."

The Two Witnesses

11 Then I was given a long stick that looked like a measuring rod. And the angel, still standing there, said, "Go now, and measure the Temple of God and the altar and the people wor-

shipping there.^a

²"But don't include the court outside the Temple area. Don't measure it because the Gentiles already have access to that area. But the time is coming when the Gentiles will trample thruout the entire^a holy city for 42 months.

³"And I will give authority to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."

⁴The two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth.

⁵If anyone tries to injure them, they will be met with flames of fire shooting from the mouths of these men, which will reduce their enemies to ashes. So if anyone plans to injure them, they should be warned that this is the way they will die.

⁶During the period of time these men prophesy, they will have power to shut the heavens, so that no rain will fall. They will also have power to turn various bodies and sources of water into blood, and to strike the earth with all kinds of plagues, as often as they wish.^a

⁷But when they have finished their 3 1/2 year testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will attack and overpower and kill them.^a

⁸Their dead bodies will then be left lying in the streets of the great city, which is spiritually like Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was also nailed to a cross.

⁹From there in the street, people of the various tribes, languages, and nations thruout the world will view their dead bodies^a for 3 1/2 days and refuse to let them be buried.

¹⁰People everywhere on earth will be extremely

has not yet been revealed to us. These words remain sealed to this day. Some day, man will no doubt know the content of this message. Until then, God is withholding these words from humanity, and undoubtedly for good reason.

11:1a The literal dimensions of the Temple and the number of people in Israel will already be known facts, but this is evidently a spiritual measurement, to reveal the spiritual condition of the people, before judgment.

John knew that the *Temple* to be *measured* was not the Temple of Herod, which was the Temple of Jesus' day, because that Temple had been destroyed some 25 years before John received this revelation from Christ. It was destroyed in the year A.D. 70. Neither could this Temple be the Millennial Temple of Ezekiel's revelation (Ezekiel 40:1 to 43:12), because that Temple will not be built until Christ

returns. The Temple in question is the one which is to be built in Jerusalem in this present age.

Because the Jews now have control of all of Jerusalem, they are looking forward to building their Temple soon. It is the Jewish Temple and the Jewish people of today, and in the near future, who will be judged by God. The Jews will be judged by God for accepting the person of Antichrist after having steadfastly refusing the Christ of God. John 5:43. Antichrist will remove *the altar* in the middle of the seven-year treaty he will make with many, including Israel. Daniel 9:27a. He will erect his own image in place of the altar. Matthew 24:15. It is at that time that he will turn against the Jews, slaughtering them and enslaving the rest. (See 12:13-17 and the note there.) Thus Israel will be judged for refusing Christ but accepting the vile person of the Antichrist.

glad, and will celebrate by sending gifts to each other, because of what had happened to these two prophets who had caused them so much torment.

¹¹But after the 3 1/2 days, the breath of life from God again entered them, and they stood to their feet. Those who were watching them were terrified!

¹²Then they heard a loud voice from Heaven say to them, "Come up here!" And as their enemies watched, they rose up into the heavens and disappeared in a cloud.

¹³Immediately following, there was a most violent earthquake. One tenth of the city of Jerusalem collapsed, and 7,000 people were killed in the quake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of Heaven.

¹⁴The second woe is past, but the third horrible woe is coming very shortly.

The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in Heaven, shouting,

The kingdoms of this world have now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign forever and ever!^a

¹⁶And the 24 elders who were seated on their thrones in front of God, threw themselves face down and worshiped God, saying:

¹⁷We give thanks to You, O Lord God Almighty, the One whose everlasting duration embraces all the past, present, and all time to come, because You

have now used Your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸**The people of the nations were extremely angry.^a But now it is time for Your great anger to be revealed. It is also now time for the dead to be judged, so that Your servants the prophets, and all others, both great and small, who are truly dedicated to You and revere Your great name, should be rewarded. It is also time for You to destroy those who are destroying the earth.**

¹⁹Then the Temple of God in Heaven was opened. And there, within His Temple, could be seen the ark^a of His covenant. Then there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, crashing thunder, and an earthquake, and then storms of massive hailstones rained from the skies.^b

The Woman and the Dragon

12 Then a great and most amazing sight appeared in the sky. A woman came on the scene dressed with the sun. The moon was under her feet, and on her head was a crown of twelve stars.^a

²She was about to give birth to a Child, and she screamed in pain as she labored to be delivered.

³Then I saw another mysterious sight in the sky. It was a huge, fiery-red dragon,^a with seven heads and ten horns, and a crown on each head^b!

⁴With its tail it dragged a third of the stars^a from Heaven and threw them down to the earth. Then the dragon stood in front of the woman who was

11:2a ... *Temple and the ...*

11:6a The preaching of these two men will be backed up by some tremendous demonstrations, proving that they are indeed messengers sent by God.

11:7a No one will be able to touch them until *they have finished their testimony*. Not even the beast, the supernatural spirit out of *the bottomless pit* (see notes on 17:7-8), the power behind Antichrist, will be able to touch them until their work is finished. However, when the 3 1/2 years are ended, and they have finished the ministry the Lord sent them to perform, they will then be overpowered by the beast, no doubt by the authority of Antichrist, and killed. It is very possible that Antichrist will overcome the two witnesses just shortly before he turns his wrath on the Jewish nation. Daniel 9:27

11:9a ..., *no doubt by television, ...*

11:15a This last blast of the 7th trumpet will sound just a few days after Armageddon. See Mat. 24:29-31; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17.

11:18a Psalm 2.

11:19a Exodus 25:10-22. A rectangular wooden

chest, covered with gold inside and out.

11:19b These events will take place on earth, especially the *lightning, earthquake, and great hail*. These happenings are not stated in sequence, as much more is to happen (as we will see) before this great finale.

12:1a The nation of Israel. This and the following were symbolized in Heaven, but fulfilled on earth.

12:3a Satan.

12:3b We find the same dragon mentioned in Revelation 13:1. There, the crowns are on the ten horns. The reason for the crowns being on the seven heads here is because the seven heads represent the six kingdoms that have persecuted Israel in the past, with one yet to do so in the future. (See Appendix 241, page 496.) The ten horns are actually not in existence at the time of this happening. The persecution here is by Satan during the rule of Rome, doing his best to do away with Christ, both at His birth, and during His life. *Continued* ➤

Later, the ten horns, representing ten kingdoms of the last days, will make up Revised Rome, the sev-

about to give birth, in order to eat her Child as soon as it was born.

⁵But when she gave birth to a Son, a male Child who is destined to shepherd all nations with a scepter of iron,^a the Child was snatched away up to God and to His throne.

⁶The woman^a then ran into the wilderness, where God has prepared a place for her, and where she will be taken care of for 1,260 days.^b

⁷Then war broke out in Heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

⁸But the dragon and his angels were overpowered, and were no longer allowed in Heaven.

⁹So that great dragon was thrown out—that old snake who has been around so long, called the devil, and Satan. He is constantly misleading and deceiving the whole world. But now he's been thrown out of Heaven to the earth, and all his angels with him.^a

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in Heaven shout,

Now our deliverance^a has come! Our Almighty God has now revealed the great power of His Kingdom and the authority of His Messiah to reign! Because the accuser of our brothers and sisters,

who accused them before our God both day and night, has now been thrown out of Heaven and down to earth.

¹¹**They defeated their accuser by means of their faith in the effective power of the blood of the Lamb,^a and by the stand they took thru their bold words of testimony,^b and by their willingness to give up their lives^c and even die for the sake of the truth.**

¹²**“So for that reason, rejoice, you heavens, and all of you who live in them! But woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea, because the devil has now come down among you! And he's livid with rage, because he knows his time is now very short.**

¹³When the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to earth, he persecuted the woman who had given birth to the male Child.

¹⁴But the woman was given two wings like the wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she will be fed and taken care of for 3 1/2 years,^a out of the reach of the dragon.

¹⁵But as the woman was escaping, the dragon discharged out of his mouth a great torrent of water like a great river, in an attempt to destroy her.

enth power that will persecute Israel. That's the reason we see them wearing the crowns in 13:1. Shortly after they come to power Antichrist will conquer three of them (Daniel 7:20-28), and the rest will then surrender to him and rule under him.

For much further information about this dragon, see Appendixes 233, page 492, and 241, page 496.

12:4a Some believe this refers to the angels who rebelled with Lucifer against God.

12:5a See Appendix 232, page 492.

12:6a Israel.

12:6b That's 3 1/2 years of 360 days each year, plus 180 days for the one-half year. See v 14.

12:7-9a The exact time of this war in Heaven is not known. The result of it, however, is sure. Satan and his angels will be thrown out of Heaven to the earth. It seems quite possible that this event will occur just before the beginning of the last 3 1/2 years of the age. On the other hand, with lawlessness, rebellion, and immorality abounding everywhere today, one wonders if Satan and all of his fallen angels are not now in the earth, and working overtime.

12:10a ... *from Satan's power and accusations* ...

12:11a ... *Who thru the blood of His death on the cross gained forgiveness for their sins* ...

12:11b Romans 10:9-10; Revelation 21:8a.

12:11c ... *and live them for the Lord and for*

others, instead of for their own gratification ... See Matthew 10:38-39; 16:25; Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:24.

12:14a See v 6.

12:13-17a One of the things Satan will do when he realizes he has been thrown out of Heaven forever, will be to persecute Israel. He will very likely have special indignation against Israel because of the very effective ministry of the 144,000 Jewish missionaries (7:1-8), and because of the special protection they will receive from God. His tool of persecution will be the Antichrist, who will turn against Israel with his armies. There will be great slaughter. Zechariah 13:8-9. The remainder of the citizens of Israel who escape the slaughter will be taken into slavery (Zechariah 14:1-2), except for those who flee into the wilderness. Matthew 24:15-28. As mentioned again in these verses, this remnant in the wilderness will be hidden and taken care of by God for 3 1/2 years.

The *two wings of an eagle* is symbolic, referring to the help God will give Israel when He opens a valley thru the Mount of Olives for their escape. Zechariah 14:3-7.

We have pictured here, Israel fleeing before a flood. Satan uses the flood in an attempt to destroy the Jews who are fleeing out of Jerusalem. Read Zechariah 14:1-7 in connection with this event.

¹⁶But the earth came to the woman's rescue by opening its mouth and swallowing the great flood from the dragon.

¹⁷This made the dragon so inflamed with fury in his anger against the woman that he rushed out to make war with the rest of her children who obey God's commands and testify that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, and their Lord and Savior.^a

The Beast out of the Sea

13 Next I was standing on the sandy shore of an ocean beach, when I saw a beast coming up out of the water! It had seven heads and ten horns!^a On each of his horns was a crown, and on each of his heads was a name written that arrogantly blasphemed God.

²Although this beast looked like a leopard, it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion.^a And the power, the throne, and the great authority this beast had were all given to him by the dragon.

³One of its heads had been mortally wounded and seemed to be dead. But then I saw it come alive again! The whole world was so amazed when that happened that it inspired reverential awe for

the beast.^a

⁴As a result, they worshiped the dragon who had given the beast such remarkable powers. They also worshiped the beast, saying, "Who else is like the beast? Who will ever be able to win a war against him?"^a

⁵The dragon also gave the beast the ability to be a most eloquent speaker. In his speeches, he made great claims for himself, and always heaped abuse upon God. Just the same, God allowed him to continue to carry out his plans—but only for 42 months.^a

⁶Whenever he opened his mouth, he spoke blasphemous words, not only against God and against His name, but also against God's Heaven and against all those living in Heaven.

⁷Still, he was allowed by God to wage war against those on earth who are His people, even to overpower them.^a And he was given authority over every tribe, language, and nation as well.^b

⁸Everyone on earth will worship him—everyone that is, whose names have not been written in the Lamb's Book of Life—the Lamb who was slain in the mind and plan of God even before the earth

Christ's descent upon the Mount of Olives at this time (Zechariah 14:3-4), possibly invisibly to most people, will cause the mountain to split wide open. A valley thru the mountain, to the east, will be created as a way for the people of Israel to escape from Antichrist to the country of Jordan. The flood which Satan will send in pursuit of Israel will undoubtedly be a flood of men. If we are correct in interpreting the water of v 15 to mean *people*, as explained in 17:1 and 15, Satan's flood can very well be one of Antichrist's armies, stationed in Israel on the pretext of protecting them.

We are told here that the earth will swallow the flood, and that the Jews who immediately follow escape instructions in Zechariah 14:1-15 and Matthew 24:15-21 will be saved. It's conceivable that this means that when Antichrist's armies enter this new valley, in pursuit of the Jews who have immediately obeyed escape instructions, that the Lord will cause the valley to close again, thereby destroying Antichrist's army. It's no more unlikely than what happened to Pharaoh's army in pursuit of Israel in Old Testament times. Chasing Israel thru the Red Sea resulted in the drowning of an entire Egyptian army. Exodus 14:1-31.

It seems from this account that many Jews will have come to faith in Jesus Christ by this time, possibly thru the testimony of the 144,000. As a result of the loss of his army, which was chasing Christians and other Jews thru the new valley in the

Mount of Olives (Jews who were heeding Jesus' warning and instructions in Matthew 24:15-21), Satan will turn on all the remaining Christian Jews in Israel with a vengeance. The time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble (Jeremiah 30:4-7) will continue, its tide rising with every passing event.

13:1a For the identity of this beast, see Appendix 233, page 492.

13:2a What's the meaning here? See Appendix 234, page 493.

13:3a Who is mortally wounded here? See Appendix 235, page 493.

13:4a For the most part, the people of the world from then on will *worship the beast*, the Antichrist. Evidently many of them will be Satan worshipers as well, giving honor to *the dragon* whom they recognize as having empowered Antichrist. As people glory in this man, in his great accomplishments, in his victories, they will say, *Who else is like the beast? Who will ever be able to win a war against him?* They may also have reference to the *beast's* empire in this acclaim. A kingdom including the Middle East, most of Europe, and North Africa would be formidable indeed!

13:5a The last 3 1/2 years of this age.

13:7a 6:9-12; Daniel 7:20-22,25; 8:24; 12:7,10; Matthew 24:9.

13:7b The likely meaning is that he will rule over all the nations of the former world empires of

was formed.^a

⁹If you have ears with which to hear, then listen to this most carefully:

10 *The one who takes others into captivity will himself go into captivity. And the one who kills others with the sword must himself be killed with the sword.*^a

Assurance that this is true will give those dedicated to God the inner strength needed to endure thru this time of testing.

The Beast out of the Earth

¹¹Then I saw another beast, coming up out of the earth! He had two little horns like a lamb, but he talked like a dragon.

¹²As the first beast watched, and granted him his authority,^a the second beast displayed the same supernatural power that the first beast did. And he continually caused the earth itself^b and those living on it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

¹³He performed great miracles. He even made fire come down to earth out of the sky while people watched.^a

¹⁴By means of the miracles he was empowered to perform in the presence of the first beast, he was fooling people everywhere. Then he persuaded the inhabitants of earth to erect an image of the beast who had been fatally wounded by the sword, but was now alive.

¹⁵He was even given power to cause the image of the beast to come alive and breathe. It then also spoke, and gave the command that everyone who refused to worship it was to be killed.

¹⁶The second beast then ordered everyone, both small and great, rich and poor, free men and slaves, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

¹⁷No one was then able to buy or sell except those who had the mark of the beast, his name, or the number that signified his name.

¹⁸Here's all the wisdom you will need to understand: Let the one who is able, calculate by simple arithmetic who the beast is, because it's the number of a man. His number is 666.^a

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then as I looked, I saw the Lamb^a standing on Mount Zion,^b and with Him were 144,000 who had His Father's name written on their foreheads.

²Then I heard a sound from Heaven like the roaring of an enormous waterfall, and also like extremely loud, crashing thunder. What I was actually hearing was a vast number of harpists playing on their harps.

³And the 144,000 were singing as if they were singing a new song as they stood before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been ransomed from the earth.

⁴They had never had sexual relations with women, so they are virgins, and they now follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They were the first to be ransomed from among mankind, so they became the firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

⁵They had never lied or spoken hypocritically, so they stand before the throne of God blameless.^a

Greece and Rome. He will be at war with enemy nations to the very end. Daniel 11:44; Revelation 16:12. Other Scriptures indicate that his capital city, Babylon, will be burned by enemies just prior to the Battle of Armageddon. Isaiah 13:1-22; Revelation 18:1-24.

13:8a 1 Peter 1:20.

13:10a Numbers 32:23b. Proverbs 13:21; Isaiah 3:11; Matthew 26:52; Romans 2:5-9; Galatians 6:7.

13:12a ... *who gets his authority from the dragon* ... (Satan). v 2.

13:12b By his miracles, he will seemingly cause even the elements of the earth to bow to the will of the first beast, and thereby magnify and glorify him.

13:13a As he does this he may claim, "Even Jesus Christ couldn't cause a miracle in the heavens," referring to Christ's refusal in Luke 11:16 & 29-30.

13:18a See Appendix 236, page 494, for vital information concerning this second beast.

14:1a Jesus.

14:1b ... *in Heaven* ...

14:5a For an interesting speculation concerning these 144,000, see Appendix 237, page 495.

14:7a ... *by acknowledging that He is the only true God, and by sincerely worshiping and praising Him in your heart as the great Ruler of Heaven and earth* ...

14:8a ... *resulting in the fierce anger and judgment of God falling upon those nations too*. Jeremiah 50 and 51.

14:10a That is, Christ and the angels will be the witnesses when God judges those who have rebelled and lived in disobedience to Him. This can also mean that Heaven and the bliss there will be visible to those condemned. Luke 16:23. This would only add to their torment, when they saw what glory they had forfeited in exchange for the temporary pleasure or benefit from their sin.

14:6-11a The sin of worshiping the beast and his

The Three Angels

⁶Then I saw another angel. He was flying in midair. He had the everlasting Great News to preach to those who live on earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and to people of every race and color.

⁷With a loud voice he shouted,

Revere, honor, and obey God! Give Him glory,^a because the time has now come when He will judge mankind! So adore and worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the sources of water.

⁸Following him thru the skies came another angel, shouting,

She has fallen! The great city of Babylon has fallen, because she seduced all the nations of the world to drink the inflammatory and maddening wine of her fornications!^a

⁹And another angel, a third one, followed them, loudly shouting,

Here's what will happen to anyone who worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his hand or forehead:

¹⁰**He will be included among those who will drink of the wine of God's furious anger, which has been poured out full strength into the cup of His boiling fury! And he will be tormented with fire and burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.^a**

¹¹**And the smoke from their torment will rise up forever and ever! Day after endless day and night after endless night they will have no rest. This awful judgment will fall upon all who worship the**

beast and his image, and upon all who receive his mark or his name.^a

¹²The knowledge and conviction that this will surely happen will give those truly surrendered to God the inner strength needed to continue to obey His commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

¹³Then I heard a voice from Heaven say to me, "Write this: 'From now on those who die as followers of Jesus are happy indeed.'"

"Yes indeed," the Spirit responded. "Now they will rest from all their labors. And all the rewards and harvest (as a result of all they have done for the Lord and for others) will follow them to Heaven."^a

Two Harvests of the Earth

¹⁴Then as I looked, I saw a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was One who looked like Jesus, the Son of Man. There was a gold crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

¹⁵Then another angel came out of the Temple and called out with a loud voice to the One sitting on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle now and reap the harvest, because the harvest of the earth is ripe, so it is time for You to reap!"

¹⁶So the One sitting on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and He reaped the harvest of the earth.^a

¹⁷Then another angel came out of the Temple in Heaven. He also had a sharp sickle.

¹⁸Then still another angel, the one who has power over fire, came from the altar and called out with a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle now and gather the clus-

image and accepting his mark, will be so offensive to God, and the punishment so extreme, that God in His mercy will send a messenger from Heaven to warn mankind against worshipping Antichrist and accepting his mark. This angel's message will no doubt be sounded in ample time to warn all against giving any allegiance to Antichrist. Some believe the *three* heavenly messengers (angels), referred to here in 14:6-11, will not be actual angels, but satellites, beaming TV and radio messages of salvation and warning to earth in every language. This is very possible, because the literal meaning of the Greek word *aggellos*, translated angels here, is *messengers*. Interestingly enough, it takes only *three* TV satellites to cover the entire world with a TV message.

Those who accept the mark, name, or number of the beast will be judged by God and sent to punishment in fire and burning sulfur, with no relief from this torture day or night, forever, according to this

warning.

WARNING! All who receive any of the marks of Antichrist, thus paying tribute to him, will damn their souls. Notice in the verses of this Scripture the clear statement about the frightful judgment that awaits every individual who worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark, name, or number, in order to buy or sell. It will be far better to starve, or die a thousand deaths than to disregard this warning. Take careful note of the frightful fate of those who fail to heed the warning.

14:13a See Matthew 6:19-21; 25:34-40; Luke 16:9 and note; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 6:10-11.

14:14-16a These vss *do not* describe Armageddon or the Rapture of God's Church to Heaven. This is a picture of a great ingathering of souls to Christ in a great spiritual awakening during the last days of the age. This great ingathering will no doubt result from the great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit according to Joel 2:28-29 (which is symbolized in

ters of grapes from the vines of the earth, because her grapes are fully ripe!^a”

¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle into the earth, and gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s furious anger.

²⁰And they were trampled in the winepress outside the city until the blood that flowed out of the press resulted in a flood 200 miles long and almost five feet deep.^a

Seven Angels with the Last Plagues

15 Then I saw another remarkable scene in Heaven. It was indeed great, and most amazing. Seven angels were bringing the seven last plagues. They are called “the last plagues” because they will be the last expressions of God’s furious anger.

²I also saw what looked like a sea of glass that shimmered like fire. And standing on this sea of glass were those who had gained the victory over the beast by refusing his mark or the image of his statue or the number of his name.^a

³Accompanied by harps that God had given them, they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

O Lord God, the Almighty One!

How great and marvelous are the things You have done.

O King of those dedicated to You!

You have been true to all Your promises and warnings, and You have displayed justice in everything You have done.

⁴Who will not revere, honor, and obey You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? Because You alone are altogether holy.

All nations will come and worship before You,^a

Because Your right actions in all Your judgments have been made clear to everyone.

⁵After the singing I was amazed to see that the Temple, that is, the tabernacle of the testimony in Heaven, had been thrown wide open.

⁶And out of the Temple came the seven angels who had the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean linen that literally glowed, and they wore golden sashes around their chests.

⁷Then one of the four living creatures gave each of the seven angels a golden bowl filled with the furious anger of God, who lives forever and ever.

⁸The Temple was filled with smoke from the divine glory and power of God, and no one was able to enter the Temple until the seven angels had finished pouring out the seven plagues.^a

Joel 2:23) following the restoration of Israel after a great invasion of that land by Russia and her allies, according to Ezekiel 38 and 39.

This great spiritual awakening and ingathering of souls to Christ could last for several months, or even years. (Some say seven years.) The greatest days for the Church of Jesus Christ are still ahead! Pray earnestly that this final harvest will be great indeed, to the glory of God. Let’s pray for hundreds of millions to be gathered in, both for God’s glory and that these millions might be saved before they are deluded by Antichrist in these last days, and lost.

14:18a ... for God’s fiery judgment.

14:17-20a Notice that it’s following the great harvest of the ingathering of souls to Christ that God’s final judgments will strike the earth.

15:2a The people standing on the *sea of glass* are those who had lost their lives in their stand against Antichrist. These are the ones who had refused to worship him or accept *the mark of the beast*, which would have permitted them to buy or sell. They will be killed by the agents of Antichrist for refusing to worship him and accept his mark. Some may even starve to death because of their stand.

Antichrist may feel he has been victorious over these Christians in his struggle for supremacy. Actually, the opposite will be true. These verses state that the people on the sea of glass *had gained*

the victory over the beast. By starving and killing them, Antichrist had simply ushered them into the glorious presence of their God. And there before His throne, they will sing the song of victory in praise to their God, and to their Savior Jesus Christ.

15:4a People of *all nations* will indeed go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord during the millennium and into eternity. See Jeremiah 3:17b; Micah 4:1-2; Zechariah 14:17-19.

15:8a The *Temple* in these verses is a literal building in Heaven. Actually, the reference here is to the Most Holy Place in the Temple in Heaven, the dwelling place and throne of God. It is from God’s throne that the angels, seven in number, are given *seven golden bowls filled with the furious anger of God*. God’s glory is shown in His judgments as well as in His blessings.

While the seventh angel is blowing his trumpet (11:15), which is the third woe (8:13 and 11:14), the seven angels will pour out the seven plagues. 16:1-21.

16:2a We are not told how long people will be bothered with these *loathsome sores*, but the plague could continue for the remainder of the last 3 1/2 years of the age.

16:3a The sea to be thus involved is probably the Mediterranean Sea, which will be the center of Antichrist’s kingdom. Imagine the awesome results

The Seven Bowls of God's Anger

16 Then I heard someone from the Temple shout to the seven angels, "Go now, and pour out the bowls of God's furious anger upon the earth."

² So the first angel went forth and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a miserable and malignant sore broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.^a

³ The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into a substance like the blood of a dead person. And every living thing in the sea died.^a

⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and streams, and they turned to blood.

⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

You have done right in judging as You have, O Lord, You who are and forever have been the Holy One.

⁶ They shed the blood of Your prophets and Your other dedicated people. Now You have given them blood to drink, as they deserve.

⁷ Then I heard another voice, which came from the altar, saying,

Yes, Lord God Almighty, You can be trusted to follow thru in all Your warnings of judgment, and

Your punishments are just.

⁸ Then the fourth angel emptied his bowl on the sun, and power was given the sun to scorch mankind with its fire.

⁹ But even as they were being scorched with its great heat, people cursed and slandered the very name of God, knowing it was He who controlled these plagues. But still they refused to turn from their sinning and worship God and admit that He was doing the right thing when He punished them for their sin.^a

¹⁰ The fifth angel then poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his entire kingdom was plunged into awful darkness. The people there even gnawed their tongues because of the pain.^a

¹¹ And they cursed and reviled the God of Heaven because of their pains and sores.^a But they still refused to stop the evil they were doing.

¹² The sixth angel then poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River, causing the river to dry up and provide a way for the armies of the kings of the east to cross over.^a

¹³ Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

¹⁴ These are the spirits of demons that will enter ambitious, receptive men, thru whom they will perform miracles. These men will go out to the

of such pollution. The stench of one dead fish is bad enough, but if all the fish in the Mediterranean Sea die, and come to the surface, the result will be devastating! Besides being extremely disagreeable, the condition will likely cause sickness and disease in much of the humanity inhabiting the area, resulting in many deaths. This plague could of course affect much more than the Mediterranean.

16:8-9a In just what way this intense heat will be produced upon the earth is not revealed. Isaiah 24:20 mentions that "the earth will stagger this way and that like a drunkard." And Isaiah 13:13 states that "the earth will be shaken out of its orbit and run about in space like a deer escaping the hunters." It is quite possible, then, in the light of these Scriptures, that the earth will leave its orbit and be drawn closer to the sun than it is today.

There may be some other supernatural means, of course, by which God will cause *great heat* to concentrate upon the area of the earth controlled by Antichrist. There is no guarantee, of course, that this intense heat will not affect other parts of the world as well. These plagues may all affect other parts of the world, in greater or lesser degree, as it appears that all the world is even now included in wholesale rebellion against God and His command-

ments.

People fret today when the temperature reaches 100 or 110 degrees. What will they do when the temperature literally soars, and the earth is *scorched with great heat*? According to the Scripture, they will *curse and slander God, knowing it is He who is controlling these plagues*.

In spite of knowing that these plagues are coming from God, they will still refuse to repent. Repentance means not merely to feel sorry about one's sin, but to radically change one's attitude regarding it, and to forsake it. It's possible and hopeful that some will repent, but for the most part, people's hearts will be hardened and set.

16:10a Exodus 10:21.

16:11a This statement indicates that the sores of the first bowl judgment will still be as painful as the day they came.

16:12a The *bowl poured out by the sixth angel* may not seem, at first glance, as destructive as the others. Very likely, however, its results will be the worst. How the waters of the *Euphrates River* will be dried up is not stated. Perhaps it will be an earthquake that will divert the flow of the river in a different direction. Or, a large dam in northern Syria could be captured by an enemy and be com-

national leaders all over the world,^a and by their words and miracles will convince them that they must join the battle in Israel on that momentous day when God Almighty will meet them in judgment.^b

¹⁵“Listen!” the Lord proclaims, “I am coming like a thief!^a The one who stays awake to duty and vigilantly alert to danger will be blessed. He must also make sure he is always dressed,^b or it will be evident to everyone when I come how naked he really is.”

¹⁶And He gathered^a the armies of those nations together to a place called Armageddon in Hebrew.

¹⁷Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air,^a and from the throne in the Temple in Heaven^b a loud voice shouted: “This is the finish!”^c

¹⁸Then came blinding flashes of lightning, fol-

lowed by ominous rumblings. Then loud, crashing thunder, and a gigantic earthquake—far greater in magnitude than any before it. It was by far the worst earthquake in all of history.

¹⁹And the Great City^a split into three parts, and the cities of the pagans everywhere thruout the world shook apart and crumbled. And God didn't forget Babylon—Great Babylon, as she loved to be called. He made her drink the full cup of the wine of His awful, furious anger.

²⁰Every island disappeared, and the mountains couldn't be found.^a

²¹Then storms of great hail, with hailstones weighing over a hundred pounds each, came crashing down upon the people from the skies, and the people cursed and reviled God because of the plague of hail, because the devastation caused by the hail was so extremely great.^a

pletely closed, thus drying up the river.

At any rate, the drying up of this river will enable great armies *from the east* to advance upon the territory controlled by Antichrist.

Many believe that these kings of the east will be friends of Antichrist, and will be called by him to the battle of Armageddon. This is unlikely in light of other Scriptures. Read Isaiah 13:1-16; and 19-22; 14:1-27; 47:1-15; 48:20-22; Jeremiah 50:46; Micah 5:5-6; Revelation 18:1-24; 19:1-5.

* * *

The first five bowls of judgment are judgments upon Antichrist and his kingdom. This *sixth bowl* is also a judgment from God upon Antichrist. It is most likely that these *kings of the east* will be enemies of Antichrist (no doubt constituting one or more of the “carpenter” nations of Zechariah 1:18-21) and will have been brought together against Antichrist by the “seven shepherds and eight national leaders” of Micah 5:5-6.

These 15 men will be leading Jews (evidently seven religious and eight political or business leaders) who will form a council of war outside Israel when Antichrist conquers Israel. These kings of the east will march against new Babylon, the capital of Antichrist, killing the inhabitants (Isaiah 13:9) and taking everything of real value. Jeremiah 50:10,37. Then they will burn the city. Isaiah 47:14; Revelation 18:8,9-19. The drying up of the Euphrates will provide a highway for the enemy and also cut off Babylon's water supply to fight the fires.

This burning of Babylon will take place about 4 1/2 months before the battle of Armageddon. Daniel 8:11-14. This will be the *reason* for the battle of Armageddon. Antichrist will mobilize all his remaining forces thruout the world to counterattack these invaders who have liberated Israel and

much of the Middle East!

Following the battle of Armageddon, Babylon will be totally destroyed by the devastating earthquakes and great hailstones that will fall at that time. It therefore appears that the drying up of the Euphrates River will be another definite judgment of God upon Antichrist and his followers.

16:13-14a The *three evil spirits* that come out of the mouths of *Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet* will very likely inhabit receptive men, using them as their mouthpieces, performing miracles thru them, etc. These *evil spirits*, thru their cunning and the miracles they will be able to perform, will convince many rulers of the world that Antichrist is the savior of the world and that they must join their forces with him at Armageddon against the invading armies that have burned Babylon and conquered much of the Middle East.

By this time, the invaders will have liberated Jerusalem and all Israel from Antichrist. So the armies of Antichrist will gather in the valley of Megiddo in Israel to restore the kingdom to Antichrist. But there, the Lord from Heaven will destroy them. 19:11-21.

16:14b The Battle of Armageddon!

16:15a Really? How can that be right? See Appendix 238, page 495.

16:15b We must be dressed in righteousness if we are to be saved. Two kinds of righteousness are needed to gain eternal life—*imputed righteousness*, which we receive by means of cleansing and forgiveness of sins thru faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us thru His suffering and death—and *personal righteousness*, meaning we must turn from our sinning, and determine to live now as God would have us live. And we must *continue in the faith*, continuing to be clothed. Colossians 1:23. See

The Filthy Woman and the Beast

17 Then one of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came and spoke to me. “Come,” he said, “and I will show you the judgment and calamity that will come upon the great whore, who sits on many bodies of water.

²“The world rulers have had immoral relations with her, and the people of earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornications.”^a

³So he carried me away in my spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a bright red beast that had seven heads and ten horns. This animal was literally covered with names that belittled and slandered God.^a

⁴The woman herself was dressed in purple and bright red robes, and wore jewelry made of gold,

precious stones, and pearls. In her hand she held a golden cup filled with her corruptions and the filth of her fornications.^a

⁵On her forehead was written this title:

*Mysterious Babylon,
The Great Mother of Whores^a
And of All Kinds of Perversions And
Corruptions Taking Place on The Earth.^b*

⁶Then I saw that the woman was drunk—drunk with the blood of those who had been dedicated to God, that is, with the blood of those she had killed because of their faithful witness to others about Jesus. As I looked at her I was shocked, and greatly astonished.

⁷“Why are you so amazed?” the angel asked me. “I will explain to you the mystery connected with this woman, and what the beast with the seven

also Acts 20:20-21 note.

16:16a The Greek verb here is singular and refers to action by God, because God, Himself, will be the actual force behind the *gathering* of the nations at *Armageddon*. He will bring them there for judgment, even though Satan and Antichrist will have made the outward effort to get them together. See Joel 3:1-2; Zephaniah 3:8; Micah 4:11-13.

16:17a *The seventh angel will empty his bowl* at this time, immediately following the battle of Armageddon. vss 18-21; Isaiah 2:10-21; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12-17. This will be the grand finale of God’s dealing with rebellious man, prior to the coming of Christ to judge the nations and to reign over the entire earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Matthew 24:30.

16:17b ... *after the devastation and renovation of the earth by the judgment of the seventh angel had been set in motion* ...

16:17c This is evidently God speaking. He loudly proclaims that the whole series of plagues is now reaching its grand finale.

16:19a *The Great City* refers to Jerusalem. Present-day Jerusalem and a large area around it will be raised to a much higher elevation during this time of judgment and renovation of the earth. Psalm 48:1-2; Isaiah 2:2; Ezekiel 40:2; Micah 4:1; Zechariah 8:3. On this large raised area, to be called the new Mt. Zion, the new city of Jerusalem will be built when Christ returns. The area around this raised plateau will be a level plain for many miles in every direction. Zechariah 14:10-11.

The city of *New Babylon* will have already been burned some months prior to this final judgment. But now the great earthquake and great hailstones will make it completely uninhabitable, except for the doleful creatures of that area that will possess it

forever. Isaiah 13:19-22, 14:23; Jeremiah 50:12b-13, 39-40; 51:26, 36-37, 43.

16:20a See Appendix 239, page 495.

16:21a See Appendix 240, page 496.

17:1-2a At this point, one of the angels who had poured out one of the seven bowls, came to John to enlighten him about two Babylons—*Mystery Babylon* (vss 1-7, 15-18) and *the City of Babylon*, chapter 18. The angel explains facts concerning Mystery Babylon in this 17th chapter, while in the 18th chapter he tells about the fate of the great city of Babylon.

The angel calls Mystery Babylon *the great whore who sits on many bodies of water*. vss 1, 5. The *many bodies of water* refers to many peoples and nations. v 15. The 2nd verse explains that this woman has had illicit relations with the rulers of the earth. She has bargained, threatened, and connived in political dealings with rulers of nations and kingdoms. She has also tempted *the people of the earth* to indulge in her immorality, resulting in their being overcome in sinful stupor.

17:3a This same *woman* is seen here sitting on a *bright red beast*. Verses 9-13 state that this *beast* is a picture of Revised Rome (Daniel 2:40-45; 7:1-27; Revelation 13:1-4), the ten-kingdom confederacy of the last days. This confederacy will be anti-God—*covered with writings cursing and reviling God*. The woman will be riding this beast, which would seem to indicate her control of it.

17:4a See 2:14 note.

17:5a Prostitutes—harlots.

17:4-5b Evidently this woman represents a religious power. A renewed effort toward a single religious power in this world is being made today. The claim is that there will be no more wars or other major problems once everyone is united in their

heads and ten horns that she's riding represents.

⁸“The beast you saw was a world power at one time, but he is not so at present. However, he will come back up out of the bottomless pit for a few brief years, and then he will be driven away to a continual state of being destroyed.^a People living on the earth at that time, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life since before the world was created,^b will be astonished when they discover that the beast world power which was once in existence, but which does not now exist, has again come into existence.^c

⁹“Now here's the part that takes a mind with intelligence to interpret: The seven heads are seven

mountains on which the woman sits.

¹⁰“They also represent seven kings: five have fallen, one is in power at the present time, and the seventh hasn't yet come on the scene. When he does come, however, he will remain in power for only a short time.

¹¹“And the beast that was once a world power, but is not a world power now, is also the eighth king. Still, he is one of the seven,^a and he is the one who will be driven away into a continual state of being destroyed.^b

¹²“The ten horns you saw are ten more kings, who have not yet received their kingdoms. They will receive authority as kings, along with the

religious beliefs and goals. Even decadent Protestant denominations are preparing to unite. This united body will later join forces with Roman Catholicism in one great Christian body. The Roman Catholic hierarchy is doing everything in its power to make this union acceptable.

The plan is that following such union they will invite all the religions of the world to join with them in one great world brotherhood. Today, such a union is a conceivable possibility in the not-too-distant future.

The idea of using religion as a power over man began in ancient Babylon a few generations after the great flood of Noah's time when man rebelled against God and began to build the tower of Babel. This abusive treatment of God's purposes and name is still called *Babylon* by God, who hates mankind's persistent selfishness and our stubborn insistence on being satisfied in our own way on our own terms. The heathen Babylonian corruption of truth can be traced from Babylon, thru Egypt and other countries, and from there to Rome. The emperors of Rome were the High Priests of this religion.

This religious monstrosity, *mystical Babylon*, will quite possibly dominate the ten rulers of Revised Rome until Antichrist conquers them. It may be, however, that the ten rulers themselves will have sufficient power to destroy her (vss 16-18) before that time.

It's hard to say who is the most interested today in establishing a single powerful church—decadent Protestants or the Roman Catholics. Both seem intent on its establishment. But those with ambitions for a one-world government are no doubt the most interested. They are the ones who will use this church for their own ends, and then destroy it. vss 16-18.

17:8a Revelation 17:11; 20:10,14-15.

17:8b Romans 8:28-30.

17:7-8c The angel promises John that he will

explain to him *the mystery connected with this woman, and what the beast she's riding represents*. With regard to the term, *the beast*, we must remember that it is symbolic of four possible entities. See the explanation in the first paragraph of Appendix 233. *The beast* of v 8 is the supernatural being (a powerful demon), who *will come up out of the bottomless pit, and then* (after he has been allowed to do his second vile work) *will be driven away to a continual state of being destroyed*. This could be the same supernatural being referred to in Daniel 10:20 as the prince of Greece, the satanic spirit seeking to control the Greek Empire.

“Not only does the Bible teach that over every kingdom and nation there are both good and evil spirits, but also that over every individual person on earth there are good and evil spirits who are trying to dominate his life for good or evil. Psalm 78:49; 91:11; Matthew 18:10; Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12; etc.” — *Finis J. Dake*, in *Revelation Expounded*.

When the Empire of Greece came to an end, the supernatural being controlling the Empire (one of the angels of Satan, mentioned in Daniel 10:20) was evidently returned to the bottomless pit. When the Greek Empire is revived, this same spirit being may very well return and be the satanic power behind Antichrist. *He will then be driven away to a continual state of being destroyed* when Antichrist is defeated by Christ at Armageddon.

This beast *was a world power* during the existence of the old Greek Empire. *He is not a world power* (when John prophesied). And yet this supernatural being is still in existence and is to return to the earth to set up the rule of Antichrist and to rule thru him. In studying the next verses, more details of this satanic power, the beast, will be seen.

The empire referred to here *was not* in existence at the time John wrote. The Empire of Greece had already died. But the same was true of the old

beast, but for only a brief period of time.

¹³“These ten kings will all have one goal in mind,^a and they will give their power and authority to the beast.^b”

¹⁴“These ten kings and the beast will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overpower them, because He is the all-powerful Lord over all lords and King over all kings. And those who are with Him are His called, chosen, and faithful followers.”^a

¹⁵Then the angel said to me, “The bodies of water^a you saw the whore sitting upon are masses of people of every race, language, and nation.

¹⁶“The ten horns you saw on the beast^a will hate the whore. They will strip her of all her power and

attractiveness and leave her naked. Then they will eat her flesh^b and destroy her city with fire.^c”

¹⁷“Because it is God who will cause these ten kings to be willing to fulfill His purpose by agreeing together to give the beast their power to rule, until all that God has said comes true.

¹⁸“And the woman you saw is the great city^a that rules over the kings of the earth.”

The Fall of Babylon

18After I was shown these things, I saw another angel coming down from Heaven. He had great authority, and the whole earth was illuminated by the brilliance of his glory.

²With a mighty shout at the very top of his voice

Assyrian Empire. While we state that the evil spirit power controlling the Antichrist may be the same spirit power that controlled the Empire of Greece, it could be that this spirit power will be the same spirit who was behind the rulers of the old Assyrian Empire. It is even more likely that this is true, because Antichrist is called the Assyrian more times than he is called by any other name. Isaiah 10:24-25; 14:24-25; 30:30-31; 31:8-9; Micah 5:5-6. So we feel confident he will first rebuild the Assyrian Empire, after which he will conquer Greece, thus again forming the Grecian Empire.

* * *

One reason why Satan may desire the spirit power which dominated the old Assyrian Empire to be the dominant force in this “new” empire could be because of the ultra wickedness of this spirit. When the Assyrian Empire was the dominating force in the world, their armies were the most devilish and cruel of any that ever marched. Ancient artwork uncovered in Assyria has revealed the atrocities and the cruelty with which the Assyrian army inflicted torment and death upon its victims. The Assyrian army has been called the Roman Army of Asia, but the Assyrian armies inflicted far greater cruelty than the armies of Rome.

Those who oppose the rule of God should take heed to the awful events which will befall them as this vile spirit once again dominates world events and activities, thru a thoroughly vile man who has sold out to Satan.

17:9-11a What’s the explanation for all this? See Appendix 241, page 496.

17:11b Present indicative—present, continuous action. This is actually future continuous action, because of the present tense and the context. Literally, *and into destruction he is being driven continually*. See 20:10.

17:13a ... *a one-world government* ...

17:12-13b This kingdom of the ten rulers and

Antichrist will not be a world kingdom in the true sense any more than any other kingdom before it has ever been a world kingdom. Together with Antichrist, these rulers will make war with other nations in an attempt to bring them all under one huge power (but they will not succeed in world rule). Antichrist will be engaged in wars up to the very end. In fact, just months before Armageddon, his capital city of Babylon will be completely destroyed and burned, as we will see in chapter 18.

17:14a Romans 8:28-30.

17:15a See v 1.

17:16a ... *that is, the ten kings* ...

17:16b They will confiscate all her property.

17:16c Here we find what will finally happen to *the whore*, the heathen religious system of Old Babylon, which has infiltrated much of organized Christianity, and which will evidently culminate in the great one-world church of the end time.

The ten rulers of Revised Rome will evidently use this religious power for their own purposes for a time, and then they will utterly destroy this religious system and burn the *city* of her headquarters, wherever that may be. God hates this heathen religious system which claims to be of Him. It is He who will place in the hearts of these kings the desire to destroy this system after they have used it to unite their empire. Thus will come to an end this Satan-inspired heathen monstrosity and her capital city.

17:18a The logical place for the headquarters’ *city* of the great one-world church would be in or near Jerusalem, the most noteworthy and respected religious city in the world. It’s likely that this religious monstrosity will ask permission of Israel to locate their headquarters there. We believe Israel will refuse that request, and they will then ask to locate in or near the city of new Babylon. In that event, this Babylonian religious system would return home, where it belongs.

he cried out, “She has fallen! Great Babylon has fallen! Now she has become a home for demons, a gathering place for all kinds of filthy spirits, and a territorial possession for every kind of unclean and contemptible bird,

³“because people in all the nations have drunk the inflammatory wine of her degrading and corrupting immorality. Even the rulers of the earth have had brazenly immoral relations with her. And businessmen thruout the world have become rich from the extravagance of her inconsiderate, sensuous, unrestrained life style.”

⁴Then I heard another voice from Heaven saying, “Come out of her, My people, so there won’t be any danger of your taking part in her sins! Because if you do, you will also be judged with the judgments that will soon strike her.

⁵“Because the stench of her sins has reached all the way to Heaven, and God is prepared and ready to judge her.

⁶“Pay her back now, full measure, as much as she did to you! In fact, pay her double harm for all the harm she has done. She mixed a poisonous drink for you. So now mix a double portion of the same drink for her, in the same cup with which she served you.

⁷“And to the extent that she glorified herself and selfishly lives in sensuous luxury, now give her the same measure of torture and sorrow. Because in her heart, she keeps boasting to herself, ‘I’m sitting here as the queen. I’m not a widow. I’ll never experience any sorrow.’

⁸“Her plagues will therefore overtake her in one day—death, mourning, and famine—and she will be totally consumed with flames, because the Lord God who judges her is powerful.^a

⁹“And the world rulers who’d had immoral relations with her and had shared her sensuous, luxurious life style, will weep and grieve over her when they see^a the smoke rising from the devouring flames that consume her.

¹⁰“They will stand far off^a because of their fear of the torture she is undergoing. ‘Oh, what a calamity!’ they will cry out. ‘Babylon, that great city, that powerful city! It took only one hour to seal your doom!’

¹¹“Businessmen all over the world will weep and mourn over her, because there will be no one left there to buy their goods.

¹²“She was their main customer for shipments of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth; every kind of citron wood, and all kinds of articles made from ivory, expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble;

¹³shipments of cinnamon and other spices, and incense, perfumes, and frankincense; wine and olive oil, fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves—even the very souls of men.

¹⁴“And all the ripe fruits and other choice things you loved so much,’ they will say, ‘are no longer being brought to you. All the rich and splendid things have left you. There is no way that you will ever again obtain them.’

The reason for believing that Babylon, or more likely an area next to Babylon, will be where this super church will build its headquarters’ city, is both because of the name God gives it (Babylon) and because Zechariah 5:5-11 seems to indicate that this is what will happen. In that Scripture something very sinful tries to locate in Israel, but will be refused. She will then be taken to Babylon, *where a palace will be constructed for it. There it will be established upon its own base.*

18:8a In chapter 17, we read about mystical, religious Babylon, and how she will lord it over the end-time nations of Revised Rome until these nations receive enough power to crush her and burn her headquarters’ city. In this chapter, *the actual city of Babylon* is the subject.

Babylon must be rebuilt if Bible prophecy is to be fulfilled. The city will play a large part in the end-time scene, finally being burned and totally destroyed.

Some claim Bible prophecy states that Babylon will never again be rebuilt. But the prophecy states

that she will never be rebuilt after she has been destroyed by fire. She has not yet been destroyed by fire since those prophecies were made. Babylon was even in existence at the time of Christ, and for many years after. Babylon simply died as a city, and the building stones of the city were carried to many parts of the Middle East.

* * *

When Babylon is finally destroyed by fire, the prophecy is that not even one stone will be carried from her. Jeremiah 51:26. All who pass by or fly over the ruins of Babylon, in all time to follow, will be amazed at the destruction wrought here by the Lord and left by Him as a perpetual reminder of the punishment given rebellion and sin. Those who see the spectacle will hiss in scorn at the memory of the wicked lives of the inhabitants of this rebellious city. Jeremiah 50:13. After Babylon is destroyed, no one will ever again even pass thru the area. Jeremiah 51:43.

As one Bible teacher has stated, “Babylon was the place of the first rebellion against God (Genesis

¹⁵“The businessmen who sold her these things and became wealthy by doing business with her will stand far off from her because of their fear of the torture she is enduring, and they will weep and mourn.

¹⁶“Oh, what tragedy!” they will cry out. “That great city! She once dressed herself so beautifully in fine linen dyed purple and scarlet, and adorned herself with gold and precious stones and pearls!

¹⁷“But in just one hour all that great wealth has utterly disappeared!”

“And every sea captain and all who travel the seas, every sailor and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off and watch.

¹⁸“When they see the smoke from her flames, they will cry out, ‘What city in all the world can be compared to this great city?’

¹⁹“Weeping and wailing, they will throw dust on their heads, and cry out, ‘How terrible! How terrible! That great city, by which all who had ships on the sea became rich thru her wealth! But in only one hour she is made utterly desolate!’”^a

²⁰“But rejoice because of her destruction, all of you who live in Heaven, especially you holy apostles and prophets, because God has now judged her for the evil way she treated you!”

²¹Then a powerful angel picked up a great boulder the size of a large millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying, “That’s the unmerciful way the great city of Babylon will be violently thrown down, never to rise again.

²²“The music of harpists and other musicians of

every sort, including flute players and trumpeters, will never again be heard in you. No workman of any trade will ever again set foot within your city limits, and the sound of a millstone grinding grain will never again be heard in you.

²³“Never again will the light of even a single lamp shine in you. Never again will the cheerful voices of the bride and bridegroom be heard within you. Your businessmen were the most powerful on earth; and by your poisonous magic^a all the nations were led astray.

²⁴“In your streets, flowed the blood of prophets and others who were dedicated to God. In fact, you are responsible for the killing of all of God’s people on earth who have ever been killed.”^a

The Chorus of Praise

19 After I was shown all this, I heard a chorus of thunderously loud praises coming from an enormous crowd in Heaven. “Hallelujah!” they were all shouting. “Our salvation is from the Lord our God! It is He who saved us! To Him alone belong honor and glory, because it was accomplished thru His great power!”^a

²“Because all His judgments are fair and just,^a He has most severely judged the great^b whore because of the way she corrupted the people of earth with her filthy, degrading, and immoral standards. God has also judged her and made her pay the price for all the servants of His that she murdered.”

11:1-9) and it will be the scene of the last rebellion.” Babylon will not only be the capital of Antichrist as he comes to power, but it will probably serve as the headquarters for all kinds of sorcery and Satan worship as well. So this city too will likely be a religious center, but totally controlled by Antichrist when he comes to power.

It’s likely that people from all over the world will flock to the new city of Babylon to take advantage of business opportunities. But as the wickedness of the city again becomes apparent, God will call his people to *come out* of this city, so that there won’t be any danger of their taking part in her sins. Because if they do, they will also be judged with her plagues. This falling into her sins would make them likewise eligible for the judgment that will be poured out upon her. v 4.

18:9a ... *by means of television?* ...

18:10a ... *where they hope they are safe* ...

18:19a The owners of ships, which would likewise in this day include airlines, will be in utter dismay, because for them this city will be their greatest port

for passengers, freight, etc. The loss of this city will greatly reduce their business.

18:23a This can refer to drugs, magic arts, or witchcraft.

18:24a This likely refers to Babylon’s religious system that in its various forms has persecuted and killed God’s people thruout the centuries. Babylon will again, in our day, be the center for all manner of ruthless killings and persecution of God’s people thruout the earth. This city will finally receive its just reward in a burning death. For further information on the destruction of New Babylon see 14:8; 16:19; 19:1-5; Isaiah 13:1-22; 14:1-27; 47:1-15; 48:20-22; Jeremiah 50:1 to 51:64.

19:1a First He redeemed us by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, who willingly suffered and died that we might live. **Second** He has given each of us who are true followers of the Lord a new birth spiritually by means of the Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13; 3:7-8) using the word of God (1 Peter 1:23) to convict us of our sins and of The Judgment, and of our need to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior. **Third**

³Again they shouted, “All praise to our God! The smoke from her burning will rise up forever and ever!”

⁴Then the 24 elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. “So let it be!” they shouted. “God be praised in all He has done!”

The Wedding Feast of the Lamb

⁵Then a voice came from the throne,^a saying, “Continue to praise our God, all of you who are His servants who revere and obey Him, whether you are small or great!”

⁶Then again I heard the extremely loud shouting of that enormous crowd. And again it sounded like the combined roaring of a great waterfall, together with enormous crashes of thunder. They were all shouting, “All praise to our God! For the Lord God of unlimited power reigns!

⁷“Let us rejoice and be extremely glad, and give all praise to Him for His greatness! Because the wedding of the Lamb^a is about to take place, and His bride has made herself ready.”^b

⁸She was given a wedding robe of the finest linen to wear—clean and white—because fine linen represents the good lives lived by those who belong to the Lord.

⁹“Write this down,” the angel then said to me: “Those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb are supremely and inexpressibly happy!”^a Then he added, “These are words from God. So no words could be more true.”

¹⁰When he said that, I was so overwhelmed that I fell at his feet to worship him. “Don’t do that!” he quickly said. “I’m only your fellow servant, and a fellow servant of your brothers and sisters who have also told others about Jesus. Worship God! Because it’s what Jesus has told us about Him that inspires all true preaching and witnessing.”

The Rider on the White Horse

¹¹Then I saw Heaven flung wide open. And there before me was a white horse, and the One^a riding the horse is called Faithful and True. He always does what is right, even when He makes a judgment and wages war.

¹²His eyes were like flames of fire, and on His head were many crowns. There was a name written upon Him, but He was the only One who knew what it meant.

¹³He was dressed in a robe that had been dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God.

¹⁴Dressed in fine linen, white and clean, were the armies of Heaven, following Him on white horses.^a

¹⁵And out of His mouth came a sharp sword, with which He will strike down the nations. Then He will shepherd them with a scepter of iron.^a At that moment, however, He was preparing to tread the winepress of the furious anger of the Almighty God.^b

¹⁶On both His robe and His thigh was written the name:

God has not left us to battle Satan and life’s temptations and trials alone. He has promised to always be with us to help us overcome each temptation (John 15:1-5; Romans 8:13,26,37; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:13-16; Jude 1c) and to offer us forgiveness upon our sincere confession and repentance if we should sin in an unguarded moment (1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-5) until we are finally safe at home with Him in Heaven.

19:2a ... because He judges according to His great knowledge of the truth regarding all things ...

19:2b She is called *great* because of her great, though corrupted, power.

19:5a This appears to be the voice of Christ, the Son of God. Psalm 22:22-23a,25.

19:7a Jesus Christ.

19:7b All who are truly dedicated to Christ are a part of His bride. It’s important to notice that the bride of the Lamb *has made herself ready*, which shows that certain preparations are necessary on the part of the bride. This seems clear from her

white robe, which represents the good lives lived by those who belong to the Lord. v 8. But she never could have made herself ready without Christ dying to purify her.

So it is true both that Christ makes His followers ready for Himself, and that they also must make themselves ready. Without Christ’s sacrifice for her and without His Spirit’s constant help, she would be altogether unable to make herself ready to be His bride. She is able to work out her own salvation because God is working within her to enable her to both determine to do what is pleasing to Him, and then do it. See Philippians 2:12-13.

19:9a ... far beyond present human understanding.

19:11a Jesus, the Messiah.

19:14a Those dressed in white, riding on white horses, are no doubt the angels and the bride of Christ. This does not necessarily mean that all who will compose the bride of Christ are with Him by then. See Matthew 24:29-31. But notice that Christ alone bears the sword. He alone (vss 15,21) uses

**KING of kings
and LORD of lords.^a**

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun. And he called out with a loud voice to all the birds that fly thru the air. "Come!" he shouted, "and gather together for the great feast prepared for you by our great God!

¹⁸"Come, and eat the flesh of kings, of generals and powerful soldiers, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free men and slaves, small and great."^a

¹⁹Then I saw the beast^a and the rulers of the earth and their armies all gathered together in battle array to wage war against the One sitting on the white horse and against His army.

²⁰But then the beast was captured, and also the false prophet who had performed miracles in the presence of the beast,^a by which he had deceived those who had accepted the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were then thrown alive into the lake of fire, a lake of flaming sulfur.

²¹Then the rest of those great armies were cut down and slain by the sword that came out of the mouth of the One who sat on the white horse. And all the birds gorged themselves on the flesh of the dead.

The Thousand Years

20 Then I saw an angel come down from Heaven with a massive chain in his hand and the key to the bottomless pit.

²He grabbed hold of the dragon, that old snake who has been around for ages—that is, the devil, or Satan—and chained him up for a thousand years.

³Then he threw him into the bottomless pit, and locked it up and sealed it. He did this to keep Satan where he would be unable to deceive the nations anymore, until the thousand years come to an end. After that he must be set free for a short time.

⁴Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their witness to others about Jesus, and had faithfully and fearlessly proclaimed God's message.^a Also, they had not worshiped the beast nor his image, nor had they received his mark on their forehead or their hand. They all came back to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵This is the first raising of the dead. The rest of the dead, however, did not come back to life until the end of the thousand years.

⁶Those who will be raised back to life in the first raising of the dead will be extravagantly blessed by God and extremely happy, far beyond anything anyone can presently imagine.^a But only those

the sword. He alone is the One who defeats this opposing army at the Battle of Armageddon.

19:15a Just what does this mean? See Appendix 232, page 492.

19:15b See 14:17-20.

19:16a 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 1:10; 1 Timothy 6:15.

19:18a The birds of the air will be invited to gather at Armageddon to devour the armies that will be slain by the Lord. All those who have opposed Christ and are gathered together in united strength against Israel will be reduced to bird feed. The high and the low, the kings, the captains, the mighty men, as well as all other men, both free men and slaves, with all their sophisticated modern war machinery, will find their strength to be as a drop in the proverbial bucket in comparison to the great power of our great God.

Although the great judgment from God of earthquake, fire, great hailstones, and darkness will follow *immediately after the tribulation of those days* (Matthew 24:29), it appears that the idea of immediacy need not be understood in its most liter-

al sense. *The birds that fly thru the air* will have time, first, to gorge themselves on the armies of the slain following the battle of Armageddon. There is no mention in Scripture of any burial of these bodies or bones. Undoubtedly, the great judgment to follow the Great Tribulation (Psalm 46:1-11; 97:5-6; Isaiah 2:10-21; 24:1-23; 34:4; 40:3-5; 42:15; Jeremiah 4:23-29; 30:23-24; Daniel 12:11-12; Joel 3:15-16; Nahum 1:2-6; Haggai 2:6-7a; Malachi 4:1-3; Matthew 24:29; 2 Peter 3:10-12; Revelation 6:12-17; 16:16-21; 21:1c) will erase every trace of these human bodies. Either the earthquake, fire, or the great hailstones will take care of them completely.

19:19a Antichrist.

19:20a That is, by the permission and power of Antichrist, who got his authority from the dragon (Satan). 13:2.

20:4a ... *without adding to, taking away, softening, explaining away, or ignoring certain parts.*

20:6a 1 Corinthians 2:9.

20:6b You will not automatically become holy

who have sincerely dedicated themselves to live holy lives for God will be included.^b The second death will have no power over them. But even more than that, they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Christ a thousand years.^c

The Defeat and Doom of Satan

⁷When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison.

⁸He will then go out to deceive people in the nations thruout the world, including Gog and Magog. He will recruit a huge army for war, as vast in numbers as the numberless sands on the seashore.

⁹Then they will advance from everywhere on earth against those dedicated to God, who have encamped around the city loved by God.^a But before they can attack or harm God's people or Jerusalem in any way, fire will come down from God out of Heaven and consume them.

when you enter Heaven. The Scriptures are clear on the fact that you must be living a holy life on earth even to be allowed into Heaven. See 21:27 and Hebrews 12:14 note.

20:6c *The second death*, which is separation from God in the lake of fire, will have no power over those who have been resurrected to a glorified state. All people involved in the first resurrection will serve Christ, as God's representatives, as His *priests*. They will serve in various capacities in the Millennial reign of Christ, and on into eternity. Daniel 7:18; 12:3; Revelation 22:3-5. Such great promises of glory, power and intimacy with Christ and with God the Father certainly merit the most intense effort on our part to obtain. The greatest encouragement to the Christian thru all of life's testing and trials is that Jesus Christ will never leave nor forsake any true follower of His. Hebrews 13:5-6.

Someone might ask, "But how could a loving God ever send anyone to a lake of fire? How could He do such a thing to anyone?" Well, just because you might not do so, does not mean that God will not. God has good reason for everything He does. One of the reasons the USA at this time is becoming weak is because of her soft attitude toward crime and the criminal. No one knows the mind of God in any perfect sense. No man knows His thoughts or His understanding. It is His definite word, however, that the *lake of fire* is real, and terrible, and will endure *forever and ever*.

The matter of God's judgment upon every rebel must be left with Him. But likewise, we must each be concerned that we are not included in God's

¹⁰Then the devil, who had fooled them, will be thrown into the lake of fire, a lake of flaming sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet already are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.^a

The Judgment of All the Dead

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and the One who sat on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and no place was found for them.^a

¹²And I saw the dead,^a both small and great, they were all there, standing before God. Then the books were opened.^b Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.^c And the dead were judged according to the things they had done, which were recorded in the books.^b

¹³The oceans and seas gave up the dead bodies which were in them. The dead in every grave were raised.^a And Hell^b released for further judgment all the souls of the dead it was holding. And they were each judged according to what they had done

judgment of sinners. All believers are warned to make certain that their surrender to Christ as Lord is very genuine. 2 Peter 1:10. Only those who are truly born again, giving evidence of lives truly surrendered to the will of God, will be saved. See John 3:3 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

20:9a Jerusalem.

20:7-10a See Appendix 242, page 497, for a very important note on these verses.

20:11a For those who will stand before God for this judgment, *the earth and the heavens* will lose all significance in comparison with Him. It will be as though they no longer existed. His glory and majesty will completely overwhelm every other consideration.

20:12a These are the people who are also dead to God: the openly rebellious, the religious pretender who practiced selective obedience (being disobedient to God in areas where he felt he didn't need to obey, or could get away with it), and all other hypocrites, and all liars, thieves, and all other sorts of sinners who refused God's forgiveness on His conditions. They hadn't been included in the first resurrection, but they have all been resurrected now for judgment.

20:12b Just what are the books mentioned here? See Appendix 243, page 498.

20:12c This is the *Book of God's Record in Heaven* of those who had been truly born again and had remained faithful to Him in their living and in their witness to others about Him. Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 12:11. Regarding those ashamed and cowardly about witnessing, see Mark

in life.^c

¹⁴Then all the dead who had been in Hell were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death.^a

¹⁵And all whose names were not found written in the Book of Life were thrown into the lake of fire.

The New Jerusalem

21 Then I saw a new sky and a new earth, because the first sky and the first earth had passed away. There weren't even any oceans on the new earth.

²Then I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God. It was most beautifully adorned, like a bride beautifully dressed and adorned for her husband.

³Then I heard a loud voice call out from Heaven, "Look! God's home is now with the people of earth, and He will live with them! The people of all the nations of earth will then be His people, and

God Himself will be with them and be their God.

⁴"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, no more mourning or crying or pain, because the old order of things has passed away."

⁵"Look," said the One sitting on the throne, "I am making everything new." Then He said to me, "Write that down, because these words are the truth and can be trusted."

⁶Again He spoke to me. "It is done!"^a He said. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who is thirsty, I will give an ample supply of water without charge from the spring of the Water of Life."^b

⁷"Those who conquer Satan and triumph over the temptations of the world will inherit everything,^a And I will be their God and they will be My children.

⁸"But those who were fearful and cowardly,^a and all unbelievers, the vile and abominable,^b the murderers, the sexually immoral,^c those who

8:38; Revelation 21:8a.

20:13a And don't ever fool yourself that your cremated body will be impossible for God to reconstruct—you'll be there, unless you were included in the first resurrection.

20:13b Or *Hades*, the temporary place of punishment for the ungodly.

20:13c At this judgment, all dead bodies of persons who had not previously been raised to eternal life will be raised from wherever they are and brought back to life and joined to their souls that have been in Hell. The body that sinned shall, in righteous judgment, also be the body that shall suffer. The righteous will live joyfully forever, but the wicked will linger on in a state never to be ended by death.

20:14a Death is separation. The first death is physical, taking place when the soul is separated from the body. (The soul is the personality, the real person who lives in a body.) *The second death* is reserved for the soul that has rejected Christ and His will, and is living his life mainly to please himself. Some have received Christ as Savior, desiring to use Him as a fire escape from Hell, but they have rejected Him as Lord, still rebelling and going their own way whenever they choose. They have not been diligent in obeying the commands of Christ in the books, and their doom will be in accordance with what they have actually done. 2 Corinthians 11:15. See also Matthew 7:15-29. *The second death* will result in the soul's separation from God in the lake of fire, where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. v 10.

But you are still alive. There is still hope for you. *If you realize that God is speaking to you today, don't harden your heart!* Hebrews 4:7b. Turn to Appendix 247, page 520, and read *The Amazing Story of God*, which is also your story. Make sure today that your story has a happy and marvelous eternity. And bring many with you.

21:6a ... *My great plan and purpose has now been realized and fully completed!* ...

21:6b This is the everlasting life that continually flows to mankind thru the sacrifice Jesus Christ gave to free us from sin. But as God states in the next verse, this promise is conditional upon *conquering Satan and triumphing over the temptations of the world.*

21:7a We have another reference here to *conquerers*. See the notes on chapters 2 and 3 concerning the overcomer. Only the overcomer *will inherit everything*. Only to the overcomers does God say, *I will be their God and they will be my children*. The overcomer is one who has believed on Christ as Savior and has also died to self, taking up his cross. Matthew 10:38-39; Mark 8:36-38. He it is who has truly experienced the reality of 2 Corinthians 5:17, which reads, *So anyone who is a true follower of Christ is a new person. His old goals and ambitions and his old way of living are things of the past. Listen! Everything about him or her is now new.* His desires now are to please his Lord and to live wholly for Him. Only those people who are truly born-again believers, in all truth, are the *overcomers* who *will inherit everything*.

21:8a Here we have a description of some of those

practiced witchcraft and the magic arts, and idolaters, and all liars—they will all be thrown into the lake of fire, a lake of continually burning liquid sulfur, which is the second death.”

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had emptied the seven bowls upon earth, filled with the seven last plagues, came to me and said, “Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

¹⁰And he carried me away in my spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the great city, the Holy Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God.^a

¹¹It was most beautifully and brilliantly aglow with the glory of God. It sparkled with a radiance like the most precious jewel, like a great stone of crystal-clear jasper.

¹²It was encircled by a great, high wall with twelve gates, with each gate guarded by an angel. There were names written on the gates—the names of the twelve tribes of the people of Israel.

¹³There were three gates on the east wall, three on the north, three on the west, and three on the south.

¹⁴The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were inscribed the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵The angel talking with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

¹⁶The city is in the form of a great cube. It’s as long as it is wide, and when he measured the city with the rod, it was found to be fifteen hundred (1,500) miles long! And its length and width and height are all the same!

¹⁷Then he measured its wall. It was 216 feet thick.^a The angel was using man’s standard of measurement.

¹⁸The entire wall was made of jasper, and the city itself was made of pure gold, so pure that it was as clear as glass.

¹⁹The 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.

²⁰The fifth was sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

²¹The twelve gates were twelve great pearls, with each individual gate a single pearl. In the main parkway thru the city, the street was made of pure gold, as transparent as glass.

²²But I didn’t see any Temple in the city, because the Lord God, the Almighty One, and the Lamb, are its Temple.

²³The city doesn’t have any need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illumines it, and the Lamb is also its light.

²⁴And the people of the nations that are saved will walk in its light, and the rulers of the earth will bring their glory and honor into it.

²⁵The gates of the city will remain open all day. In fact, they will never be closed, because there will be no night there.

²⁶So the people and their rulers will continually bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

²⁷But in no way will anything ever be allowed to enter it that would pollute it, which would include anyone who is immoral or a liar. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be welcomed there.

who will *not* be included among the overcomers. Some of these people have even made a profession of believing in Christ. Many of them were members of good churches. They say they believe, but their fear of man is greater than their fear of God. They are ashamed of Christ (Mark 8:38) and fearful to take a bold stand and speak out for Him.

Some were even preachers. Matthew 7:22-23. But they were more concerned about pleasing the people and being well thought of by them than they were about fully pleasing God. They have preached an easy way to Heaven, explaining away many of God’s warnings, and ignoring other warnings as if they weren’t even there. These are the ones who are *fearful and cowardly*. They have been too cowardly to speak out boldly for Christ in accordance with Romans 10:9-10. *These will all have their*

place in the lake of fire, together with the many others whose sins mark them unmistakably as enemies of God. Mention is made again that this is the *second death*. See Ezekiel 33:1-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:9-10; James 2:13.

For a further list of those who will not make it to Heaven, read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21, and be warned.

Be most diligent to make your calling and election to salvation and eternal life with God a sure thing! 2 Peter 1:10.

21:8b This includes all whose filthy actions in life are abominable in the eyes of God.

21:8c See Romans 1:26-27, and the note.

21:9-10a This city is likely called the bride of Christ because of its beauty and perfection, but also because of the bride of Christ (19:7) who will live

22 Then the angel showed me a perfectly pure river. It was the Water of Life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb, and running down the middle of the main parkway of the city.

²The Trees of Life were growing on each side of the river, and they bore a different kind of fruit each month of the year.^a And the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the people of all nations. No longer will God's curse^b be upon the earth.

³And the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants will take great pleasure in serving Him.

⁴They will see Him face to face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

⁵Since there will be no night there, they won't need any lamps. Nor will they need any light from the sun, because the Lord God will shine upon them continually. And they will reign forever and ever.^a

⁶Then the angel said to me, "You can believe what you have heard, because it's the truth. The Lord God of the holy prophets has sent His angel to show His servants the things that must take place quickly.^a And listen! It's Jesus who has said, 'I will come suddenly!'"

⁷God will bless those who pay careful attention and put into practice the commands and instructions contained in the words of prophecy in this book.

⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And after I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had

shown them to me.

⁹But the angel quickly said, "Don't do that! Because I am a servant of God just like you and your brothers the prophets and all others who sincerely consider and obey all the words in this book. Worship God!"

Final Words from Jesus

¹⁰Then Jesus said to me, "Don't seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time for these things to begin is near.

¹¹"Let the one who insists on living in disobedience to God continue on in his rebellion. Let those who insist on living filthy lives continue on in their filthiness. But the one who is intent on pleasing God, let him continue to live for God. And the one who is dedicated to doing what is right, let him continue to live a holy life.^a

¹²"And listen," Jesus continued, "I will come suddenly! I will bring My rewards with Me, and I will reward everyone according to what he has done.

¹³"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.

¹⁴"God will indeed bless those who live in obedience to His commands, because they are the ones who will have the right to enter thru the gates into the city, and to eat the fruit from the Trees of Life.^a

¹⁵"But those who will not be allowed into the city are the dogs,^a including those who practice witchcraft and all kinds of sorcery, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, and everyone who loves to do wrong and practices lying.^b

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to you so that these things may be preached in the churches. I am both David's Root and his Descendant,^a the

there.

21:17a Or *high*.

22:2a There will no doubt be plenty of variety of fruit at all times.

22:2b Genesis 3:16-19.

22:5a 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 5:10.

22:6a ... *in a brief period of time, when they once begin to happen* ... 1:1.

22:11a "Sow an act—reap a habit; sow a habit—reap a character; sow a character—reap a destiny."—*Author not known*. "No worse punishment can God lay on ungodly men than to give them up to themselves."—*J.F. and Brown*.

Our condition in the coming life depends so absolutely upon our conduct in the present life! Are you born again? Does your life of obedience to God say so? See v 14; Romans 2:1-10; 6:16; Hebrews 5:9.

22:14a How do you expect to enter the Holy City,

the New Jerusalem, where Christ is preparing mansions for those who love Him, if you are refusing to *obey Him*? This verse so pointedly declares that only those who obey Him have *the right to enter thru the gates into the city, and to eat the fruit from the Tree of Life*. What a frightful loss will be sustained by those who determinedly continue to go their own way instead of in the way of the will of God. The Lord did not limit His commands to the Old Testament times. His New Testament is filled with His commands. Study them diligently, and obey them heartily. v 12.

22:15a A symbol of the wicked, the vile and abominable, those disobedient to God.

22:15b See 21:8.

22:16a See 5:4-5; Matthew 22:41-46.

22:17a These are all in the imperative mood, the mood of command. The implication here is that

Bright Morning Star.”

¹⁷“You must^a come!” is the urgent invitation from both the Spirit and the bride.^a If you have heard and accepted the Great News for yourself, you must^a now urgently invite others to “Come!” There are so many who are thirsty who must^a be invited to come. And let the person who is interested know that in order to live he must^a accept the Water of Life as a gift from God. It is free!^b

¹⁸I confirm and solemnly warn everyone who hears^a the words of the prophecy of this book: If you add anything to what is written here, God will plague you with the curses described in this book.

both the Spirit of God and those redeemed by God (19:7-9) give the invitation to those still outside to come to the Savior and be healed, that they might receive God’s forgiveness and become partaker in all of the glorious promises He has made to those who become His own. All who *hear* and accept this message are to repeat it to others and encourage them also to surrender their stubborn wills to their Creator and Savior.

Every soul without the Savior is restless, nursing a thirst that only Christ can quench. The offer made in this book is to *all who desire* forgiveness, peace, joy, and everlasting life. Let anyone who will, drink deeply of Christ Himself and of His wondrously revealed word, with all the promises and directions that are here to be received.

22:17b No matter how unworthy you may feel, and no matter what your past has been, God offers to forgive.

22:18a ... or reads ...

22:19a ... of all that is promised those whose names are ...

22:18-19b These verses sound a very serious warning to anyone who teaches from this book of

¹⁹And if you take away any of the words of the prophecy in this book, God will take from you your part^a in the Book of Life. You will not enter the Holy City nor have any part in the promises written in this book.^b

²⁰The One who has solemnly given us this message from God, says, “Be sure of this: I will come suddenly!”

Yes! May it all happen exactly as You have said. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

²¹May the kindness and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. So be it!

the Revelation, or from any other part of God’s word. To add things which are not revealed is positively dangerous. Likewise, to *take away any of the words of the prophecy in this book will result in God taking from Him his part in the Book of Life. He will not enter the Holy City nor have any part in the promises written in this book.*

Please permit a final warning to anyone who is tempted to disregard or soften the vivid details from the Lord in this Revelation concerning the overcomer, especially in 2:1 to 3:22. To water down these warnings is to *take away some of the words of the prophecy of this book!* And be sure that you as a reader accept the Lord’s message in its completeness for yourself. Be careful, as well, when presenting the teachings of The Revelation (and the rest of the Bible) to others, that it is done in absolute honesty. To do otherwise is to be a traitor, both to your hearers and to God! May you truly be an overcomer in all you do and in all you teach.

T

hen as I looked, I saw a white cloud. Sitting on the cloud was One who looked like Jesus, the Son of Man. There was a gold crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

¹⁵Then another angel came out of the Temple and called out with a loud voice to the One sitting on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle now and reap the harvest, because the harvest of the earth is ripe, so it is time for You to reap!”

¹⁶So the One sitting on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and He reaped the harvest of the earth.

—Revelatin 14:14-16. See footnote.