

## REVELATION NOTES - SES

IMPORTANT ARTICLE: [R3568]

### OVERVIEW

Written last, about 93-96 A.D., while John was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos.

Written after the destruction of Jerusalem [69-73 A.D.].

### CHAPTER ONE

John does not claim to be the author. [See verse 1.]

The revealing of Jesus Christ.

God gave it to Jesus.

Jesus sent it to John by an angel.

John bore record of:

The Word of God;

The Testimony of Jesus Christ;

All things that he saw.

The book is purely symbolic. [See verse 1 - *sign*-ified.]

A message of future events for each stage of the Church. [See verses 1 and 4.]

"Things which must shortly come to pass."

"To the seven churches."

Other comments on verses 1-6:

To: The Seven Churches

From: God; the Seven Spirits; Jesus Christ

Verse 7 is about Jesus second advent.

"He cometh with clouds."

"Every eye shall see him."

"Also those who pierced him."

"All shall wail because of him."

Verse 8 is Jesus speaking.

"The Alpha and Omega."

"The beginning and the ending" [of the creation of God].

"Which is, was, and is to come"

"The Almighty" [since his resurrection - Matt. 28:18]

Verses 9 and 10 are John speaking.

John himself symbolizes the Church in the Flesh. [See John 21:21-24]

On the Isle of Patmos, prefiguring "the night wherein no man can work".

"On the Lord's Day" - in the beginning of the Millennial Age.

The understanding of the book unfolds in the beginning of the Millennial Age.

The "voice behind me" refers to fulfillments of prophecy in the past.

This understanding will offset the difficulties of the final persecution.

The vision and message begin in verse 11.

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last."

The seven churches are identified.

Verses 12-16 describe Jesus in vision. [See Daniel 10:5,6]

In the midst of seven golden candlesticks [see verse 20]

Like the son of man [mentioned in other prophecies.]

Clothed

Like a King and Priest

The body is hidden

The feet are not hidden

Having a golden sash about his chest [the Divine]

Hair as white as wool and snow [wisdom]

Eyes like flames of fire [all-seeing]

Feet like brass in the fire [the feet members of his body]

A voice like many waters [universal power and authority]

Seven stars in his right hand [see verse 20]

A sharp two-edged sword out of his mouth [the Word of God]

Bright like the sun [the glory, power and blessing of his presence and kingdom]

[R2826]

Verses 17 and 18 are Jesus' identification of himself.

"Fear not." [Not in old manuscripts.]

"I am the First and the Last." [See verses 8 and 11.]

"I am he that liveth, and was dead,"

"I am alive for evermore."

"I have the keys of hell and of death."

Verse 19 is Jesus' directive to John.

Write:

Past

Present

Future

Verse 20 is a partial interpretation.

The seven stars are the seven angels [messengers].

Individuals throughout the Gospel Age

Not the same picture as Rev. 12:1

In the right hand, indicating special supervision

The seven candlesticks are the seven churches.

## CHAPTERS TWO AND THREE

IMPORTANT ARTICLE: [R5992]

### OVERVIEW:

Each message contains certain key elements:

How Jesus identifies himself to that Church

How Jesus views each stage

Warning message

The special promise to overcomers of that period

"Hear what the Spirit says to the Churches."

### TIMELINE:

JOHN	EPHESUS	[2:1-7]	Time of the Apostles [33 A.D. - 73 A.D.]
PAUL	SMYRNA	[2:8-11]	Period of Pagan Persecution [73 A.D. - 325 A.D.]
ARIUS	PERGAMOS	[2:12-17]	The rise of Papacy [325 A.D. - 539 A.D.]  (1160 A.D.)
WALDO	THYATIRA	[2:18-29]	The Church in the Wilderness [539 A.D. - 1368 A.D.]
WYCLIFFE	SARDIS	[3:1-6]	A period of transition [1368 A.D. - 1518 A.D.]
LUTHER	PHILADELPHIA	[3:7-13]	From the Reformation [1518 A.D. - 1874 A.D.]
RUSSELL	LAODICEA	[3:14-22]	The period of Jesus' Parousia [1874 A.D. --> ???]

## DETAILED CONSIDERATION:

### EPHESUS [2:1-7]

"First" or "Desirable"

Time of the Apostles [33 A.D. - 73 A.D.]

Jesus' identity:

The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand

The one who walks among the seven golden lampstands

Church's characteristics:

Hard work and perseverance

Cannot tolerate wicked people

Tested false Apostles (Apostolic Succession)

Did not grow weary

Lost their "first love"

Hate the Nicolaitan practices (1 Pet. 5:3)

Warning:

Repent

Your lampstand will be removed

[Jesus walks among the lampstands]

Promise:

The right to eat from the Tree of Life

Angel / Messenger:

Apostle Paul

He was alive at the beginning of this stage

His "trumpet" message reached the entire Church at that time

### SMYRNA [2:8-11]

"Bitter Affliction"

Period of Pagan Persecution [73 A.D. - 325 A.D.]

Jesus' identity:

The first and the last

The one who was dead and is alive again

Church's characteristics:

Tribulation and Poverty (but Rich)

Slandered by false Jews (of the synagogue of Satan)

Warning:

Cast into prison

Severe persecution for "ten days"

Promise:

The crown of The Life

"Not hurt of 2nd death" (immortality)

[Jesus was dead and is alive forevermore]

Angel / Messenger:

Apostle John

He was alive at the beginning of this stage

His "trumpet" message reached the entire Church at that time

## PERGAMOS [2:12-17]

"Earthly Elevation"

The rise of Papacy [325 A.D. - 539 A.D.]

Jesus' identity: The one with the sharp two-edged sword

Church's characteristics:

Good works

Held fast to the True God during the rise of Paganism

Antipas ("against Papa" - the Papacy) the faithful martyr

Warning:

The Spirit of Compromise

The Doctrine of Balaam

The Doctrine of the Nicolaitanes

Repent

"Fight against you with the sword of my mouth" (verse 12)

Promise:

Eat of the hidden manna (immortality)

A new name

Angel / Messenger:

Arius [Antipas]

He was alive at the beginning of this stage

His "trumpet" message reached the entire Church at that time

## THYATIRA [2:18-29]

"Sweet Perfume of Sacrifice" or "Sacrifice of Labor"

The Church in the Wilderness condition [539 A.D. - 1368 A.D.]

Connection with the "Days of Daniel"

Connection with Jezebel and the 3-1/2 years of no rain

Jesus' identity:

The Son of God

Eyes like fire

Feet like fine brass

Church's characteristics:

Good works, even more abundant than previous stages

Love, service, faith and patience

Warning:

"Sufferest that woman Jezebel"

To Papacy:

"Space" to repent [1160 A.D. - 1520 A.D.]

Kill her children with death [1346 A.D. - 1353 A.D.]

Symbolic - including Protestants

Literal - literal plague

Promise:

"No other burden - hold onto what you have"

Power over the nations

The morning star [did not appear until near the end of this period]

[Jesus, the Son of God, is the morning star - 22:16]

Angel / Messenger:

Peter Waldo [1140 A.D. - 1205 A.D.]

Known as "the morning star of the reformation"

The only one not present at the beginning of his stage

The only Church given "no other burden"

His "trumpet" message reached the entire Church in his time

## SARDIS [3:1-6]

"Useless remnant" (out of which the life is almost gone)

A period of transition [1368 A.D. - 1518 A.D.]

1368 to 1518 = 150 years or five prophetic months

This fits with the 5th trumpet [Rev. 9:5 and 9:10]

Jesus' identity:

Having the 7 Spirits of God

Complete Truth and the Spirit of the Truth when considered as a whole.

[R988 : page 3] and [R1410 : page 168]

Rev. 1:4

Rev. 3:1

Rev. 4:5

Rev. 5:6

7 Stars [7 Messengers who deliver the Truth]

Church's characteristics:

A faithful remnant

There are a few [only] which have not been defiled

They are worthy

Warnings:

You are not what you claim to be

You say you are alive, but are actually dead

Your works are lacking

Repent

"Sleepy attitude" - You will be in ignorance

Promise:

Walk with me in white [be part of the bride]

Not, not blot out his name from the book of life [immortality]

Will confess his name before the Father and His angels

Angel / Messenger:

John Wycliffe [1331 A.D. - 1384 A.D.]

## PHILADELPHIA [3:7-13]

"Brotherly Love"

From the Reformation [1518 A.D. - 1874 A.D.]

Jesus identity:

He that is holy

He that is true

He that hath the key of David

He that openeth, and no man shutteth

And shutteth, and no man openeth

Church's characteristics:

Good works

Kept my word

Have not denied my name

Kept the word of my patience

Warnings:

You have a little strength

Beware of the Synagogue of Satan

Keep your patience

Hold fast what you have that no man take your crown

Promises:

Verse 8 - I have set before you an open door, and no man can shut it

Verse 9 - Respected by those who despised you

Verse 10 - I will keep you from the hour of temptation

Verse 12 - Vital part of the Spiritual "Temple of my God"

They will be part of the Kingdom Order

They will have the name of their Bridegroom

Angel / Messenger:

Martin Luther

## PARENTHETICAL THOUGHTS:

Who is Revelation written to?

The 7 Churches. Rev. 1:11

Those who have/bare record of the Testimony of Jesus Christ

Rev. 1:2; 1:9; 6:9; 12:17; 19:10

The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy [Rev. 19:10]

"Unto the Angel of ... write these things."

For what purpose?

The messenger was to transmit this message

To the Lord's true people

To the Nominal Church

The angels are spoken to in other contexts with the same purpose.

## LAODICEA [3:14-22]

### Meaning:

Laos: "a people"

Dic: "a judicial verdict which declares someone approved or disapproved"

A judged people

The period of Jesus' Parousia [1874 A.D. --> completion of the Church]

### Jesus identity:

The Amen (2 Cor. 1:20)

The faithful and true witness

The beginning of the creation of God

### Church's characteristics:

There are those who are lovable.

There are those who hear his voice.

There are those who overcome.

There are those who are "hot" (zealous).

There are those who recognized their failings.

### Warnings:

You are lukewarm

Indifferent

You claim to be rich

Self-satisfaction

Self-confidence

You are:

Wretched and Miserable

Poor

Blind

Naked

Repent

Buy gold refined in the fire

Fiery tests

Divine Nature

Anoint your eyes with eyesalve

Humility

Wear white raiment

Robe of Righteousness

Heavenly Hope

### Promises:

Gold = promise of the Divine Nature

White Raiment = robe of Christ's Righteousness

Eyesalve of Humility

If you are loved by me, you will receive discipline

I am present and if you open the door you will be fed by me

Special feeding and communion to those who open the "door"

Jesus brings the food

Luke 12:37 and contexts

Matt. 24:45

Overcomers will sit with me in my throne

### Angel / Messenger:

Charles Taze Russell

### The message identifies the messenger:

Jesus is a created being

Promise of the Divine Nature

Importance of the Robe of Righteousness

Eyesalve of Humility

Need for discipline

The Lord is Present!



## OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS:

- Chapter 1 Introduction to the book
- Chapter 2 \ Messages to the 7 Churches
- Chapter 3 / [Gospel Age]
- Chapter 4 The Throne scene [Beginning of the Gospel Age]
- Chapter 5 About the 7 seals [Beginning of the Gospel Age]
- Chapter 6 \ The 7 Seals [Include 8:1]
- Chapter 7 / [Gospel Age]
- Chapter 8 \
- Chapter 9 \ The 7 Trumpets
- Chapter 10 / [Gospel Age]
- Chapter 11 /
- Chapter 12 The Woman and the Dragon [Gospel Age]  
[Parable of the Wheat and Tares]
- Chapter 13 The Beast and the Image of the Beast [Gospel Age/Harvest]
- Chapter 14 The Gospel Age Harvest
- Chapter 15 \ The 7 Plagues
- Chapter 16 / [Harvest]
- Chapter 17 The Woman on the Beast [Gospel Age/Harvest]
- Chapter 18 Fall and Destruction of Babylon the Great [Harvest]
- Chapter 19 Beginning of the Millennial Age
- Chapter 20 Judgment of the Millennial Age
- Chapter 21 The New Jerusalem [Millennial Age]
- Chapter 22 Kingdom and Ages to Come / Closing remarks

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### OVERVIEW AND FOUNDATION

The time period is the Gospel Age:

Verse 6 mentions the 1,260 days.

Verse 14 mentions the 3-1/2 times.

These symbolic periods are well-known and proven.

We have references in both Old and New Testaments.

Elijah fleeing from Jezebel 3-1/2 years

Daniel 7:22,25,26 (other parallels too)

Daniel 12

Revelation 11

Revelation 13

The period is from 539 A.D. until 1799 A.D.

Verse 10 claims this is the Kingdom of God

At the same time, the True Church is persecuted.

And the True Church is in the wilderness.

Therefore this cannot be the True Kingdom.

Understanding this we can fit the symbolisms into the time period.

Michael is a symbol:

It should be obvious that the Dragon is a symbol.

It has seven heads and ten horns.

Similar to Daniel 7

We know this is Pagan Rome

It draws a third part of the stars to the earth.

You can't have a literal Michael fighting a symbolic Dragon.

It should be obvious that Heaven is not God's dwelling-place.

There are no wars in heaven.

The Dragon could not be in the presence of God.

So, who is this Michael?

Michael is a title: "Who as God"

This relates to 2 Thess. 2:4

This Michael is a counterfeit of the true.

The Papacy is referred to.

## VERSE BY VERSE

### *The Woman and the Dragon*

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

Heaven = Place of Spiritual Control

Woman = Gospel Church, starts out pure

Clothing = Precious Promises

Sun = The Gospel Light

Moon = The Law (reflected light)

Under her feet

The Church is not under the Law, but is supported by it.

Twelve Stars = Twelve Apostles

2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Child = The Tare element, a growth or development within the Early Church

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

[compare to Rev. 13:1; 17:3 and 19:12]

Dragon = Civil Power

Heads = Forms of Government

Horns = Divisions of Power

Crowns = Dominion or Rulership [compare to Scepter]

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Constantine embraced "Christianity".

A third of the bishops attended the Nicean Council.

"Cast to the earth" by submitting to earthly authority.

Civil Rome tried to control the rising Papacy, and initially did so.

5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Man Child = Papacy in its infancy

The iron rule of Papacy lasted 1000 years

Parallel to 2 Thess. 2 (especially verse 4)

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

#### The True Church

Fled into the wilderness \ Compare to Elijah

A place prepared of God / 1 Kings 17; Luke 4:25; Jas. 5:17

During the "Dark Ages"

Separate in spirit from the Papacy

Outside the "City"

Some "food" came from the "City"

The "water" came from the "Brook"

Contrast with the food and bread from zaretheth

From 539 A.D. to 1799 A.D.

#### *The War in Heaven*

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

War = struggle for power

Heaven = Place of Spiritual Control [same as other verses]

Michael = the Man of Sin [no longer a man child]

Dragon = Civil and Religious Power of Pagan Rome

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

The Papacy succeeded.

Pagan Rome lost its position of Spiritual Control.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The Civil Power of the Roman Empire was controlled by Papacy.

The awful qualities of the Dragon were even worse under Papal control.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ:

for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto

you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

These are the false claims of the Papal system.

Using the martyrs of Pagan Rome to support their false claims.

See Rev. 13:1,11

*The Dragon Persecutes the Woman*

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

The Civil power was used by Papacy to persecute the true Church.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

This is the same period of time first mentioned in verse 6.  
The Old and New Testament writings.

The great eagle represents Wisdom from above.  
Same symbols as "two witnesses", "two olive trees" and "two candlesticks".

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

Daniel 12:5

Young's Literal Translation

"And I have looked -- I, Daniel -- and lo, two others are standing, one here at the edge of the flood, and one there at the edge of the flood..."

C64:4 - C68:2

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. And he stood upon the sand of the sea.

## CHAPTERS 4 AND 5

### OVERVIEW

What is the main theme of these two chapters?

The Glory of God - His character

The Plan of God - the Ransom

The one found worthy to open the scroll:

The Lion of the tribe of Judah

The Lamb (slain)

What is the time setting?

After the Lamb was slain

Before the seals are opened

Primarily the beginning of the Gospel Age

What is the location?

The presence of God

The Divine Seat of Authority and Majesty

The place of spiritual control

### THE THRONE SCENE

4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me;

which said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter.

4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne.

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

How do we know this is the throne of Jehovah God?

Verses 5-11 could only apply to Jehovah God.

There is a strong contrast with Revelation 12.

Rev. 12 is negative.

Rev. 4 and 5 is positive.

Circumstances are very different.

Parallels to Ezekiel in the context link this to God's throne.

Parallels to the Tabernacle in the context link this to God's throne.

What does the trumpet voice symbolize here?

A special proclamation of Truth

An opening up of things previously not seen

A parallel to chapter 1:9-12

The Trumpet voice there is Jesus

See Matt. 11:27

There is a tie in and general parallel to all 7 trumpet messages.

What is symbolized by the jasper, sardine, rainbow and emerald?

Jasper = diamond (clear) = the Glory of God

Sardine = sardius (pink) = love

Rainbow = covenant

Emerald = green = everlasting

## THE 24 ELDERS AND THE 4 LIVING ONES

4:4 And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

4:6 And before the throne [there was] a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, [were] four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

4:7 And the first beast [was] like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast [was] like a flying eagle.

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

4:9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Parallel to the Lord's prayer: "Hallowed be Thy name!"

Who / What are the 24 Elders?

What is the time setting already established?

What are the actions of these 24 Elders throughout Revelation?

Where are the 24 Elders physically located in relation to other symbols?

What position of authority do the 24 Elders have?

The number 24 is associated with Divisions of those who serve God:

1 Chronicles 24, 25, 27.

Priests, Musicians, Military

The 24 Elders explain, comfort, reveal, worship and honor God and Jesus.

This is the beginning of the Gospel Age.

None of the seals is open yet.

None of the 144,000 would have Golden Crowns at this point.

Individual "Elders" speak directly to John in two places in Revelation.

Rev. 5:5 Regarding the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Rev. 7:13-17 Regarding the Great Multitude.

In Rev. 14:1-3 the 144,000 sing before the throne, the 4 Living Ones, and the 24 Elders.

Jehovah God is seated on the throne.

The 4 Living Ones are in the midst and round about the throne.

The 24 elders are round about the throne.

The 7 lamps burn before the throne.

The sea of glass is before the throne.

How does this compare to Rev. 3:21 "to sit with me in my throne"?

How does this compare to the Great Multitude in Rev. 7:9?

Before the throne

Before the lamb

Why isn't the Lion/Lamb pictured on a throne?

These 24 Elders have some kind of authority

"Thrones around the Throne"

Same Greek word

The 24 Elders best represent "The Personification of the Word of God".

Would have been the O.T. at the time Revelation was written

They are extensions of God's Divine authority (gold crowns).

They foretold the events given throughout Revelation.

Their message is pure (white garments).

What are the lightnings, voices and thunderings?

These proceed out of the throne.

Astrapai = Lightning [G796 ἀστραπαί] = Flashes of truth, judgment

Phonai = Voices [G5456 φωναί] = Message

Brontai = Thunder [G1027 βρονταί] = Controversy

What kind of controversial truth message is depicted here?

What are the 7 lamps?

Parallel to the Tabernacle

Parallel to chapter 1 with the 7 lampstands

These are the 7 spirits of God (one perfect holy spirit)

The Divine Will, Influence or Power

Manifested by the Lamb

Manifested by the True Church

Zech. 3:9; 4:10

Rev. 5:6 "7 horns and 7 eyes are the 7 spirits"

What is the Sea of Glass?

Compare to the Laver of Solomon's Temple. (1 Kings 7:23; 2 Chron. 4:2)

Compare to Rev. 15:2; 20:13 and 21:1.

The crystal quality of glass shows clarity. (Rev. 22:1)



What are the 4 living Ones?

Living Ones and NOT creatures because not *created*.

God's character qualities

Never stop praising God

Wisdom, Justice, Love, Power

The Personification of the Four Principles of God, Governing the Laws of the Universe (Streeter)

They are numbered! (This is important later.)

(1) Like a Lion - Power (Prevailed to open the Scroll)

(2) Like a A Young Ox - Justice (the Ransom)

(3) Had the Face of a Man - Love (the object of God's Plan)

(4) Like a Flying Eagle - Wisdom (Far-seeing)

In the midst of the throne and before it

Integrated and pervasive

Fits with God's character

Each has 6 wings, a total of 24 wings and connected to the 24 Elders.

See Isaiah 6.

2 cover the face.

2 cover the feet.

2 are used to fly.

Full of eyes around and within

The body is also full of eyes before and behind.

The eyes on the wings and in the body show omniscience.

Don't rest day or night

Always praising God

Holy, Holy, Holy

Where else do we find similar pictures?

Isaiah 6

Ezekiel 1 (verse 4 - inside the fire)

Ezekiel 10

Is there significance to the change of tense to future in verse 9?

"And when..." future tense

Verse 10 is consistently future tense:

"Then will fall the 24 Elders..."

"They will worship..."

"They will cast their crowns..."

This shows the end result, after the Plan of God is completed.

## THE LION, THE LAMB AND THE SCROLL

### OVERVIEW:

Who is the Lion of the tribe of Juda and the Lamb, and why are these symbols used?

- Verses 1-4 at Jesus' death but not yet raised
- Lion = Prevailed = Power = After his resurrection
- Juda = Jesus' tribe
- Lamb = the Lamb of God = Sacrifice

What is the scroll?

- The Divine Plan (a distinction - not the Bible specifically)
- The hidden features of that Plan
- Redemptive features of that Plan [Psalm 40:7]
- In the Right Hand of Jehovah

What is the significance of writing inside and outside?

- Some things seen
- Most things not yet seen
- Gradually seen as the seals are opened
- Perhaps like a "table of contents"

What is this one elder in verse 5?

- It is difficult to apply this to one prophet.
- A particular prophetic line of reasoning seems to fit best.
- The Books of Moses, Genesis in particular showed this.
- Isaiah mentions the root. (11:1)
- Daniel 7:13-14 talks about "one like unto the Son of Man"
- More than one prophet is involved.

### DETAILS:

5:1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

5:2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

What is the strong angel?

- Personification of the Law of God
- The Law asks the question regarding the satisfaction of Justice.

5:3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

5:4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

[See the OVERVIEW.]

5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.  
5:7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

What do the various symbols mean in these verses?

Horns = Power (Matt. 28:18) [Because of being slain]

"In Christ the Spirit of God dwelt richly..." (John 3:34; R2064)

Four Living Ones = Character traits of God

Twenty-Four Elders = The Word of God

Seven Horns (power) together with Seven Eyes (wisdom) = Seven Spirits of God = Wise execution of his Plan

When was the book taken by the Lamb?

Could have been "taken" at Jordan, but not legally until after his resurrection.

Could not be "open" until after his resurrection. [Legal authority]

5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed for

God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

5:10 And hast made them to be unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign on the earth.

What is the correct translation of verses 9 and 10 and why?

The correct translation speaks of the elect as a separate class from those singing.

The incorrect translation implies that the 4 living ones and the 24 elders are the ones who have been redeemed, etc.

What is the significance of the symbols here?

Harp = A harmonious testimony about the Lamb

God and His Word acknowledge the worthiness of the Lamb.

This fits with the 4 Living Ones being the attributes of God.

This fits with the 24 Elders being the Word of God.

All of this is shown in the Plan of God.

Golden Vials of Incense

Prayers of the Saints [Holy Ones]

A result of the Harp song

Could be the prayers of the Holy Ones of old. [John 8:56]

Not merely the prophets, but all those who had faith in the promises

Bowed down = worship = acknowledging the worthiness of the Lamb

God Himself (through His attributes) acknowledges this.

The Word of God also does so.

What is the time setting for these verses?

After Jesus' "appearing in the presence of God for us". (Heb. 9:24)

Before the seals of the scroll are opened

What is the new song?

Praise to the worthiness of the Lamb

About his redemptive sacrifice

About the High Calling - this aspect in particular is "new"

Important sub-theme from R3103 "Who is Worthy"

Personal application

5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten

thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Who are making this proclamation?

Verse 12: Angels, The 4 Living Ones, The 24 Elders

Verse 13: Every Creature in Heaven, on Earth, such as are in the Sea,  
all that are in them

What is the time setting for these verses?

It follows the words "And I beheld" which implies a new setting.

This is a future vision.

This completes the picture.

What is the connection with verse 10?

The Scroll contains the Plan of God.

The complete fulfillment of that Plan will be as a result of the  
Reign of The Christ.

What is the significance of the symbols in verses 11 and 12?

100 million plus millions of Angels

Power

Riches

Wisdom

Strength

Honour

Glory

Blessing

What is the significance of the symbols in verse 13?

Blessing

Honour

Glory

Power

5:14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

What is the meaning of this verse?

## THE SEVEN SEALS

### OVERVIEW: REVELATION 6:1-8 - The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The Lamb (Jesus) *breaks* and *opens* each of the seals.

At what point in each stage of the Church are the seals opened?

The seals are *broken* at the beginning of each period.

The seals are *opened* gradually during the period.

The process is complete by the end of each period.

What does the symbol of a Horse represent?

Zech. 1; Zech. 14; Rev. 16; Etc.

Isaiah 31:1-3

Horses are mentioned 154 times in the Bible

138 times in the OT

16 times in the NT, 15 times in Revelation

James 3:3 uses the term symbolically to apply to the tongue

The power of the tongue is words.

Doctrines and teachings fit well with this symbol.

Horses are controlled by horsemen as weapons of war, and to pull chariots.

2 Corinthians 10 expands on the thought of our words being weapons, in a good warfare.

Doctrines are tools (weapons) used by leaders, and Chariots are symbols of organizations.

In this context (Revelation 6), horses represent Doctrines

### The First Seal: The White Horse

1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the Four Living Ones saying, Come and see.

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Which of the Four Living Ones is speaking here?

First = Lion = Power [Rev. 4:7]

Voice of Thunder = Job 26:14

What is the significance of the White Horse?

Pure Doctrine

Who is sitting on this horse?

The Early Church

What is happening here?

Bow = Far-reaching message of the Gospel

Crown = Authority to preach the Gospel

Conquering = Proper desire to make converts, but became corrupt

How does this fit with the First Stage of the Gospel Church?

Started out pure

Had a desire to spread the Gospel

The conquering spirit became corrupt

## The Second Seal: The Red Horse

3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the Living One say, Come and see.

4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Which of the Four Living Ones is speaking here?

Second = Ox = Justice

What is the significance of the Red Horse?

Sinful Doctrine - False Doctrine

Who is sitting on this horse?

Apostate Christians

What is happening here?

Take away peace - fightings within the Church

Those on Earth kill each other - Christians destroying each other's beliefs

The rider has a great sword - Hand to hand combat  
(debates, arguments)

How does this fit with the Second Stage of the Gospel Church?

## The Third Seal: The Black Horse

5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third Living One say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the Four Living Ones say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Which of the Four Living Ones is speaking here?

Third = Face like a Man = Love

Power and Justice "speak" when they are violated

Love likewise "speaks" when it is violated

What is the significance of the Black Horse?

Lack of light

Who is sitting on this horse?

The Rising Papacy

What is happening here?

Pair of Balances - weighing the food shows scarcity

A voice in the midst of the Four Living Ones speaks - God was in the midst of the Four Living Ones

Wheat and Barley for a penny - a day's wages

One measure of wheat minimum to sustain life

Three measure of the more "common" barley

Oil and Wine not hurt - the True Church would be protected

How does this fit with the Third Stage of the Gospel Church?

## The Fourth Seal: The Pale (or Gangrene) Horse

7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth Living One say, Come and see.

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Which of the Four Living Ones is speaking here?

Fourth = Eagle = Wisdom

What is the significance of the Gangrene Horse?

Dead, Poisoned Doctrine - the "meal" has been completely corrupted with "leaven" by this time

Who is sitting on this horse?

The Papacy in full power

What is happening here?

Death

Hades

Power over a fourth part of the Earth - Europe

Kill with the sword - given under the 2nd seal

Kill with hunger - given under the 3rd seal

Kill with death - the effects begin to take place (literal death)

Kill with the beasts of the earth - governments

The Papal Millennium resulted in the death of 50 million opponents

How does this fit with the Fourth Stage of the Gospel Church?

Possible parallels to the 7 Parables of Matt. 13

1. Parable of the Sower (pure Truth)

2. Parable of the Wheat and Tares (truth mixed with error)

3. Parable of the Mustard Seed (rapid growth of Papacy)

Fowls in the Branches

Doctrines of Devils

4. Parable of Leaven (Truth is totally corrupted by the Woman)

## The Fifth Seal: The Souls under the Altar

9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they [were], should be fulfilled.

What is the Altar?

Place of Sacrifice

What is represented by "the souls of them that were slain..."?

The lives of the "sacrificed" saints

Gen. 4:10 - Like "the blood of Abel"

Why are they shown as "under" the Altar?

"Ashes" and "Blood"

Those faithful unto death

Ashes also shows memory of their lives of sacrifice

What is the question they ask?

How Long?

Resurrection

Until they are avenged (vindicated Rev. 11:18)

The Kingdom

What is the answer to that question?

Given White Robes

Wait until a certain time

The number of had to be complete

How does this fit with the Fifth Stage of the Gospel Church?

Sardis ending in 1518

Add 360 years comes to 1878



## The Sixth Seal: A Great Earthquake

6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

What is the great earthquake? [See Rev. 11:13 compared to 11:19]

The French Revolution was the greatest earthquake to that point

France was one-tenth of the Roman Empire

This was merely a picture of what was to come at the end

The mountains and islands were moved, but not destroyed

What is the darkening of the Sun and the Moon turning to blood?

Literal fulfillment [D587-592]

Symbolic fulfillment

Sun = Gospel light

Moon = Law (reflected)

Infidel pressures of the French Revolution

What is the meaning of other symbols mentioned here?

The falling stars

False teachers

Rev. 12 shows a similar symbol

Higher Criticism has a beginning - Philosophy

The heavens departing as a scroll

Destructive influence for Papacy

Papacy was forced to accept Protestantism

Rolling together had a small beginning

The mountains and islands moving out of place

Not destroyed

The Kings of the Earth the great men, rich men, etc.

Both heavens (rulers) and earth (society)

Everyone

What is signified by hiding in the dens and rocks?

Cover us, hide us

Still trusting in Earthly institutions

They ask for the mountains and rocks to cover them

What is the Day of Wrath?

End of the Age

Takes us forward in time

## CHAPTER 7 – the Seventh Seal

7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom

it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

What is the time setting and how does it fit with the 7th seal?

After the French Revolution

Before the Great Tribulation

Matt. 25:41 and Rev. 20:7-10

When are the fallen angels destroyed? (1 Cor. 6:3)

They are not bound as Satan is.

They will be destroyed after the Church is gone, before the New Covenant.

The "angels" in Matt. 25:41 include all his "messengers".

Rev. 20:7-10 does not use the word "angels" but rather refers to those among "the nations".

The 4 angels holding back the 4 winds

Four angels - God's power holding back the Great Time of Trouble

Four corners of the Earth - entire (as in Matt. 24:31)

Four winds - Fallen Angels (Powers of the Air)

R4822 (1911) "Loosing the Four Winds of Heaven"

A transitional article

The thought presented here carries through to CTR's death.

R5469 (1914) "Loosing the Four Winds"

Gradual process

The final result is a whirlwind (anarchy)

The sealing in the foreheads

G3972

G4973

Following the general concept, the Seventh Seal is *broken* at the beginning of the Seventh period, and continues to be *opened* throughout.

7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

7:5 Of the tribe of Juda [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:6 Of the tribe of Aser [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:7 Of the tribe of Simeon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar [were] sealed twelve thousand.

7:8 Of the tribe of Zabulon [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin [were] sealed twelve thousand.

The breakdown by Tribe, here and in Genesis 49, etc.

Judah	Both
Reuben	Both
Gad	Both
Asher	Both
Naphtali	Both

Manasseh	Rev. 7
Dan	Gen. 49

Simeon	Both
Levi	Both
Issachar	Both
Zebulun	Both
Joseph	Both
Benjamin	Both

Ephraim	Numbers 2 only (instead of Joseph)
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[See New Albany notes]

Showing balance, equality, etc.

## The Great Multitude

7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before

the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

It is interesting to note that in the case of the opening of the first six seals, the book of Revelation says that John either saw or heard something. However there is no such mention upon the opening of the seventh seal. This along with the indefiniteness of the Greek word used for "when" here may suggest that the breaking of the seventh seal has already happened at the time John saw the events mentioned in Chapter 7. Note too how chapter 7 starts. "After this" which may also suggest that John saw what follows after the opening of the 6th seal is concluded.

Perhaps it is meant to be something like this:

Rev 8:1 "After this, whenever he opened the 7th seal, there followed a silence in Heaven for about a half hour.

## Messages to the Churches contrasted with the Trumpet messages

The messages to the Churches focus on conditions amongst the Lord's people, true and nominal, and contain important lessons valid during the entire Gospel Age.

The Trumpets are a declaration, a judgment message to the surrounding religious world at that specific timeframe of the Gospel Age.

## THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

### OVERVIEW:

8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.  
8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.  
8:4 And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.  
8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast [it] into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.  
8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The same 7 angels are mentioned repeatedly in Revelation.

Romans 4:17 "...things that are not as though they exist."  
These verses take place at the beginning of the Gospel Age.  
Obviously all Seven Messengers are not present at that time.

### VERSES 3 and 4

Parallels to the Day of Atonement

Angel is the High Priest (Jesus resurrected)

During the 50 days after Jesus' resurrection

Stands before the Brazen Altar with the incense

Goes to the Golden Altar to offer the incense

As a result of his offering the incense, the saints' prayers are acceptable from that point forward

### VERSE 5

Cast to the Earth

Jewish society of that time

The "Court"

Events LEADING UP to the destruction of Jerusalem

Ministry of the Apostles, etc. (voices)

Began before the conversion of Apostle Paul

See also Galatians 1:17,18

A judgment work on Society carries through with all the trumpets

The timing of Rev. 8:5 is important as we have come to the conclusion that the time element of Revelation is crucial in seeing it to its ultimate fulfillment.

We have also accepted that the seven messages, seals and now trumpets follow in the same period intervals.

So keeping that in mind, the events of Rev. 8:5 would have to fall prior to the blowing of the first trumpet which would bring it in the period of favor shown upon the Jews only.

The Apostle Paul's calling and conversion appears to be early in the days of the Church towards the end of 33CE. He was chosen to bear Christ's name to the gentiles and the children of Israel. (Acts 9:15). He started his ministry by proclaiming Christ to the Children of Israel first. (Acts 9:22)

The date of his conversion can be worked out from Gal. 1:18 and Acts 9:27 where it says that after 3 years, that is from his conversion, he went to see the Apostles but only saw Peter and James who were two of the prominent ones at that time.

Soon after that event, Acts 10 mentions the account of the conversion of Cornelius which we believe occurred after the 3.5 years of favor ended in Oct. 36CE. This minus 3 years makes Paul's conversion late in 33CE.

After Cornelius' conversion Paul started his ministry as the Apostle also of the Gentiles.

So at Pentecost, prior to the blowing of the first trumpet, the Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit and became full of fiery zeal and from Jerusalem onwards started thunders, voices, lightning and an earthquake on the nation of Israel (the earth) for the purpose of shaking as many of the children of Israel as possible into belief.

The blowing of the first trumpet occurred when Paul started his ministry in 33CE, and when the remaining years of favor concluded, the events following the blowing of the trumpet start being fulfilled.

## THE 1ST TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:7 [33AD-73AD]

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

Hail = hard truths

Fire = destructive nature of that truth - judgment message

Blood = loss of life - those previously who had justification under the Law

Cast on the Earth = on the stable Jewish society [see Rev. 16:2]

Third part = the third, or one of three, but not 33% [see Rev. 8:10, etc.]

Trees = prominent men in Jewish society [Isa. 40:6-8]

Green Grass = the people in Jewish society, having life in a typical sense under the Law

ALL of this class were burned up = Either (a) Destroyed as a Favored Nation, or (b) Converted

This Trumpet message is upon Nominal Israel and shows total destruction.

## THE 2ND TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:8,9 [73AD-325AD]

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

A Great Mountain = the great kingdom at that time was Pagan Rome

Burning with fire = destroyed

Cast into the sea = restless masses of the Pagan Roman Empire - the effect was upon the sea class [see Rev. 16:3]

A third part of the sea became blood = one of three elements of society disappeared (the Pagan element)

A third of the creatures in the sea which had life died = a (nominally) justified class (the Pagan element)

It would be inconsistent for this to represent the actually justified, as they would not be "in the sea".

A third part of the ships were destroyed = one of three elements of commerce was destroyed (the Pagan element)

The third part all relating to the same segment shows the destruction (by conversion) of the Pagans.

This Trumpet message is upon the Pagan Roman Empire and shows total destruction.

THE 3RD TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:10, 11 [325AD-539AD]

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

A Great Star fell from heaven (called Wormwood)

What is "Heaven" here? = Power of Spiritual control

Why a "Great" Star? = Great Teacher (prominent, notable, important)

Where does this star fall, and why is that important?

This star falls upon the rivers and fountains of waters.

This star does not fall to the earth.

Burning as a Lamp

Most likely Arius himself

The first Messenger to suffer rejection from a majority of "Christians"  
(fell from "heaven")

Like a torch or great light

Another possibility is Athanasius (in a negative sense)

Fell upon a third part of the rivers and upon the fountains of waters  
[see Rev. 16:4]

Rivers are conduits of water (Truth) and fountains are sources of water (Truth)

Which "third" is left? It has to be the "Christian" third

The waters became bitter in the view of the Apostate Church

Many men died because of the bitterness

ceased to be of the Apostate Church

realized the teachings to be false and obnoxious

This Trumpet message is upon Apostate Christianity, but does not show total destruction.



## THE 4TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:12 [539AD-1368AD]

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Thus began the "Dark Ages" which affected the "Christian" world.

This Trumpet message is upon Apostate Christianity.

Compare events here to those of the 4th Messenger.

When did "Jezebel" appear and unite with the civil powers?

"The morning star" did not appear until near the end of this period.

Compare events here to those of the 4th Seal.

When did the "leaven" become mixed with the three measures of meal?

When did the "gangrene" condition exist?

Diminishing of the light from three sources:

A third part of the sun = Gospel [see Rev. 16:8]

A third part of the moon = Law and the Prophets

A third part of the stars = Apostolic teachings and authority

A third part of them was darkened = A partial eclipse of the three sources

What is the third part?

Could it be a third of the Gospel Age?

Could it be a third of the "Wilderness" condition?

Could it be a third part of this 4th period?

Or, could it be a third part of the Christian element?

Only the Christian element is remaining.

The three parts could therefore be:

- a) Eastern Empire, Western Empire, True Christians
- b) False Christians, Waldenses, Albigenses

Which third part is darkened?

See: Waldo's work compared to the 5th Trumpet [Rev. 9:2]

They did not shine for a third part

of the Day

of the Night

Thus favoring the view that the third part refers to time.

## THE THREE WOES TRUMPETS

### OVERVIEW - REVELATION 8:13

13 And I beheld, and heard an angel [eagle] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Who is the Angel? (or Eagle)

KJV versus Diaglott, Rotherham, etc.

The work of Erasmus was the basis for the "Textus Receptus".

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textus\\_Receptus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textus_Receptus)

KJV: 8 manuscripts were used, none earlier than the 10th century

In 1900 there were 800 manuscripts available.

In recent years thousands of manuscripts are available.

What is the significance of flying in the midst of heaven?

Giving a message to the other eagles

John sees and hears this message about things to come.

Coming trouble

Special message (warning) to the Lord's people

"The wise shall understand." [Dan. 12:10]

Where else did we see a similar picture? [Rev. 4:7; 12:14]

Wisdom [See Rev. 13:18]

Old and New Testaments [The wisdom of the Word of God]

Why are the last three trumpets shown differently?

This shows a change from the previous periods.

The increase of knowledge had a small beginning and progressed throughout these three periods.

The printing press was invented in 1440 A.D.

The accumulating effects were a "woe" against Apostate Christianity.

Why is the term "Woe" associated with the last three trumpets?

The result is negative to Apostate Christianity.

This is in contrast to the first four periods when the false system is gaining more and more control.

Where do the "woe" messages come from?

From the respective Messengers

Who are these "woes" against?

Apostate Christianity

## THE 5TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 9:1-12 [1368AD-1518AD]

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, [[neither any green thing,]] neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment [was] as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

7 And the shapes of the locusts [were] like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and their faces [were] as the faces of men.

8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as [the teeth] of lions.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings [was] as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power [was] to hurt men five months.

11 And they had a king over them, [which is] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue [is] Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath [his] name Apollyon.

12 One woe is past; [and], behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Who is represented by the star which fell from heaven to earth?

A Religious Teacher

Either fell in a bad or a good sense:

If bad, lost the position of being a true teacher and descended to earthly political things.

If good, could be Wycliffe who left the Ecclesiastical heavens of that time, separated himself and attacked the Papacy.

[See the Sundbom notes compared to the Burns and New Albany notes.]

Consensus: The Star was Wycliffe.

What is represented by the bottomless pit and therefore the key?

A pit = intended to hold water [sometimes not - see Zech. 9:11]

Bottomless = Abyss = powerless condition (not destruction)

Wycliffe was given power to open up that pit (suppressed Truths)

What is represented by the smoke and its effects?

The smoke of a - furnace = a consuming fire

The effect upon the Papal system

The conflict between this newly released Truth and the Papal error resulted in confusion.

A burning took place, but not a total destruction (that comes later).

Smoke is not fire, but evidence of fire.

This is a testimony (or judgment) against Papacy and is an evidence of a beginning of destruction.

What is represented by the darkening of the sun and the air?

The Papal sun and air were darkened [see Rev. 16:10]

Sun = source of light (truth)

Air = filled with smoke [Eph. 2:2]

Their false doctrines were shown up for what they were.

There was darkness and confusion in their kingdom as a result.

The confusion caused by Wycliffe's doctrines set the stage for the Moslems to gain ascendancy.

What is represented by the "locusts"?

After the Black Death (contrast the 4th Seal with verse 6)

Symbolically:

Plague [8th upon Egypt - Exod. 10 - but the 5th of the last 7.]

Egyptians were affected

Israelites were not affected

Curse [one of the curses of the Law - Deut. 28]

Always in large swarms, but without a "king" - Prov. 30:27]

Destruction: consuming of "leaves"

Prophecies in Joel, Amos and Nahum

How Christianity perceived this threat:

Power as scorpions

In their tails (following)

Like the bite of a snake

Shape like horses

Doctrines

But not true doctrines (like horses)

Crowns like gold (compare Rev. 4:4 and Rev. 9:7)

True Christians never have Crowns on this side of the veil.

These are false gold crowns

Faces like men

Doctrines of men?

Hair as women

A religious sect, but not the true religion

Teeth like lions

The locusts not only can sting, but can bite as well

Breastplates Like Iron

Not real iron (strength)

Wings

Like the sound of many chariots going to battle

SEE: Nahum 3:13-18

A contrast between the FEW followers of Wycliffe with the MANY locusts.

Consensus: Moslems

The Ottoman Empire spread into Europe beginning in 1354AD.

The conquest of Constantinople took place in 1453AD.

Parallel with 8th Plague on Egypt

The 150 Year War [1376-1526] Austro-Hungary vs. Moslems

What is represented by the grass and trees which are not hurt?

Grass = common people

Trees = prominent men

What is represented by the five months of torment?

Put to the touchstone [G929]

Showed up the Papal doctrines as "false gold"

What is meant by "men shall seek death and not find it"?

Circumstances were so frustrating that many could find "no way out"

Unable to escape the consequences

Who is the king of the locusts?

Satan

The desire of this King was to destroy all (especially "the seed"), but was not permitted to do so.

Other Possibilities:

Higher Criticism?

Destruction personified?

The Bible? [Hebrew and Greek]?

Wycliffe?

## THE 6TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 9:13-11:14 [1518 A.D. - 1874 A.D.]

Who is the 6th Messenger?

Martin Luther

No other candidates fit the time period or characteristics

9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from [[the four horns of]] the golden altar which is before God,

9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen [were] two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

What is represented by the Golden Altar and the voice

The sacrifice of [the] Christ

Connected to Justification by Faith

Individual relationship to God through Christ [incense]

Jesus two hands full showing his perfect sacrifice.

The prayers of the saints also shown. [Rev. 5:8; 8:3; Lev. 16:13]

The voice shows that this message comes from God.

What is represented by the four angels bound in the Euphrates?

Euphrates is the support for Babylon the Great [B209]

Also Four Powers under the control of Papacy:

Religious

Social

Political

Financial

Luther began the process which drew away the support of the people from Papacy.

What is represented by the hour, day, month and year?

If a length of time, would be  $1 + 30 + 360 = 391$  years and a small fraction.

This does not seem to fit.

From 1518 it would reach to 1909

If not a LENGTH of time, then perhaps a POINT in time.

Hour - The French Revolution is the single most important "hour".

Day- 1,260 DAYS came to end soon after

Month - 42 MONTHS

Year - 3-1/2 YEARS

ALSO the beginning of the Time of the End / The Days of Daniel 12

The Greek supports the idea of a point in time rather than a length of time.

All occurred under the 6th Trumpet

## FOURS:

Four Angels

Four "Powers" - Religious, Social, Political, Financial

Four "Markers" - hour, day, month, year (smaller incorporated into the larger as a progression)

Four events - Luther, French Revolution, 7th Trumpet Lord's Return, Final Destruction

End result of the progression

The French Revolution (a 10th of the city) D531

What is represented by the army of horsemen?

The number is 200 million [see A16 chart  $116 + 84 = 200$ ]

There were about 200 million protestants who lived during the 6th Trumpet.

This could also include all groups who began to oppose Papacy.

There is no specific "king" over these horsemen.

9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses [were] as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails [were] like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

What is represented by the third part of men?

A third of the "men" at that time

Who was "killed" (ceased to exist)?

Roman Catholics - not literal death, but they ceased to be Roman Catholics

Others had their faith destroyed and also ceased to be Roman Catholics

And there were millions who suffered literal death

The French Revolution played a very important role and fits either application.

C65,66

Rev. 12:15,16

What is represented by their breastplates?

Of fire, jacinth and brimstone

The Greek in context seems to imply colors and most translations have it so.

Red (like fire), Blue (like jacinth) and Yellow (like sulfur)

The three primary REFLECTIVE colors (not light which is RGB)

Red = the Ransom, or purifying power of fire

Blue = Faithfulness, of God

Yellow

Gold, Divine Truth, pure bright, the easiest color to see, clarity, enlightenment

Could also represent impurity, as in the case of leprosy (Lev. 13)

Also: Defensive armor

The Truth of the Reformation protected them

Protected the heart

Ezek. 23:1-6

What is represented by the characteristics of the horses?

Offensive weapons

Heads like lions

Mouths spewing (words)

Fire

Smoke

Brimstone

Tails like serpents, with heads (also mouths, words)

The after part

Consequences of these doctrines

"Doctrines at war"

See Brother Burns notes on verse 19

What is represented by the remainder who do not repent?

Roman Catholics who stayed with the System



10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and [his] left [foot] on the earth,

10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as [when] a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

10:6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, [[and the sea, and the things which are therein,]] that there should be time no longer:

10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

10:8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go [and] take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

10:9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take [it], and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.

10:10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Is there a theme here? Is there something that stands out in particular?

The Little Book

Things which cannot be written (the Seven Thunders)

The mystery will be finished in the days of the Voice of the Seventh Angel

In both senses

The 144,000

The Plan of God

In the time of the Lord's Second Presence

When he shall [begin = certainly]

Looking ahead to what was going to happen

Who/what is the mighty angel from Heaven?

An angel can be:

A spirit being who is a messenger

A man who is a messenger

Anything which teaches a lesson (2 Cor. 12:7; R5633 "The

Ministry of Angels") *"THERE is more or less difficulty associated with all attempts to think about the great Jehovah, His character and His power. The Scriptures seem to indicate that God has used various ways of manifesting His power to His people—to the Jews during the Jewish Age and to the Christian Church during the Gospel Age. We think it would not be an improper thought that the word angel may stand for any agency or power, whether animate or inanimate, that God would be pleased to use in connection with service. God could make the wind or the flaming fire His messenger. He could make the great Archangel or an inferior angel His messenger. He could use as His messenger whatever or whomsoever He might choose..."*

NOTE: R473:page 7 supports the idea that an angel can be  
a message.

Comes down from heaven, meaning having heavenly authority

Could be Gabriel. Jesus is another popular choice.

What do the characteristics signify?

Clothed with a Cloud

The message might not be fully understood at the time.

Note: Clothed with a cloud (not "on" a cloud, etc.)

Clouds generally represent trouble (Joel 2:1-11)

The trouble here is the French Revolution.

Rainbow about his head

Blessings that follow a storm

A Covenant (Noah)

Truth separated into its component parts

The Glory of the Lord (Ezek. 1:28)

It could be all four: The Glory of the Lord was shown by blessings which  
followed the Trouble of the French Revolution.

The promise to Daniel [12:9] began to be fulfilled.

Face as the Sun

Face = Favor, Purpose, Scope, Work

Sun = light of the Gospel

The light of the Truth brings favor and accomplishes a particular purpose.

Feet as pillars of fire

The only place this exact phrase occurs

The only other "pillar of fire" is in the Exodus and Tabernacle pictures

That pillar of fire was a sign.

That pillar of fire represented God's direction.

Feet represent "a standing", or control and dominion (Isa. 52:7)

Fire represents destruction, purification, trials, etc.

The presence of this angel brings trouble which is a sign.

Right foot on the sea, Left foot on the earth

Earth = established society

Sea = restless masses

Right and Left

Right = favored, sea = restless masses

Left = not favored, earth = established society

The French Revolution was favorable for the masses, and unfavorable for the Establishment.

Loud voice like a lion roaring

Wrath (Prov. 19:12; 20:2)

Loud = Powerful

Lion = God's attribute of Power [Rev. 4:7] shown in the French Revolution.

What is the Little Book?

G974 is slightly different from Chapters 4 and 5 (G975).

G976 has to do with the material.

G974 is a small scroll of Papyrus

One book, not many [see Rev. 20:12]

A book previously "shut up"

The prophecies of the Book of Daniel best fit all the details

The Days of Daniel

Gradual unfolding: 1260, 1290, 1335

"Time shall be no longer" [delayed]

The book is no longer sealed

We have reached the Time of the End

Related Prophecies:

The slumbering of the foolish angels during this time (Miller Movement)

Elijah slaying Jezebel in 1 Kings 19 and then fled into the wilderness

He slept

He ate special food

Slept again

The Seven Thunders:

What is represented by The Seven Thunders?

Destruction (Isa. 29:6; Psa. 77:18; 104:7) or Trouble

[Could it be the Seven Last Plagues?]

[D631] Moses' going up into the mount to commune with God while the mountain was clothed in clouds flashing with lightning, and the earth quaked as the thunder rolled, represented the fact that the Body of Christ will be completed, the last members "changed" and received into the Kingdom at the time when the present order of things is being changed, in the midst of a great time of trouble such as earth has never yet experienced.

Why wasn't John permitted to write what the Seven Thunders spoke?

The Little Book is open.

The Time for keeping the book sealed is over.

But it is not time for the complete revealing of the Mystery.

The understanding would come gradually. (1260, 1290, 1335 days)

Prophecy is not fully understood until it is fulfilled.

Thunder follows lightning.

Thunder is often Controversy.

Perhaps it was not time because it would not be edifying to the  
Lord's People.

The Seven Thunders are connected to "The Mystery of God".

What is the voice from heaven in verses 4 and 8?

From Heaven = Divine Authority (from God)

"Do not write what the Seven Thunders uttered."

"Take the Little Book."

Not the Mighty Angel, not the Seven Thunders, etc.

How do we understand the message given in verses 6 to 11?

11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months.

11:3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

11:8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain names of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

### Measuring

A renewal of the meaning of the True Church and Consecration

Why is the Temple measured? (true Church)

Why is the Altar measured? (consecration and sacrifice)

How are "them that worship therein" measured?

Why is the Court of the Gentiles left out?

Not yet a time for separating the wheat and tares.

A beginning of the cleansing of the sanctuary

See Daniel 8:13-16

### What is the Holy City?

Dan. 8:13

Rev. 3:12 [Philadelphia]

Rev. 21:1-2, 15-17

### What time periods are mentioned here?

42 months = 1,260 prophetic days

3-1/2 TIMES = 3-1/2 years x 360 days = 1,260 prophetic days

3-1/2 PROPHETIC DAYS (1 prophetic day = one year)

What is represented by the Two Witnesses?

Why does it say "my" witnesses?

God's Word is His two witnesses

Old and New Testament

Who are the Two Prophets?

Combined O.T. and N.T.

The Preaching of the Truth

What are the Two Olive Trees?

Oil = Holy Spirit (focusing on the Church)

Zech. 4

Feed oil to the 7-branch candlestick

Lev. 24:2-3

What are the Two Candlesticks?

Light = Truth

Psa. 119:105

What power do these two witnesses have?

To Prophecy in sackcloth

To Devour and Kill enemies that hurt them

Shut heaven (no rain)

Turn water to blood

Smite the earth with plagues

When is their testimony finished? (verses 3 and 7)

At the end of the 1,260 prophetic days

In 1799

What is meant by their being killed?

Who is the Beast?

Republican form of government

Ascends out of the Bottomless Pit (powerless condition)

Kills the two witnesses

What is the Great City? (Called Sodom and Egypt) [Ezek. 16:49]

When Lot and his family fled Sodom it pictured Babylon

Egypt symbolizes the World, and in this case the "spiritual" Ecclesiastical  
World

Jesus was crucified there:

The religious leaders crucified Jesus

"Crucified afresh" by Babylon the Great (Papacy)

Who are they in verse 9? (general group)

Who are they that dwell on the earth? (verse 10)

Those who were "tormented" by the Bible

Papists or Infidels?

Why are they not allowed to be buried?

What is the 3-1/2 days?

Who always tried to kill the Bible?

What were reasonable expectations regarding the Bible after the death of Pope Pius VI?

What happened with Pope Pius VII, and what was the Concordat of 1801?

<https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/articles/napoleon-and-the-pope-from-the-concordat-to-the-excommunication/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_First\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_First_Republic)

What happened in 1804 and onward?

What is meant by their resurrection?

What is the spirit of life from God?

What is the voice from heaven?

The 1st Bible Society (B&FBS) was founded in 1804.

What is the Great Earthquake?

What is the tenth part of the city?

How can names of men be slain?

11:14 The second woe is past; [and], behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

## THE 7TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 11:15-19 [1874 A.D. until?]

11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

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

When did the Seventh Angel "sound" (literally, blow his trumpet) and for how long?

This is a "Woe" Trumpet

Rev. 1:10 - A great Trumpet voice on the 7th day, the Lord's day

Texts tied to the 2nd Presence: Rev. 2:16; 3:11; 22:7,12,20

Matt. 24:31 - A Great Trumpet which "calls" the (under) messengers to action in the Harvest Work

1 Cor. 15:52 - The Last Trump, and the Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints

1 Thess. 4:16 - The Trump of God, and the Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints

Rev. 14:13,14 - Jesus Lord of the Harvest, and the Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints

Lev. 25:

The Trumpet on the Day of Atonement

Times of Restitution [Acts 3:19-21]

The Jubilee Trump /

Psa. 2:6 - "Yet I have set [installed] my king Upon my holy hill of Zion."

Joel 2:1,2

The two most significant starting dates would be: 1874 and 1878

[see R3820 "Harvest Gatherings and Siftings"]

<http://www.biblestudentarchives.com/documents/1878TurningPoint.pdf>

Continues to sound:

Until the end of the 7th stage of the Church

Throughout the Millennium (Lord's Day)

Who are the great voices in heaven?

In the Ecclesiastical Heavens [Matt. 24:31]

The Lord's People proclaim this message [Isa. 52:7]

What is the first reaction to this trumpet message?

One group see it positively (the Lord's people)

Another group see it negatively (the nations)

The Prophecies once again begin to worship God

Many Prophecies were sealed until this time [Dan. 12:9; Hab. 2:3]

Because they are coming to pass, and proven true

And the Bible in general because of being understood again

Truths lost sight of during the Dark Ages are brought to light again

What is the meaning of the message given by the 24 elders?

The Kingdom of God is now beginning to be set up

"Through the Age of the Ages"



11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

What period of time is covered here?

After the pronouncement of verses 15-17

After the 2nd Presence has begun [Dan. 12:1]

Until all the events mentioned are all completed

Including the "Little Season"

What major events are shown here, and is the sequence significant?

The nations were angry

Beginning when the Jubilee Trumpet begins blowing

Joel 2:1,2

Zeph. 1:16

From 1914 especially

In spasms since then

Thy wrath is come

The Day of Wrath

The Day of Jehovah

Armageddon (beginning stages)

Treading the Winepress

Many other Scriptures

The time of the dead, that they should be judged (verdict rendered)

All classes are mentioned

Rewards are stated in the order when they lived:

Prophets before Christ

Saints during the Gospel Age

Those that fear Thy name during the Millennial Age

Those who receive no reward are destroyed

Covers a long period of time

11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Where else do we see a similar picture?

Matt. 27:54; 28:2

Rev. 8:1 (half hour of silence)

After the Church is complete

Connected to the destruction of Babylon (Rev. 18)

Related also to the Great Company (Hab. 3:17)

Final "half hour" of Babylon's destruction follows

Rev. 15:5

Rev. 16:15 (possible reference to the Great Company)

Rev. 16:18-21

What is the meaning of the symbology here?

T121

The 7 Last Plagues

The Climax of Armageddon

Symbols (2 Thess. 2:8; 2 Pet. 3:10-12; Rev. 16:17-21)

Lightnings (Matt. 24:27 - same Greek word; Psa. 97:4)

Voices (G5456 "disclosure")

Thunderings (Heb. 12:19)

Earthquake (?)

Great Hail (Isa. 28:17)

What is the time setting?

Temple (Most Holy) is opened

Ark seen

Could mean the completion of the Church

Could also be a process which started in 1878

Lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and  
great hail (7th Plague)

## CHAPTER 13

Belongs to Chapter 12: "...And [HE] stood upon the sand of the sea."

13:1 And I saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

### The Beast

Relates to the Man Child of Rev. 12 and the Little Horn of Daniel 7.

This Beast is the Papal Beast, the Antichrist, rising up out of the irreligious masses, the sea class of that time.

The Man Child of Rev. 12 is the Antichrist, head and body, but as a Man Child is in its early stages of development.

The Little Horn is similarly the developing Antichrist system.

The beginnings of these three all point to the same time period.

#### Having 7 Heads

Names of Blasphemy written there – Papal claims

One of the Heads "wounded to death"

This corresponds to the Reformation.

There is also a connection to the French Revolution.

The deadly wound is healed

The counter-reformation in the 16th century

1598 the Edict of Nantes (religious freedom to Calvinists)

1685 the Edict of Fontainebleau (revoked Nantes)

The "healing" also related to when Protestant sects allied with the State.

All the World wondered after the Beast

10 Horns with 10 Crowns on the horns

Like a Leopard

Feet like a Bear

Mouth like a Lion

13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

The Dragon

Civil Power / Satanic Influence

Gave its power, seat and authority to the Beast

13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The Beast speaks great things.

For 42 months

Opened his mouth in Blasphemies against God

Against God's Name

Against God's Tabernacle

Against those that dwell in Heaven

Made war with the Saints

The same *principle* is shown in Rev. 17:14.

The time-setting is different from Rev. 17.

13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

All who are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life

Worshipped the Dragon

Worshipped the Beast

13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

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

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

The First Beast has no direct Civil Power, but the Second Beast combines Religious and Civil aspects

Another Beast

A Church/State system separate from the Papacy, but growing out of it

Had two Horns like a Lamb, and a Mouth like a Dragon.

The Church of England and Ireland

At the time it rose up, regardless of how it may appear today

Had the same power as the First Beast [Apostolic Succession].

Caused all those who dwell on the Earth to worship the First Beast.

Did Great Wonders and Miracles.

See Rev. 16:14.

Said to those who dwell on the earth to make an Image of the Beast.

Had Power

To give life to the Image of the Beast

That the Image of the Beast should speak

To kill those who would not worship the Beast

Caused all to receive a Mark in their Right Hand and in their Forehead

[Consider Herod / Herodius / Salome / John the Baptist picture]

Image of the Beast - All denominations joined together

Evangelical Alliance

Ecumenical Movement

Protestant Federation

13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

The Number of the Beast

Had to be "calculated"

The number of "a man"

The connection between the symbols here and the False Prophet of Rev. 16:13

The Two-horned Beast and the Image of the Beast united

## CHAPTER 14

Overview:

Where should the chapter divisions take place?

Verses 1-5

Chapter 13 ends with the improper mark

These opening verses show the ones with the proper mark

So there is a connection between the end of Chapter 13 and the opening of Chapter 14

Verses 6-20

A different timeframe

Different subjects

What are the two themes in this chapter?

The 144,000

The Harvest of the Gospel Age

14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault.

What is the time setting for these verses?

After the Church is complete

After Pyramid "w" on the Chart

Where does this take place?

In the presence of God

The fact that it is before the throne is explained later in these notes

The later symbols identify this with the Little Flock, and not the Great Company

What is the meaning of the following symbolisms?

Mount Sion [Zion] [Spiritual phase of the Kingdom]

The Lamb [Jesus victorious and exalted: see chapters 5 and 6]

The 144,000 [the Bride, the Lamb's wife]

The Father's name in their foreheads

[see also Rev. 7:3 and Exod. 28:36-38]

Intellectual knowledge

The character of God emulated (crystallized) [Rom. 12:2]

Also: 1 Cor. 15:41

The voice [sound] from heaven: [see also Rev. 1:15; and 19:6]

As of many waters

The Church and the Great Company came from the "many waters"

Like great thunder

Strong pronouncements of truth

What is the work of the glorified Church beyond the veil?

The Iron Rule [Jer. 25:30,31]

Whirlwind [Anarchy]

And a voice [sound] as of Harpers and their harps:

A harmonious message of truth

THEY sing a new song which only the 144,000 could learn

The song of Moses and the Lamb

Before the Throne, the 4 Living Creatures and the 24 Elders

The proper place of worship

[See Rev. 5 and New Albany notes]

Virgins, not defiled with women

Against the spirit of Babylon and Ecumenism

Rev. 18:4

Followers of the Lamb

Those who deny themselves and take up their cross [Matt. 16:24]

Redeemed from among men - as Firstfruits

1 Cor. 15:23

Guileless and without fault

They kept their garments unspotted [1 John 3:9; 5:18]

14:6 And I saw an angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

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

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

14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

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



Overview of verses 6 and onward:

What is the time setting here? What are the Major Events shown in these verses?

At the beginning of the Parousia / Millennium

During the "Day of the Lord"

14:7 The Hour of His Judgment - "Begins with the House of God."

1 Peter 4:17

14:8 Babylon is Fallen [Rev. 18:1-4] "Come out of her my people."

During the Harvest of the Gospel Age [several verses]

The gathering of the wheat

Verse 12 - patience is still required, so it must be on this side

Verse 13 - still those who are "dying in the Lord"

The burning of the tares

Parallels with the 7th Angel sounding [Rev. 11:15-18]

The nations are drunk

The nations are angry

Also verses 18-19:

The Harvest of the Vine of the Earth

The Winepress feature

Peak of the Trouble

The first angel: Good News [1878]

Verses 6,7

NOT "another" angel. "An" angel in the Greek.

A message rather than a specific messenger

Having the everlasting gospel [Rev. 5:9] (The Ransom for all)

Gives a message with a loud voice. (See verse 7.)

Rev. 5:12 uses "loud voice"

See Matt. 24:14

The second angel: Judgment [1878]

Verse 8

Babylon is fallen [Rev. 18:1-4] [Jer. 51:6-9] (not destroyed)

She made the nations drunk

(A message rather than a specific messenger)

The third angel: Plagues to follow [1878]

Verses 9-11

The Beast and his image

The mark in the forehead or hand (the mark of his name)

The wine of the wrath of God

Torment, the smoke of their torment

(A message rather than a specific messenger)

Tie in with Isaiah 52

14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.  
14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

The patience of the saints

Who are they?

The consecrated people of God  
Those living throughout the age  
The "seed that fell into good ground"

Why do they need patience? (Rev. 3:10; 6:9-11; Hab. 2:3; Rom. 2:7)

Those of the past needed patience to wait.  
Those of the Harvest time need patience to endure and to wait longer than expected.

A voice from heaven, and the special message

The "blessed dead"

Resurrected without having to sleep

What is the meaning of this message?

It is a special encouragement for those living in the Harvest time

The unique blessing is for those who die after a certain point

Rest from their labours [compare Heb. 4:10]

Rev. 14:13 Gk. 373

Heb. 4:10 Gk. 2663

Their works do follow them

Continuity of consciousness and stream of time

When does it apply?

"From henceforth" is a specific marker [see verse 8]

From 1878 and after, when the sleeping saints were raised

1 Thess. 4:15,16; 1 Cor. 15:51,52

Rev. 6:9-11 "How long O Lord?"

14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Who is identified in verse 14, and what are the symbols given there?

White cloud

[Matt. 24:30,31]

The Lord's people see from this higher perspective

Could also be contrasted with Storm clouds and events in verses 17-20

[Acts 1:11] Invisible Presence

Son of Man - obviously Jesus at his return [Matt. 11:19; Matt. 16:27;

Mark 2:28; Luke 7:34; ]

Golden crown - [Rev. 11:17] (stephanos = victor's crown)

Sharp sickle - (A harvesting sickle) [Heb. 4:12] (Present Truth was/is indeed a sharp sickle)

Psalm 2:6 and context

Dan. 7:13,14; 2:44

What is represented by the angel in verse 15, and what is the time setting?

Comes from God (higher authority than Jesus)

A feature of God's Plan

TIMELY (time and prophecy) [Dan. 12 and the "Days of Daniel"]

Came out of the Temple

This symbol is consistent in the Book of Revelation

[Rev. 15:5]

Loud voice - Strong message, giving orders to Jesus

Command: Thrust in the sickle and reap

Why: The TIME has come to reap because the harvest of the Earth is ripe

Likewise, what are the events in verse 16, and the time setting?

The Son of Man thrusts in his sickle

The Earth is reaped

Harvested

From G2330 related to heat or summer [Jer. 8:20]

14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs.

Matt. 13:30

Wheat and Tares grow together until the Harvest

Gather Tares first (preserved for burning LATER)

Then gather the wheat

Mark 14:29

The Grapes of Wrath are not an exact parallel to the Tares [R3544]

The Vine here is the False Vine - Babylon

The Grapes here are the fruitage of that system including  
false teachings

Compare Jer. 51:7 and Rev. 17:1-6

Mal. 3:2,3 - Refines the Gold and Silver first

What is represented by the two angels in these verses?

Another angel

The Temple in Heaven

What events are represented here, and what is the time setting?

The Winepress Feature of Armageddon

Bad grapes (compare Jer. 24:2-6)

Isa. 63:2-4

Compare: Rev. 19:11-16

Treading of the winepress parallel

The Church is complete and in heaven

Burning of the Tares

Many Crowns (after 1914)

Verse 20 shows their destruction (2 Thess. 2:8)

Rev. 7:9-17

Another set of parallels which establishes the time setting

Great Company pass through the Great Tribulation after the

Church is gone

Joel 3:13-16

Another cross-reference

Winepress parallel

Darkening of the Sun, Moon and Stars

Verse 20

1,600 furlongs

40x40 = complete test

4x4x100 ?

Horse bridles

## CHAPTER 15

15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

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

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

15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

### OVERVIEW:

What is the theme of this chapter?

Preparation for the final judgments

A description of the Spiritual scene

Like chapters 4 and 5, but not the same time

Establishing a relationship between the 7 messengers, Trumpet messages and plagues

The 7 messengers are the same as in previous chapters

The previous messages weren't received, that is why the judgment comes

What is the time setting?

Past:

Difficult to see since this is the final judgment

Rev. 16:17-21 includes the final destruction

The 7 Messengers are beyond the veil

Progressive:

The temple arrangement is the New Covenant

No "man" can enter in until the Church is complete

Parallel with Solomon's Temple

The Church is complete in the midst of the plagues

Rev. 16:15,17

Future:

There would be a huge gap in Revelation of time and events

Everything happening since 1914 in particular would be missing

Rev. 14:13 regarding the 7 messengers

They had a trumpet message

That message now follows with them ("their works follow with them")

Rev. 18 - Plagues

Hag. 2:6,7

Shake the Heavens, Earth, Sea and Dry Land

Shake all Nations

"I will fill this house with glory."

Jer. 50, 51

#### DETAILED CONSIDERATION:

##### VERSE 1:

Where does verse 1 take place?

A Spiritual scene

Great and Marvelous

Rev. 6:10 - the time is up for waiting

Very important

Relates to the Egyptian plagues [Psa. 78:12; 105:5]

Who or what are the seven angels?

The same seven messengers as in previous chapters

[Compare Rev. 15:1,6,7 with Rev. 17:1 and Rev. 21:9]

What is the definition of a plague?

A stroke, a wound, calamity

Flattened, pounded out

Very unpleasant

Destroys something established

Changes the situation on the ground

In this context it is Manifestation of God's Power and Judgment

The plagues on Egypt are a parallel picture

Destroying and removing the false systems

What is the meaning of the expression "in them is filled up the wrath of God"?

This is the final judgment

## VERSES 2-4:

Could this be parenthetical?

See Exod. 15

Song of Moses

Corresponds to when the 1st 6 plagues of Revelation are finished, and the 7th has begun

Also Rev. 14:1-3 - the Church is complete

Verse 4 would support this idea: "judgments have been manifested"

What is the sea of glass mingled with fire?

We find a "sea of glass" in Rev. 4:6

Isa. 30:30; 66:16

2 Pet. 3:7 - the destruction of the present heavens and earth

Who are those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name?

See Rev. 13

See Rev. 20:4

Why do they stand on the sea of glass mingled with fire, having the harps of God?

The Church complete at the beginning of the 7th plague

The world is in its wildest anarchy at that time

What is the song of Moses and the Lamb? [Exod. 15]

A VICTORY song

Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty

Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?

For thou only art holy

For all nations shall come and worship before thee

For thy judgments are made manifest

## VERSES 5-6:

What is the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven?

The Most Holy

The Church is the Temple: 1 Cor. 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16;

Rev. 3:12

What does it mean that it was opened?

The Temple is open for construction - Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints

Like Solomon's Temple, dedicated before it was complete

See Rev. 11:19 showing 5 elements which correspond to the symbols of the 7th plague

What is the significance of the 7 angels coming out of the temple?

Having the 7 plagues

Clothed in pure and white linen

Their breasts girded with golden girdles - See Rev. 1:13

See: Rev. 8:6

What is the time setting?

1878 - Resurrection of the Sleeping Saints

See: Ezek. 9 for many parallels

Six on the scene with slaughter weapons

A 7th is there also but has a different work to do first

The other six follow him and do their work after the marking in the foreheads takes place

VERSES 7-8:

Which of the four living ones is mentioned here?

Justice - It is God's Final Judgment

Power - God GAVE these by His power and authority

Is there a difference between the bowls and the plagues?

The bowls are the measure and control of God for delivering the plagues.

The plagues are the contents of the bowls.

The bowls are filled up with the plagues - the wrath of God.

"And the temple was filled with smoke...and no man was able to enter..."

Where else do we see this picture? (Lev. 16:17; 1 Kings 8:12; Psa. 97:2)

What was the practical effect in the type?

The Temple services could not begin yet.

What is the significance in the antitype?

The New Covenant cannot begin yet.

What time-setting is indicated in verse 8?

1878 and onward

The 1st plague must come some time after 1878.

Parallels with Ezekiel 8:17 to 10:7

The 6 men with slaughter weapons are separate from the 7th among them in chapter 9.

This shows the 1878 concept.

The previous 6 have been resurrected while the 7th is still on the earth.

Rev. 15 shows the 7 together.

The overview shows their role and the outcome.

The time setting of verses 5-8 is 1878 and onward.



## CHAPTER 16

### OVERVIEW:

If the Plagues are progressive:

When do they begin? [1917]

When do they end? (after the Church is gone)

Where are we now? (during the 6th plague)

What is the significance of the parallels to the 7 Trumpets?

1 = upon the earth	hail and fire upon the earth
2 = upon the sea	burning mountain cast into the sea
3 = upon the rivers and fountains of waters	a great star fell upon the rivers and fountains of waters
4 = upon the sun	the third part of the sun was smitten...
5 = causing darkness	smoke causes the sun and the air to be darkened
6 = Loose the four angels Euphrates	poured out upon the great river Euphrates
7 = lightnings, voices, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail	voices, thunders, lightnings, and a great earthquake

The Trumpets were more of a proclamation of judgment.

The 7 plagues are the full and final execution of that judgment.

The Day of the Lord (from Jesus' return onward)

Joel 2:2-14

Psa. 98:1

Isa. 53:1

Mal. 4:5,6

Comparison to the 10 Plagues on Egypt

Each Plague was very severe

There was relief in between each one

Application now:

The 7 Last Plagues are also very severe

The leaders of society act like Pharaoh

### GENERAL COMMENTS:

The plagues are cumulative [See R498] and one flows into the other.

The 7 Trumpets during the Gospel Age have similarities, but they are different

The 10 Plagues upon Egypt also cover the Harvest of the Gospel Age, but they are different

The first 3 are before the death of Brother Russell

The last 7 are after the death of Brother Russell

The Egyptian plagues appear to be more upon the Civil aspects

The timing and events are similar, but not identical to the Revelation plagues

16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

What is the great voice coming out of the Temple?

Compare Rev. 11:15 (loud voices)

The great or loud voice = A significant turning point in history

Rev. 14:18 was the same loud voice = God's command or orders to the seven angels

The same loud voice is heard in Rev. 16:17

All the seven angels are mentioned

Rev. 15:6

All seven come out of the temple

All seven are clothed in white with golden girdles

Rev. 15:1 All seven had the plagues before they poured them out

Rev. 16:1 All seven have the bowls

What is the significance of the fact that all seven plagues are poured out upon the earth?

All aspects of society - the old social order - worldwide

Religious, Political, Social, Economic, Military

Each Bowl is in the hands of the Angel.

The contents of each Bowl is poured out. (Zeph. 3:8)

What is the CAUSE in each case?

1 – WWI

2 – Social Revolution

3 – Modernism

4 – WWII

5 – Vatican II

6 – Hidden things of darkness coming to light / Globalized communication

7 – ???

What is the EFFECT upon Babylon which comes as a result?

1 – “Grievous sore” - The nations of Europe are not God's Kingdom

2 – Separation - Beginning of the breaking apart process

3 – Growth of “isms” / Beastly system allied with the Nazis

4 – “Where was God in WWII?” / There is no God /

The Beastly system failed to do anything about the holocaust

5 – Repudiation and justification of former beliefs and practices

6 – Loss of support / Immense legal expenses related to past sins /

Formation of an “un”-holy alliance

7 – ???

Cause and Effect are all related to the Jubilee Trump.

These Plagues are NOT a “Truth Message” *per se*.

Each plague naturally leads to the next.

NOTE: Four angels loosed during French Revolution same as those in Rev. 7, but then was limited.

## THE FIRST PLAGUE

16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

SEE: THE 1ST TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:7 [33AD-73AD]

If the first angel is the Apostle Paul, what does that tell us?

The glorified Apostle Paul was commissioned to pour out this plague

Compare to the 1st Trumpet

The Trumpet message contents affected Jewish Society

The Same message, as a Plague, affects the Church/State systems of Europe in particular

What does earth specifically represent in this context?

Compare to verse one.

Where is this plague focused?

A specific segment of society

The Church-State systems of Europe in particular

[See the New Albany notes]

The bowl is the instrument used to pour out the plague

What is the plague?

A General Truth Message and the corresponding effects

"The Nations of Europe are not God's Kingdom."

What is the bowl?

The carrier of the message and the Wrath of God

WWI is therefore connected to this bowl.

What are the results?

Cause and Effect

See Rev. 18:4 (the Lord's people were not to partake of the plague)

The doctrine of the Divine Right of Kings came to an end

Those who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped the image:

It does not mention "the False Prophet"

Both Catholics and Protestants

What is represented by the symbolism of a noisome and grievous sore?

Something that affected those in the Nominal systems

More and more individuals left those systems

This became a natural precursor to the next plague

1917 April 6 the USA joined WWI

1917 Papal peace call was ignored

1919 Paris Peace Conference, the Pope was excluded

## THE SECOND PLAGUE

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

The Apostle John was considered the best candidate as the 2nd Messenger.

He warned about a falling away, and the rise of AntiChrist

An interesting parallel after the death of Brother Russell

How do we understand the symbolisms here, and how do they compare to the original Trumpet Message?

SEE: THE 2ND TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:8,9 [73AD-325AD]

What does the Sea represent here?

The sea class is an anti-religious and restless element

(This cannot refer to the True Church beginning to come out of Babylon)

Primarily those in Christendom who came out and formed the sea class

It is the Sea Class for this period of time

Where were the restless masses of humanity then?

The sea changes as a result of the plague

The restless masses of humanity, now irreligious

They see that the Divine Right of Kings was false

They still had some Christian moral standards

The breaking apart of the systems on the Chart of the Ages

This was a beginning of that process

Pyramid sections "u" and "v" in the Time of Trouble

Going down to Plane R

Psa. 93:4

Jer. 51:24-24; 42

What is the meaning of the sea becoming as "the blood of a dead man"?

The blood stops flowing, there is no more [spiritual] life in the sea class

The sea class changes as a result of the plague

Divides into the two parts (serum and clot). [See John 19:34]

Prior to this the sea class was not unified

Serum = liquid part - still restless, but now irreligious

Clot = small groupings clumping together

Well-intentioned movement against Church-State oppression

Started out good, but quickly descended into other forms of oppression

The clot began to putrefy

They lost their moral compass consequently

This effect has "progressed" remarkably until our day

"Relativistic Morality" has grown and developed Social divisions

Communism in Russia

The Bolshevik Revolution

Spread to Eastern Europe and beyond

Fascism in Italy

1922 accord recognizing the Papacy as a sovereign entity

Socialism in many places around the World  
Eventually Naziism in Western Europe  
Hitler was supported financially by Pacelli - Pius XII  
Other anti-religious philosophies and "isms"  
Even Capitalism became more and more anti-religious  
No longer having Truth, rejected God

Which element of Society "died" and how?

Under the 2nd Trumpet, the ruling arrangement was Pagan Rome  
In this case, Christendom was the ruling arrangement  
Previous to WWI the pretense within the sea class was that of  
Christian values  
After WWI the preserving influences lost their power over the masses  
Spiritual death, in the sense of no more having vitality from the Truth

What is the Plague?

Social Revolution  
A natural consequence of WWI  
Church-State "Divine Right of Kings" already ended  
The first plague proved that the church-state monolith could be broken.  
The second plague proved that the Church could be ignored and that  
people could organize after their own desires  
Departure from Religion  
EVENTUALLY goes into anarchy

A secondary parallelism

A microcosm within the Truth Movement  
After the death of Brother Russell  
A picture within a picture

## THE THIRD PLAGUE

16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

16:7 And I heard the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

The Angel is Arius.

SEE: THE 3RD TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:10, 11 [325AD-539AD]

Upon the Rivers [channels] and Fountains [sources] of waters

Sources of Truth (religious denominations)

The Pope allied with the Fascists and Nazis

Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli

Pope Pius XII (1939)

The angel [Messenger] of the waters

A personage who has the Truth

A personage who has some authority over the "waters"

Could be a "Guardian" of the waters

Could be he has power over the waters - where the plague is poured

A personage not in Babylon

The message is correct

The teachings of Babylon are corrupt

Etc.

Could this be the 3rd Angel himself?

If the waters over which the angel has charge are those effected by the plague, this could fit.

His action brings the retributive justice, and so he proclaims this fact in verses 5 and 6.

Could this be the True Church on this side of the veil?

Do we have a precedent for this?

Mal. 2:7

"Behold the Bridegroom" in Matt. 25

Who has the Truth?

Who has a stewardship to be guardians of the Truth?

Who proclaims that this is righteous judgment?

The waters became blood

Retributive Justice

They [Babylon] have shed the blood of saints and prophets

Thou hast given them blood to drink ["worthy" - Luke 23:41]

Rev. 18:24 "in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints"

Num. 5:11-27 A test for adultery

Bitter water to drink

If guilty, there was a dramatic effect

Consequently:  
Revisionism  
Modernism  
Repudiations

What does the Altar in verse 7 represent?

Is this connected to the Brazen Altar or the Golden Altar of the  
Tabernacle?

If it is the Brazen Altar, it would represent the Ransom

If it is the Golden Altar, it would represent the Church

See T120

See Rev. 6:9-11; 8:3; 9:13;

Uncertain: Rev. 11:1; 14:18

The Altar could represent that class of the Saints whose testimony was  
sealed by their blood.

Those referred to in verse 6 whose blood was shed.

At this time they are on the other side of the veil.

See Heb. 12:24

What is the Plague?

During the Inter-War years

What major events affected the "Christian" World at that time?

This probably pertains to the Western World.

Communism was already entrenched in the East.

"Christian nations" that remained were in the West.

Modernism and Revisionism infected the Christian World.

Christian Fundamentalism formed as a counter-force.

The "Monkey Trial" was held.

The Catholic Church accepted Evolution.

The Reichskonkordat

Concordat between the Holy See and the German Reich

A treaty negotiated between the Vatican and the emergent

Nazi Germany.

It was signed on 20 July 1933 by Cardinal Secretary of State Eugenio

Pacelli, who later became Pope Pius XII

The Great Depression brought Western countries to financial ruin.

The League of Nations was formed.

## THE FOURTH PLAGUE

16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

The Angel is Waldo.

SEE: THE 4TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 8:12 [539AD-1368AD]

Who is "him" / "it" in verse 8 that scorched men with fire?

KJV says "him"

Could be the Angel / Messenger

Rotherham and others have "it"

Could be the plague itself

Could be the Sun

As with the waters in the Third Plague something good becomes a plague

What is the EFFECT of this Plague compared to the Trumpet message?

The fourth Trumpet

Sun, Moon and Stars darkened

The people could not understand that it was **not** God behind this

The day was dark for a third part

The night also

Waldo's message

Babylon given a "space" to repent

Warning to Babylon: "Kill her children with death"

"There is no God" concept - "Where was God in WWII"

The Catholic Church support of Naziism and Fascism became known

People tended to put the blame on God, the Bible and the Papal system

[See Barne's Notes.]

Who are the "men" that are scorched?

Priests and others in power

Nominal Christians in a general sense

Those in the field (see parallels to Egyptian plague #7)

Scorched = burned thoroughly

Those who do not understand the Gospel are burned by it

[see Matt. 13:5,6,20,21, etc.]

"They repented not to give [God] the glory."

They accused God of being responsible [complicit].

Different from the Fifth Plague. [Repented not of their **deeds**.]

Sets the stage for the Fifth Plague.



What is the RESULT of this Plague?

Furtheres the work of weakening Babylon

Caused men to lose their belief in the Bible and Churchianity

They accused God

They “smote” the authority of scripture and religion

Pushed men toward other beliefs

Existentialism

“God is dead”

Atheism

Evolution

Higher Criticism

The foundation of the Old Order was further weakened

Prepares mankind for the revelation of Truth and the Kingdom

What is the Plague?

Events associated with WWII

Long-lasting effects continue to “progress”

Egyptian Plague #7 – Exod. 9:24,25

Included hail mingled with “fire”

Affected all those “In the field”

Joel 1:15,19,20 - flame set ablaze trees, water, pastures, etc.

## THE FIFTH PLAGUE

16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,  
16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

The Angel is Wycliffe

He translated the Bible into English even before the Reformation.  
This was a small beginning of the uncovering of Papacy's darkness.

SEE: THE 5TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 9:1-12 [1368AD-1518AD]

The first "Woe" Trumpet  
The darkness was caused by smoke.  
Any parallel to the locusts? [Also in the 8TH Egyptian Plague]

What is the "seat of the beast"?

"Throne" (Greek θρόνον)  
Center of power and authority of the Beast and the Pope  
Not just Roman Catholics, but the Leaders and Clergy in particular.  
[See Brother Mann's comments in R509.]  
Being poured out onto their authority led to loss of authority.

"His kingdom was full of darkness."

Growing light revealed the darkness of this system.  
After WWII many questions were asked.  
These were detailed under the fourth Plague.  
Many "isms" continue to progress further  
Existentialism  
"God is dead"  
Atheism  
Evolution  
Higher Criticism  
Including Capitalism  
The "Hippie" movement  
Etc.  
Questions arose from within. [Vatican Council II]  
Further weakening the Babylonian System  
Loss of support from within and without  
The darkness was always there, but now it became more obvious.

"They gnawed their tongues for pain."

Literally: "they ate their own tongues".  
They repudiated a myriad of previously held beliefs.  
MANY EXAMPLES  
Mass in the local language  
Many "Saints" were declared invalid. (St. Christopher, etc.)  
A humbled and humiliated condition.  
They feared their losses, and tried to recoup them.

“Blasphemed the God of heaven.”

How did the Church leadership do this?

2 Thess. 2:3,4 regarding the Pope

Reaffirmed the Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Mary.

The Priests continued to engage in sinful practices (and hide them)

Many Priests and Nuns left, though they continued to be Catholics.

“Repented not of their deeds.”

In spite of these great changes, there was no real reformation.

They simply made excuses for their past (self justification).

They continued to hold onto the policies of the past.

They continued to claim supreme authority.

Claimed that the tomb of St. Peter was underneath the Vatican.

Began to promote the Ecumenical Movement

What is the Plague?

Events associated with the Second Vatican Council

Long-lasting effects continue to “progress”

## THE SIXTH PLAGUE

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

16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

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

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

16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

The Angel is Martin Luther

SEE: THE 6TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 9:13-11:14 [1518 A.D. - 1874 A.D.]

The second "Woe" Trumpet

Parallel with the River Euphrates

Four angels were loosed

Four Elements of Society

Civil Dragon

Ecclesiastical Beast, False Prophet

Social The Waters of the Euphrates as Peoples

Financial The Waters of the Euphrates as material support

Drew away the support from Papacy

Led up to the French Revolution (a picture of the final trouble)

The Seven Thunders

Could have a broader application to all 7 Plagues

May refer only to the Sixth Plague

During Laodicea the "controversies" alluded to will be opened up

1 Kings 19:11,12 shows the sequence of events in the Time of Trouble

The drying up of the Euphrates (Jer. 50:38; 51:35-39,63; Rev. 17:1,15)

The plague is poured out on the Euphrates

Some of the supporters of Papacy begin to withdraw

This includes financial support drying up

Hidden things of darkness coming to light and consequent legal fees

Pedophilia / Homosexuality

Other scandals (Nazi ratlines; Vatican Bank 1981; etc.)

Eventually culminates in the burning of the tares

Daniel 5:5 and context

Euphrates diverted when the writing on the wall takes place

Denial on the part of the frog-like "unclean spirits" in Rev. 16:13

A last great effort at unification to prevent Armageddon

## Making way for the Kings of the East

### The Christ Head and Body

Kings: those reigning (the Antitypical Cyrus: the Christ)

From the sunrising (see Matt. 24:27)

Possibly a literal interpretation (Islam)

## The Three Unclean Spirits like Frogs

### Frogs as a symbol

They are unclean, so too these doctrines (1 John 4:1)

Puffed up – pompous and proud

Inordinately large mouths (Daniel 7:8) – loud and annoying

Huge eyes – appearing to be wise

### Spirits of Devils (plural)

Doctrines of Demons

Fallen Angels

From the mouths of all three

All give forth the same message

“Preserve the *status quo*” (Globally)

Working Miracles (Rev. 13:13-15; Matt. 24:24)

A Unified Working together

Also influencing Society

Behaviors are accepted that were never accepted before

Imitating the “Self-serving” attitude of these three

Deceptions (Matt. 24 “let no one deceive you”; 2 Thess. 2:7-12)

## Gathering together for self-preservation

The Dragon – Civil Power

The Beast - Papacy

The False Prophet – Protestant Federation

A combination of the 2-horned Beast and the Image of the Beast

The Image must receive “breath” from the 2-horned Beast

## Gathering to Armageddon

The attempts by the “powers that be” are to prevent Armageddon

Ironically the thing they try to prevent is the very thing they provoke

## Verse 15 “I come as a thief”

### Secret arrival

Luke 12:39,40 – To enter Satan's house to destroy it

Matt. 24:23

1 Thess. 5:4-8

### Be careful

Keep your robe of righteousness on (Isa. 61:10; Rev. 3:18)

Be firmly established in the Truth (Matt. 24:4,5,24)

Special warning to the Laodicean Church

Alternate view on keeping the garment: (Matt. 22:1-14)

Naked = poorly clothed (like the Great Company – lacking oil)

The Little Flock:

Have not defiled their garments

Garments not spotted with the flesh

Not defiled with “women” Rev. 14:4

However, great care is needed to avoid mixing symbols.

This Sixth Plague is a preparation for the final plague and the destruction  
of all phases of society

Prior to this plague there was a measure of stability

With this plague comes instability to a degree that did not exist before

Trouble in all phases (Political, Social, Religious, Financial)

Croaking in a self-serving manner that does not help the people

Is Rev. 17:12 “one hour” related to this picture and timeframe?

## THE SEVENTH PLAGUE

16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

The Angel is Charles Taze Russell

SEE: THE 7TH TRUMPET - REVELATION 11:15-19 [1874 A.D. until?]

The third and final "Woe" Trumpet, at our Lord's return

Parallel with MANY details:

Lightnings, voices, thunders, earthquake, great hail

Rev. 8:5 same symbols

Rev. 10:7 – the mystery of God being finished (7 Thunders)

NOT parallel in time. All the plagues are after the death of CTR.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Messenger announced the beginning of the Kingdom (1874).

The 7<sup>th</sup> Plague will result in the beginning of the visible Kingdom.

The "angry nations" of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet are destroyed in the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague.

Into the Air (place of spiritual control - Eph. 2:2)

Governments – ruling powers

Every channel of communication

The alliance in the 6<sup>th</sup> Plague is destroyed in the 7<sup>th</sup>.

A Great Voice out of the Temple

The Temple of Heaven = the Church complete (1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:5)

A Great Voice = Voice of Ruling Authority (heard by Great Company)

From the Throne

From the place of the true *ruling* power

Another support to the thought that the Church is complete

"It is done." (Strong's G1096 – See Matt. 24:34 – fulfilled)

Rev. 7:1-4 Four winds not to "hurt" until the Church is complete

Completion of the Church ("the Mystery of God")

Eph. 5:32

Col. 1:26,27

Rev. 10:7

Corresponding to Rev. 8:1 (silence in Heaven for half an hour)

Also the fact that all the plagues are now poured out (Rev. 15:1)

## Voice, Thunders and Lightnings

Lightnings = Flashes of Epiphania truths making people dissatisfied  
Voices = an angry reaction to the lightnings - protests, demands  
Thunders = controversy, climax of discontentment, violence  
[Great] Earthquake = final result  
Great hail = complete destruction of all institutions  
Strong exposures of truths  
Violent reaction to these  
Like the French Revolution (one tenth there, globally here)

## A Great Earthquake

The Armageddon climax  
Rev. 11:19 progression leading to a climax (see details above)  
See Ezekiel 38:16-23  
    16 Gathering of nations  
    18 Connection to Jacob's Trouble  
        Attacked during the Day of the Lord (Armageddon symbols)  
        Also miraculously helped by God  
        Nations punished (Joel 3:2)  
    19 Earthquake  
    20 Mountains thrown down, etc.  
    22 Hail  
    23 God sanctified  
See Zechariah 14:2-5  
    2 Gathering of nations  
    5 Earthquake (and Church complete)  
See Matt. 24:21,22  
    Unparalleled trouble  
    Stopped by the completed Church

## The Great City divided into Three Parts

The separation of the alliance shown under the sixth plague.  
Rev. 16:13

## The Cities of the Nations fell

Destruction of governments  
Anarchy

## Babylon came into remembrance before God

Final punishment and destruction of that System  
To give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath  
    Arraignment and exposure [Babylon before the Great Court]  
    The apogee of wrath  
    Different word [more powerful] for "wrath" than in Rev. 15:1  
    Prepares the World  
Isa. 13  
    Judgment again Babylon (verse 1)  
    Nations gathered (verses 3-4)  
    Woman in childbirth (verses 7-8) [1 Thess. 5:3]  
    Overthrown (verse 11-22)



Every Island fled away

Republics

“Safe places”, isolated places, will offer no haven.

The Mountains were not found

Nations will disappear

Swallowed up in anarchy. (Psa. 46)

[Rev. 6:16,17]

The Plague of Hail

Out of Heaven

Relates to verse 17

Controlled by God

Hard Truths

Aggregate of the Truth from all 7 plagues

Mankind must reach the point where they are sensitive to these

About the weight of a talent

The Golden Candlestick was made from one talent.

The aggregate of the Truth of the Gospel Age as a Judgment.

Men blasphemed God.

Burning of the Tares

Men have lost their faith.

## RELATED PROPHECIES

Rev. 14:19,20 Harvest of the Vine of the Earth, Winepress feature

Final results of the Time of Trouble

Psa. 107:27-30

Isa. 24:19-23

What is the Scriptural proof for the Ancient Worthies being on the scene at the time of Jacob's Trouble

Isaiah 24:21-23

Joel 3:16

Micah 5:5

Seven Shepherds = the completed Church

Eight Princes of men = "New Beginning", Ancient Worthies

Psalm 45:16

D626

Zech. 12:6

Is Babylon's final destruction linked to Israel's deliverance

Exodus 14:30,31 [Pictures the Little Season.]

2 Kings 19:17-19 [How is this linked to Babylon?]

Isaiah 14:1-4 [Does not specify the time of destruction.]

Joel 3:2,16,19 [Does not specify the time of destruction.]

Ezekiel 25:12-14 [Does not specify the time of destruction.]

Ezekiel 38 and 39 [How is Gog and Magog linked to Babylon?]

Obadiah 1:10-13,18 [Verse 21 shows the completion of the Church.]

When is the Great Company complete in regard to Babylon's Destruction?

Prevailing opinion was that the Great Company is complete before Babylon's Destruction.

A minority view was that the last members of the Great Company come out of Babylon at its Destruction.

How do we understand the following references?

C364 "Is not this a most remarkable..."

D268 "We would not be..."

D623 "We read similarly..."

R3884 : page 343 "We are now in the little..."

R4054 : page 267 "By the Lord's direction..."

R4926 : page 437 "We are not to think..."

R5383 : page 19 "When the Little Flock..."

R5415 : page 74 "Ultimately the full number..."

R5656 : page 92 "The Bible speaks..."

R5865 : page 76 "A beautiful picture..."

CR165,166 [1911] "Similarly, we are assured..."

Q106:2 [1910] CHURCH—Re Justified Before 1910

Q229:1 [1910] DOOR CLOSED—Harvest Past, Summer Ended

Q289:3 [1907] GREAT COMPANY—Re the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Q380:3 [1909] JOSEPH—Re His Brethren as Types

Q549:1 [1915] PRESENT TRUTH—Many Christians Not Yet Enlightened

Q625:2 [1916] SATAN—Re Binding (Q627)

## Regarding Gog and Magog / Babylon

Revelation 19:1-9 shows that the final destruction of Babylon is before the Wedding Feast.

Revelation 19:11-16 goes back to cover the winepress feature. It begins while some of the Little Flock are still in the flesh. (verse 14)  
[See R5451 "A somewhat similar description..."]

Edom as a symbol of Babylon:

Isaiah 63 refers to the Winepress feature of Revelation 14.

Ezekiel 25 refers to the Time of Trouble. Verse 14 shows that Israel will be used as a tool of vengeance.

Ezekiel 32 refers to the Time of Trouble. What sequence is shown here?

Joel 3:19 does not specify the time of destruction.

Amos 1 and 2 do not specify the time of destruction.

Obadiah 21 shows the completed Church doing the judgment work.

Isaiah 14 does not specify the time of destruction.

In Ezekiel chapters 26-28, Tyre is a symbol of Satan, and the Papacy. There are many parallels to Revelation 18.

In Revelation 18, Babylon is destroyed while the Kings of the Earth stand and watch. [Q626 bottom - Q627 top]

## OTHER QUESTIONS FROM PAST STUDIES

Regarding the three unclean spirits like frogs:

1 John 4:1 - Doctrines or teachings

Unclean because they are the work of the demons

Leaders trying to maintain the status quo

The spirits can perform signs (miracles). Is the miracle the achieved influence upon the kings and the whole world or something else?

In support of the old order

Promoting unprecedented social behaviors never before accepted

Removing mankind as far as possible from God

Are the signs the words, messages, slogans which go out and might enter in the hearts and minds and create a mindset and lead to specific actions of people, or are the signs real performed deeds?

Very deceptive

Could be literal manifestations

Rev. 13:14 "...because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth..." What are the signs?

The dragon and the kings of the earth both somehow represent civil power. What is the difference?

## CHAPTER 17

17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

REMINDER: HG1-106, The Three Worlds, was written by N. H. Barbour. These pages should be marked with an asterisk. Brother Russell warned the Brethren not to use it as he did not agree with its contents.

Who is the Angel?

One of the seven in previous chapters:

Chapters 1 to 3 and Chapter 15 in particular  
the seven Messengers to the Churches  
those who had the plagues, etc.

Brother Russell is the best candidate from the seven

We recognize him by his message.

The judgment of Babylon (Volume 4)

“Come out of her my people!”

Did he understand this chapter fully on this side?

Future events are not fully understood until fulfilled.

We do not know what he did and did not understand.

The same angel is used until the end of Revelation

What is the time setting?

The period of Babylon’s Judgment (starting in 1878)

Looks back to the period of the 1260 prophetic days.

The Angel on both this side and the other side of the veil.

Parallel to Ezekiel 9 – man with the writer’s inkhorn

Who / what is the Great Harlot?

The Apostate Religious System separate from the Civil Powers

Compare to the Bride of Christ, separate from her head.

Compare to the Man of Sin which is head and body combined.

Sitteth upon many waters

Peoples, nations and tongues (verse 15)

She had control over the people.

Compare to verse 3.

Compare to Chapter 18:21 (cast into the Sea).

Committed fornication with the Kings of the Earth in the past.

Made the Inhabitants of the Earth drunk. (Isa. 29:9-14)

17:3 So he carried me away in [the] spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet [coloured] beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

### The Wilderness

Compare to chapter 12 (during the 1260 prophetic years)

Compare to 1 Kings 19:4 (after the 1260 prophetic years)

“One must get out of Babylon into the separate or wilderness condition before they can get a good view of the harlot or her daughters.“ D27

Desert [G2048] (same as in John 6:31)

The Church was fed during both times. (John 6:31-35)

### The Woman = Great Harlot

Sits on the Scarlet Beast

Compare “waters” and “beast”

Sitting on the Beast = controlling the ruling civil powers [R5092]

Sitting on the Waters = controlling and supported by the people

The Beast is on top of (controlling) the waters.

G3521 = “enthroned” or in this context “enthroned upon”

Government keeps the People under control.

The Woman is “carried” (G941 “lifted up”) by the People.

There is a close relationship between the Beast and the Waters.

### Scarlet Beast / Heads / Horns

What is the Beast?

As a composite symbol it is a Government / Civil Power under the control of the Papacy.

The Body of the Beast, as a symbol, separate from its heads and horns represents the People. [See B354-355 and R2061-2062.]

Scarlet = covered with Sin

Full of names of blasphemy (this Beast)

Assumed Names and Titles / Christendom = Christ’s Kingdom

The Harlot still claims to be a “*Queen*”.

The blasphemy is related to the supposed “*Divine Right of Kings*”.

Seven heads

Successive forms of Government

Under Papal control

Ten horns = Divisions of Power (supporting nations)

Not always a literal number

Ten as a number can show completeness.

Why are there no Crowns as in Rev. 12 and 13?

The relationship focus between the components is different.

A Crown symbolizes the power of rulership being exercised.

Compare Strongs G1238 and G4735.

These 10 kings haven't received a kingdom *as yet*, thus,  
no crowns. [See verses 12 and 13.]

The 10 kings of Revelation 13 had received a kingdom.

These 10 kings of Revelation 17 are thus future, and cannot be  
referring to the same 10 kings of Daniel 7.

This alliance has no single head, so no crowns on the 10 heads.

This picture comes after the destruction of the "Divine Right  
of Kings" so it is appropriate not to show the crowns.

Focus is on the woman who has *assumed* authority (power).

Compare to the Beast of Chapters 13 and 16

The Beast there corresponds to the "Man Child" of Chapter 12

The Dragon of Chapter 12 is purely Civil Power.

There are 7 Heads

There are 7 Crowns on the Heads

There are 10 Horns

This picture begins *before* Papacy is in power.

This is probably the reason the Crowns are not  
shown on the Horns.

The focus is on the succeeding forms of government.

Chapter 13 and 16 show the Religious and Civil power combined.

There are 10 Horns

The 10 Crowns are shown on the Horns.

The civil powers (horns) were given their crowns  
by the Papacy.

Compare to the "Horrible Beast" of Dan. 7:7

[NOTE: Not a "Dragon"]

The Dan. 7 Beast only has one head.

The Dan. 7 Beast has no crowns.

The Dan. 7 Beast also has ten horns.

In the Dan. 7:7 context a "Little Horn" comes up among them.

It is a *different picture*, with some similarities.

We must be careful not to mix pictures.

We cannot make a direct comparison of Daniel 7 with Rev. 17.

A Horn, as a symbol, is different from a Woman.

The Woman is not mentioned in Rev. 13

The Dragon is not mentioned in Rev. 17.

The time-setting is not identical in all cases.

Each of these prophecies is different for a reason.

17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

The Raiment counterfeits the garments of Aaron and his sons, and other

Tabernacle symbols. (Exod. 26:1; 26:36; 26:31; 27:16; 39:1)

The Harlot does not wear blue (no faithfulness). [T30]

Regarding gold, precious stones and pearls, compare to 1 Tim. 2:9-10.

F656, last para. "There is a continual temptation..."

The Harlot is wearing Purple and Scarlet, similar to the Scarlet Beast

The Golden Cup:

Babylon was a golden cup (Jer. 51:7)

Here Babylon holds a golden cup

The Forehead Inscription (compare to chapter 14:1)

"Mother of Harlots"

Other Religious Systems

Proves the Woman is separate from Civil Power here as a symbol

17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Historical perspective and Symbolic significance

The woman is drunk from previous actions (compare to verse 2)

Difference between "saints" and "martyrs of Jesus"

Not all saints were martyrs, but all martyrs were saints.

Papacy persecuted all of the Lord's people.

Tie-in with Daniel 7, especially verse 21

There are similarities, but also differences.

The language is similar



17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The Angel (Messenger) tells John the MYSTERY of the Woman.

The MYSTERY of the Woman:  
The past union of Church and State.  
The Divine Right of Kings.

Brother Russell showed this in his writings  
Volume 2, Volume 4, etc.

The Angel (Messenger) tells John the MYSTERY of the Beast.

***What is the MYSTERY of the Beast?***

***Did Brother Russell show this in his writings?***

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

What is the Beast in this verse? [See R2061 last para.]

Based on the context, B354-355 and R2061-2062 it is the Beast symbol  
*separate* from the heads and horns.  
“A Beast without a head” in the foregoing references supports this.  
The Beast Body as a separate symbol points to the People / Waters.

*“The Beast which thou sawest...”* [Past, Present, Future details]

The beast *“which thou sawest”*.

The various *forms* of the Beast exist in their respective timeframes.

The timeframe for the Angel’s explanation is crucial.

Brother Russell is the angel here.

It is at the beginning of the Laodicean period.

The 5<sup>th</sup> head “was” in the past from this time perspective.

The 5<sup>th</sup> head “was not” at the time of this message.

The 5<sup>th</sup> head ends in 1799 AD.

Its second appearance is still future.

***Does the 5<sup>th</sup> Beast include the French Revolution?***

***If so, how?***

***What form of government is thus shown?***

This arrangement will “ascend out of the bottomless pit” in the  
future from then.

This arrangement will then “go into perdition”.

The 6<sup>th</sup> head “is” at the time of this message. [See verse 10.]

Beginning in 1799

***What is the 6<sup>th</sup> head? (Victor Emmanuel?)***

***When does the 6<sup>th</sup> head end?***

The 5<sup>th</sup> arrangement, which is a Beast, ascends out of the Bottomless Pit.

This is a reappearance of that Church/State cooperation.

*Is this a parallel in some ways to the 6<sup>th</sup> Plague alliance?*

*Could this correspond to the False Prophet vitalization?*

*There is no 8<sup>th</sup> head.*

*What does this mean?*

*How is this arrangement similar to the 5<sup>th</sup>?*

*How is this arrangement different from the 5<sup>th</sup>?*

People are amazed to see this Beast rise again.

*When will this Beast be destroyed in the sequence?*

*Could this correspond to the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague.*

*What other prophetic events come before and after this?*

17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Seven Heads = Seven Mountains (Kingdoms)

The Seven Heads are the Seven Mountains.

The Seven Heads are the Seven Kingdoms.

As previously identified, these are seven successive forms of government under the control of the Roman Church.

The Woman represents the Roman Church in control of the Civil Power.

17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

*Why does it begin with: "AND there are seven kings?"*

*What is represented by the Seven Kings?*

*R2062 connects these Seven Kings with the Seven Mountains.*

*What is the 7<sup>th</sup> King?*

*When does it start and end?*

*Could the "short space" correspond to the pouring out the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 plagues?*

[See Rev. 18:8 "in one day."]

[See Rev. 18:10 "in one hour."]

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

***This is a BEAST.***

Based on the detailed description, this is the same Beast as in verse 8.

***What is this Beast?***

***It is clearly the Eighth form of the Beast.***

***It is one of the preceding Seven forms of the Beast.***

***It is a repeat of the form of the 5<sup>th</sup> Beast.***

***Could “goeth into perdition” correspond to the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague?***

17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

The ten Horns are always considered as a whole, not successively.

What are the Ten Horns?

The number ten is symbolic of the whole, and not necessarily literal.

There were rarely exactly ten kingdoms in the European picture.

Zech. 8:22-23 uses the number ten symbolically.

Matt. 25:1-13 uses the number ten symbolically.

The 10 Commandments are often used to symbolize the entire Law.

They are described as “Kings”.

They receive power in the future, *with* the Beast.

If the Ten Horns are strictly future, how do we understand verse 3?

Could this picture be larger than Europe?

***If this is a recurrence of the 5<sup>th</sup> “Beast” how would that fit?***

Kingdoms which have not received a *common* kingdom yet.

17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

The Ten Horns give their Power and Kingdom to the Beast. (See verse 17.)

These Ten Horns work together with the Beast. (See verses 16 and 17.)

They have no crowns because they have given their power and strength to the beast.

17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

This shows that the Church is complete and on the other side.

Notice the similiarity with Rev. 13:7.

***What is included in the phrase “these shall make war”?***

***Is “these” only the ten horns/kings?***

***Could “these” include the ten horns/kings and the Beast?***

17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

***Could this be showing the Beast separate from the Heads and Horns?***

***If so, it would be focusing on the people.***

***This would fit with verses 8 and 11.***

17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon (or and καὶ) the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

***Which thought is correct: upon or and?***

***Greek manuscripts which use “and”: Alexandrian, Complutensian, Ethiopic, Sinaitic, Vatican 1160, Vulgate, and Syriac.  
Also see: Diaglott, Nestle.***

***The Whore is destroyed here, not the Beast.***

17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The hearts of the Ten Horns / Ten Kings

***What is the full meaning of the phrase: “give their kingdom unto the beast”?***

They form an alliance with Papacy.

As mentioned before, this is a reason for not showing Crowns.

17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Compare to Rev. 16:19.

## CHAPTER 18

18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Who is the Angel?

Jesus at his 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

Come down from Heaven

Acts 3:19-21

Also see Chapter 20:1

Having Great Power (a Divine spirit being)

The Earth was Lightened (Society as a whole) [Dan. 12:4; 1 Cor. 4:5]

Psa. 97:1-4

Isa. 21:12

John 1:5

His Glory (Divine spirit being)

A human instrument is used as the “strong voice” of verse 2

Isa 21:6-9,11,12 The Watchman

The 7<sup>th</sup> Messenger (pictured by Aaron as Moses’ mouthpiece)

Using the “strong voice” of various prophecies

What is the general time setting for giving this message?

Tie in with verse 4: “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.”

Before the plagues of chapter 16

Prophetically: 1878 according to chronology

Was a “golden cup” until a certain point (Jer. 51:6-10)

Rev. 2:21 tie in?

R45 – November, 1879 identified the fall happening in the past

The symbols in verse 3 identify Babylon with the Harlot of Chapter 17.

Verse 4 is God’s focused Judgment against “my people” in Babylon.

Again, a human instrument is used to proclaim this.

Rev. 17 tie in (“I will show thee....”)

This warning was given beginning in 1879.

Dan. 12:6-9 “days” of 1260, 1290, 1335

Man clothed in linen

Parallels (double), 70 weeks, etc.

The Harvest Work was instrumental.

## OVERVIEW OF THE TIME SETTING IN THIS CHAPTER:

The concept of *future* in the notes below is in relation to the giving of this message between 1879 and 1916.

Verse 1 is 1874.

Verse 2 is 1878.

Verse 3 is referring to past sins.

Verse 4 is 1879 and onward.

Verse 5 is referring to past sins as the basis for her condemnation.

Verse 6 is referring to her future punishment in the Plagues (after 1916).

Verse 7 is referring to past sins as the reason for her punishment.

Verse 8 is again referring to her future punishment in the Plagues (one *day*).

Verses 8-10 talk about a future reaction by the Kings (SHALL in both verses).

Verse 10 (one hour) is *either* referring to the suddenness of the “judgment determined” *or* the finality of the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague.

There is fear for something in the future. [“...alas, alas...”]

Bible in Basic English: “...in one hour you have been judged [sentenced]...”

Verses 11-13 talk about a future reaction by the Merchants (SHALL in verse 11).

Verse 14 can also refer to a future event (SHALT find them no more at all).

Verses 15,16 are during the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague, but spoken of as future (SHALL).

Verse 17, first part, belongs to verses 15,16 (one *hour*).

Verse 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> part is the same time-setting, but a different group (Shipmasters).

Verses 18,19 belong to the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of verse 17 (one *hour*).

Verse 20

Verses 21-24 is the final and utter destruction, a result of the 7<sup>th</sup> Plague.

***Which verses show the process and which verses show the climax?***

***Which verses show the alliance during the 6<sup>th</sup> Plague? [verse 21?]***

***Q625:2 ?***

## SUMMARY POINTS:

Babylon fell from favor in 1878, but was not destroyed at that time.

Verse 1 was already identified as 1874 and the Return of our Lord.

Verse 2 is the pronouncement that started to go forth globally in 1879.

Verse 4 shows a period of time before the Plagues were to be poured out.

The consensus was that the Plagues began to be poured out after 1916.

## CLARIFICATIONS:

The Plagues in Rev. 16 are the same as here in Rev. 18:4

The message of Rev. 18:4 is a warning about a future event.

That message went forth from 1879 and onward.

The Plagues are still future from 1879.

If that message was not heeded by 1916, those remaining in Babylon were considered guilty, and received of her plagues.

The 7 Messengers pour out the plagues from the glorified condition.

The “fall” referred to in verse 2 is not merely a statement of Babylon’s moral condition.

She was fallen from the beginning.

But Babylon was used during the Gospel Age.

[See: 1 Kings 17:4-6; Jer. 51:7,20-24; Rev. 6:6; etc.]

The daughter systems as well as the Papacy are indicated.

Verse 2 refers to a time when Babylon is no longer to be used.

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares shows this clearly.

18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

What is the meaning of double?

Twice as much “as she has mixed”

One to “settle the accounts” (back to zero)

Another as punishment

Double could also mean “an equal portion.”

Who gives this double portion to her?

Verse 4 “my people”

Psa. 149:5-9

Jer. 16:18

Jer. 50:15,29

What methods are used?

The Harvest Work

The Lord’s People

How do we understand the claims of verse 7?

She denies the judgments upon her

Her claims are false claims

She is no longer a queen

She lost her children

She will be punished

Arrogance manifested

There are many parallels in Isaiah 47 esp. verses 8,9,11 and 15

There are additional parallel in Isaiah 23:16-18

“The giver of crowns” (verse 8) applies well to Papacy

Jezebel was the daughter of the king of Tyre. [See R3399 and Wikipedia]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\\_of\\_Tyre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Tyre)

What is the “one day” of verse 8?

The plagues are the same as those in chapters 15 and 16. [D38,39]

The amount of time is *not* a literal day nor a symbolic year,

The period of torment and sorrow (verse 7) detailed in following verses.

The final destruction (“utterly burned with fire”) is indicated.

[The next section compares “one day” and “one hour”.]

Characteristics of the Plagues are given in verse 8:

Death

Her “death” process started in a special way in 1914.

[See Isa. 23:14,15]

Mourning

For what she has lost

WWI was a significant loss to Papacy.

Famine

A hunger for the things lost: Power, Money, etc.

Also shows a gradual process of death.

Burned with Fire

A process

Leading to the final destruction Climax (*shall be utterly burned*).

## **The Kings of the Earth**

18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

Who are the Kings of the Earth?

All “who *have* committed fornication and lived deliciously with her.”

All who trafficked with Babylon in the past.

The rulers, the rich, the powers of the earth.

Ezek. 26-28:2

2 Thess. 2:4

What is the time setting?

The destruction process (*slow-burn*) of Babylon.

Consider Vatican II as a part of the “alas, alas”.

The *one hour* is the Armageddon climax referred to under the 6<sup>th</sup> Plague, but ALL the Plagues constitute the slow-burn process.

What is the meaning of the symbols of *smoke* and *burning*?

Smoke is evidence of destruction, perhaps beginning in 1914.

Final destruction (burned utterly) is shown in verse 8 [future climax]

See verse 18 and Rev. 19:3 regarding smoke.

Parallels in chapter 14

See verse 14:8 compared to 18:2.

See verse 14:10,11 compared to 18:9.



Does the phrase “standing afar off” have special meaning?

After WWI the Papacy was specifically excluded from important international meetings.

The Kings of the Earth were too occupied after WWI with their own problems.

“For fear of her torment” is a gradual development.

This may be a temporary condition as shown in the 70 years of Isa. 23

Note Isa. 23:14 and the “howling” at the *beginning* of the 70 years.

A final future resurgence/alliance is shown here and elsewhere.

See Rev. 16:13 and Rev. 17

The 10 Kings of Rev. 17 are a different picture.

The total and final destruction is shown in verse 21.

See Rev. 14:19,20; Rev. 16:19 and Rev. 17:16.

Described as “that great city” (or “the strong city”).

Ruled for a thousand years with a high hand.

The end of that previous supreme rule is evident to the Kings of the Earth.

### “One Hour” versus “One Day”

What is the “one hour” of verse 10? How does it compare to “one day” in verse 8?

Not intended as literal, nor as a prophetic time period.

Both are short periods comparatively.

One Day:

Longer than the “one hour”

The period of all the plagues

One Hour:

The shorter period of the judgment climax

The same Greek Word is used in verses 17 and 19.

Verse 17 “come to naught” relates to the final destruction.

Verse 19 “made desolate” likewise fits the final destruction.

Both expressions are from G2049 “to lay waste”.

### The Merchants of the Earth

18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

All who profited from trafficking with Babylon throughout the centuries.

Ezek. 27; Isa. 23:8 and contexts

[See verse 10]

The Vatican has huge revenues and purchases large amounts of “debt”.

*Fortune/Time Global Forum* at the Vatican was not widely reported.

Including the Nations (many Ambassadors to the Vatican [87])

What is the time setting?

The merchants *shall* weep and mourn over her.

Because no man buys their merchandise any more.

Is this the final picture? (i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> Plague)

18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Whose merchandise is this?

The Merchants in verse 11

They buy and sell with others.

Who is buying?

Babylon is (was) “trafficking” with the Merchants.

See Rev. 13:17

What is the connection to Babylon?

She was reselling this merchandise.

Time setting related to Isa. 23:17,18

Forgotten 70 years

Returns to her former trafficking after the 70 years

Do these specific items have special symbolic significance?

Can have a spiritual application

1 Tim. 2:9,10 [Rotherham]

[See Brother Frey’s notes]

Jer. 8:22

Also signify earthly wealth, to get rich.

A mixture of both [i.e. “souls of men”]

“Bodies and souls of men”

Politicians want the people to obey Babylon

Losing members means losing influence

See Ezek. 27 again [different countries listed there]

18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

Whose things are these?

Babylon’s

Fruits that thy soul lusted after, dainty and Goodly things

Awe, respect and admiration is what is departed from her.

How she was regarded by world leaders, etc.

What does the use of the 2nd Person Personal Pronoun tell us?

In the context it is referring to a future event from that point in time.

See the summary at the top of page 94.

18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Same reason as the kings in verse 10.  
They weep and wail because of their loss of trade.

18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

Symbols of wealth (see verse 17)

18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Difference between the Merchants and the Shipmasters, etc.

Merchants: Financial Kings

Shipmasters: International Businessmen. [See New Albany notes.]

Passengers: Those who go along for the ride.

Sailors: Not owners but involved in caring for "the ship."

Ezekiel 27:8 "The inhabitants of .... mariners...pilots..."

Ezekiel 27:9 "...caulkers...merchandise..."

Psalm 83 "...cut them off from being a nation..." [Geba]

18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy [ones, i.e. saints], and apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

Heaven: The Third Heaven (singular)

Saints: The Lord's people

Apostles: The foundation of the New Jerusalem

Prophets:

Public expounders [G4396]

Ancient Worthies were not persecuted by Babylon.

Possibly the 7 Angels

Avenger: Judgment pronounced [not necessarily enforced]

18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Mighty Angel:

Jesus

He would have the authority to do what is mentioned here.

Taking up the millstone:

Not immediately in 1874

Ties in with the plagues

A rising before the fall

Great City:

The Capital of Babylon

The entire system? City tends to apply to the Papacy.

A Declaration (arraignment) of what is to come as the finality.

Future from this prophecy

Sequential in context

The finality is the destruction of Babylon

Isa. 51:41 regarding the destruction.

Jer. 25 Babylon drinking the wine of wrath after the nations.

Violence, found no more, etc., showing finality.

Final destruction is future from 2019.

QUESTION: How does the fall of Babylon coordinate with the persecution of the feet members in the last days?

18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

## CHAPTER 19

19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

What is the time setting for this chapter?

Does it follow the destruction of Babylon shown in Revelation 18?

Is it at the same time as the destruction of Babylon shown in Revelation 18?

Where does Hab. 3:17,18 fit into this time setting?

Great Company still on earth

Language very similar

Which "Heaven" is meant?

Literal: The Presence of God

Symbolic: The Powers of Spiritual Control

The great [loud] voice = the Great Multitude or Great Company

The same as in verse 6

The same as Rev. 7:9 [compare language in 7:10 with 19:1]

The Great Company set free from Babylon's influence

Where is the Great Company?

On the Spiritual Plane?

Rev. 7:10

On Earth?

See Expanded Biblical Comments for references.

Prophetic pictures where G.C. knows Church is gone

At the final destruction of Babylon

When is Babylon utterly destroyed?

Rev. 18 – before the Kings [mighty ones] are destroyed?

Jer. 25:25-28 – after the Kings are punished?

Is there a difference between being punished and being destroyed?

19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

Babylon is destroyed.

The Judgment is complete.

19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

24 Elders = Old Testament Prophecies and Teachings personified

4 Living Ones = God's Attributes

Beauties of the Truth - May 1994

19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

The Voice of Jesus and his Bride  
Message to whom? (Small and Great)

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

How does the time setting and location of this verse compare to verse 1?  
What is the difference between the marriage and the marriage supper?  
Is it valid to make “human” comparisons?

19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Blessed = “supremely blessed” G3107

19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Don't worship the messenger, but give him due respect.

The following six verses are speaking of our returned Lord Jesus.

19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Which heaven? Why opened?

Glorified Jesus

Eyes of fire - Rev. 1:14

Faithful and true – Rev. 3:14

The Word of God

White horse

Pure doctrines / Restored Truth

Compare to first horse in Rev. 6:1

Judge and make war

Against Babylon, etc.

19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Flame of fire

Destruction of the nations

Many crowns

After 1914

Compare: Rev. 12:3, 13:1; etc.

19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Isaiah 63:1-6

19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

The armies in heaven

Why plural?

Psa. 149

Clothed in linen

Where?

Which clothing?

See verse 8

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

Sword of Truth (the Bible)

How is the smiting of the nations accomplished?

Who does this work?

Rule = "tend as a shepherd"

Ezek. 38 connection?

Winepress feature is against Babylon

19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

See: Rev. 17:14

19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Angel standing in the Sun:

Jesus (loud voice in other places) [Rev. 18:2] (but *not* Rev. 5; 6; 7; 12; 14)

Glorified Church

Great Company after the Church is gone [see commentaries]

Something else?

Jesus is shown under a different symbol in this chapter.

The Church is shown under a different symbol in this chapter.

The Great Company is shown under a different symbol in this chapter.

In Ezek. 39 “the Son of Man” is Ezekiel who gives this message.

See Psa. 19:5

Sun can have many meanings:

Gospel [Rev. 12:1]

Justice [Mal. 4:2]

Church [Songs 6:10; Matt. 13:43]

Fowls in the midst of heaven

Not part of established society [G3321] — fly above it and independent of those they attack.

Not the same as Rev. 18:2

Destroy Society (see next verse)

Part of the Lord’s Great Army

Anarchists

Tares [Rev. 17:16]

See Ezek. 39:17-21 and context

Foregleams with current protests, etc.

19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

See Rev. 13:16 (those who received the mark of the Beast)

Kings = Rulers

Captains = Armies

Mighty Men = Financial or other powers

Horses = False Doctrines

Horsemen = Teachers of False Doctrines

Free and Bond, Small and Great [Rev. 13:16] (those with the mark of the beast)

Flesh = that which holds the body together (the old order)

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

Armies against Jesus / Army (singular) with Jesus

Compare verse 14 and Rev. 17:14

See Psalm 2

A Global last effort

Parallel to the John the Baptist type



Does Joshua and the fall of Jericho fit into this bigger context?

The 7<sup>th</sup> day, 7 circuits (plagues)

The 7<sup>th</sup> circuit (7<sup>th</sup> plague) was accompanied with a loud voice

Who gives this shout?

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

Receiving the Mark is a process not yet complete

Absolute destruction of the Beast and the False Prophet

Beast = Papal System

False Prophet = Combination of the Two-Horned Beast and the Image of the Beast

Systems are cast alive = a process of destruction

The Dragon is not included

In Rev. 16:13 all three form an alliance.

In Rev. 18 the Kings of the Earth stand afar off when Babylon is destroyed.

The Dragon is not cast into the lake of fire, but is bound in chapter 20.

The Miracles correspond to:

Matt. 24:24

2 Thess. 2:9-12

Deut. 13:1-3

Healing, speaking in tongues, etc.

19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The remnant is “slain” but not cast into the lake of fire (2<sup>nd</sup> death).

What comes first?

Verse 20?

Verse 21?

## CHAPTER 20

20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

The Angel = Jesus

Angel = Messenger of the Covenant (Mal. 3:1,2)

Key = having authority.

Same as the entering of the Strong Man's House (Satan) in 1874.

Heaven

1 Thess. 4:16 – parallels (Angel coming down)

1 Thess. 4:17 – Air = atmosphere [Greek]

The Bottomless Pit = Powerless State

Rev. 9:1,2,11

Rev. 11:7

Rev. 17:8

The Great Chain = Restraining the power of Satan, by the revealing truths.

Concerning Babylon, Politics, Finance, etc.

A Chain of Light

“Prince of Darkness”

Scriptures:

Dan. 10:13 – Michael stronger than “the Prince of Persia”

Matt. 12:29 – Strong Man's House (also Luke 11:21,22)

Acts 3:21 – Retained until the Times of Restitution

1 Thess. 4:16

Jude 1:6

Rev. 12:9,12

Rev. 18:1

20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him,

20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

A Process of binding

Laid hold

Bound

Cast into the Abyss

Shut up

Set a Seal

Ultimately: “To deceive the nations no more.”

Not allowed to do any harm either.

Isa. 35:9

Until the thousand years are fulfilled (that part of the thousand years which remains)

After that he is loosed for the Little Season

SIDE POINT: Four names of the personal Devil

Dragon = Corruption of Power [Civil Power in other place in Revelation]

Serpent = Corruption of Wisdom [Garden of Eden]

Devil = Corruption of Justice [G1228 false accuser]

Satan = Corruption of Love [G4567 adversary]

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

20:5 This is the first resurrection.

20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Thrones = position of authority

Judgment powers given to them

Luke 12:32

1 Cor. 6:2,3

Rev. 2:10

Beheaded, etc. = The True Church

Not always literally beheaded, but having no head but Jesus.

“...for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God..”

Rev. 12:17

Rev. 19:10

1 Thess 4:16 – those who rise first are the same ones who waited

Rev. 6:10,11

No allegiance, do not belong to the Beast or the Image.

Had not worshipped them

Received no “mark”

Do not “belong” to these systems

Foreheads = mental assent

Hands = physical service.

Only the Church have part in the First Resurrection

“On such the Second Death hath no power.”

Verse 4 linked to verse 6.

The spurious part of verse 5 does not fit the logic of the context.

The general resurrection has nothing to do with the context.

Lived and Reigned

Both at the same time?

Sequential?

They “reigned with him a thousand years” [also verse 6]

Same thousand years as the binding of Satan

Can be translated in verses 4 and 6 as “*during* the thousand years”

20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

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

20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.