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Introduction 1₁₋₈

These notes are the expanded or repeated previous Bible study notes. It is hoped that the truths revealed are those that are specially relevant in today's largely secular world that is enduring so much turmoil and pressure due to uncertainty. This caused by deception and the discarding of Almighty God and his commandments. Few see the hand of God at work, and many are in despair, being fearful of the future. The Lord God has given us his Word that we may trust in his sure and certain hope. May he reveal himself, his truth and his offer of forgiveness and eternal life.

The Carpenter by Paula Worth

Isn't this the Carpenter? Mk 6₃ Math 13₅₅

We know the gospel story
And of his humble birth,
But who would think a king could be
A Carpenter on earth?
And yet in contemplation
It's not so very odd
For carpenters mend broken things -
Why not the Son of God?
For many years at Joseph's side
He worked with saw and plane
And waited for his Father's time,
The reason that he came.
They heard him speak in Galilee,
Amazed as wisdom flowed
For "Was not this the Carpenter,
Whose family we know?"
And then that final irony
Upon a cross of wood
They saw him die, the Son of God,
Alone, the truly good.
He'd promised this was not the end,
He'd rise, return again,
That those who waited on his word
Would not believe in vain,
For only he could pay the price
Of sin, not his, but mine;
This Carpenter from Nazareth
Who stepped into our time.
And one day, coming on the clouds,
Around the world will flash
The long awaited headline news
"The Carpenter is back!"

Why? God's purpose in giving us this last book of the Bible was, and remains,

1. *The revelation of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.*
2. *To show to his servants the things that must soon take place.*
3. *To bear witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ.* 1_{1,2}

For 2,000 years God's world has been in turmoil; now it is even more so.

But he has always wanted us to know something of his plan so that we will not be overly surprised and so turn away from the Lord God.

Anticipating the mess, he reveals the Saviour Jesus Christ, as the mighty King, his truth and forgiveness, his power over all evil forces, his creation and control, and to bless all who hear, trust and obey. (1₃)

When? *Soon ... for the time is near.* 1_{1,3}

Some have foolishly scorned that 'soon' was said over 19 centuries ago!

God is determined that this book would not be carelessly discarded.

It has always been highly relevant. And today it is that much nearer!

Peter prophesied this folly: *Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming?"* 2 Pe 3_{3,4}

And then he tells us why God has apparently delayed his plan: *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.* 2 Pe 3₉

When Jesus told the apostles about the last days he ended with 4 stories about what wise and foolish people did when it seemed that the Lord's return was delayed.

1. Wise and foolish servants,
2. Ten virgins,
3. Three men with different talents,
4. Sheep and goats. Math 24₃₆ - 25₄₆

To and From

God gave the revelation of Jesus to John with the instruction to then give it to us. *He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.* 1₂

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: 1_{4a}

The apostle obviously wrote it and sent it to the 7 churches. But thankfully God ensured that this valuable complete word was passed on down all the years to us.

What

Grace to you and peace ... from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. 1_{4b,5}

This letter was much more than a local greetings postcard (also appreciated).

It was a timeless, valuable document from the Saviour of the world: *Blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.* 1₃

Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. 1₆

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” 1₈

With such an Author, how can such a letter be unread and carelessly discarded?

Vision of Jesus + Letters to the Churches 1₉₋₂₀ + 2,3

John, a persecuted prisoner on Patmos in ~95AD, was given a vision
on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 1₉

He is told to write what he saw and send it to the 7 churches in Asia minor.
I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. 1₁₂₋₁₆

Then he said to John, *“Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.” 1₁₇₋₁₉*

“The seven stars = the angels of the seven churches”

“The seven golden lampstands = the seven churches”. (1₂₀)

The obedient John writes exactly what the Lord instructs him to.

The detail is what Almighty God sees and knows about each church.

And not only what was true in 95AD.

Every church down the ages has some of each of these characteristics
and they are given that we may be honest and learn from them.

Let us practice humility and have courage and trust in Christ.

See the following summary of the letters.

To the Angel in ...	Words of Him who ...	I know ...	Commendation	This against you	Exhortation	Else (Warning)	Reward to Overcomers
Ephesus 2 ₁₋₇ <i>Legalism</i> Acts 19 Acts 20 ₁₃₋₃₈	Holds 7 Stars (angels) Walks among 7 Lampstands (churches)	Your deeds, hard work and perseverance	Patient endurance. Discernment. Truth Cannot tolerate evil Nicolaitans - sex	Abandoned first love Distracted.	Remember 'the height'. Repent. Not just at start. Resume <u>the works you did</u> at first	Lampstand will be removed	Eat tree of life in the paradise of God
Smyrna 2 ₈₋₁₁ <i>Poor Martyrs</i>	First and the Last Died and came to life	Your afflictions, poverty and slander by Jews	But you are rich (and protected)	—	Do not fear what you will shortly suffer. Be faithful unto death	—	Crown of life. Not hurt by 2nd death (Judgement)
Pergamum 2 ₁₂₋₁₇ <i>Popular</i> <i>Compromise</i>	Has the sharp two-edged sword	You live where Satan has his throne. Zeus.	You remained true to my name even when Antipas was martyred	Some hold to teaching of Baalam who allowed eating of idol's food and immorality. Some hold to teaching of Nicolaitans	Repent	I will come and fight against them with the sword of my mouth	Hidden manna. White stone with new name inscribed, known only to one who receives it
Thyatira 2 ₁₈₋₂₉ <i>Dominating</i> <i>Leaders</i>	Son of God who has eyes of blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze	Your deeds	Love, faith, service, perseverance, and you are now doing more than at first	You tolerate Jezebel, who encourages immorality and eats food sacrificed to idols. She and her adulterers will suffer intensely unless they repent	Repent. You who resist her teaching, hold fast what you have	I will strike her children dead. All the churches will know that I will repay each of you according to your deeds	Power over nations. Given Morning Star
Sardis 3 ₁₋₆ <i>Sleeping Sham</i>	Holds the 7 spirits of God, and the 7 stars	Your deeds. Your reputation is not the truth	Yet a few have not soiled their clothes	Name for being alive, but are dead. Works started but not finished	Wake up! Strengthen what remains. Remember what you have received and heard. Obey and Repent	I will come unexpectedly	Dressed in white for they are worthy. Names not blotted out of book of life. I will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels
Philadelphia 3 ₁₋₁₇ <i>Safe Pilgrims</i>	It is Holy and True who Holds the key of David who opens and shuts	Your deeds and little strength. I set before you an open door 2Co 12 _{9,10}	Kept my word, endured patiently and have not denied my name. So I will keep you from hour of trial	—	I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have so that no one will take your crown	—	I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, he shall never leave it. I will write on him the name of my God
Laodicea 3 ₁₄₋₂₂ <i>Proud and Blind</i>	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation	Your deeds and luke-warmness	—	Neither hot nor cold, so I will spew you out of my mouth. You say you are rich and need nothing, but you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked	Buy from me gold refined in the fire, white clothes and eye salve. Those I love I reprove. Be earnest and Repent. I stand and knock; if you open, I will come in	—	Sit down with my Father on his throne

The Throne in Heaven 4₁₋₁₁

Behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." 4₁

What an invitation! And he didn't need hearing aids!

The Lord God wanted to tell John and us the authentic truth about the future. But first he needs to be certain of who plans and executes the future, therefore he is shown the throne of God and the surrounding 24 thrones of the elders. It is so beautiful that he describes it as jewels that *had the appearance of ...*

They had white robes and golden crowns.

There was lightning and thunder and torches of fire and a sea of glass. Around the throne were four living creatures, full of eyes (see, know all things).

They looked like a lion (kingship), an ox (strength, stamina), a man (intelligence) and an eagle (see overall picture), each with six wings (mobility).

Unlike men, they were always totally united in purpose.

They sang in perfect harmony day and night:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come! 4₈

Whenever they bowed down and worshipped, the 24 elders did so as well.

They too sang in perfect harmony and purpose:

Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. 4₁₁

This is the Almighty, the Eternal God who controls all the future and eternity and his 'cabinet' who perfectly execute his commands - without debate!

(See also Ezek 1₂₅₋₂₈ Is 6₁₋₅ Math 17_{1,2})

The Lord God wanted John, and us, to know with certainty who will control all the future events. They will not be random or chaotic, but they will each fulfill God's plan. As in his Creation, they will lead to his glorious, righteous, eternal kingdom.

The Scroll and the Lamb 5₁₋₁₄

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 5₁

What does this scroll reveal that is so important?

1. The salvation of men - *'what must take place after this'*. 4₁

2. This scroll contains the names of all the redeemed - it is the 'Book of Life'.

But there was a seemingly insurmountable problem.

The scroll was sealed and thus its content could not be revealed.

And not with just one seal, but seven seals. So no one could read the names.

John sees *a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice,*

“Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 5₂

John, the aged prisoner on Patmos, wept bitterly.

Then one of the 24 elders revealed the solution to the problem:

“Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David,

has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.” 5₅

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders

I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain,

with seven horns and with seven eyes. 5₆

When the Lamb took the scroll all heaven sang a new song:

“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,

for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation,

and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,

and they shall reign on the earth.” 5_{9,10}

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and might and honour and glory and blessing!”*

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!” 5_{12,13}

John stopped weeping!

The insurmountable problem was solved. Jer 30_{12,17} 31_{9,11,34}

All the rest of the book of Revelation tells us what happens as the Lamb
opens the seven seals so that all the names could be revealed.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. 19₁₀

This, his testimony of truth, is the series of events that must come to pass.

How the redeemed are saved and protected in the world-wide great tribulation.

And also that the great wickedness of man must be judged.

This is very unpopular and is one of the main reasons this book is not read.

God has decreed that this just punishment must be administered before Satan and
all evil are removed from the earth and from the hearts of men.

Only then will God's treasured and righteous kingdom be established for ever.

The First Six Seals 6₁₋₁₇

In the first 5 chapters John is shown that God is Almighty and Master of all that he has created and that Jesus Christ is both Lord and Saviour of this fallen world. God could not reveal the Great Tribulation and the complete victory over Satan until John appreciated this. The same is true for us.

1st Seal - a White Horse.

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. 6_{1,2}

It is the Lamb who opens each of the seals. Only he has the authority to do so. An elder orders the white horse to "Come!"

(Note: an elder could never give such an order if the rider was Christ.)

*The rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him,
and he came out conquering, and to conquer.*

It seems a little strange that there is no mention of arrows for his bow.

It's like guns without bullets.

How does he conquer or dominate? **By deceit.**

When Jesus taught the apostles about the last days, the first sentence warns:

"Watch out that no one deceives you ..." Math 24₄ (NIV)

And he warns them about being deceived twice more in the same teaching;

False Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible. Math 24_{11 and 24}

Daniel prophesied: *"I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath, because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end. ... In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power. The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."* Dan 8₁₉₋₂₆

Today by using social media, 'Twitter', Facebook etc, together with the internet, it has never been easier to spread lies and fake news.

Even the BBC news now broadcasts far more opinions than verified facts.

Consider the following five examples:

(More detail in: www.dickworth.uk/Five Lies.htm)

a) The Evolution Theory that is now taught as scientific truth

In the UK school curriculum, Creation is now relegated to 'religion'.

It is not considered as truth, but is just an optional myth.

The consequence of this blasphemy is clearly prophesied by the apostle Paul:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness ... Ro 1¹⁸⁻²⁹

Simply, the Evolution Theory deceit has caused men to think that if God did not create anything, then he can safely be ignored and discarded as irrelevant!

Therefore the Almighty has withdrawn his protection, as prophesied,

and has allowed Satan to make homosexuality acceptable and widespread.

b) Man Induced Global Warming.

While it is true there has been global warming, the speculation that the majority has been caused by man is false. The vast media coverage of this deceit is likely to bankrupt the world. Why is it false? Because the current warming since ~1750 is not unique. There were also warm periods ~1350 and also in the early Roman empire that were obviously not caused by increased CO₂ from burning fossil fuel. Furthermore if the official Met Office and the HadCRUT data for the years following 2015 reveals an unexplained and embarrassing slight cooling over the last 7½ years while CO₂ has continued to increase.

See website [www.dickworth.uk/Hysteria 3.pdf](http://www.dickworth.uk/Hysteria%203.pdf) Section 14 for more details.

Note that the greedy world has terribly over-used fossil fuels and all the other God-given earth resources. We certainly need to correct this for the sake of future generations. But it is a deceit that global warming is solely caused by human activity releasing increased CO₂ and methane etc.

c) Israel and the ‘Promised Land’.

The Palestinian claim to be the ancient people who inhabited the Holy Land is a major deceit. Can you name any Palestinian leader before Yassir Arafat?

Does Wikipedia publish any previous leaders? No!

Why not? There weren't any!

Before 1964 when Arafat founded the PLO, there were no 'Palestinian' people. There were Jews and Arabs living in an area that the Romans renamed Palestine (Philistine) in 135AD after the Jews rebelled against Rome.

In 1920 the League of Nations (the precursor of the UN) passed the San Remo Resolution, which divided the land of the defeated Ottoman empire. This gave all the land west of the Jordan to Jews and that to the east to the Arabs (now Jordan). It also gave what is now Syria to the French.

In 1947 the UN voted to re-divide the British mandate and allocate only 30% of the land west of the Jordan that the League of Nations voted to the Jews and all the remainder to the Arabs together with Transjordan. Article 181 only mentions Jews and Arabs. There was no mention of ‘Palestinians’ because they didn’t exist. No one called themselves a ‘Palestinian’.

In 1964, the Egyptian born Yassir Arafat founded the PLO (the Palestine Liberation Organisation) to try to destroy the Jewish state of Israel.

In December 1995 Arafat magnified his lie when Israel gave control of Bethlehem to Arafat. He repeatedly said, “Jesus was a Palestinian, Jesus was a Palestinian!” And again much of the world ‘bought’ his lie. They had forgotten that even Pilate, the Roman Governor wrote on the Cross, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”!

As the saying goes,

“Make a lie big enough and say it often enough and everyone will believe it.”

See website www.dickworth.uk/Whoseland.htm For more details.

Also [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San Remo conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Rem%C3%B9_conference)

d) The God of Love will Never Judge the World

Few sermons today speak about sin, or dare to say that everyone, without exception, is born sinful. Very few preachers proclaim that the Lord God has decreed that *the wages of sin is death!* Ro 6₂₃ The banishing of Adam and Eve from Eden, the flood in Noah's day, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the two exilings of Israel, the overthrow of Babylon after Belshazzar's blasphemous feast etc are among the vast number of Biblical judgements. Their evidence is most inconvenient. So all such judgements are just forgotten, ignored or distorted!

Many Church leaders prefer to be popular rather than truthful. They may preach that Jesus, the Son of God came to earth and that he was crucified. But the reason that as the Lamb of God he had to be crucified is omitted. For sin to be forgiven a perfect sacrifice had to be paid. Only the sinless Jesus could atone for our sin. Only he could pay the death penalty for our sin. The imperfect can never pay.

So the Cross was no accident; it was planned and prophesied from the beginning. The only road into heaven requires that we plead with God for his mercy and believe that Christ's sacrifice to atone for our sin is full, perfect and sufficient. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ... Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already."* Jn 3_{16,18}

He paid a debt He did not owe.
I owed a debt I could not pay.
I needed someone to wash my sins away.
And now I sing a brand new song -
Amazing Grace!
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.
My debt He paid upon the cross.
He cleansed my soul from all its dross.
I thought that no one could all my sins erase.
But now I sing a brand new song -
Amazing Grace!
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay.

Most church-goers and many others believe that Jesus was a real person, and even that he may have been the 'Son of God'. They believe that he set a good example. That he said and did many good things. But the blindness and deceit comes in refusing to believe that he came to fulfill the plan that he had to be crucified and that 'he paid the debt I could never pay'. (See Lu 24₂₅₋₂₇)

e) Financial security is a myth

More money has commonly been one of man's chief goals.

But how reliable is it?

Will it always bring the desired happiness or power?

And what must often be sacrificed to retain it?

It is said that when one of the Rothschild family was asked how much wealth would take to make him happy, he honestly replied, "More, always a little bit more!"

Greed is distracting from God's righteousness. Yet modern political policy repeatedly appeals to make us richer, rather than what is clearly right or wrong according to the Word of God. e.g. The Brexit debate before the referendum in June 2016 centred not on whether the EU policies or its foundations were right or wrong, but almost entirely on whether individually, or as a nation, we would be better off.

Advertising today is not about just informing us where to buy a chisel or a saucepan, but appealing to us

to buy something we do not need, or often cannot afford,
what we can get cheaper because it is £xxx off,
get it 'because you're worth it',
to impress others or maybe to attract them ...

But the advert is frequently a disguised lie. The item does not do what it implies. The kitchen blender is advertised as powerful, but omits how strong the cook needs to be. A broker advertises making a 'mint' with some shares, but only adds the legal requirement that 'they can go down as well as up', in very small print. Such lying is thought to be 'small beer', but in 2022 firms spent £35 billion on advertising! Such is their deceptive power of persuasion that the average personal debt, mostly with bank loans is now (2023) £35,546. So advertising obviously works! This does not include mortgages, and the average credit card debt is only £1,202.

As the saying goes, "There is no such thing as a free lunch."

There is a major, unpublished problem with national debt. In the world there are only 5 very minor countries that still have zero national debt (Macau, Brunei, Liechtenstein ...) Even China's national debt has risen from \$404 billion in 2005 to \$3,750 billion in 2022. The whole world is in debt, but there are no lenders !! The only solution so far has been spiralling inflation, which together with computerised digital finance will one day soon, in God's timing, lead to a total collapse.

This is prophesied in Revelation 18⁷⁻²⁴ when ‘Babylon’ claims:

*In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’
Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.*

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“ ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power!

In one hour your doom has come!’”

“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more— cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men ... For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste ...”

“So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; ... for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”

Lies have always been costly. At the end deceived men will disregard God’s warning. The cost will be sudden and violent, and eternal disaster for all who have not called upon the living Christ for mercy and believed that he was crucified and risen to redeem us. Our gracious God warns us all clearly, *“Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins.”* Rev 18₄

Conclusion

This deceit is for a number of reasons. Most men refuse to admit the truth that we are all sinners by nature. That all men have inherited the fallen sinful nature from Adam and Eve, and are thus under the just condemnation of God. They reject that the crucifixion of Jesus was the only God-ordained sacrifice that could pay this debt and enable a believing man to escape God’s condemnation.

The deception is thinking that most of us are not sinners and that we aren’t under any permanent condemnation by God. Men prefer to think that our sin is only an unfortunate and occasional occurrence, which we can usually learn to overcome, or at least hide from public view! Thus the Cross of Jesus becomes only a sad, needless misfortune.

Jesus revealed this deceit to the two going home to Emmaus: *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”* And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Lu 24₂₆ This same revelation also had to be given to the apostles, who had been under his instruction for over 3 years. Jesus had told them on 16 occasions that he was going to suffer and die for them. But they had not understood or believed him. Jn 2_{18,19} etc

Beware !! It is so easy for all of us to be deceived.

2nd Seal - a Red Horse 6_{3,4}

When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

How can the loving Lord God call forth such a rider?

Near the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus surprisingly says:

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth.

I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” Math 10₃₄

There are certainly more sermons today on Jn 14₂₇ than on this verse.

We need to learn that there is a day for peace and a day for war.

And it is for the Lord to determine when each is appropriate.

Almighty God always desires to separate the righteous from the wicked. Gen 1₄

Habakkuk prayed earnestly for an end of the rampant wickedness in Judah.

He pleaded with God to do something. And God told him his plan was to bring his servant Nebuchadnezzar to destroy Jerusalem! This wasn't quite what Habakkuk

had in mind. Sometimes God sees that the only correcting solution is judgement.

The 2nd Horse will be sent by Almighty God to fulfill this.

Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth,

so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword. 6₄

It has always been easier to start a war induced by greed than to stop one.

Throughout history there have been many times of judgement and destruction

the flood, Sodom, exiles by Assyria, Babylon and Rome,

judgement of the army of Sennacherib, etc.

This horse will bring a time of war and judgement resulting in much bloodshed.

3rd Seal - a Black Horse 6₅

When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!”

It is no surprise that famine follows such a major war, especially for the poor, the injured, the unemployed, the displaced survivors. The modern world has become hugely dependant on the international transport of food. And when it is scarce it is always the poor that are the first to suffer starvation and death.

4th Seal - a Pale Horse 6_{7,8}

When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

Today the subject of death has often become uncomfortable and embarrassing, so we use all manner of euphemisms to describe it. The Bible is brave. And believing God's Word adds courage and assurance to the grief. Here we are told that the death toll is a quarter of the the world's population, some 2,000 million (c.f. 50 million in WW2). And it probably does not include the numbers who die under the judgement of the Red and Black horses!

Far too many of our neighbours, friends and relatives are not yet ready to die. They are not yet willing to repent or to believe in Jesus as the essential Redeemer. Thus they have no assurance of eternal life. But the day is fast approaching when it will be too late.

The opening of these four seals - the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse - herald the Great Tribulation. They do little to draw a man to this book of Revelation. But they are a truthful warning to us all to ensure that we are ready.

Jesus taught:

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ...

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Jn 6_{40,44,45}

5th Seal - Martyrs seen under the Altar 6₉₋₁₁

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. These martyrs, who had proved faithful to God's Word, had been slain by the wicked. They sought justice. We learn here that in God's plan there is often a good

reason for patience. They were give white robes, and were told to wait a little longer until their number was complete. Then justice would be completed. And in heaven they would then all rejoice together in the grace of God.

Sing we the King who is coming to reign,
Glory to Jesus, the Lamb that was slain;
Righteousness, peace then His empire shall bring,
Joy to the nations when Jesus is King.

Come let us sing: Praise to our King,
Jesus our King, Jesus our King:
This is our song, who to Jesus belong:
Glory to Jesus, to Jesus our King.

All men shall dwell in His marvellous light,
Races long severed His love shall unite,
Justice and truth from His sceptre shall spring,
Wrong shall be ended when Jesus is King.

All shall be well in His kingdom of peace,
Freedom shall flourish and wisdom increase,
Foe shall be friend when His triumph we sing,
Sword shall be sickle when Jesus is King.

Knowledge and fear of the Lord then shall be
As the deep waters that cover the sea;
All things shall be in the splendour of spring
And all harmonious when Jesus is King.

Kingdom of Christ, for thy coming we pray,
Hasten, O Father, the dawn of the day
When this new song Thy creation shall sing,
Satan is vanquished and Jesus is King.

Charles Silvester Horne 1865-1914

6th Seal - Earth and Sky is Shaken 6₁₂₋₁₇

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth ... Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Insurance companies call these catastrophic events 'acts of God'. In this they are often correct. These events will certainly be far beyond the control of any man. And evil men will not be able to protect themselves. All the proud world leaders will be scared stiff. They will also be correct in their assessment that the events are instigated by the justifiably angry Lamb God. Some Lamb!

This earthquake, this catastrophic shaking is prophesied several times:

The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken ... Its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. Is 24_{19,21}

On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley. Zech 14₄

Fear not. For thus says the Lord of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations Hag 2_{6,7}

Now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Heb 12_{26,27}

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Math 24₂₉

Literal mega earthquakes are prophesied several times in Rev. 8₅ 11₁₃ 11₁₉ 16₁₈ Almighty God is indeed the Almighty; He creates, he judges and he destroys. They are literal events; as are also the darkened sun and moon, and also the falling asteroids.

Man will totally unable to devise any possible protection from these events.

144,000 of Israel are Sealed 7₁₋₈

All that happens during the opening of first 6 seals leaves the reader with little or no hope for the future, unless they are martyred. So the Lord God opens to us a door of hope. He shows John:

Four angels holding back the four winds that would destroy the whole earth before another angel has finished sealing the 144,000 servants of God.
12,000 from each Jewish tribe.

Are the numbers exact and literal? Probably not (see 7₉)

What about the faithful Gentiles? Are they only the firstfruits? See Rev 14₁₋₄
This mystery that will be revealed in the Lord's good time.

All the redeemed believers are sealed and protected as were the Jews in Goshen. Ezekiel also prophesied all who grieve over wickedness will be marked by God.

He will not allow them to be destroyed. Ezek 9_{3,4}
Also Lot and his daughters were rescued from Sodom. Gen 14

A Great Multitude are Washed Clean 7₉₋₁₇

But without delay, the revelation given to John continues:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 7_{9,10}

It is with great relief that I read this truth.

Especially when one of the elders tells John who the 'great multitude' are:
"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

*They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.*

*They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."* 7₁₄₋₁₇

So not only are the 144,000 protected,
but so also is this 'great multitude' of Jews and Gentiles.

7th Seal - Silence, then Thunder 8₁₋₅

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven ...

The 7th seal announced the next phase of God's end-time plan.

7 angels were given 7 warning trumpets.

The warnings would not be just verbal.

They would be a succession of major world-wide disasters.

And there was fire, thunder, lightning and an earthquake.

Soon and for ever the breaking of day
Shall chase all the night-clouds of sorrow away;
Soon and for ever we'll see as we're seen,
And know the deep meaning of things that have been,
Where fightings without and conflicts within
Shall weary no more in the warfare with sin,
Where tears and where fears and where death shall be never,
Christians with Christ shall be soon and for ever!

Soon and for ever, such promise our trust,
Though ashes to ashes, and dust be to dust,
Soon and for ever our union shall be
Made perfect, our glorious Redeemer, in Thee;
When the cares and the sorrows of time shall be o'er,
Its pangs and its partings remembered no more,
Where life cannot fail and where death cannot sever,
Christians with Christ shall be soon and for ever!

Soon and for ever the work shall be done,
The warfare accomplished, the victory won;
Soon and for ever the soldier lay down
The sword for a harp, the cross for a crown;
Then droop not in sorrow, despond not in fear,
A glorious to-morrow is bright'ning and near,
When, blessed reward for each faithful endeavour,
Christians with Christ shall be soon and for ever!

J.S.B. Monsell 1811-1875

1st Trumpet - Fire Burns $\frac{1}{3}$ earth

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8₇

This was much more than a small local drought or forest fire.

It revealed the mighty hand of the Lord God judging man's wickedness.

Man's response is not revealed. Perhaps they just blamed 'Global Warming' !!

If it had resulted in any repentance, God would delight to record it.

2nd Trumpet - $\frac{1}{3}$ Fish Die + $\frac{1}{3}$ Ships

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 8_{8,9}

This looks like an asteroid which NASA could not deviate from its God-planned orbit before it strikes. There is still no evidence that men will acknowledge any such catastrophe as coming as a just and deserved warning from Almighty God.

3rd Trumpet - Star makes $\frac{1}{3}$ of Fresh Water Bitter

The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. 8_{10,11}

Another asteroid (?) called 'Wormwood' falls from heaven. It will make bitter $\frac{1}{3}$ of the fresh water, which will already probably be a scarce commodity. How it will target only the rivers and springs is a mystery, but still no record that man acknowledged this trumpet warning was ordered by the Lord God.

4th Trumpet - $\frac{1}{3}$ of Sun, Stars and Night Struck

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

8₁₂

Volcanic (?) atmospheric dust - still unacknowledged to be the hand of God.

Eagle Cries, "Woe, Woe, Woe"

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!" 8₁₃

The last three of the trumpet warnings were going to be even more disastrous!

5th Trumpet and 1st Woe - Horses Sting the Wicked

And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke ...

Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them ...

And in those days people will seek death and will not find it.

In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: ...

They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit.

His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. 9₁₋₁₁

This 'star' is not a heavenly body or asteroid since it is referred to as 'He opened the shaft. So this star is probably an angelic being who releases the locusts.

When God planned the escape of the Israelites from the Egyptian slavery, the 4th to the 10th plague only affected the Egyptians. Israel were spared. In the 5th Trumpet tribulation the righteous who were sealed were also spared; only the wicked were stung and in torment. This separation should have had a significant effect, but no repentance by the wicked is recorded.

6th Trumpet and 2nd Woe - 1/3 of Mankind Killed

Four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. They commanded 200 million horsemen. The heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. 9₁₋₁₈

At start of first 4 seals 8 billion.

During first 4 seals ¼ die, leaving 6 billion.

When 6th trumpet blown 1/3 die, leaving 4 billion.

You might think this would cause mankind to plead with God for mercy, but ...

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshipping demons ... nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. 9_{20,21}

A Mighty Angel and a Little Scroll

A mighty angel came down from heaven with a little scroll in his hand.

Seven thunders sounded but John was forbidden to write what they said;

only that when the 7th angel sounded, the mystery of God would be fulfilled.

*“Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter,
but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”* 10₉
I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations.”
Ezekiel had a similar experience. Ezek 2₉ - 3₁₅ (and Jer 15₁₆)

Two Witnesses

“Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” 11₁₋₃

John is shown *the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth ... when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them.* 11₄₋₇

But 3½ days later *a breath of life from God entered them. ... And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.* 11₁₁

Like Elijah in 2 Kgs 2_{11,12}

There was a great earthquake and 7,000 died.

The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come. 11₁₄

7th Trumpet and 3rd Woe

The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

*The nations raged, but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints.* 11_{15,18}

When the 7th seal was opened, the 7 trumpet warnings began,
Now when the 7th trumpet sounded it will herald the 7 bowls of wrath.

God gives the world extensive warning of his entirely just judgement.

Judgment on the Plain

(Author unknown - slightly modified)

At the end of time billions of people were scattered over a great plain before God's throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them, but some groups at the front were talking heatedly, not with cringing shame but with belligerence. Can God judge us? "How can he know about suffering?" snapped a pert young woman. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. We endured terror, beatings, torture and death. In another group a Negro boy lowered his collar. "What about this?" he demanded showing an ugly rope burn, lynched for no crime but being black. In another crowd a pregnant school-girl with sullen eyes murmured, "Why should I suffer, it wasn't my fault?" Then an old man cried, "What about me? I worked over 30 years for a firm and then they flung me out. What does God know about being unemployed, rejected and useless?"

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering that he had permitted in his world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all is sweetness and light, where there is no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred? What did God know about all that men had been forced to endure here in this world. For God leads a pretty sheltered life they said. So each group sent out a spokesman, chosen because he had suffered the most. A Jew, a Negro, a person from Hiroshima, a deformed arthritic and a starved Ethiopian. And in the centre of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever. Before God could be qualified to be their judge, he must endure what they had endured. They said that God must first come to live on earth as a man. Let him be born a Jew and know continual unjust persecution. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted. Give him a work so difficult that even his family will think he is out of his mind. Let him be betrayed by his closest friends. Let him face false charges and be tried by a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured and at the last let him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let him die; let him die in agony, and so that there can be no doubt that he died, let there be a host of witnesses to verify it. As each leader pronounced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people assembled.

And when at last they had finished pronouncing their judgement,
there was a long silence.

No one uttered another word. No one moved.

Suddenly everyone knew that God had already served his sentence.

Next in Rev 12 and 13 there is an interlude for more instruction of God's plan.

The Woman and the Dragon

A great red dragon with seven crowned heads and ten horns, whose tail swept down $\frac{1}{3}$ of the stars from heaven to earth, stood before the heavily pregnant woman who was clothed with the sun and had a crown with 12 stars. He hoped to devour her child as soon as she gave birth because her child would rule all nations. However the child was caught up to God and the woman fled into the wilderness under the protection of God for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. (12₁₋₆)

The dragon is obviously Satan. The woman probably represents Israel; and her child is the promised Christ. In the last days when all the world turns against Israel and all Christians, all Believers will be protected by the Sovereign Lord.

At some unspecified time there was a war in heaven. Satan and his minions were hurled down to the earth, and deceives them. Now John is also shown how the 'accuser of the brethren' is defeated by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of God. Jesus Christ completed his work on the Cross. But Satan is very angry and pursues all who are raised to life. The 'woman', Israel, was given the wings of an eagle during the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. The earth also swallowed up Satan's flood. (12₇₋₁₆)

The enraged Satan then made war against the offspring of the woman (all believers). (12₁₇)

It is not possible to underestimate the degree of hatred Satan has for all whom God has created. In the same way Almighty God demonstrates that he remains the eternal Master of all his creation. This revelation is vitally important.

Oh, the love that sought me!
Oh, the blood that bought me!
Oh, the grace that brought me to the fold,
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold!

... ..
So while the hours are passing,
All now is perfect rest;
I'm waiting for the morning,
The brightest and the best,
When He will call us to His side,
To be with Him, His spotless Bride.

The Beast and his False Prophet

God then gives us another view of the dragon's nature and how he will be recognised in the 'last days'.

And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ... One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled as they followed the beast ... whose mouth uttered haughty and blasphemous words. It was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months ... and to make war on the saints and to conquer them. 13₁₋₇

This evil beast is totally under the control of Satan. He is allowed to martyr many saints, but he can never conquer their souls.

See Dan 7_{21,22} 8₂₃₋₂₅

Notice especially how easily his miracles deceive all unbelievers who do not rely upon the Lamb of God. Satan's miracles are accompanied by proud words. His blasphemous words reveal God's truth to the discerning.

The Beast is not alone.

Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. ... it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast ... it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast. ... Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. 13₁₁₋₁₇

The Lord our God warns us very clearly that this evil pair will deceive many; mostly by performing miraculous signs. (Rev 19₂₀)

The image is likely to be a remarkable life-like robot with 'artificial intelligence'. Today's technicians are now beginning to produce such things. Beware!

The marking is also significant for three reasons:

1. Security obtained by infallible identification.
2. The ultimate financial, life controlling rule by the satanic powers.
3. The cost to Christians who **must refuse** to be marked, will be very high.

Sadly this book and these warnings are often neglected by Christians. And when read, it often seems to cause more argument than the intended enlightenment, assurance and the warnings about being deceived.

See www.dickworth.uk/Five_Lies.htm

In the 'Latter days' it will be ever more essential that we know the Scriptures,
and the promise of God to give us his Spirit of discernment. (Jn 14₁₆ 16₁₃₋₁₅)

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord to me,
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!

Break thou the bread of life, O Lord, to me,
That hid within my heart thy word may be;
Mould thou each inward thought, from self set free,
And let my steps be all controlled by thee.

Open thy word of truth that I may see
Thy message written clear and plain for me;
Then in sweet fellowship walking with thee,
Thine image on my life engraved may be.

O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That he may touch my eyes and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within thy word,
And in thy book revealed I see the Lord.

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As thou didst bless the bread by Galilee:
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
And I shall find my peace, my All in All.

Mary Lathbury 1841-1913

The Lamb and the 144,000

*I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 ...
and they were singing a new song before the throne. ...*

These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb. 14₁₋₄

Psalm 144. Is it coincidental to associate it with the 144,000 ? And Rev 7₁₋₈

This tells us that the 144,000 were the firstfruits of the redeemed,
privileged to enjoy a new song that no one else could learn.
These blameless people *follow the Lamb where ever he goes*. What bliss!
Where they went and what they did exactly, we are not told.

But we are promised that we will follow them.

However there must first come the final stages of the Great Tribulation.

Three Flying Angels Proclaim

Each angel flew directly overhead and directs us in a loud voice:

1. *“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” 14₇*
2. *“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.” 14₈*
3. *“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger ... ” 14_{9,10}*

John then warns us, *Here is a call for the endurance of the saints,
those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. 14₁₂*

This confirms that there are still saints on earth; they have not yet been raptured.
Heaven commands: *“Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!” 14₁₃* (That is those martyred or by natural death)

The Sickle of Judgement

An angel then cries with a loud voice: *“Put in your sickle, and reap,
for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.”*

So another angel *swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest
of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 14_{15,19}*

Much blood flowed. This completes the 3rd Woe and the 7th trumpet,
which introduces the seven bowls of God's wrath.

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.

Carolina Sandell (Sweden) 1832 - 1903

The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

The Great Tribulation climaxes with the 7 bowls of wrath.

God is justly angry with man, the pinnacle of his creation, who had been so easily deceived and had become so careless, deaf, rebellious, blasphemous and wicked.

But first John is shown a goodly company of men, who had conquered the beast, standing beside a sea of glass and fire. With the harps of God in their hands they sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed." 15_{3,4}

Then 7 angels were given 7 golden bowls full of the wrath of God, and the command to pour was given. 16₁

Note the finality c.f. trumpet judgements when only 1/3 were punished.

1st Bowl - *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshipped its image.* 16₂

2nd Bowl - *The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.* 16₃

3rd Bowl - *The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.* 16₄

The angel declared this was deserved because they shed the blood of the saints.

4th Bowl - *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. ... and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.* 16_{8,9}

5th Bowl - *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.* 16_{10,11}

6th Bowl - *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east ... to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty ... at Armageddon.* 16₁₂₋₁₆

7th Bowl - *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"* 16_{,17}
Greatest earthquake ever splits Jerusalem into 3 parts. And great hailstones fell from heaven. So men cursed God. *And God remembered Babylon the great ...*

Earth, rejoice, our Lord is King!
Sons of men, his praises sing;
Sing ye in triumphant strains,
Jesus the Messiah reigns!

Power is all to Jesus given,
Lord of hell, and earth, and heaven.
Every knee to him shall bow;
Satan, hear, and tremble now!

Angels and archangels join,
All triumphantly combine,
All in Jesu's praise agree,
Carrying on his victory.

Though the sons of night blaspheme,
More there are with us than them;
God with us, we cannot fear;
Fear, ye fiends, for Christ is here!

Lo! to faith's enlightened sight,
All the mountain flames with light;
Hell is nigh, but God is nigher,
Circling us with hosts of fire.

Christ the Saviour is come down,
Points us to the victor's crown,
Bids us take our seats above,
More than conquerors in his love.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788

The Great Blasphemous Prostitute

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality ... and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. 17₁₋₆

the great prostitute

She has very considerable power over all.

'Prostitute' = falsehood, sinful substitute for true partnership. Dan 8_{12,23-25a}

seated on many waters

Throned and ruled evil and confused nations. Dan 7₃ 13₁ 17₁₅

with whom the kings of the earth ...

Rich association with world leaders,

and not only political policy / treaties (only honoured when convenient).

committed sexual immorality

Sex o/s of marriage, fornication, same-sex marriage, abortion. Ro 1₂₄₋₃₂

sitting on a scarlet beast and arrayed in purple and scarlet

Revealed as wholly satanic. Papal bishops and cardinals ?

blasphemous names

Names of God used as swearwords! The Great Creator insulted (evolution).

Almighty God is forgotten, discarded. Cross is misunderstood. 1Co 1₂₀₋₃₀

seven heads and 10 horns

See Dan 7_{7,24} Rev 12₃

7 heads explained in Rev 17₉₋₁₁ 7 hills Rome ? And 7 kings.

10 horns explained in Rev 17₁₆

the blood of the martyrs

World-wide persecution of believers - why? World evil acts / lies challenged?

the woman that you saw is the great city

that has dominion over the kings of the earth. 17₁₈

It may well be significant that the EU, whose foundations are evil, has a statue to Europa outside the Headquarters in Brussels and also outside the Parliament building in Strasbourg. Europa in Greek mythology was the Phoenician princess who rode on the back of Zeus, who had changed into a bull.

The 'great city' here is not Jerusalem, but Babylon.

See also website [www.dickworth.uk/EU Babylon.htm](http://www.dickworth.uk/EU%20Babylon.htm)

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Thank you, O my Father for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.

When I stand in Glory, I will see his face,
And there I'll serve my King forever in that Holy Place.

Melody Green

Babylon Falls in One Hour!

*Another angel having great authority ... called out with a mighty voice,
"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!*

She has become a dwelling place for demons ...

*The kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich ..." 18_{2,3}*

Only three highlights of Babylon given here : demons, sex and money.
What happens to the righteous saints in this immoral, greedy demonic world?

I heard another voice from heaven saying,

"Come out of her, my people,

lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues ..." 18₄

This separation must still be an option; but the writer does not say where to go.

Holiness is our God-enabled option.

But the result is likely to be temporary suffering, even martyrdom!

In contrast proud, blasphemous, prosperous Babylon says in her heart:

I sit as a queen, I am no widow,

and mourning I shall never see. 18₇, Is 47₇₋₉

But the Lord God remains the Almighty.

Their presumed prosperity is about to be overthrown for ever.

John was told to accurately prophesy this just judgement of God:

*"Her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;*

for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her ...

Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon!

For in a single hour your judgment has come.

And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her,

since no one buys their cargo anymore" 18₈₋₁₁

(Their rich cargos are then listed; and include 'slaves, that is human souls' 18₁₃)

'A single hour' is said 3 times. 18_{10,17,19}

In contrast the saints are told:

*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you, against her! 18₂₀*

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone

and threw it into the sea, saying,

"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence,

and will be found no more." 18₂₁

Good riddance ! What a relief; and a wonderful fulfilment of God's promise.

Great God, what do I see and hear?
The end of things created;
The Judge of mankind doth appear
On clouds of glory seated.
The trumpet sounds; the graves restore
The dead which they contained before:
Prepare, my soul, to meet Him.

The dead in Christ shall first arise
At that last trumpet's sounding,
Caught up to meet Him in the skies,
With joy their Lord surrounding.
No gloomy fears their souls dismay;
His presence sheds eternal day
On those prepared to meet Him.

But sinners, filled with guilty fears,
Behold His wrath prevailing,
For they shall rise and find their tears
And sighs are unavailing;
The day of grace is past and gone;
They trembling stand before his throne,
All unprepared to meet Him.

O Christ, who diedst and yet dost live,
To me impart Thy merit;
My pardon seal, my sins forgive,
And cleanse me by Thy Spirit.
Beneath Thy cross I view the day
When heav'n and earth shall pass away,
And thus prepare to meet Thee.

William Collyer 1782 - 1854

All Heaven Will Rejoice !

All heaven, and that included a great multitude of the saints, shouted:
“Hallelujah!

*Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth ...”* 19_{1,2}

How many today would dare to proclaim that God is just to so punish men?
How many recognise this truth that was repeatedly prophesied?
Cain Gen 4₁₂ The Flood Gen 6-8 Babel Gen 11 Sodom Gen 19 Egypt Exd 1-15
Exile to Assyria Exile to Babylon The Cross !!

24 Elders and 4 Living Creature also cried:
*“Amen, Hallelujah! ... Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, both small and great!”* 19_{4,5}

Then their view changed from earth to heaven;
there came a mighty roar like the sound of thunder:
*“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready.”* 20_{6,7}

Now we see the whole purpose of creation:
the eternal ‘marriage’ of Almighty God and man, now righteous man.
There will never be any false step in this union, no disagreements,
only and always the full, pure love as in 1 Co 13₄₋₁₀
The Bride can only be made ready by the hand of Christ our Redeemer.

*And the angel said to me, “Write this:
Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”
And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ...
For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* 20_{9,10}

To the Bride is revealed the true words of God and ‘the testimony of Jesus’,
This prophetic truth will be shared bringing much relief and joy.
There will be no reluctance, no compromise, no ‘Yes, but ...’

Prophecy understands history,
guides the present
and predicts the future.

Jesus Rides the White Horse

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 19₁₁₋₁₃

(Note: This not the same horse as in Rev 6₁)

Jesus is here named as: 'Faithful and True' and 'The Word of God'.

He is also named 'King of kings and Lord of lords'. 19₁₆
These among his many other titles a specially significant here.

It is the eve of the last great battle.

[Well, almost the last - there is one more battle when Satan is released and leads Gog to attack the King Jesus at the end of his Millennium reign in Jerusalem.]

Here Jesus, the Faithful and True is seen riding a white horse. His clothes are red with blood and 'the Word of God' leads the armies of heaven riding white horses. The Beast and the False Prophet had gathered to make war against the 'King of kings and Lord of lords'.

What incredible presumption and arrogance!

To all who love the One with these titles, it is no surprise that in this battle: *The beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse. 19_{20,21}* (in ESV - the beast is called 'it')

This action is so far distant from the idea of 'Gentle Jesus, meek and mild' ! Our Saviour is also a mighty warrior who knows how and when to wield a sword. Justice demands that all wickedness is punished; not just ignored or overlooked. Jesus can only forgive our many sins by bearing our punishment on the Cross.

Here is a further warning concerning the danger of having the 'mark of the beast'. It also reveals the degree of deception that the beast's followers had fallen.

Unlike all other battles fought on earth, this victory was final and conclusive.

Thy kingdom come, O God!
Thy rule, O Christ begin!
Break with thine iron rod
The tyrannies of sin!

Where is thy reign of peace,
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
Oppression, lust, and crime
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

Men scorn thy sacred Name,
And wolves devour thy fold;
By many deeds of shame
We learn that love grows cold.

O'er heathen lands afar
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O Morning Star,
Arise, and never set!

Lewis Hensley 1824 - 1905

The Millennium

Many have tried to ‘unpack’ these 10 verses (Rev 20₁₋₁₀). In his wisdom, Almighty God has purposefully determined not to answer many of our questions. He graciously reveals all that we need to know.

An angel came down from heaven, seized the dragon threw him bound into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years *so that he might not deceive the nations any longer*. Excellent! *After that he must be released for a little while.* 20₃
But why must he be released? One day this mystery will be revealed. Be patient.

John is then shown *the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.* 20₄

During these years the resurrected martyrs are seen living with the saints, those ‘who had not worshipped the beast’. But the saints who were raptured when Christ returned before the Millennium (when he returned to defeat the Beast who had attacked Jerusalem) and the saints who had died before the 2nd Advent, are not mentioned. However the next verse (Rev 20₅) says *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.* It seems that our God has determined that it is not necessary for us to know this detail now, so it is probably best not to try and guess.

When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations. 20₇

He will gather men from Gog and Magog and attack Jerusalem, again! Who are these who are seemingly so easily deceived? We don’t know.

But fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 20_{9,10}

This must be one of the best sentences in the Bible.

At last we can live where Satan has lost for ever all his power to deceive, spoil and kill in God’s great Creation. There will never again be any more temptation, no compromise and no pain; only righteousness and the glory of God.

Note Satan was thrown into the fire ‘*where the beast and the false prophet were*’. Because the beast and his False Prophet were already there, having been defeated when Christ returned. This Gog Magog battle in which Satan himself is defeated, must thus be after the Millennium.

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

Fear not, he is with thee, O be not dismayed,
For he is thy God, and will still give thee aid;
He'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by his righteous, omnipotent hand.

In every condition, in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As the days shall demand shall thy strength ever be.

When through the deep waters he calls thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For he will be with thee, in trouble to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
His grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; his only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
He will not, he will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
He'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!

George Keith 1638 - 1716

Judgment Before the Throne

I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. 20₁₂

This is the final and personal judgement of all men who have ever lived on earth. (Enoch and Elijah whom God 'took' are possible exceptions. Gen 5₂₄ 2Kg 2₁₁) 'The Book of Life' determines our destiny. All the names written there are saved. *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. 20₁₅* Not a popular verse today; but that does not change the truth.

The 'other books' record our deeds and thus also our reward in heaven. All our bad deeds for which we have repented and sought the mercy of God by the blood of Jesus, are not recorded. God has 'forgotten' them, not by a lapse of memory, but by his definite choice, following the advocacy of his Beloved Son.

See Lev 16_{21,22} Is 44₂₂

Zech 3₁₋₅

The Court of Heaven was duly set,
The Judges took their place,
The prisoner was myself, a son
Of Adam's ruined race.
The Prosecutor read the charge,
The witnesses were sworn,
The evidence was clear and plain;
And there I stood, forlorn.

'I move for sentence,' said the Law,
'My claims must honoured be,
"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"
Has long been claimed by me.'
The Righteousness a verdict gave,
And Truth concurred as well;
While Retribution hastened near
To drag me down to Hell.

Then, Mercy raised her voice, so soft,
And craved a brief delay
Till Grace, my Advocate, should speak,
Who rose, and thus did say:
'My Lords, I own your judgement just,
And true in every sense,
The Prisoner owns his guilt, and brings,
No plea of self-defence.'

'But in the records of this Court
I find the statement given
That Christ, the Son of God, Most High,
Went down to earth from heaven.
That there he shed his precious blood
For sinners on the Tree,
And in his name, I therefore claim
The prisoner should go free.'

The Judges rose in solemn state;
Declared that I was free,
By virtue of the One who died
For me on Calvary.
And ever since that happy day
It's been my joy to tell
The merits of the Saviour's death
That saved my soul from Hell.

Leslie Greening

New Heaven and New Earth

John is shown a new creation, *a new heaven and a new earth.*

It is similar, but not the same for; *the first earth had passed away.* 21₁

Its best and most important characteristic is:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” 21_{3,4}

John has difficulty in his description of our new life. It is so perfect and eternal.

See the later lists of what there is in heaven and what there isn't in heaven. It should be remembered there is so much more that we are not told because it is so far beyond our present comprehension.

The reaction of the Bride is: *“Come.”*

And let the one who hears say, “Come.”

And let the one who is thirsty come;

let the one who desires take the water of life without price. 21₁₇

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ...

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant.” Is 55₁₋₃

There is a final warning concerning this book, this revelation of Jesus Christ:

Anyone who adds, subtracts or changes anything written *will lose his share in the tree of life and in the holy city.* 21₁₉

“Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! 21₂₀

What a most glorious day that will be when even our best dreams are excelled.

So, as a bright young boy summed up this great book:

“JESUS WINS !”

Thy kingdom come, O God!
Thy rule, O Christ begin!
Break with thine iron rod
The tyrannies of sin!

Where is thy reign of peace,
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
Oppression, lust, and crime
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee, Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

Men scorn thy sacred Name,
And wolves devour thy fold;
By many deeds of shame
We learn that love grows cold.

O'er heathen lands afar
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O Morning Star,
Arise, and never set!

Lewis Hensley 1824 - 1905

In Heaven:

All this is promised only to those who believe that Jesus Christ came and died on a cross to pay the price for my sin; not as a martyr, but as the Saviour/Redeemer. Rising again in triumph over sin, Satan and death, he shares with us his resurrection life for ever. He remains our effective Advocate in heaven. Heb 7₂₅ 9₂₄ 1Tim 2₅ “The time is near. Behold, I am coming soon.” 22_{7,10,12,20} “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.” Come quickly.

	Verse	Summary	Comments
21 _{1,5}	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.	New	Nothing will ever happen again to cause God or men to grieve. The Kingdom will remain new; it will not tarnish or become corrupt.
21 _{2,10,27}	I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God ...	Holy	All men will not only desire to be holy; but we will be holy. What a joy this will be to God, and to the redeemed.
21 _{2,9}	... prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.	Bride	Our permanent relationship with God will be closer and better than even the best marriage here on this earth.
21 _{3,7}	Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them ... And I will be his God and he will be my son.	Sons with God	What greater privilege can man seek than to live with Almighty God and to be his own children?
21 ₁₁	The Holy City, Jerusalem, shone with the glory of God.	Glory	The Creator of the world and the Saviour of men will receive his rightful glory. Man will never build for his own selfish glory again.
21 ₂₁	The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.	Pure, Honest	Valuable, untarnished, clear and honest through and through. Like Nathaniel, no guile, no pretence.
22 ₃	The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.	King	“The King of the Jews” will truly be king over all the earth. He will not be a remote, never to be spoken to, or touched, King! Much more and much better than an occasional walkabout. His rule will be just and wise. No one will ever criticise any of his decisions or laws.
22 ₁₄	Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.	Redeemed	Only the blood of Christ can remove the stain of my sin. My Redeemer has done what is impossible for me to do. He has forgiven all my sin, and has washed me thoroughly clean.
22 ₁₇	The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.	Invited	The case for my being allowed to enter is only successful because Jesus is the Advocate who pleads on my behalf. And he says, “Come!” His giving and invitation is so generous and undeserved. Is 55 ₁₋₃
22 ₆	The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true.”	Word	God is consistently true and faithful to his Word. His Word will never fade or pass away. Is 40 ₈

Will there be anything man-made in this glorious new heaven? Yes! the nail-prints in the Saviour’s hands and feet !!

NOT in Heaven

21 ₁	Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth ... There was no longer any sea	No Sea No Confusion	Harmony and peace will replace confusion, sin and war. Is 57 ₂₀ Note - The Beast arose out of the sea. Rev 13 ₁ No longer need ceremonial cleansing in the temple. 1 Kg 7 ₂₃ River of life flows into the sea; the Dead Sea now lives. Ezek 47 ₈₋₁₁
21 ₃	Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.	No Loneliness	With God always so evident and his people in permanent harmony, we shall never feel alone.
21 ₄	He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order has passed away.	No Tears, Pain No Death	Our hearts will no longer have any cause to ache. Gone for ever will be all sorrow, grief, despair and suffering.
21 ₆	To the thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.	No Thirst	No longings will be left unfulfilled. There will be no needs to plead for, for others or for ourselves.
21 _{8,27} 22 ₁₅	But to the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murders, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars - their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. Nothing impure ... or deceitful.	No Unbelievers No Impure No liars No Pretence	The struggle is over; even our thoughts will always be righteous. Nothing will cause any man anguish, injustice, grief or pain. No greed, no self-indulgence, no deceit, no idolatry. Believers will live with confidence, without fear or presumption.
21 ₁₂₋₁₄	Twelve gates ... 12 foundations, and on them were the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb.	No Anti-Semitism	The Jews will not be persecuted, but honoured. Also Eph 2 ₂₀
21 ₁₈₋₂₁ 21 ₂₆	The city was made of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.	No Poverty No Thieves No money	No more poverty or grinding injustice. No taskmasters or slaves. All men will gladly share all things. No one will lack anything. No debts and no mortgages.
21 ₂₂	I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.	No Sacrifices	Man will no longer try to win God's approval. Jesus has made the one perfect and sufficient offering necessary for our salvation.
21 _{23,25}	The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the Lamb is its lamp. ... There will be no night there.	No Night No Darkness	No more fear or doubt. No more stumbling or wrong decisions. Men will love light not darkness. No secrets or intrigue in heaven.
21 ₂₅	On no day will its gates ever be shut.	No War No Enemies	The aggression of men will be ended, so will the lust for power. There will be no hatred and no one will despise another, or covet.
22 ₂	On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.	No Hunger	Food will be provided for all. No one will ever starve. (No obesity either)
22 ₂	... And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.	No Sickness	No debilitating disease or pain. No one will grow old and frail, or even tired. No animosity or distrust or religious differences.
22 ₃	No longer will there be any curse.	No Sin No Temptation	The curse on man for his wilful, determined sin will be lifted. Man will not have even the slightest inclination to disobey God.
22 _{5b}	The Lord God will reign for ever.	No End	This new Kingdom of God is eternal and uninterrupted.

The Great Tribulation and the Grand Finale

Rev. chapter ref.'s shown in brackets ()

This is not a 'Time chart', but only a summary of Rev 6-22

Be Ready !

Seals (6):

1. White Horse - Conquest, domination by deceit (see www.dickworth.uk/Five Lies.htm)
2. Red Horse - War, blood
3. Black Horse - Famine
4. Pale - Disease. $\frac{1}{4}$ die
5. Martyrs ask, "How long?"
6. Great Earthquake. Sun darkened, stars fall to earth. Terror [144,000 sealed. Multitude in heaven rejoice. (7)]
7. Thunder, lightning, earthquake
 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour silence + censer with fire hurled on the earth (8₁₋₅)

Trumpets (8,9):

1. Hail and Fire. $\frac{1}{3}$ vegetation burned
2. Blazing Mt. thrown into sea. $\frac{1}{3}$ fish and sailors die
3. Blazing Star (Wormwood) falls on rivers. $\frac{1}{3}$ fresh water bitter
4. Sun, moon and stars struck. $\frac{1}{3}$ darkened
- 1st Woe 5. Star falls. Abyss opened. Smoke darkens sun
Locusts sting unbelievers for 5 months
- 2nd Woe 6. 4 Angels, 200m troops on horses kill $\frac{1}{3}$ mankind. Men did not repent [Little scroll, Prophecy and 2 Witnesses. (10-11₁₄)]
- 3rd Woe 7. Thunder, lightning, earthquake
Woman and Dragon (12)
Beast and false Prophet (13)
Lamb and 144,000. 3 Angel warnings. Gather tares (14)
Heaven rejoices (15)

Bowls (16):

1. Sores on all who had worshipped Beast
2. Sea turns to blood. All in it die
3. Rivers turn to blood
[Angels and men say, "God is just"]
4. Sun scorches with fire
Men curse God - refuse to repent
5. Kingdom of Beast darkened. Men gnaw their tongues in agony
They curse God - refuse to repent
6. 3 evil spirits dry up Euphrates
Miracles gather all nations to Armageddon
7. Thunder, lightning, earthquake

Grand Finale

Greatest earthquake ever. Cities collapse

Hailstones kill many. Men continue to curse God

Harlot of Babylon judged. (17,18)

Great multitude rejoice at sudden fall of Babylon. (19₁₋₁₀)

King of kings returns, defeats Beast, the False Prophet and all nations. (19₁₁₋₂₁)

Satan Confined to the Abyss, Millennium reign of Christ on earth. (20)

Satan released, deceives Gog and Magog who attack Christ.

Satan defeated and thrown into lake of fire for ever.

New heaven and new earth seen and the new Jerusalem comes down. (21,22)

God dwells with redeemed men for ever.

Summary of the Last Days

This is NOT an attempt to proclaim precisely when the end will come. For *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* Math 24_{36,42} 25₁₃ Yet we are told to *keep watch* and eagerly expect the return of Jesus Christ. He has given us a surprising amount of detail concerning the signs of his coming, i.e. all the accurate tribulation prophecies. Today there is considerable variance of opinion about the order of events; most of which arises because men wish to distort the Scripture to make it fit their own preconceived plan. The following is the simple order given in Revelation - why change it?

Jesus orders the Tribulation warnings and justice 7 years. Dan 9 ₂₇	3 ½ years Rev 6-9	7 Seals Starts with 4 Horsemen ¼ of world die 7 Trumpets Demons abound ⅓ of world die	A period of increasing wickedness, war, lawlessness 2 Thes 2 ₁₋₁₇ Math 24 _{6-8,12} Rom 1 ₂₄₋₃₂ The saints warned, enabled to endure. Joel 2 ₂₈ Dan 7 ₂₁ 7 ₂₅ 8 ₂₄ 9 _{26b} 12 ₁ 12 _{7b} Math 24 _{9,21} Rev 6 ₁₁ 13 ₇ 13 _{10b} 14 ₁₂ 18 ₁₃ 18 ₂₄ Daniel deeply grieved when shown these days. Dan 7 ₂₈ 8 ₂₇ 10 ₂ Jesus warns us about being deceived. Math 24 _{4, 11, 24} Rev 13 _{3, 14} 19 _{20b} Follow his example. Heb 12 _{2,3} Math 10 ₂₄₋₃₃ At the end Jews will call on the name of the Lord. All Israel will be saved. Ro 11 ₂₆ Jer 30 ₇ 31 _{9a, 31-34} Is 42 ₁₋₁₃ 43 ₁₋₁₃ Ezek 34, 37 ₁₋₁₄ Amos 9 ₁₃ Joel 3 _{1,2, 9-17} Hos 3 _{4,5} Zech 8 ₁₋₈ 12-14 Zeph 3
	3 ½ years Rev 12-18	Beast and False Prophet reign God blasphemed Intense persecution 7 Bowls of God's wrath Men curse God Fall of Babylon, earth mourns, saints rejoice	
Jesus Returns Rev 19 ₁₁ - 20 ₃		Finally all nations attack Jerusalem Jesus returns to defend Jerusalem. Zech 14 ₁₋₅ Rapture 1 Thes 4 ₁₅₋₁₈ Beast + False Prophet defeated, thrown into Hell Satan bound in Abyss	Men will be surprised Saints are expecting and longing for this day.
Jesus Reigns on earth Rev 20 ₄₋₁₀	1000 years	Tribulation martyrs reign with Christ Satan released Gog Magog battle. also Ezek 38,39 Satan thrown into Hell	
Judgement Day Rev 20 ₁₁₋₁₅		Book of Life reveals destiny, other books our reward. 1 Co 3 ₁₁₋₁₅ Unbelievers thrown into Hell	
New Heaven and New Earth Rev 20,21	Eternity	Marriage of the Lamb A new order Righteousness, truth, love, justice and joy beyond our imagination	

Remember - God always keeps his Word. Lu 21₃₃