

**The  
Alpha and  
Omega of  
Revelation**

**By: David Lee Watson**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to tell you a little about myself. In writing this book, I have had joy looking into God's Word. There is much that I do not understand. The more I see, the more I realize I don't see. The more I come to understand, the more I don't understand. I hope that what is written in this book will be a blessing to someone.

I only have a sixth grade education. I am very limited in my vocabulary and spelling. I pray that God will use what has been put into this book for His glory. I had been asked by the congregation at New Bethel Church of God, where I presently pastor, to put the teachings I have presented there into a book. They wanted it for a study guide in their homes. I am sure that there are those who have a better understanding of this Revelation than I do, and I am sure, as time goes on, God will help me to see more of this glorious truth.

I asked Sister Beverly Davis of the congregation if she would take the burden of helping me on this book. She committed to the burden of proofreading and correcting where correction was needed. I owe her very much for her dedication to this work. She has been so understanding of me and my limitations. She has worked faithfully to help me over my times of discouragement. I am very much indebted to her. May God bless her for her work.

## **LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR**

As the author of this book, I would like to take this opportunity to say that these writings are only a small portion of what God has for us in the Book of Revelation. There has been much light shown on the subjects I have written about. But there is still much more to be seen. As followers of Christ, we must examine ourselves individually to be sure that we are walking according to His Word and will. Ask yourself this question: Am I a member of the ONE TRUE church or am I entangled in the masses of confusion some call "other faiths"? Please read and study your Bible and this book with an open heart and mind. May God richly bless you as you serve Him in His mighty kingdom.

————— Brother David Lee Watson

I have known Brother David Watson my entire life. I have been so fortunate to sit at his feet, so to speak, as a member of his congregation, not once, but twice. He hasn't let his lack of education keep him from diving into the Word of God. He has been able to comprehend what a lot of college and seminary graduates only wish they could grasp. His humbleness and faithfulness to God are very commendable. It has been a joy for me to work on this book with my pastor. I have had the joy of learning as I have worked. This experience is one I wish everyone could have the chance of experiencing. It has made me dig into the Bible and search things that I don't understand. Some things I now understand, and there are things I still need to learn. This book will be a great asset to anyone's library of Bible study. I want to thank Brother Watson for allowing me to work on this book with him and for his belief in me to try to do with this book what he feels God would have be done.

\_\_\_\_\_ Beverly Davis  
member of  
New Bethel  
Church of God

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# LANGUAGE OF SYMBOLS

## Principles of Symbology

Symbology is the literature use of literal objects to explain a spiritual message and truth. The origin of the science of symbols is lost in the distance of time and seems to be connected with the cradle of humanity. The picture method of writing was used by the Egyptians in ancient days. The first men, in order to express their ideas, borrowed images from surrounding nature, to carry forth their ideas.

1. **Antichrist** – spirits against Christ (1 John 4:3)
2. **Armageddon** – spiritual conflict (Judges 7; Revelation 12; 16:13)
3. **Beast, Chapter 13** – Papalism (Daniel 7)
4. **Beast, Chapter 17** – mixture of all false religions, federations, and communism
5. **Bow** – new covenant (Genesis 9:13; Hebrews 8:8; Revelation 6)
6. **Bride** – true Church of God (Revelation 21:9-10)
7. **Candlesticks, seven** – seven church ages (Revelation 1:20)
8. **COLORS**; black – spiritual darkness; pale – spiritual death; red – blood shed or persecution; white – purity
9. **Crown of crowns** – victory (Revelation 19:12)
10. **Dens in rocks or mountains** – sectism
11. **Dragon** – devil and Satan (Revelation 20:2)
12. **Earth** – man-made religion or Babylon
13. **Earthquake** – awakening or upheaval
14. **Euphrates river** – heathen worship
15. **Fountains of water** – Protestantism
16. **Frogs** – unclean spirits of devils (Revelation 16:13)
17. **Great city** – Babylon (Revelation 17:18)
18. **Hail** – truth from Heaven
19. **Heads** – mountains (Revelation 17:9)
20. **Hidden manna** – Word of God (Revelation 2:17)
21. **Holy city** – New Jerusalem, the city of God
22. **Horns** – power
23. **Horses** – warfare, battle
24. **Islands** – creeds of man
25. **Jezebel** – false system of religion
26. **Keys** – Word of God (Matthew 16:19)
27. **Kings of earth** – leaders of sectism

28. **Lamb Beast** – rise of Protestantism
29. **Lamb, the** – Christ
30. **Lightening** – power of the Holy Spirit
31. **Little book** – Book of Revelation
32. **Locust** – heathenism
33. **Lucifer** – King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:12)
34. **Michael** – Christ (Jude 9; Daniel 12:1)
35. **Moon, the** – old covenant
36. **Morning Star** – morning ministry
37. **Mountains** – man-made churches
38. **Mt. Zion** – the church Jesus built
39. **Pure woman** – pure church
40. **Rivers** – Protestantism
41. **Sea of glass** – Word of God
42. **Sea, the** – people of Rome, Catholicism
43. **Seals, seven** – seven periods of time
44. **Seal or mark in forehead** – knowledge
45. **Seal or mark in hand** – hand of fellowship
46. **Sharp sickle** – Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)
47. **Smoke of incense** – prayers (Revelation 8:4)
48. **Solomon's temple** – morning-time church
49. **Stars** – ministers (Revelation 1:20)
50. **Sun, the** – new covenant
51. **Sword** – Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)
52. **Tabernacle, temple** – church
53. **Thunder** – report of happenings
54. **Trees** – righteous people
55. **Trumpets, seven** – messages of warning
56. **Two witnesses** – Word & Spirit
57. **Vials, seven** – judgment against falsehood
58. **Vine of earth** – sectism
59. **Water** – symbol of people (Revelation 17:15)
60. **Wind** – Holy Spirit
61. **Woman** – church
62. **Wormwood Star** – Protestant ministry
63. **Zerrubbabel's Temple** – evening-time church

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS

### INTRODUCTION

The title of this book is given from Revelation 1:1-2, which reads: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw."

The book *West and West's Early Progress*, page 6, tells us that before writings, men learned to communicate by drawing pictures to pass on messages to others. Their language was symbols. For example, the word *belief* used a picture of a bee and of a leaf. Throughout the Bible, there were comparatives used. In Matthew 7 people are symbolized as trees. In John 15 Jesus is symbolized as the vine and we, the branches. There were many others that were borrowed from the images that surrounded them.

The word *revelation* comes from the Latin. The Greek term *apocalypse* signifies the same thing. It means to disclose, reveal, to tell, or explain. According to Revelation 1:1, God gave symbolic language to John while he was on the Isle of Patmos, for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The Revelation holds the doctrines and the truth of the past, present, and future. These doctrines have become the foundation stones in the great Church of God. These truths have weathered the rough storms of other days and times. They have endured the gnawing teeth of the trying years. Kingdoms have risen and fallen. Nations have come and gone. Generations have lived and died, but the Church of God and its message remain unchanged. No effort has been spared by the writer of this course of study to simplify and make plain the presentation of this truth. History lines up with the Scriptures of prophecy and the Revelation is complete.

It is my hope that every honest-hearted reader of this literature will give thoughtful and open-minded consideration to these lessons. It is also my hope that a people be established for the great Church of God.



# REVELATION 1

*Revelation 1:1* The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which much shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.

The first chapter of Revelation is used as an introduction to the first series. There are seven series in the entire study.

Second Timothy 2:15 says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." To rightly divide, we must put "precept upon precept; line upon line, here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10). A little out of the Old Testament and a little out of the New Testament is what this Scripture is referring to. Psalm 19:4 says: "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun."

Romans 10:18 says: "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world." Second Corinthians 10:16 says, "To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand."

Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17). Deuteronomy 18:22 says, "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

*Revelation 1:2* Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

John's revelation was according to the testimony of Jesus Christ, the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). Hebrews 4:13 reads, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." God gave John insight to the future of the church and the message from the prophets by the Spirit.

**Revelation 1:3** *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

History tells us that Patmos was a rocky, barren island located about twenty miles from the mainland in Asia Minor. It was here that God told John, "The time is at hand." According to each letter written and sent to each congregation, the message was the same. The message was to hear what the Spirit had to say.

**Revelation 1:4** *John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne.*

All who have studied the Scriptures know that Ephesians 4 teaches there is but one Spirit and that by one Spirit all are baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13). The seven congregations, being God's, make up the seven conditions the church progresses through before Jesus returns for His church. Each of these congregations is said to have peace from God. God and His Spirit always comfort His people in all their afflictions (Psalm 34:19). God is sending the message to come in peace.

**Revelation 1:5** *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

It was He who died for our covenant, and it is that covenant that the blood used to sanctify us to Him. He is the first from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:20). It is He who has the keys of death and hell (Revelation 1:18). Isaiah prophesied in Chapter 1, verse 18, that we could be washed in the blood and made white.

**Revelation 1:6** *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

A king is one who reigns. We reign through Jesus Christ, over sin and the devil right here in this world. The devil has no more power over us than we let him have. A priest is one who serves. We are to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16). We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God, by Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

**Revelation 1:7** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

Since this book is a book of figurative language, I believe this is referring to the cloud of witnesses, as in Hebrews 12:1. The cloud was used in the old tabernacle (Exodus 13:21) and was also given to John in his vision (Revelation 14) to carry the message of the sickle. This message is that every eye could see him. Only the pure in heart shall see God (Matthew 5:8). The clouds, which are God's ministers, can bring Jesus to sight. Ministers are for the perfecting of the saints (Ephesians 4:12).

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

He was the beginning (Genesis 1:1), and He will be the ending of all things here in this world. He was here in this world, according to Matthew 28 and ascended back to Heaven, according to Luke 24:49-51. He will come again, according to Acts 1:11 and 1 Thessalonians 4 in like manner as He went away. But this time, He is in His people (His church; John 14:23).

***Revelation 1:9** I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

John gave us his location when God gave him this vision, why he was there, and what the conditions were at the time. Many saints have suffered along the way, just as John suffered here. Some say that the church does not have to suffer persecutions, but Psalm 34:19 tells us that we will have many troubles. Revelation 17:6 shows us that many of God's people were killed. Romans 2:11 tells us that God has no respect of persons. So, tribulations are to be endured right here in this present world. The same religious groups that teach no tribulations for the church are the same erroneous teachers of the rapture, blood flowing to the horses' bridles, and the devil to be bound for a thousand years. All of these things, they say, are in the future. The church is, according to their teachings, to be raptured out, and the wicked in the graves. If this is true, who would be left to fight in the battle of Armageddon?

***Revelation 1:10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet.*

John indicates that the voice he heard was alarming. According to the Prophet Joel in Chapter 2, verse 1, this is the best way to receive a message from God. It will stay with you. It will alarm you and prepare you for what is to come.

**Revelation 1:11** *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

This Scripture was given as an alarming message. He was to be attentive to what he was about to see and hear. As we read, we can see what each one's condition was and why these seven congregations were used to show the history of the church.

**Revelation 1:12** *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.*

How beautiful when we can understand that, in symbolic language, the gold candlesticks symbolize truth. Paul used such figurative language in 1 Corinthians 3:12. The candlesticks are the church. God's church is built upon truth. Jesus prayed in John 17:17 that we would be sanctified by the truth. We have the golden altar and the golden censer used in the worship. These are truth. We can't and won't use anything in our worship unless it is given to us by God.

**Revelation 1:13** *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

In Exodus 28 Aaron's suit was given to him by God to wear before Israel. All God told them was to bear the law of God and His presence before them. Jesus here is giving an introduction of Himself and His presence in the church. He is our High Priest (Hebrews 3). An Apostle is one who has seen the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:8). Jesus had seen the Father (John 6:46), so this made Him an Apostle of God. This is what the Apostle was saying in Romans 12:2. We are transformed by truth, not just a mind change. Our High Priest is Jesus Christ, just as Aaron was a high priest to Israel.

We must look at an insert from page 343 of the book *West and West Early Progress* before we look at the first seal.

In 303, after long hesitation, Diocletian began the most terrible of all the persecutions of the Christians. Two years later while this was still going on, he laid down his power to retire to private life, persuading his colleague Maximilian to do likewise. The two younger associates (page 341) were at once recognized as

Emperors – Galer in the East and Constantius in the West. Each appointed a new, younger associate, as Diocletian had planned. Constantius died almost at once, and this misfortune plunged the Roman world into civil war for eight years between various claimants for the imperial power, final after some other leaders whom followed Constantius (page 351). The head of a city church was a bishop (overseer) with supervision over the rural churches of the neighborhood. The bishop of the mother church in the capital city had great authority over the other bishops of the province. It became customary for him to summon the other bishops at times to a central council. Commonly, one of these metropolitans in a civil diocese (page 342) came to have leadership over the others. This lot fell usually to the metropolitan of the chief city of the diocese. Thus over the empire, the diocese became an ecclesiastical unit, and its chief metropolitan was known as a patriarch. By degree the patriarchs of a few great cities were exalted above the others. Finally, all the East became divided among the four patriarchs of Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Constantinople.

All the West, where there was only one great city, came under the authority of the bishop of Rome. This organization of unity helped to develop the idea of a single "Catholic" (all-embracing) church, which should rule the whole world.

After a decree against pagan worship, the Christian church, which itself suffered, too, sorely from persecution, began to stamp out other religions by violence. In some out of the way corners of the empire, paganism lived on a century longer; but in the well-settled districts, the worshipers of Christ destroyed the old temples, broke up the old philosophical schools, and sometimes put to death those men and women who clung to the old worship. Almost at once, too, Christians began to use force to prevent differences of opinion among themselves. When leaders tried to state just what they believed about difficult points, some violent disputes arose. In such cases, the views of the majority finally prevailed as the orthodox doctrine, and the views of the minority became heresy, to be crushed out in blood, if need be.

## THE CHURCH OF GOD

### Revelation, Chapter 12

Figure: The house of God is the church (Hebrews 3:6; Ezekiel 43:10). The many fashions will be mentioned when I reach Revelation 21.

*Revelation 12:2* And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

Many have said that Solomon's temple was a figure type of the church being built in peace time. Yet, we know that Jesus paid a great price for the church. I never read of anyone who suffered in prayer as Jesus our Lord did. There were two others who were crucified with Him. Neither of the other two had a crown of thorns on his head. They were not spat upon as Jesus was. There was a great cry from the Cross, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Thank God!

*Revelation 12:3* And there appeared another great wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

*Revelation 12:4* And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

These symbols – the dragon is red as the horse is red in Revelation 6. The red horse is a symbol of warfare, the dragon as a system. The dragon is used as a symbol in Ezekiel 29:1-4. Pharaoh was head of Egypt and set his decree and gods (Exodus 8-11). So the dragon would be a symbol of a system. The devil used systems (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 20:1). The angel said that the horns were ten kings (Daniel 7:24).

The heads (Daniel 7:6) are kingdoms (Daniel 8:22; Revelation 17:9). There are seven mountains. When you read history with the understanding that the Bible is history before history became history, you can see that those who wrote history recorded what the Bible said would happen. Take a look at history for an insight of the heads and horns.

First, Arch of Constantine at Rome – Constantius favored Christianity and was Emperor. After his death, his three sons carried on his name. Many people were put to death. After the last son died, Julian became Emperor. He favored paganism, but

he tried to keep peace between the Christians and the pagans. This led the way for the arch of Rome.

An insert from the book *West and West*, pages 350-351: Commonly one of the metropolitans in a civil diocese (page 342) came to have leadership over the others. This lot fell usually to the metropolitans of the chief city of the diocese, thus over much of the empire the diocese became an ecclesiastical unit, and its chief metropolitan was known as a patriarch.

By decree, the patriarchs of a few great cities were exalted above the others. Finally, all the East became divided among the four patriarchates of Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Constantinople; while all the West, where there was only one great city, came under the authority of the bishop of Rome. This unity of organizations helped to develop the idea of a single "Catholic" (all-embracing) church, which should rule the whole world.

It seems from this history, that the horns on the dragon are explained as to why they have no crowns, as the ones in Revelation 13 do have crowns. The heads seem to come clear as to why they don't have the names of blasphemy. It should be understood that the authority to the thirteenth chapter beast came from the arch of Constantine. There will be more on this in the study of Chapter 13.

It is good for us to remember Daniel 2:31. Throughout that chapter, Daniel was telling the king about the dream of the kingdoms in Daniel 7. They tell the history of the origin of paganism and the Catholic Church. So many ideals we are familiar with came from these religions.

It can be seen from Daniel 2 that the kingdom of Jesus was in the dream. It was to begin in the fourth kingdom that Daniel saw. During the reign of the fourth kingdom, Jesus was born (Luke 2:1-7). The kingdom was introduced by John the Baptist, who preached repentance. This was the way into the Kingdom of God – no other way. Jesus agreed with John (Mark 1:14-15). He preached the Gospel of the kingdom. Jesus told Nicodemus except he be born again, he could not see the Kingdom of God. If it was to be as some say, we would not have to be born again to see it (John 3:3). Some say there is a difference in the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven. When we check the Word, we find it is interchangeable. Kingdom of God – tells us who it is of; Kingdom of Heaven – tells us where it came from. We also know that God is a Spirit (John 4:24). The kingdom must be spiritual

also (Romans 14:17). It is not a province ruled over by earthly kings. The spiritual kingdom has one king, and that king is Jesus. He will not return to old Jerusalem to set up a literal kingdom. He has a new Jerusalem and new Jews, which are spiritual (Romans 2:28-29). Let's look at the trumpet message at this time.

### **A.D. 33-270**

Revelation 8:2-7 says: "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."

Joel 2:1 gives us insight on the trumpet. When he blew the trumpet, there was fear in the land. A trumpet is a symbol of alarming people of a happening. This message was according to what John saw in the vision. The people feared because the message came with power. It burned up the third part of the trees, which is people (Isaiah 61:3; Matthew 7:17-18). The grass was burned up (Isaiah 40:6). This means that fleshly works of man and corrupt man were burned up. This was the message on the Day of Pentecost. The message came with the fire of the Holy Ghost, and three thousand souls were saved. Seventeen nations were present and heard each man in their native tongue (Acts 2:8). The people began to question as to how they were hearing each one, when all these men were Galileans. They learned that day that the old system was gone. No more bulls, goats, or doves would be acceptable sacrifices. From that day forward, it would take the blood of Jesus being applied to put away sin. The old tabernacle and priest were done away with. Jesus is our High Priest. The trinity was there on that day. The lightning was a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:18). The earthquake is a symbol of the church receiving a kingdom that cannot be moved (Hebrews 12:26-28). The Church of God has a message that no other has, who claim to be the church. These others have leaven in them (Matthew 13:33), which is their doctrine (Matthew 16:12).



The Church of God message has moved mountains, crooked places have been made straight, and rough places made smooth (Isaiah 40:4). God has made His ministers responsible for the message. Any preacher who is afraid to preach the Word needs to remember that the blood will be on his hands.

Revelation 2:1-7 says: "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Jesus commended this congregation for their labor and patience and for loving less the things people were doing that God hated, the deeds of the Nicolaitanes. The church at Pergamos had this doctrine in it. Nicolaitane had a doctrine that the Roman Catholic Church used to help the doctrine of Balaam, according to verse 15. It points to this doctrine being of Nicolaitane. God points to the seat where Satan was sitting.

Even though God commended this congregation, He told them that unless they repented, He would remove the candlestick. God will not spearhead the church. We must be the church, or we have given the devil a seat in the congregation. The doctrine of the Pergamene church must be looked at. God told them that He would fight them with the sword of His mouth. It's a sad day when God must preach against people claiming to be His church. This is found throughout the Book of Revelation. No wonder so many ministers do not want their congregations to know the truth of this Book. God will not accept any man's doctrine. It must be the doctrine of God. The candlestick has been removed from many places. There is only one line of truth (Psalm 19:4; Isaiah 28:10; Romans 10:18). It is no wonder that the Apostle Paul never got in other men's lines (2 Corinthians 10:16). This will be dealt with later.

# OPENING OF THE FIRST AND SECOND SEALS

## ENTERING THE CONFLICT

A.D. 33 to A.D. 270

*Revelation 6:1* And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

*Revelation 6:2* And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

John got an introduction in the fifth chapter of One who was found worthy to open the seals of the book and to look therein. John called Him "the Lamb of God." This was used in John 1:29 also. Isaiah 8:16 says, "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." The servants of God are those who have the testimony of God and bare record of the Word. When the first seal was opened, John heard the first beast telling him to come and see. The seals have to be revealed by the Spirit of God (Isaiah 29:11-12). It doesn't take education to reveal the things of God; it takes the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Spirit must reveal the mysteries of God.

Upon opening the seal, there is thunder. This is a report of the happenings (1 Samuel 7:10). This seems to call attention to the setting of the covenant. The bow symbolizes the covenant between God and His people (Genesis 9:13), a promise. The rainbow was a symbol to those of Noah's day. The white horse is a symbol of purity (Revelation 19:7-8). The warfare is not carnal (2 Corinthians 10:4) but a war to conquer sin. The crown is a symbol of victory over death and the grave (Revelation 1:18). The covenant is a conquering power against sin and death (2 Corinthians 2:16). It is covered by the death and blood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:14-18). This power has broken many. It has ground others to powder (Matthew 21:44). Thank God for the better covenant (Hebrews 8:6).

*Revelation 6:3* And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.

*Revelation 6:4* And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

In the opening of this second seal, we have opposition to the white horse and his rider. The second beast invited us to come and see. Creatures in Ezekiel's day were somewhat like what John was seeing here in his vision. This message concerned Israel (Ezekiel 1:10; Revelation 4:7). This warfare is symbolized by a red horse. Red in Isaiah 1:18 symbolizes sin. This warfare is to take peace from the earth. The Pharisees and Sadducees did not receive the truth. This power has used men and women through time to take peace from the earth. This warfare is spiritual (John 16:2). They also killed and thought they were doing God's will. But John 14:27 tells us that Jesus came to bring peace. The sword in His hand was the Word of God. Many suffered for the truth of God, as we will see later in this study.

I want to bring in Revelation 12 here to show how the pagans used a system to persecute God's people. Revelation 12:1-5 reads: "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

In connection with the rise of the red horse and the white horse, we have symbolized the church and the system the devil used to work against the church. The woman is a figure of the church (Galatians 4:22; Revelation 21:9), which John said is the Lamb's wife. John saw the city of God, when he saw Mount Zion. This, too, is symbolic of the church. This woman had twelve stars on her head, which is symbolic of the twelve Apostles. Stars give light. These twelve were called by God and sent by God. Revelation 1:20 states that they are angels. Angels are messengers or ministering spirits. Galatians 1:8 states that angels preach the Gospel; thus they are preachers or ministers. They gave light about Jesus, even after His ascension.

The moon under the woman's feet is a figure of the old law or covenant (Isaiah 30:26; Hebrews 10:1). The moon gets light from the sun. This means the New Testament is older than the Old. Thus the Old Testament drew light from the new. The Church of God is clothed with light of both the New and Old Testaments. The prophets are in the foundation with the Apostles (Ephesians 2:20).

This woman being in heaven is a figure of the church. It is a heavenly place (Ephesians 2:6; 1:3; 1:20; 3:10). This should help us know that the birth of the man child was not in the eternal Heaven. There is no pain there, and childbirth brings pain. Just as the two women of Abraham in the allegory of Galatians 4:22 is a type, so is this. The child is the seed of the church, or new converts in Christ.

The devil knew that the church is built on a rock (Acts 4:11-12) and the gates of hell could not prevail against it. He must try to devour the seed of the church. We are the seed. The church has a good foundation (2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Timothy 2:4). The husband of the woman is the Father (John 15:1; Ephesians 5:25). So the "whole family in heaven and earth" belongs to Him (Ephesians 3:15), because He is the head of the body. The body, as we have already established, is the church. He sets all the members in the body as it pleases Him (1 Corinthians 12:18). Man has no authority to open the doors and vote us into the church. We must come into the kingdom by the new birth (Psalm 87:4-5), and we are added to the church (Acts 2:47) after we learn how to break the bread and eat the meat of the Word (Hebrews 5:12-14). We are members of His body.

## THE APOSTASY

A.D. 270 – A.D. 530

*Revelation 6:5* And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.

*Revelation 6:6* And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

History and time symbols will bear witness to the dates given here. A quote from *Daniel Webster Kurtz's Church History*, page 48:

The heresies within the church forced the Christians to a rule of authority (or so they thought). At first religion was an inner experience of Christ in the heart. As the church entered the Greek and Roman territories, conflict with heathenish religion became more and more a matter of sects and creeds. During the apostolic age, elders and bishops were of equal rank. There were some of these in each local congregation. Now the bishop is one who exercises authority over all others. This change was ordered by the Roman government. We can readily see that according to history, A.D. 270 dates the beginning of the papal rule, even though the apostasy began to develop much earlier, to the days of the Apostles.

The symbols John saw also indicate a change from Christianity to papal Rome. The black horse is a symbol of warfare. We are warned in Ephesians 6:12 that the battle would be with people in high places. This warning was to Christians. Put on the whole armor of God; be firm. In the letter of Revelation 2:8-9, we are told of some who were rich in God's grace and standing firm. Much history can be found concerning this black horse. We must know the symbolism. Some are afraid to put spiritual interpretation on the matter because it would cause honest hearts to flee the false teachings and it would destroy their false teachings. The warfare of that day, as it is now, was to change the true message of God's Word and exalt man. *Wickersham's Church History*, Chapter 9, page 107, tells of the decay of godliness and the decline of paganism. The church lost her glory and her spiritual power. The numbers of people, wealth, and popularity all increased, while the piety, purity, meekness, humility, and external opposition ceased.

All during the history of the church, it has made its way through fires, seas, clouds, and storms. As long as the profession of a religion was attended with danger, their lives and conversation were pure and heavenly. The Gospel was their source of consolation. They found it to be sufficient for every need.

The whole Roman Empire was filled with professors of Christianity, and some of the men were renowned family men. A great crisis was evidently at hand. Christianity or paganism must be triumphant.

Leviticus 26:26 says, "And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied." Proverbs 14:13 states, "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness." Proverbs 11:1-3 reads: "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight. When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

Much has been done in the name of religion for money. Souls have had bread weighed out to them. Day after day, souls are not satisfied. Proverbs 11:4 says, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." It is sad to see unsatisfied souls in this day of such truth. They have no real peace, no real piety, and are walking in darkness. God help us to bring them to the truth of His Word. We should all remember the history and the great price that has been paid because somewhere someone didn't uphold the truth against spiritual darkness. The pagans taught of all kinds of gods. Rome set man as a god. They went deeper into spiritual darkness because of this. They killed and gained power. Now the platform has changed. Many are deceived in the name of religion.

In connection with this third beast, we have the rise of the papal beast. His history is also found. Revelation 13:1-10 states: "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the

beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear. He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

This chapter begins with the making of the papal beast. This is symbolized by mixed characteristics. The beast of Daniel 7:23 had the same characteristics of this thirteenth chapter beast. These symbolize kingdoms (Daniel 1-3). He gives insight on the horns in verse 24. Thus there was a change in religious systems. Heads lose their crowns, and horns get crowns. There was war between pagan and papal Rome. This is symbolized by the dragon's wounded head. His seat and authority, or his power, was handed over to the beast. History will show us why the heads have lost crowns and horns have gained them.

In *Wickersham's Church History*, page 125, around the year A.D. 395, important changes began to take place in the Roman Empire. This was one cause of the decline and change brought upon the church at that time. The changes were caused by numerous barbaric tribes inhabiting Northern Europe, attacking the Roman Empire. In a course of years, the empire was reduced to a state of complete subjection, divided into various provinces and distinct governments and kingdoms (horns). The tribes consisted of (kings) Goths, Huns, Franks, Alane, Suevik Vandals, and various others. They were extremely barbaric and illiterate. At the same time, they were powerful and warlike. The incursions of these tribes into the empire were at a time when it was least able to make effectual resistance. Both Honorius and Arcadius were weak princes. The Roman character was greatly sunken. Their lofty and daring spirit was gone. Their empire had for years groaned under its unwieldy bulk; and only by the most vigorous efforts had it been kept from crumbling to ruins. With Theodosius expired, the last of the successors of Augustus and Constantine, who appeared in the field of battle at the head of their armies, and whose authority was acknowledged throughout the empire; such being the case and state of things, it is not strange that the northern tribes should have seized the opportunity to invade

the empire, nor that their efforts at subjugation should have been crowned with success. Still less singular is it that the Church of God should have suffered in a corresponding degree.

From this insert of history we can see some of the change. However, there is yet a great deal of history in the change.

The kings took control, and the heads came to union with the dragon power. Papalism, called Catholicism, became political when powers were combined. The head of the dragon was healed. The influence of Satan was in the seat (Revelation 2:13). This meant the long dark day (Amos 8:9-12) was now ready to come into existence, and the cheap religion was to be weighed into by measure. The black horse and his war were to put down truth and bring a change for the man of sin (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4). Revelation 13:7 says it "was given unto him to make war with the saints."

As we follow history, we learn one of the things done to win their war was to translate the Bible into their language. This was done by Jerome at Bethlehem and was completed in A.D. 400. This language was Latin. If you read one of these, as I have, you can surely say there is a lot of barley for bread in their bibles. Revelation 6:8 says that death and hell follow, for he killed with hunger. Amos 8:11 says there would be a famine in the land. The spirit of Antichrist has come on the scene. It is people who have gone out from truth (1 John 2:18-19). This people has separated themselves from the truth. They have their own bible and have changed laws, etc., to cover up their acts of sin and to wear out the saints of the most high (Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7). First John tells us that there are many of them. I would like to ask that *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* be read. *The Works of Josephus* is also a good reference book of history. Antichrists are spirits that are against truth. These books have recorded the history before it was history. As the Bible unfolded, men wrote history. The Bible is one line of truth. "For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish" (Isaiah 60:12). "My people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge" (Isaiah 5:13). "Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth" (Amos 5:7). Isaiah 28:10 gives us the one line of truth. This church called Smyrna, whom God gave a letter to, reaches the same period of time, A.D. 270-500.

Revelation 2:8-11 says: "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works,



and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

Christ, being in the midst of His church, and "all things are naked and opened" to His eyes (Hebrews 4:13), wrote to this congregation, knowing there were a few who did not acknowledge the papal church to be the true church of the Bible. It meant far more to stand firm in this age than it did in the morning-time church. But God had some people who were rich in His grace. There were those who undoubtedly acknowledged papal Rome. This teaching is called Satan by Jesus Christ. These people were in blasphemy. Those rich in God's grace were told to not fear these things they had to suffer. At this time, some were being cast into prison for not accepting the teachings of Rome. Jesus gave them a time symbol, which will be used in the fourth seal. Some people would have us believe that the Church of God won't have to endure tribulation. This congregation had tribulation for ten days. If you read the history of this age, you will find they were jailed for standing firm in their faith. Sometimes this meant giving their lives. I should also point out at this time that the true Jew is not a Jew of the flesh but one who is born of the Spirit of God, a spiritual Jew (Romans 2:28-29). If a natural Jew gets saved, he becomes a double Jew. He is a Jew inwardly and outwardly. Any person becomes a spiritual Jew when he accepts Christ as his Savior.

## BINDING THE DRAGON AND THE 1000 YEARS

WARNING: Proverbs 28:10 says, "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession."

*Revelation 20:1* And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

*Revelation 20:2* And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

*Revelation 20:3* And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

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

*Revelation 20:5* But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

*Revelation 20:6* Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Before trying to explain these six verses, we will look at an excerpt from Brother Lawrence Chestnut's book, entitled *Will There Be a Millennium?*

A millennium is a thousand years. When the term is used in theology, it refers to an expected reign of one thousand years of righteousness on the earth. Christians originally borrowed the idea of a millennium from the Jews, but in its broadest sense the idea was not originally with the Jews. Various heathen nations – Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome – had an idea of a future golden age of the world when evil would be suppressed.

Zoroastrianism, meaning the national religion of the Iranian people, expected a thousand-year period to follow the downfall of hostile power, which period was connected with the resurrection of the dead. The later Jewish conception of such a period was colored by these views of a similar period held by the nations about them. The Jewish conception, however, was based principally upon the messianic predictions of the Old Testament. There the messiah was represented as execution judgment upon the enemies of Israel, and reestablishing the throne of David at Jerusalem in great splendor, as exalting Israel, and as ruling over the Gentiles. Then the wilderness would blossom as the rose, the soil would be very fertile and nature especially productive, while wild beasts would become gentle, and wars would cease among men. Because of literal interpretation of these prophecies, the Jews generally expected the Messiah to establish an earthly kingdom. Such was the common expectation of the Jews of the Christ. The rabbinical writers held some very exaggerated notions of the material benefits of the reign of the Messiah. The earth was to yield many thousand folds, and grain, fruit, and flesh were to be provided in immeasurable abundance. But Jesus disappointed those carnal hopes. He neither established nor promised to establish such an earthly kingdom. The teaching of Christ is non-millenarian. Such can be truly said of the teaching of the epistles of the New Testament. Jesus and the Apostles taught a present spiritual Kingdom of Christ.

Another revival of millenarianism has come in recent years. In the rank of its advocates are many prominent religious leaders. The theory is being zealously propagated in prophetic conference charts to show the plan of the ages. Methods used are books, periodicals, pulpits, radio, and television. Though the details of the theory are held differently by its supporters, yet the modern theories agree on one basic thing, that Christ is coming back to set up His kingdom on this earth and reign for a thousand years. This theory seems to thrive best in times of trouble and great crisis. Millennial teachers often assume that since some prophecies have been fulfilled literally, all must be. They apply this premise to such prophecies they can use to their advantage, but they find it quite convenient to "spiritualize" when it is found to be in conflict with the teaching of the Bible. The basic doctrine of the pre-millennial is that Christ is to be a political king. Christ is to sit upon the throne of David and rule with a rod of iron over all nations of the earth. He is to be King of kings and Lord of lords. All nations are to serve and obey Him. All kings, ministers, presidents, governors, mayors, and other tribal chieftains will be His appointees.

In this same teaching, the Jewish kingdom, with Christ as King, will be the center of earthly rule. The tribes of Israel will return to Palestine and accept Christ as their Messiah. They are to be the favored nation of Christ. Jerusalem will be the capital city of Christ, and His twelve Apostles will rule over the twelve tribes.

Now we will deal with the post-millennial doctrine. For proper understanding, a repetition of a former statement will be made. This is that the Kingdom of Christ was established at this First Advent, and through existing agencies and especially the preaching of the Gospel, and the operation of the Holy Spirit, the kingdom would fully materialize. Before Christ's return, a state of worldwide righteousness would be brought about for a thousand years. This further teaches that the world is getting better and will eventually enjoy a golden age of a thousand years. After this (post), Christ will come. During this period, Satan is supposed to be restrained; but at its close, he will be loosed for a short period. Christ will then come to raise the dead, judge the world, and destroy the earth. Advocates strongly emphasize that conditions of the world will get better and better, and will eventually bring worldwide righteousness into existence. This then would be the millennium's beginning. This state of worldwide righteousness is to be achieved a thousand years before the Second Advent of Christ. Keep in mind that this theory teaches that Christ is coming after the millennium, and all the glories of the millennium are supposed to be enjoyed before Christ comes and this only for a period of one thousand years. According to the Scriptures, the Kingdom of Christ is spiritual in nature. It is eternal in duration. This means forever and ever, not one thousand years.

These Scriptures that we are dealing with have to be understood. That is why we must have as much understanding of the error of the millennial teachings out there to understand the true teachings of the Bible.

Let us take a look at the teachings of Christ in Matthew 23:37-38: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

Luke 19:41-44 says: "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall

come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation."

Luke 21:20 says, "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Matthew 24:34 says, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

The things Jesus was speaking of were those things that had to be fulfilled before the generation passed away. Also the signs He had spoken of must come to pass. One stone would not be left upon another. The Prophet Micah had spoken in Micah 3:12, "Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest." Old Jerusalem went down. All the signs Jesus gave the people came to pass. Jesus moved out of old Jerusalem. Old Jerusalem became desolate. The people rejected the Son of God. He sent His disciples to Jerusalem to meet the New Jerusalem that came down from Heaven (Revelation 21:1-2). Galatians 4:26 says, "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." She is our spiritual mother, holier than old Jerusalem. She is from above and is the Lamb's wife (Revelation 21:9-10). Hebrews 12:22 tells us that we have already come unto her.

Jesus now has a new Jew. The old Jews were cut off because of unbelief (Romans 11:20-21). Because of unbelief, they were broken off. The eleventh chapter tells how old Israel was cut off; all the history about the Jews and their teachers believe the Messiah has not come. Jesus told us that one is not a Jew outwardly but inwardly, or spiritually. Romans 2:28-29 also tells us that the circumcision is not of the flesh, but of the heart.

Now let us return to our text in Revelation 20. Ezekiel 7 gives us a foreshadow of the chain. It was to cover the land. This lets us know that this a symbol of what Christ was trying to teach them about. A chain symbolizes captivity. So the chain that God used in Revelation 20 was the Word He used to bind Satan and the system he was using at the time. Since the devil is a spirit, we know that it takes God's Word and only God's Word can bind him. You cannot tie spirits with a literal chain. Revelation 13:10 tells us, "He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity." So the same thing the devil used to bind people in false religion, he himself was tied in it. At this time, he had all nations under his control. He had translated the Bible

into Latin, where it stayed for one thousand years. The Roman Catholic Church was the only one that could tell the people what the Word said and meant. In the Thompson Chain Reference Bible's comprehensive helps section, page 181, under the Vulgate edition of the Bible, it tells us that entire Bible was translated into Latin and completed around A.D. 400. For one thousand years, this was the standard Bible in the Catholic Church.

Read 2 Corinthians 2:16. So, they had the sword in their hand on the red horse (Revelation 6:4). Jesus caught them changing its contents in His day (Matthew 15:1-9). When you read the history of all that was done up through the years, and is still being done, you are sure to understand that the Bible is true. In this chapter, we do not find Christ mentioning a Second Coming, a bodily resurrection, or a literal reign on earth. Keep in mind, souls reign here in this life. The bottomless pit is teachings with no biblical foundation (Proverbs 28:10; Psalm 40:2). There were those who at this time had lost their heads and their souls were reigning with Christ. Jesus said, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6). There was a prophesy in the Smyrnaen church relative to this one thousand years. Other time symbols we have already used.

Here he points us to two resurrections. The first resurrection is a spiritual one (John 5:25; Romans 6:4-9). Jesus said, "I am the resurrection." Paul told us that we will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52). This second resurrection is the general resurrection of the dead (John 11:25; Ephesians 2:1-2). We will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Scientists tell us that it takes one-twentieth of a second to blink the eye. There will not be another chance after this. Time will not allow it. There will not be any more battles to fight. We have spoken about the points on the kingdom. Here we find the truth of the teachings on the kingdom.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8, 12-13. The promises relate to Solomon, David's immediate successor and the royal line of Judah. The revolt of ten tribes from the house of David was their correction for iniquity, but the constant adherence of the other two to that family perpetuated the mercy of God to the seed of David, according to this promise. No other family ever swayed the scepter of Judah than that of David. This is the covenant of royalty celebrated (Psalm 89:3) as typical of the covenant of redemption and grace. The promises also relate to Christ, who is often called David

and the son of David, to whom these promises pointed and in whom they had their full accomplishment. He was the seed of David (Acts 13:23; Luke 2:4). To Him God gave the throne of His father, David (Luke 1:32). He was given all power in Heaven and earth and authority to execute judgment. He was to build the Gospel temple, the house of God, a name (Zechariah 6:12-13).

The spiritual house of true believers is to be a habitation of God through the Spirit; that is the promise. For Him to be the Father and we the sons is expressly applied to Christ by the Apostle in Hebrews 1:5. When he said "forever and ever," that is what he meant, not a thousand years. Read Daniel 2:44. When we look at the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1), we see that He came through a masculine line (Luke 3:23). The book shows that line all the way back to Adam. How can anyone say that the Messiah has not come? Are we yet to look for His coming?

The forerunner of Jesus Christ came preaching the Kingdom of Heaven and Jesus. Mark 1:14-15 shows Jesus preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, saying that the time is fulfilled and the kingdom is at hand, not a thousand or two thousand years away. Read Matthew 16:28; John 18:36. So there is no need to say the kingdom will be over in old Jerusalem, for Jesus tells us that His kingdom "cometh not with observation" (Luke 17:20-21). The kingdom *is* within YOU. Read Romans 14:17-19. The trouble comes when prophets, speaking things in God's name, and it never comes to pass. Deuteronomy 18:22 tells us when this occurs that it was spoken of by a prophet and not of God.

Jesus gave many parables concerning the Kingdom of God. In Matthew 13 He taught that when the spiritual has come, it does away with all fleshly natures of mankind, those who enter the kingdom (Isaiah 11:5-10; 2:4-5). If you will read these Scriptures that are given, I believe one can see that the kingdom and the church is here now. Read Revelation 20:1-6. In history – A.D. 270 – Nepos, a bishop in Egypt, attempted to revise the newly known heresy of a thousand-year reign yet future, as was taught in the first century and advocated by one named Ceriunthus, a most noted heretic. This revision of this false doctrine and deception of a millennium yet future as held by Nepos was advocated by others in the period as well. In the fifth century, Saint Augustine, one of the great theologians of that religion, was the first Catholic leader to teach the millennial reign in the Catholic Church. This idea and the binding of the dragon, as many teach, is an heathenistic doctrine, false in every way. This approved teaching by the Roman Catholic Church is sanctioned by many Protestants and promoted by false holiness groups today. This teaching is FAR from the truth of what the Bible teaches.

## THE THIRD CHURCH AGE

### PERGAMOS

A.D. 530 - 1530

*Revelation 2:12* And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

*Revelation 2:13* I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

*Revelation 2:14* But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

*Revelation 2:15* So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

*Revelation 2:16* Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

*Revelation 2:17* He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

The deeds in this church received rebuke by the Head, Jesus Christ, and they were told to repent. Gibbon's History states that there were a few Christians that escaped martyrdom during this age. As a result of their denial of papal Rome, they were complimented, as the Scriptures show.

*Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary* says this is one of the early religious sects; the precise nature of their tenets and practices is not certainly known, but they were apparently an antinomian sect of Gnostic tendencies, which took undue advantage of Paul's teaching relative to the exemption of the Gentiles from the Mosaic law. They took part in feasts offered to idols, committed immoral sexual acts, according to certain early Christian writers, holding their wives in common. This was one of a group of medieval sects that was supposed to resemble the primitive Nicolaitanes, who based their lives on the principles of Nicolas, the Deacon. There has been much



debate on this, as to whether this doctrine belonged to one of the deacons of the sixth chapter of Acts. Some say that one of them fell to deception. Wherever it came from, Christ used the symbol to show what idols were among them. *Wickersham's Church History* gives the introduction of the worship of images in the years A.D. 600-1300. The Apostle Paul had taught the Church of God not to take of idols nor to eat what was offered to idols. First Corinthians 10:28 says, "But if any man say unto you, this is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake: for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

An image, in a religious sense, is an artificial representation of some person or thing used as an object of adoration. Ones should ask themselves these questions: Where did worship of Mary come from? Where did the idea of the Pope come from? God said to "call no man your father" (Matthew 23:9). Where would one find all these other ideas in the Bible? I will show an insert from history about Pope Leo X. In order to carry on the magnificent structure of St. Peter at Rome, he published indulgences and a plenary remission to all such as should contribute money toward it.

The form of these indulgences reads as follows: "May our Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon thee, and absolve thee by the merits of his most holy passion; and I, by his authority, that of His blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and of the most holy Pope, granted and committed to me in these parts, do absolve thee, first from all ecclesiastical censures, in whatever manner they have been incurred; then from all thou sins, transgressions, and excesses, howsoever enormous they may be; even from such as are reserved for the cognizance of the holy sea. I remit to you all punishment, which you deserve in purgatory on their account; and I restore you to the holy sacraments of the church, to the unity of the faithful, and to that innocence and purity which you possessed at baptism; so that when you die, the gates of punishment shall be shut, and the gates of the paradise of delight shall be opened; and if you shall not die at present, this grace shall remain in full force when you are at the gate of death: in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

This is the devil's seat. God knew where it was. If this doesn't tell us the reason of the names of blasphemy on the heads in the thirteenth chapter, I don't know what would. Man would claim all that was stated above in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost to get money.

Jesus had the sharp sword in His mouth, and He told the angel to tell the church that He knew where Satan dwelleth, even where his seat is. Murderers claim to have power from God to give such a blessing for money. Why would they want to build St. Peter's or St. Paul's buildings, when their forefathers killed them? Matthew 23:32 says, "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers."

The bloodshed, symbolized by Antipas, symbolized the faithful in the dark age. Jesus still commands the church to be faithful and to repent for allowing Satan to get among them. It is good for us to know, the church must be the church in all circumstances. So I say, *let the church be the church*. All falsehood ever does is tell lies, covers up their sins, deceives themselves and others, and destroys souls. Come out of hell and stand for the *true* Church of God.

# THE RISE OF PROTESTANTISM

A.D. 1530

Read Habakkuk 3:1-6, a prayer of Habakkuk, the Prophet, upon Shigionoth. Also, read Revelation 9:9-11.

Let us look at the seals that have been opened up to this time and see what was ahead for the church. Here we see the souls of them that were slain for the Word of God. They were killed by violent means, and it was because of their testimony. There were two things that put the people in trouble at this time – the Word of God and their testimony. According to history, they were suffering from the furious waves of Rome, because of the Testament that John Wycliffe had translated into the English language. The light that gleamed across the people's paths began to bring down the dark day.

People began to be enlightened to truth. Since Germany and England began to take their stand, it caused Rome to persecute and kill the Christians they called enemies to their government. But God's Word started a revival at this time. The Word was put on the fire. The more Rome tried to put out this fire, the more it burned. There were prayer meetings going on from the souls under the altar. Their souls received rest while others died for the truth the same way they had died. We can see why Paul told us we do not wrestle against principalities and powers but against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). The devil at this time had come up out of his pit (Revelation 20:7). He saw that the system he had used for so long was going down. He began to use another system, and he began to bring in matters that Jude spoke of in Jude 1:12-13. Read these Scriptures and see that they feed themselves "without fear: clouds they are without water." Read Revelation 13:11-18.

The truth that John Wycliffe, John Huss, and now Martin Luther were seeing caused some great changes to be made. Martin Luther could see by the light that was gleaming across the path of the people. From what he read and knew of the Catholic Church, there needed to be change. This brought in the protest against the Catholic religion and caused a division among the people of the fifteenth century. Martin Luther's teachings were in direct opposition to the Roman ideals. Luther saw corruptness and immorality among the clergy, from the lowest to the Pope himself. Luther evidently possessed a deep sense of piety and purity as he was ascending those twenty-eight steps of the Scala Scanta, the Roman's sacred stairway, said to

have been brought from Pilate's judgment hall to Rome. This Scripture impressed him: "The just shall live by faith." With the protest among the Romans and the division it caused, the name was given to them "protesting," or "Protestant." So Luther and Melanchthon were ordered by the elector of Saxony to draw up a body of laws relation to the form of ecclesiastical government, and the method of public worship, which was to be proclaimed by heralds throughout his dominions. This was the first Protestant discipline. While confined by his friend, Frederick of Saxony, in the old castle of Wartburg, to protect him from seizure by order of the Pope or Emperor Charles V, Martin Luther completed his translation of the New Testament into German. This was published in September 1522. When it was read, the people were greatly astonished to find how different the laws of Christ were from those imposed upon them by the Pope. The people saw that Luther's opinions were founded on truth. They openly renounced the papal supremacy, and the happy morning of reformation was welcomed by those who had long sat in superstitious darkness. Now with this bit of history, we can see what was being showed to John in his vision. This beast that came up from the earth is an earthly religion. He came in the form of godness, but he spake out of his mouth as a dragon. He also had two horns, his power for two ages.

We all understand that Martin Luther and John Calvin never lived 350 years, but we know the two ages as Luther and John Calvin. Their doctrine was distinguished one from the other. Both of these brethren's messages or doctrine had light and darkness mixed in it. As time went on, more and more creeds got into it. So it is called the cloudy day. The mouth speaking as a dragon symbolizes the teaching from the Greek, Father Dragon. He had his head wounded (Revelation 13:3), but his life was healed in Roman. After a matter of time, the bondage system came into power again. The image was worshiped. This is why John visioned the beast exercising all the power of the first beast before it.

Read Revelation 13:12. Since we have the dragon speaking out of the mouth of the two horned beast, we must search for the whole matter in which they marked the people. First, it was by a spirit that they marked the people, because of the power of a human system that brought forth a sectarian spirit and attitude. They divided God's people into groups contrary one with the other, that no one was allowed to buy or sell spiritually unless they were recognized or approved by that particular sect or creed. We should probably ask ourselves, is this the reason why people today ask, "What faith are you?" The Bible teaches one faith in Ephesians 4:5. In Revelation 13:17 we have the mark, the name, and the number of his name. Revelation 15:2 tells

us that we have victory over the beast, his image, as well as his name and number. This number is found in the Pope's crown in Roman numeral lettering: VICARIUS FILII DEI.

In view of history of the Pope's standing that he is the vicar of Christ is without any basis in fact. In as early as 1612, it was pointed out (as Andreas Helwig did in his book *Roman Antichrist*) that the title "vicar of Christ" has a numerical value. I is 1, used 6 times, L equals 50, V equals 5, C equals 100, and D equals 500. When all these are counted in VICARIUS FILII DEI, the total is 666. Keep in mind that U and V were considered the same in Rome.

Revelation 13:18 tells us to understand and "count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." It should be pointed out, in all fairness, however, that numerous names and titles, depending on how they are written or which language is used, can produce this number. The examples given here will be of special interest because they are linked with Rome and Roman Catholicism. According to Hislop, the original name of Rome was Saturnin, meaning "the city Saturn." Saturn was the secret name revealed only to the initiates of the Chaldean mysteries, which in Chaldee was spelled with four letters, STUR. In this language, S was 60, T was 400, U was 6, and R was 200; total is 666.

Nero Caesar was one of the greatest persecutors of Christians and the emperor of Rome at the height of its power. His name, when written in Hebrew letters, equals 666. The Greek letters of the word LATEINOS (Latin), the historical language of Rome in all its official acts, amount to 666. In Greek, L is 30, A is 1, T is 300, E is 5, I is 10, N is 50, O is 70, and S is 200. This brings the total to 666. This was pointed out by Irenaeus as early as the third century. This same word also means "Latin man" and is but the Greek form of the name Romulus, from which the city Rome took its name. This name in Hebrew is Romiith, which also totals 666. Unlike the Greeks and Hebrews, the Romans did not use all letters of the alphabet. It is interesting that these six letters of the Roman numeral system, when added together, total 666. Turning to the Bible, we find in 1 Kings 10:14 that each year King Solomon received 666 talents of gold. This wealth played a great part in leading him astray. In the New Testament the word EUPORIA, from which the word *wealth* is translated, totals 666. Out of all the Greek nouns of the New Testament, there is only one other word that has this numerical value, the word PARADOSIS translated TRADITION!!!! (See Acts 19:25.)

Read Matthew 15:2. Wealth and tradition interestingly were the two great corrupters of the Roman Church. Wealth corrupted in practice and honesty; tradition corrupted in doctrine. Was this not what the pagans gave over to Rome when the head of the dragon was wounded? He gave his wealth and traditions to Rome. Thanks to the history from the Ralph Woodrow book called *Babylon Mystery Religion*, we find out these things. In 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 we can see that the number John spoke of is the number of a man, called the man of sin, one who exalts himself above all that is called God, "shewing himself that he is God." We know from the Bible that God never dressed as the papacy does, nor did He conduct Himself as they do. He has never corrupted the world as they do, nor had His way with nuns. He never shed the blood of others to stay in power, as the Roman Catholic Church has. Ezekiel 16:44 and Revelation speaks of her daughters. These daughters are also called harlots, because they are like their mother. "Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter" (Ezekiel 16:44). Since she is a harlot, who does the daughter belong to? So, you get many names. So when you become one of them, married to them, 1 Corinthians 6:16 tells us that if you join yourself to an harlot, you are one, because two become one flesh.

Isaiah 5:8 says, "Woe unto them that join house to house." This prophesy is spiritual. Ezekiel 43:10 says to show the house to the house of Israel, let them measure the pattern. In 2 Corinthians 10:13 Paul said that "we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to" God's measure to us. He found men in other lines that were not the line of God. We all know that God does not give one thing to one and another to someone else. There is just one line of truth. Psalm 19:4 tells us: "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun." Isaiah 28:10 tells us that line must be upon line and precept upon precept. Surely this helps us to see that the harlot daughters are not in line with God's rule. They are as their mother. All have some man as their head, are marked with their name, buying and selling their doctrine; some are numbered, some are carrying an image, others are marked with their name. Let me ask a question here. Why not be as those of Revelation 15 standing on the sea of glass (God's Word), and have victory over it all?

James 1:23 is the Word of God, and it measures us all. With all due respect, the whole trouble with God's people being scattered is failing to let the Word of God have its effect as God meant for it to. During the dark and cloudy days, the Word was not used as a rule to walk by. Man put their decrees before the people, and they

were made ignorant of God's Word and the line of truth. Revelation 11:7-11 shows us the two witnesses that lay dead in the streets of Sodom and Egypt where our Lord was crucified. This crucifying was not as it was on the Cross. This is what John saw the people doing to God by not walking by His rule and not measuring up to His Word. The beast had been put into his pit (Revelation 20:1-2). The pit is his system, teaching without biblical foundation, which the devil used in the dark day. Now he is showing himself with a look of a lamb (Revelation 13:11). And caused all to receive the mark or image, and name, which is not found in God's rule. The streets are where the people walk. Jesus tells us if "ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). What was being done to the people to keep them in darkness was also being done to Jesus. This is how He was crucified in Egypt. They used decrees to keep the Word of God from having an effect on the people. Read 2 Corinthians 2:16.

The three and a half days are time symbols. Daniel said (Daniel 7:25) that there was dividing of times. Revelation 12:14 tells us that John saw where the church would be taken care of for "a time, and times, and half a time." This is telling us that He would take care of the church during the dark day, the cloudy day, and the half day was the 350 years. We use one day for one year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). All of this is past history, but the effects of it still have God's people scattered today. Ezekiel 13:10-14 speaks of one building up a wall of untempered mortar. How sad! There is only one Heaven to go to, and Jesus made it plain when He said that if any find some other way to climb up, he is the same as a thief and a robber (John 10:1). If the symbol speaks, and it truly does, the symbols show us the truth of God and the truth of history as well, rightly dividing the truth.

Amos 5:7 prophesies of this age and is used as God sounds the trumpet from 1260 to 1530. Read Revelation 8:10-11; Hosea 4:6-9. The Word is symbolized as a lamp in Psalm 119:105. It is coming from Heaven. That is where the Word came from. Here it fell on the foundations of waters. Revelation 17:15 tells us that the waters are people. Then this would be the foundation. These people most likely were the leaders. Hosea tells us that the people are like their preacher. So all the people became bitter because the Word was pulled down to the people. People like to have a religion that suits them, instead of what suits God. This people died because they left out the righteousness of God. People were their foundation. It's still that way today. You preach truth to them that they can't handle, and they run to their own foundation (preacher or advisor) and stay like he is. We are told to seek FIRST the kingdom (Matthew 6:33).

This church had a system in it that has come out of the bottomless pit, a Jezebel system, if you please. The letter was sent by the angel to Thyatira (A.D. 1530-1730) bringing up from 1260 to this age all the sins of the past. James tells us in James 2:26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." This church got a sad message. Under the old covenant, Jezebel was the wife of the wicked King Ahab. She had the prophets of God put to death. This is a type of the conditions under this period that we are studying. Jezebel is a symbol of the false church, while the pure woman in Revelation 12 is a symbol of the true, pure Church of God that Jesus built and not man. Read Revelation 2:18-29. This system was as wicked as Jezebel was in her doings against the prophets of God. This system called "Jezebel" killed children of those who committed fornication or adultery with her. First Corinthians 5:9 says, "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators." Read verses 10 and 11.

Again, 2 Corinthians 6:14 tells us not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Also read verses 15-18 of this chapter. One of the hardest things to get people to see is spiritual fornication. It seems that people are more ready to accept everything to be right. Some I have talked with on this matter ask, do you think all those people are going to be lost? My word should not be what affects the mind of the people, but it should be what saith the Lord in His Word. Read Galatians 4:27. John 15 tells us the Father is the husband, but the woman that is desolate hath no husband. Read Isaiah 4:1. These won't eat the Word of God. Nor will they wear the righteousness of God, but all take hold of the Man (Jesus Christ).

God had some faithful people in that day. He told them to be steadfast till He comes. We must stay with the truth if we are to make it in. Those who see truth and leave it will be lost (Proverbs 21:16). Those that wander out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. If people leave this path to go to another woman, they won't return (Proverbs 2:19). This woman I am speaking of them going to is the daughters of old MYSTERY BABYLON, the HARLOT!!!!



# THE FOURTH TRUMPET AGE

## THE WESLEYAN AGE

A.D. 1730 - 1880

*Revelation 8:12* And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

*Revelation 8:13* And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The symbols by the angel of what was smitten – the sun, moon, and third part of the stars, and the day and night likewise – let us know that there is more truth to come. A woe was placed on "inhabitants" because of their rejection of the truth. People had been made ignorant for years because the Bible had been kept from them. The leaders that were in high places did not want the Bible to be brought back to the English language. Henceforth, there was a woe in this third part of the Gospel day to the "inhabitants."

William Tyndale of England, according to history, worked on translating the Bible into the English language. History says he was an early and courageous reformer and was determined that the English common people should have the Bible in their own language (tongue). Persecution made it impossible for him to do his work in England, so he crossed over to the continent where his New Testament translation was issued in 1525 and the Pentateuch in 1530. Tyndale was a ripe Greek scholar and had access to the Greek text. Moreover, he had a fine command of accurate English, which left its impression upon all later versions. He was martyred before he completed the Old Testament, but it is generally thought that he left the material which appeared later in the Matthew's version.

Brother Tyndale and others were put down for the love they had for the truth. It was prophesied in Zechariah 14:6-7 that it would "come to pass in that day [the Gospel Day], that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But . . . at evening time it shall be light." The woes that are given here are somewhat like the woes that are given in Matthew 23. Jesus preached to those scribes, Pharisees, and hypocrites who rejected Him in all His teaching. God used men in this age to bring out the truth. There were leaders in high places who had them put down.

*Wickersham's Church History* says holiness associations were being formed in all parts of the country and the subject of holiness was sharply discussed in most every denomination. But because of a spirit of opposition against holiness manifested by many in the denominations, it was thought best to organize into associations where all that desired the benefits of holiness could belong and yet be members of their respective denominations. A great many of the ministers seemed to think that holiness, or sanctification, was a Bible doctrine but that it would not do to teach it in the denomination. Many ministers professed sanctification and belonged to the association but were not allowed to preach the doctrine to the congregations of which they were pastors. If someone testified to be saved and sanctified, they were told to sit down and be quiet. Leaders told them they didn't want to hear any more of that kind of talk. So, the sun, moon, and stars (light) were rejected in this age. The woe went forth. How sad for many ministers.

Ezekiel 34:12-14 speaks of this cloudy day. It gives us a type from Israel of old, who were scattered and God did seek them out. But in Romans 11 they were cut off because of unbelief. Many people have seen more truth than they will testify to. Fear has gotten hold of them because of the unbelief in their families. All should take a look at history and what happened to the people in the past because they turned from truth because of fear. We must set God and His truth above all!

## THE FIFTH CHURCH AGE

SARDIS

1730-1880

*Revelation 3:1* And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

*Revelation 3:2* Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

*Revelation 3:3* Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

*Revelation 3:4* Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

*Revelation 3:5* He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

*Revelation 3:6* He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Second Peter 3:1 reminded the people of this day about forgetting the things they had heard: "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance." This seemed to be what Jesus was doing in this church age. They had heard some truth, and there were those that were walking with Him in white; but they needed to strengthen the things which remain. In Proverbs 31:25 we read, "Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come." In 10:29 of this same book it says, "The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity." There were things in this congregation that did not feed the soul. So the angel was to remind the congregation.

If truth be rejected, then darkness will follow. John 3:19 reminds us that condemnation is that light had come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. But God was in this age leading His people on to greater understanding, to give them strength. The way for any church to have

strength is to put on the truth. Read Isaiah 52:1-2. The church of that day had sold itself for nought and had set down in the dust, and there was only one way for it to come back to strength. They had to awake to their need and put on truth. It is the same with this church age today. The creeds of man and the rejecting of truth has brought the call to repentance and instruction to put on strength. No congregation can have strength with God without the beautiful garments. Sanctification is meant for the souls of people to let truth have the full control, for it is by truth that we are sanctified.

Read John 17:17. Sanctification down through the years has had things taught of it that are not doctrinal. Sanctification is to be set apart (*Haglasmos*). (*Aylaquos*) Sanctification is to be set apart to God. Read 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Romans 6:19-22; 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14. Sanctification is that relationship with God in which men enter by faith in Christ.

Read Acts 26:18. Those in Revelation 3:4 that had a name in Sardis, that had not defiled their garments, He said they would be "clothed in white raiment" (verse 5). Sanctification is used in the New Testament to mean the separation of the believer from evil things and ways. This sanctification is God's will for the believer (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; John 17:19; Psalm 17:4; 119:9). Sanctification must be learned from God as He teaches it by His Word. It must be pursued by the believer earnestly and undeviatingly (1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Ephesians 5:25-27). The holy character is not vicarious. It cannot be transferred or imputed. It is an individual possession, built up little by little as a result of obedience to the Word of God and of following the example of Christ (Matthew 11:29). This Scripture teaches us that we must be meek and lowly in heart and we will find rest for our souls.

Read John 13:15-16; Ephesians 2:20; Philippians 2:5. The Holy Spirit is the Agent in sanctification (Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 14:17). It is the Spirit that sets us apart from sin to God in justification, as well as in sanctification. During the dark age, souls were made ignorant of God's truth, because the Bible was translated into the Latin language. At the time of this church age, people were still learning the truth, as well as in our day people are still learning. It has been taught that some sin is left in a person after they were justified. Jesus was with His disciples in this fourteenth chapter, but He explained to them He was going away. He told them He would send another (John 14:16). The Holy Ghost had not come in His fullness at this time (Joel 2:28-29). In this Scripture He is telling us that His Spirit would be

poured out on all flesh. He also said that sons and daughters would prophesy (preach). This twenty-ninth verse shows us that He meant *all* flesh. Read Colossians 3:1-3. These disciples were sent to Jerusalem, to tarry for the promise that He made to them. Look at Luke 24:49; Acts 2:17-19. Peter preached this message from what Joel had prophesied.

At Pentecost the Holy Ghost was poured out upon all flesh. Three thousand people were saved. The disciples became sanctified. First John 5:17 says that "there is a sin not unto death." All unrighteousness is sin, and there is a sin not unto death. I see people who are unaware of sin, some in a poor mental state of mind. They may do things that are wrong, but they know not the law of God. Sin becomes sin when we know it is wrong. Where there is no law, there is no transgression (Romans 4:15). THERE IS ONLY ONE KIND OF SIN THAT WON'T HURT YOU, AND THAT IS DEAD SIN. DEAD SIN IS AS NO SIN AT ALL. I believe that every soul that is sanctified must be presented to God by the Word (Ephesians 5:27). The light teaches us how to sanctify our members unto God (Colossians 3:5-7). Paul taught the church in the beginning of their walk with God to keep putting off the old man and the new was to be kept on. Peter also preached the same thing in 1 Peter 2:1-2.

I am aware that there are those who have had an experience of the baptism of the Holy Ghost since they were saved. Read Acts 19:1-7. These were John's disciples who had not yet learned of the Holy Ghost. After they were brought knowledge of it, they accepted it. Some today have thought that Pentecost still works the same way as it did on the Day of Pentecost. The word *Pentecost* means fifty. The Lord in Acts 1:3 showed Himself to them for forty days after His resurrection. Apparently they tarried for ten days. Read Leviticus 23:16. The word is translated from *pentekostos*, an adjective denoting fiftieth is used as a noun, with days understood. In ex: the fiftieth day after the Passover, counting from the second day of the feast (Acts 2:1; 20:16; 1 Corinthians 16:8; Acts 23; Mark 7:33; Romans 3:13).

The teaching that is being taught so much today is that to be Pentecostal you must receive the Holy Ghost and the evidence of it is speaking in tongues. (Noun) *glossa* is used for the tongues like as of fire. It is also used as an organ of speech. It is also described as a language copied with phule, a tribe, loas, a people, nations, seven times in the Apocalypse (5:9; 7:9; 10:11). In Acts 2:4-13 the circumstances are recorded from the view point of the hearers, to those in whom language the utterances were making it appear as a supernatural phenomenon, to others as stammering. Read Isaiah 28:11. What was uttered was not addressed primarily to the audience but consisted in recounting the almighty works of God. Chapter 14

gives instruction concerning the use of the gift, the paramount objective being the edification of the church. Unless the tongue is interpreted, a speaker would speak not unto men, but unto God (verse 2.) He would only edify himself. What would anyone profit us if they had no interpreter? Paul told them, unless I speak to you either by revelation or knowledge, or prophesying, or teaching; what would it profit you? Tongues are a sign for unbelievers and especially the unbelieving Jew. So much has been picked up from the dark day and the devil has put fire into the teaching of these doctrines. Let's go back a little. As a whole, the denominations did not accept sanctification, but a few. They brought it into the sixth seal age. It has been a message not clear among the Church of God. There is the question: How can the church have no sin in it? Revelation 18:5 tells us that her sins have reach unto the heavens. We cannot have sin in our hearts and be a sanctified believer.

Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." When the Word is rightly divided, it will protect us. We are no more sanctified than we let the Word have control of our lives. If sin is still in the heart, God is not there. We are a changed being when God moves in. He will change not only the heart but the nature of man. According to Romans 6, all has to be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:10-11). Paul tells us who would inherit the Kingdom of God. Verse 20 says that we are bought with a price. It does not matter how much is written about sanctification or tongues or how it works, there will always be the confusion of our time.

The flow of Babylonian religion is symbolized by the Euphrates River. In Revelation 17:15 the word *waters* is a symbol of people, multitudes, nations, and tongues. Water has been used by the prophets of old, as well as John. In Daniel 9:26 it is used concerning Jerusalem. In Jeremiah 47:2 it is used concerning Egypt against Israel. In Revelation 17:15 it is used to tell where the whore sits. In our study of Revelation 9 and the mix of all Protestant religions, we will try to help our readers to understand how some of the confusion came about.

*Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

Here we have a fallen angel. The angel in Revelation 1:20 is the messenger of God. In Galatians 1:8 Paul was telling that if an angel preach any other gospel unto you than that which he preached unto them, let him be accursed. So the angel is the minister. In Hosea 4:9 we have a fallen angel, and the people are like him and he is like the people. They have to be alike to stay together. Some teach that a Christian

cannot fall. Galatians 5:4 tells us that we can fall from grace. Look at Luke 9:62; 2 Peter 2:4; Daniel 11:35. So when the minister went down, he went down to the earth. That is the origin from which the two-horned beast came. Look at Revelation 13:11; Jeremiah 17:13. Here we have a ministry that is earthy with the key to the bottomless pit. Remember David of old and where he was in his sins. Psalm 40 tells us where David was brought from.

The earthy religion has no biblical foundation. It is built on the miry clay or on the sand. Read Luke 6:49. How sad it is when truth beats against false doctrines and all that men have built falls. Yet they will use the key to earthy religions and hold their souls in captivity (Luke 11:52). Not only did the Catholic religion keep people in the dark with their Latin translation of the Bible, but Protestants have taken away the key of knowledge. They make people believe that it doesn't matter what you belong to as long as you are saved. Yet, when some of theirs speak of going to the Church of God, they are buffeted. Ignorance is when we don't have the Holy Ghost to rightly divide the Word of Truth for us. The key of knowledge is lost sight of and earthly knowledge is used. Jesus said, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

***Revelation 9:2** And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

The sun is what lights the natural day. Psalm 84:11 tells us the Lord is a sun and shield. The light of the Gospel Day here is darkened by the idol making of their furnace. The furnace is used to shape to the image of the god (Isaiah 31:9). God has put a furnace in Jerusalem and fire in Zion. God's people have the heat put on them to shape them for God. Down in Protestantism, they used a furnace to shape their people to their god. The smoke darkened the air (Ephesians 2:2-3). Paul was speaking of where they once walked, but they had left that course and came to God (Nahum 3:15-17). By symbol, we can see the nature of the locusts. They destroy and camp in the hedges as long as the sun is not up. Ministers who fall cannot stand by the light of the Gospel Day. They have to get somewhere that people don't understand. They will mix with others as do the cankerworms. All have the same nature. They are all the daughters of Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17:5). Just remember, she sits on the waters (verse 15).

***Revelation 9:3** And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

**Revelation 9:4** *And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

Remember, sanctification was believed by a good number of ministers, but they were not allowed to preach it to their congregations. Here we are told that the locusts are commanded not to hurt the grass of the earth. The earth is religions that are earthly. The grass is fleshly people that belong to those religions. Read Isaiah 40:6-7. Fleshly religions don't want anything that will cause their glory to fade. Truth will cause people that walk in the flesh to get mad. It hurts their cause. It burns the flesh. Here we have some more of old mother Babylon in her daughters. Protestants won't let truth in, unless the people and the minister agree on the message. Those that are commanded to be not hurt are the ones who have not the seal of God in their foreheads. God's people have a seal just as the beast marks his people (Ephesians 4:30).

**Revelation 9:5** *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

John is, by symbolic language, telling us that the religion that he is seeing here has torment in it. It does not give life or peace (Proverbs 15:13). There is no joy in false religion. I have stood by those that were leaving this world, who had false hope, and they were afraid. I have seen the same in people who get really sick. If the heart is not right, they become afraid.

The five months are a symbol. Counting 30 days to a month, 5 times that is 150; using Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34 would give 150 years, that is from 1730-1880. According to what John saw talking place, the people were killing by their systems and had a charge to not hurt the flesh, nor the tree, and grass. These were people who had not the Spirit of God.

**Revelation 9:6** *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

**Revelation 9:7** *And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.*

In the Jezebel system, God told the people that He would kill their children with death. Read Revelation 2:23; 6:8. These show the pale horse, and death and hell



follow him. The pale horse is symbolic of death. No one can find life with God in a dead system. Some do get saved in false religion, but unless they get out from among it, they will die. There is no life in false religion (Proverbs 2:18-19; 21:16).

People have forgotten that man's creeds can kill the effect of the Word and Spirit. The beast that ascended out of the bottomless pit made war against the two witnesses, which are the Word and the Spirit (John 5:39; Romans 8:18).

In Revelation 11:7 the witnesses' dead bodies were in the street of Sodom and Egypt. Sometimes we forget in our studying of Revelation the chapters we have studied before. Here the Word and the Spirit are not allowed to have any effect on the life of the people. They worship more of their belief than they worship God. According to the black horse, they mix some truth with their darkness. The pale horse had some truth, but the image was made for Protestants when the dragon image was set before them (Revelation 13:11-12).

All were forced to take the mark of the beast that came out of the bottomless pit, or those who used his number. The cry here is to die to sin. But they can't because there is no salvation in false religion.

Let's try to think of what John was seeing in his vision. Look at verse seven. "Horses" here is in the plural. The heads have crowns on them. This is symbolic of their leaders. In the past they were crowned (Nahum 3:17; Revelation 13:1). The beast had crowns on the seven heads. This one in the ninth chapter is one of the daughters. In Revelation 13:11-13 the beast came up from the earth and took on the dragon power from the first.

*Revelation 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.*

This shows the woman sitting on the waters. As well as Jezebel, the hair is for her glory. Long hair is a woman's glory because it shows honor to her husband, that she is under him (Numbers 5). There was an offering called a jealousy offering, if a wife or husband was jealous of the other. They were carried before the priest in Moses' day, and the offering was made before the Lord. When one was untrue, the bitter water would cause the curse. If no wrong had been done, they were free. We accuse this woman before the Lord, and as they shave the head (Numbers 5:18), so this woman is shaved. Her glory is thus taken away. She took the bitter water, and it caused the curse. Babylon dishonors the true head.

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

In Ezekiel 38 Ezekiel prophesied against Magog and told him about how well his horses were armed. In verse 3 the horses were clothed with all sorts of armor. John was seeing this in his vision, how that all sorts of armor are from the mixing of religions. Everything was being seen, from the dragon to all the characters of Daniel 7. The wings were for swift movement of their doctrines that the devil helped from the very start.

**Revelation 9:10** *And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.*

In Isaiah 9:15 Isaiah showed us that the prophet who lies is the tail. The stings of the tails seem to be symbolic of the lies they taught. Lies hurt the souls of the men they were teaching. Many doctrines were coming to the people in that day and caused rejection of the real truth.

**Revelation 9:11** *And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.*

**Revelation 9:12** *One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

Read Revelation 1:20; Galatians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 11:14-15. They had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew is Abaddon, but in the Greek Apollyon. Locusts have no king over them. So this is their heads. If we go back to the first verse of this chapter, we will find the star that fell from heaven unto the earth. He received the key of the bottomless pit. Stars are the angels (ministers) of the churches. No marvel, Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. The kings that ruled over them are symbols of destructive forces as the devil and Satan through which all false religions have originated. The more light we are exposed to, the greater the woes. The next two woes are taught under greater light, and the people were doing as the Pharisees. They proselyte the land and sea to make one like them. When they did, he was twofold more the child of hell than he was.

## THE SIXTH TRUMPET AGE

1880-1930

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

Exodus 30:2 says, "A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same." This altar was to burn incense upon. It was covered with gold and made of shittim wood; which from the Hebrew *shittah* means sticks of wood. Souls offering to God at the golden altar were being persecuted for the truth they were preaching. The horns were for the salvation (Luke 1:69). God raised up a horn of salvation for us. The sixth seal preaching was from the thorns. Remember what God did to Ezekiel in 2:6 – He sent him to a rebellious house to preach.

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

The Euphrates River flowed through heathen land. It stands as a symbol in the spiritual message that John was getting from God. It meant that Babylon runs through all the religions of the world. Ezekiel 16:44 tells us that mother and daughters are alike. Revelation 17:5 says she is a mother of harlots.

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

The ministry had been bound up to this time. Men would not let the Word have an effect on them. They two witnesses lay dead in the street of Sodom and Egypt. The word *street* is in the singular: one street, although there are two countries. The Word was not the rule they lived by. So, the Spirit and the Word were dead to them. But at this time, God loosens the ministry (trumpet) from where it had been bound. People had been kept in the dark; they were cloudy in their minds about the true Church of God. The day, year, month, and hour are symbols of how God loosed the souls that were bound. He increased the light by the preaching of the angel sounding the trumpet. He leads us step by step, hour by hour, day by day, month by month, and year by year into more understanding.

In Revelation 14 God is gathering His people back to Mount Zion. Look at verses 6-10. The battle had gotten hot through the pouring out of the truth. Souls were leaving Babylon, and she was fallen. By numbers they were moving from the standards and becoming more and more creeds of men. Men in the sixth seal age were running and crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them (Revelation 6:16). The sixth trumpet angel let loose the truth. He was bringing souls back to Zion and standing with the Lamb. Praise the Lord!!

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

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

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

The horsemen were a symbol of the teachers and preachers that were in battle. The war was on. Truth was on the march, and the devil was on the defense. His cloudy day was being made bright before his eyes. Souls were seeing the difference between a creed of man, man-made churches and God's church. This battle is far different from what the millennial ministers are telling people. The horses are symbolic of ministers addressing the matters before them with the judgment of God. The symbolic lion is for boldness. D.S. Warner and those who came out from under that cloudy day said to the people, "I am free from all men's creeds." The Church of God cannot be joined. They began to teach the whole truth and were very bold.

Persecution came in all manners against them, but the truth marched on because they were dressed with it. Look at Revelation 9:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15-17; John 3:19. Notice that the truth not only gives life but will kill as well, in this nineteenth verse. This is why the devil brought all the hateful things against God's people. They say no one can live holy, no one is perfect, and you cannot live above sin. Well, you cannot be two things at once. Even split personalities will tell us there is something wrong. They are not manifested at the same time. The battle came by the mouth, not by using literal, carnal weapons.

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

The sword is in the mouth. This proves that God's battle is not of a carnal nature. We are to get the Word from the mouth of God (10:9). We are not to live "by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). With them, they do hurt. The power here (Revelation 9:19) is symbolized by the mouth. Matthew 10:16 tells us to be careful how we use the mouth. Use it wisely. Read Micah 3:1. The symbol of the "heads" refers to their leaders. In the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, God gathered the people back to Sion. He showed the number of angels carrying the Gospel.

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

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

These two last verses given by symbol speak of idols and the work of the hand. It's very hard to get people to understand that religions in our world have caused us to be divided. All that worship it worship by the spirit of devils. When that kind of statement is made, those people will say they are not worshipping the devil. All that has been put into the laws of worship are not of God and does not come by truth. In John 4 the woman pointed to the mountains and down to Jerusalem. But it is made known to us that He seeks those to worship Him that will do so in Spirit and in truth. The Word of God is independence to man (2 Peter 2:20).

The Bible says that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. It is not given to any private interpretation (2 Timothy 3:16). It is in this day, as it was in the coming out of the cloudy day; people are afraid to turn loose from what they have been taught. Customs and traditions hold people. They never question where all the different beliefs came from. They still ask, "What faith are you?" If people will only read the Bible, they will know there is only one faith.

## OPENING OF THE FOURTH SEAL

A.D. 530 - 1530

In *Fisher's Church History*, pages 98 and 138, the account is given that the development of the papal regime occurred in A.D. 530. *Henry C. Wickersham's Church History*, page 129, says that the establishment of the supremacy of the Roman pontiff was between A.D. 500-600. To trace the nominal church through the sixth century would be hard to do. But as a few monuments of the pure religion of Jesus are found even at this time, a brief outline of the corrupt system must, for the sake of connection, be continued. This work having been designed to be only an abridged history, only those persons and subjects of most importance will be discussed in detail. Fulgentius adorned the beginning, and Gregory the close of this century, which produced no other authors of equal merit. It seems that the greatest work accomplished during this century was the establishment of the religion of Jesus in England, which was accomplished through the supervision of Gregory. This great prelate, worn out at length with labors and diseases, died in the year 604, after he had enjoyed, or rather endured, his time as bishop thirteen years and six months. The labor of Columba, an Irish monk, was attended with success among the Picts and Scots, many of whom embraced the Gospel. In Germany the Bohemians, Thuringians, and Boii are said to have abandoned their ancient superstitions in this century and to have received the light of the truth. But this appears extremely doubtful to many, for when their accounts of conversion were given and their lives and writings are carefully examined, it is evident that in this age and those succeeding ages, they retained a great part of their former impiety, superstition, and licentiousness, and that they were attached to Christ only by a mere outward and nominal profession.

A vast majority of Jews, converted to Christianity in several places, were added to the church during the course of this century. Many of that race, particularly the inhabitants of Borium in Libya, were brought over to the truth by the persuasion and influence of the Emperor Justinian. In the west, the zeal and authority of the Gallic and Spanish monarchs, the efforts of Gregory the Great, and the labors of Avitus, Bishop of Vienne, engaged numbers to receive the Gospel. It must, however, be acknowledged that of these conversions the greater part arose from the liberalities of the Christian princes, or the fear of punishment, rather than from the force of argument or the love of the truth. Compulsion seems to have been the method most adopted to bring the people to Christ during this century, which was only the ripening of the fruit of the spirit of that man of sin which was to be more

fully manifested in the coming centuries. Tyranny and superstition had grown gradually in this and the former centuries.

From the very beginning of the Christian church, even in the days of Christ and His Apostles, the reader cannot but have marked the prevailing disposition of man to corrupt and carnalize that which the Savior revealed pure and spiritual. James and John were struggling for the right and left hands in the Master's kingdom. Paul clearly pointed out the coming of antichrists, with all power and signs and lying wonders. He said that the mystery of iniquity was working in his day, but two things conspired to hinder its progress: the apostolic power and inspiration within and the Roman power without. The first of these impediments, doubtless, expired about the middle of the third century, but the force of imperial pagan persecution continued to maintain a restraint until the reign of Constantine continued, upon the accession of whom the church was raised above her enemies, and encouraged to assume those marks of worldly pride, and power hereafter denominated and that justly "*the beast*" *that man of sin*.

Constantine instituted the order of patriarchs and set them up in the chief cities; but these had not long possessed this mark of distinction before they began to quarrel among themselves who should be the greatest, or universal, and chief. A variety of circumstances had conspired to throw the weight of power into the scale of the Roman sea. This was seen with jealousy by the Bishop of Constantinople, who thought himself entitled to the same dignity, his city being the seat of the imperial authority.

As early as 588, John of Constantinople, called the Faster, assumed the title of Universal bishop. The title was confirmed by the council, at that time in session in the city. The successor of John assumed the same proud title. Gregory the Great, contemporaneous with the successor of John, took great umbrage at the boldness of the Bishop of Constantinople in assuming a title, which, in point of precedence, belonged to the Bishop of Rome, but which his conscience would not permit him to take. Gregory died in the year 604, as we have already stated, and was succeeded by Boniface III. This latter prelate had no scruple in accepting the title. But he sought it of the emperor Phocas, with the privilege of transmitting it to his successors. The profligate emperor, to gratify the inordinate ambition of this court sycophant, deprived the Bishop of Constantinople of the title and conferred it upon Boniface; *at the same time declaring the Church of Rome to be the head of all other churches*.

Having given a great deal of history, I would like to turn to Paul's statement to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:12-13: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

The red horse had a sword in his hand and went to take peace from the earth (Revelation 6:4), which made things worse; the black horse had a pair of balances in his hand. He weighed out one measure of wheat for a penny and three measures of barley for a penny (Revelation 6:6). The fourth horse is pale, and in Revelation 6:7-8 you can read what he said: "And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

To help you, as the reader, to understand, I would like to read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

In the same chapter, starting at verse 9 and ending at verse 11, we read: "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

I will take us back to some more history and let it help us to understand the work of the devil, but first, let us read Amos 8:9-11: "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day. Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."



Let us look again into *Wickersham's Church History*, page 133, and read what brought the famine. For the purpose of bringing the real state of affairs plainly before the reader, the author will here give in full, as stated by C. A. Goodrich, the circumstances and means that were employed during the supremacy of the Roman pontiff to advance and strengthen the papal power. Three circumstances existed at this time and, continuing for several centuries, contributed to the increase and establishing of the papal power. These were ignorance, the superstition, and the corruption of the world.

### **Page 132 – SUPERSTITION**

The universal reign of superstition contributed to the same results as ignorance. The spiritual views of religion of primitive times, and the simplicity which had marked the order of ancient worship, were no more. In their room an unmeaning round of rites, ceremonies, and festivals were introduced; and in the observance of these the distinguishing doctrines of the Gospel and the true religion of the heart, were effectually lost sight of. The common people were taught to revere the clergy with idolatrous veneration. More reverence was paid to the image of the Virgin Mary than to the Son of God; and greater virtue was attributed to a finger or a bone of an Apostle than to the sincerest prayer of faith. Upon this superstition the Popes fastened; they increased it by every means in their power and made it instrumental in extending their lordly power.

May I remind the reader again of 2 Timothy 3:13. Surely we can see that things got worse as the church moved on through time.

Here is an excerpt from Roman Catechism #4, Chapter 16, in question and answer form:

**1. Who is the supreme pastor of the church?**

Our Holy Father, the Pope.

**2. What is the Pope?**

The Pope is the vicar of Christ, the successor of St. Peter, and the visible head of the church.

**3. Why is the Pope called the vicar of Christ?**

Because he holds Christ's place on earth.

**4. Who in the church has the power to forgive sins?**

The power belongs to the Pope, the successor of St. Peter, to the bishop, the

successor of the Apostle, and to the priests approved by the bishop.

**5. In whom does the infallibility of the church reside?**

It resides in the Pope, speaking either alone, or in union with the bishop of the church.

In Matthew 23:8-10 Jesus said not to call any man Rabbi or Master or Father. The titles put on a man or a woman make him or her look good, but we were all put on the same level by Jesus Christ. We are all His children. I recall a quote by Brother Willard Wilcox once when some had called him Dr. Wilcox. He said that he didn't mind it once in a while, but it was like the tail on a pig. It made the pig look good, but it didn't add any pork to the pig.

The pale horse means that light and darkness are mixed together. The sword was his at this time. Death is symbolized by the rider on the horse. He killed with hunger, and hell followed after him. He was somewhat like the King of Babylon in Isaiah 14:15. He brought others down to hell where he fell to. Also, the old King of Babylon gave light to his kingdom (Isaiah 14:12). The king is called Lucifer, which means "son of the morning." When the three Hebrew children were put into the furnace, the king said, "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" (Daniel 3:24). His people replied to him, "True, O king." The king said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire . . . the fourth is like the Son of God" (Daniel 3:25). So the king gave light to his kingdom.

There was one measure of truth in Rome to three measures of barley. Daniel, in his vision in Chapter 7, understood by his vision that the power of that day would change time, laws, and seasons. It was also stated by John, in his vision in Revelation 13:5, that the powers that be would change.

We have read in history, as well as the Bible, that these powers were given unto them, because the people had no love for truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10; 2 Chronicles 36:16). This people was led down into Babylon (Psalm 137). Those that led them there made fun of them and asked them to sing one of the Lord's songs. They hung their harps on the willows and asked, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?"

Read Jeremiah 25:11. Daniel understood by books that the church would be there for 70 years. He prayed for his people. John understood by time symbol that there would be 1260 years of the dark day (Revelation 13:5). To analyze this time symbol,

we take into consideration 30 days to a month, using the prophetic terms found in Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34, using a day for a year. Forty-two months times 30 days would equal 1260 years. This gives us insight to the dark day of famine, death, and the killing of the beast. The church was measured at this same time.

Revelation 11:1-2 says: "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."

This is the same symbol as stated above. The church is always measured by the Word of God, regardless of circumstances. No one is more in the Church of God than when they measure in by His Word. This darkness that lasted for 1260 years kept the church out of sight. But it was admonished by the Word and the Spirit (Zechariah 4:11).

Revelation 11:3-4 says: "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."

The church shows her mourning here because of the darkening, but the olive trees give to us the anointing for the church. They are the witnesses of God, the Word, and the Spirit. John 5:39 shows us that the Word is a witness. Romans 8:16 shows the Spirit as a witness. The church was in the wilderness at this time. Revelation 12:5-6 says: "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

John 5:39 shows us that the Word was her food. The Spirit is her witness as mentioned above. The man child is the seed of the Church of God. The woman is the bride, the Lamb's wife shown in Revelation 21:9-10. A man never loses his last name in marriage; the woman is the one who changes her name. Some teach that this is Christ and Mary, but Mary never took two wings and flew into the wilderness for 1260 years. It could not have been the old covenant either, for Jesus didn't feed it for 1260 years. Colossians 2:14 tells us that He took to the Cross those things that were

against us. After all, Jesus was not born *of* the church. The church was born of Him.

There were many killed for the two witnesses – the Word and the Spirit – during this 1260 years (Revelation 17:6). The Catholic Church has more blood on its hands than any other known. The true church was put out of sight, but God had His hand on it all the time. He admonished her, and she stayed true to Him. Thank God that the church came through clear as the noon day sun.

Song of Solomon 8:5-7 says: "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee. Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned."

Solomon had gone about the streets, looking for the church, while she was in the wilderness. Here he finds her, coming up out of the wilderness, leaning on the arm of her beloved. All hell could not prevail (Matthew 16:18). The Apostle Paul asked, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:35).

## THE SIXTH SEAL AGE

1880-1930

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

The symbols of the sun and moon in this Scripture were fulfilled by prophecy and in history. First, the sun is what the woman in Revelation 12 is clothed with. The woman is a figure-type of the Church of God. She has the moon under her feet. She also had a crown of twelve stars, but we will not go into these at this time. The moon got its light from the sun (Hebrews 10:1). The Law is holding a type of the Old Testament church. The Gospel was preached to Abraham 430 years before the Law was added (Galatians 3:8, 17). The prophesy of the moon is found in Isaiah 30:26: "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound."

God was moving in this age and time in His church to heal and to bind up the broken family the devil had scattered in the cloudy and dark day. Here it is found that the light of the law of God was shining more than in other ages of time (Ephesians 3:5). It began here and "shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). When it got to the grace age, the Law was under the feet. We are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; so the sun is the light of the Gospel Day. "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). This is not referring to a natural day because it was created in the beginning (Genesis 1). This is the Gospel Day, a day that only those who walk in truth can rejoice and be glad in it. Praise the Lord! There is natural light to light the natural day. But the light of the Gospel Day is the spiritual sun (Psalm 84:11).

Read Exodus 19:18-19. The earthquake is also a figure type. "And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly." In this grace age that John was seeing in a vision, the sun became black as sackcloth of hair. Daniel shed some light upon the sackcloth for us. He was praying, covered with sackcloth and ashes. This is what the Jews did under the Law. It is a time of mourning and/or fasting. So what John was seeing here was truth that shook the heart of man and brought mourning. The truth was dark to them because this was

an age where more light and truth was coming. Many were blinded by the teachings of the past. The Law, which is symbolized by the moon, became blood; for when Jesus died on the Cross, His blood put the Word at force. Every soul that sits where truth is preached is being sprinkled by the blood. It will be a witness either for us or against us. There are three earthquakes mentioned. One was in the morning church time (Revelation 8:5), one in this sixth seal age, and the last one in this seventh seal age.

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

Read Haggai 2:7-9. The prophesy of this shaking in the thirteenth verse is found in Haggai 2. God said He would shake all nations, and the desire of the nations would come, and He would fill His house with glory. It is here given to us in John's vision that by the wind, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, all nations are being shaken by the Spirit. As truth is preached many stars, or ministers (Revelation 1:20), have fallen. God is not only shaking heaven and earth. Haggai said that He would shake the dry land and the sea. The truth is not put away in some corner or secret place and only for a few people; it is for the whole world to hear. God brought a shaking time to the morning church (Hebrews 12:27). It was shaken to move out what didn't need to be there. There are some "around" the Church of God that need to go to their own land (Babylon); and there are some down in Babylon that need to come home to the Church of God.

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

Read Isaiah 34:4. The union set up of denominations was moved out of their places. Truth was shaking the nations, and many came to truth, while others were still in opposition to the unity of God's people. The Word and the Holy Spirit brought this unity. Isaiah 2:19-21 tells us: "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth . . . . In that day a man shall cast his idols . . . which they made . . . to worship, to the moles and to the bats. To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

God told us to "cease ye from man whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of? (Isaiah 2:22). This truth, according to history itself, will prove

this is what happened in this age. Many put their own interpretation on what the Word says, but the Bible was history before history was history. So when it unfolded, history wrote what had already taken place in the Bible. In A.D. 1880 and during every reformation in the Christian era, there has been persecution. There are different reasons why persecution comes on those who profess Christianity. One of the Apostles said, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). Persecution has not been confined to those that were just strictly godly and in perfect harmony with the Word of God. Being a fanatic and crooked living have often been the cause of persecution. Often, perverted people console themselves with the thought that they are right because they are being persecuted. The promise of the blessing is to those that are living godly. Jesus says, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you for righteousness sake." Being a fanatic is one of the greatest causes of persecution and is often found in company with many overzealous holiness religions. The more life and vigor there is, the devil makes greater effort to bring in fanaticism, because it knows no boundaries. When zealous children of God see by the Word that it is their duty to dress plain, the devil pushes them over the mark, and they become slouchy in appearance. This is fanaticism. Any extreme in obeying and fulfilling the Word falls in this category also. Fanaticism is always intensely earnest, but this is not to say that one cannot be earnest and be in harmony with God. God loves a zealous and earnest people, but He wants them to keep within the boundaries of decency and order.

Paul tells us that charity "doth not behave itself unseemly" (1 Corinthians 13:5). Fanaticism is stone-blind to discouragement, but it has no judgment to discern the boundaries set for the work of the Lord. I believe it is safe to say that Satanism is one of the counterfeits of reformation. It runs parallel with the reformation, but it is not part of it. Sometimes the world mistakes one for the other. From this fact, great persecution sometimes is brought upon the true church. The history of all holiness reformations is full of importance on this line. This reformation has not been free from the effect of fanaticism, though at the present time most of the fanatical movements have been exposed. There is always the possibility of these movements breaking out in a new form. Let the saints of God watch and pray.

Persecution in this age is not as extreme as it has been in the past. People in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw greater persecution than this present time we live in, but the spirit of it is just as bad as always. The laws of the land are what holds persecution in restraint. The persecuting spirit of Catholicism is only held in

restraint because of laws. This same persecuting spirit is held by many Protestant religions and the ungodly men of this world. It is kept in check by the laws of the land. Rome is in a constant conspiracy against the rights and liberty of men all over the world. Liberty of conscience is declared by the councils and Pope of Rome to be most godless, unholy, and diabolical, which every good Catholic must destroy at any cost; and that independence is an impiety and a revolt against God and that the Pope alone can know and say what man must believe and do. He claims the right to inflict the penalty of death upon those who differ in the faith from the Pope. They also say that all government must rest upon the foundation of the Catholic faith and that the Pope alone is the legitimate and infallible source and interpreter of the law. If Catholicism were to ever gain a sufficient majority to hold the ruling power, religious freedom would come to an end. The present Pope requires the doctrine of St. Thomas to be taught in all their colleges all over the world. This is part of what is taught: "Though heretics must not be tolerated because they deserve it, we must bear with them till, by a second admonition, they may be brought back to the church. Those who after a second admonition remain obstinate in their errors must not only be excommunicated, but must be delivered to the secular power to be exterminated." Pope Gregory VII decided it was not murder to kill excommunicated persons.

This rule was incorporated into the canon during the revision of the code, which took place in the sixteenth century and produced a whole volume of corrections. It appears in every reprint of the Corpus Juris. It has been so for more than 700 years and continues to be part of the ecclesiastical law. The bloody and antisocial laws were written on the banners of the Roman Catholics when slaughtering 100,000 Waldenses in the mountains of Peidmont and more than 50,000 defenseless men, women, and children in the city of Bezieres. It was under the inspiration of those laws of Rome that 75,000 Protestants were massacred the night and following weeks of St. Bartholomew. It was to obey those bloody laws that Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes, caused the death of half a million men, women, and children who perished in the highways of France. Twice that number died in the land of exile where they had found refuge. Those antisocial laws today are written on banners with the blood of ten of millions of martyrs. This history is found on pages 292-295 of *Wickersham's Church History*. This helps us to see the shaking that took place when truth came to light. There were those who threw rocks, eggs, apples, and even fired guns into the worship services where Brother D.S. Warner was holding services. Some even tried to break down the doors. The congregation just kept right on singing and praising God. In *Wickersham's Church History*, page 296, we find that the officers of the law got involved, and those persons were put away.



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

This verse helps us to see the division that the dragon brought against the truth and how people and leaders took cover from the truth that was being preached in that day. Instead of coming in unity with the truth, many leaders took people into division. Read Isaiah 2:19-21. People were taking refuge in religions because of the truth. They felt the wrath of the truth that was being taught at that time. Truth was separating the false from the true. It dealt with all classes of people. Read Revelation 17:9. This Scripture shows us the false church, or the woman sitting upon the mountains. She is a symbol of ruling the spirit of false churches. She seems to be among all the beasts.

Read Jeremiah 16:16. In Matthew 4:18-19 Jesus called these men who were fishers. He told them that He would make them fishers of men. This happened in the morning-time church, but in the evening-time church God has sent hunters to hunt them out of the places Jeremiah spoke of. The call of God and His great truth is to come to unity: one faith, one Lord, one baptism, one hope of calling, one body, one God who is above all and through all. Jesus gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11). All that were called were to labor to bring all into unity. The Apostle tells this in Ephesians 4:6. One church was taught by God in John 10:16 and Ephesians 2. The middle wall of partition was broken down, and we were all made one. There are people among false religions that God hath sent for. "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting-place" (Jeremiah 50:6). Jesus preached along this line in Matthew 13 about the sowing of seeds, where they fell, and what happened to them. Preaching the Word with leaven in it is what is carrying these people into falsehood (Matthew 16:12-13). Read Jeremiah 23:1. There is a woe placed on pastors here. There are souls with good intentions that are hiding in religions. With all due respect, there are souls that will stay until spiritual death has taken their souls. It is good for us to remember, people that die spiritually in false religions are spiritually blind and deaf.

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

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

I hope that from verse 16 people can see God's judgment is poured out. God is a god of wrath as well as a god of mercy. Many times we hear people say, "God is too good a god to let anything happen to me." People forget that they bring things upon themselves and in denial of God's power, then the wrath comes. The people John saw in his vision were those who had taken cover under false religion. Truth was being preached, and they desired to hide from it in their own religion. Remember what Peter said in 1 Peter 4:17 about judgment beginning at the house of God. Romans 1:18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Unrighteous living always brings fear on people where the truth is being preached. But those that are in the perfect love of truth have no fear. First John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." Untrue love does not build God's house. Remember what Ezekiel 13:10-12 says about untempered mortar. Also read 1 Corinthians 3:13. The Gospel Day will try our work to see what spirit it is of. The wrong spirit will not accept truth, for it is not of truth. If one tries to build without the love, truth, and Spirit of God all will be lost. Only the REAL truth will take us through.

Jeremiah 2:13 speaks of broken cisterns that would not hold water. Souls need the water of life to have life. Please read John 4:10.

## WAR AGAINST THE SAINTS

I must drop back here and pick up from A.D. 270 - 1880 and bring up the war against the saints. As we look at this war against God's people, we need to keep in mind that the Romans, as well as the pagans before, were the heads of civil law. Remember, Paul of old warned of those in high places (Ephesians 6:12). So we will turn to Revelation 12:7-13 and pick up the conflict between right and wrong.

*Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

First, this war was not in the eternal Heaven where Jesus is. There has never been a war in Heaven and never will be. According to 1 Corinthians 15:51-54, we will all change when we leave here. We will have a body that will be like His (1 John 3:2). "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22). The Bible leads us to believe that there is nothing in Heaven that would cause sin, not even temptation. It is taught that the devil was an angel thrown out of Heaven. But those same people, that say they believe that, teach that they sin and they will not be lost at death. If that is the case, the devil will have to go back to Heaven when this earth comes to an end. I also wonder if that were the case, what would I have to do to go to hell? Some say they sin and are going to Heaven. They say that the devil sinned and was kicked out of Heaven. This is not a very logical summation.

The dragon is a symbol (Ezekiel 29). He is a symbol of bondage power. From John's vision, we find he had angels under his control. Paul spoke about preachers being angels (Galatians 1:8; Revelation 1:20). He spoke to the Corinthians about how they were transformed by Satan as angels of light. Paul experienced some of that civil power as he suffered before Agrippa (Acts 26), which was the same power he had spoken of in Ephesians 6:12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-6. This was a civil power and religion together, which power had its head wounded by the Apostles (Revelation 13:2-4), and gave its civil seat and authority to the beast. History of the Dark Ages finds that civil power and religion were bound together. The book *Martin Luther, Heart of the Reformation*, written by Edwin P. Booth, gives the life story of Luther. Many times he was persecuted for his books and preaching. He stood before the Archbishop Albert for his stand against the many corruptible things he found in that religion. They wanted to burn his books and kill him, but God took care of him. The dragon power was mean in Paul's day, and they killed the Apostles. They put many saints to death, calling them the enemy.

So then, we can understand what Ephesians 1:3; 2:6; and 3:10 are telling us. We are in a heavenly place, and this is where the devil fights against God's people (2 Corinthians 12:2). The Apostle speaks of three heavens here. There is the one we, as God's people, are in (heavenly places), the one that birds and planes fly in, and the third is the Heaven where God is. We can understand the dragon system was one that belonged to the devil. He had gotten his system into a heavenly place (2 Thessalonians 2:4-5). In spite of all that Satan did throughout the Dark Ages, the church is alive and well.

*Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

*Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

The vision of John about the dragon and beast system in the heavenly place was now coming to an end. Martin Luther and Jerome were taking the truth as they knew it in their time to the people of Jerome. The Roman power lost the grip it had on the people. So, the devil got in a hurry and changed his platform. He began a work on a new system to try to regain the hold on the people. Revelation 12:9 shows us this old system being cast out. The system was referred to by four names. The serpent takes us back to the Garden of Eden where the devil deceived Eve. The dragon sign is found in nations that used civil laws of bondage, as well as in Ezekiel 29:1-4; it shows a system of Pharaoh. The word *Satan* means adversary. This chapter is used to try to prove that the devil was at one time an angel cast out of Heaven. John 8:44 says that he was a murderer from the beginning. If he were a murderer from the beginning, when did he get saved? When did he go to Heaven? How many times did he go to Heaven?

*Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

*Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*

*Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.*

Some people use Isaiah 14 and say that this is talking about the devil being cast down. This chapter was in 12 B.C. They also come over to the Book of Revelation 12 and say he is cast down again. He was never in God's Heaven and never will be. The devil was never an angel changed into a devil. He has transformed some preachers as ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14). Revelation 12:10 lets us see how he persecuted God's people. He accused them before God day and night. If one still believes this took place in Heaven, he might ask himself these questions: Is there day and night in Heaven? Why did salvation just now come over into Heaven? History of the saints who died under the civil power and leaders of the dark age will help anyone to understand why John was given the vision. When the system was cast down, people no longer went to the priest for Scripture reading or to ask forgiveness for sins. No longer could civil laws hold people to one system. They began to get freedom to worship by faith. Later, they began to set up creeds that would divide people. When Martin Luther got the Bible translated into a language the people could understand, many of them said they didn't know they had been so ignorant. They took the light that God gave them and began to take a stand for the truth. It cost many their lives. Others overcame by the blood of their testimony. They loved God more than their lives (Revelation 12:11). The heavens, spoken of in Ephesians 2:26 and the other Scriptures I used to show the heavens, are here told to rejoice (Revelation 12:12).

The sea and the earth were that there was a woe to them, for the devil has come down to them having great wrath. In Revelation 13:11 the two-horned beast came up from the earth. He looked like a lamb, but he spake as a dragon. Remember, Paul at Rome said there was a great wrath revealed from heaven against all who hold the truth in unrighteousness. God's people rejoice to have the truth. The truth makes them free (John 8:32). Look at those who won't have the truth. Look at the congregations that are angered when truth is presented to them. We all know there is one Heaven, and that we all must come by the same truth. The same truth that brought the Apostles and prophets to see eye to eye still does the same for us today (Isaiah 52:8). Truth is not the author of confusion. All the noise of different doctrines in the earth and sea is of the same one that came down to it, the devil.

***Revelation 12:13*** *And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.*

We see here that the devil is causing the trouble. The woman here is the woman from Revelation 12:1-2. She is a pure woman. This is a symbol of the pure Church

of God. The man child has two symbols about him. First, he is a man child. Man never loses his last name in marriage. The woman takes the last name of her husband in marriage. This name comes from the man's father. That is just what we do when we get married to Jesus (Romans 7; Hebrews 13). He comes to be our husband (John 15). Also, the child is a symbol of the seed of the church. This is because the church is our mother (Galatians 4:26). She is from Heaven (Revelation 21). She is above earthly, man-made churches.

Now it would be good to point out that the dragon being cast down would find his system speaking through the mouth of the two-horned beast and going after the woman. These were both in John's vision, in a heavenly place. When the dragon was cast down, the woman was not. If this be God's Heaven, as it is being taught in some churches, why is the woman being persecuted? She was not cast down. Can he reach back up to Heaven? This is the saints that are standing for truth. There was a battle between Protestantism and papal Rome. Much life was lost and much blood shed. Daniel 4:28-33 gives the account of Nebuchadnezzar, who lost his kingship and fell and his hair grew out on him as eagles' feathers and his nails on his hands and feet like birds' claws. He ate grass with the cattle of the field for seven years, until he remembered the Lord. This is a picture of the fall of the dragon system that the devil used.

The Apostle told the Corinthians in Chapter 11 that it is a shame for men to cover their heads. Isaiah 30 says that they take a covering but not of me, saith the Lord, that they may add sin to sin. Isaiah 14 gave the fall of the king to be a proverb. The grass that the king ate is a type of those who feed off the flesh (Isaiah 40:6). Genesis 3:14 gives a better Scripture for sinners feeding off the flesh. The serpent was told he would eat the dust. Verse 19 of the same chapter tells us that man came from the dust. So the devil feeds off the flesh. That's what happened to those whom the devil cast down with his system.

***Revelation 12:14** And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*

The time, times, and half a time are a symbol of the times that the church was in her place during the dark and cloudy day (Ezekiel 34:13). She had two wings, the Old and New Testaments. God spoke of His people using their wings in Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up

with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Paul spoke about the need to run in 1 Corinthians 9:26, or the need to fight, but not as one that beats the air. David spoke in Psalm 23 of God's people walking in the shadow of death, yet we are not to faint (Isaiah 40:31). The Word and the Spirit of God carry the church through these times. Here and there we can see a glimpse of light that God was still on the throne. Those religions during the dark and cloudy day were wilderness religions. They were dry and dead, filled with creeds of mankind. The Word lived and some held on.

God has always had a church. Deuteronomy 32 shows how Israel had spots, and God reminded them of the wilderness He had led them through and the rock they were on. God built His church on a rock, just as an eagle does. His people have wings when they are in trouble. The eagle eats fresh meat every day and lives on the rock. This is what God's church does every day. Remember, the Church of God kept her place throughout all the dark and cloudy day. She was nourished by His Word, the Old and New Testaments (the two wings). She stayed above the serpent.

Ezekiel 34:13 gives time and times and dividing of time to be one day. Daniel 7:25 says that he shall wear out the saints of the Most High and think to change times and laws. Revelation 13:5 says, "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." If we divide 1260 years by 30, we get 42 months. Then we multiply 42 years by 30, and it gives us 1260 years. This is what the time, times, and half time mean.

Numbers 14:34 says, "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." In Ezekiel 4:6 he also used a day for a year. He is speaking symbolically to the people. The church was in her place all through these times. In Song of Solomon she went all about the street looking for her beloved. In the third chapter, she found him not in the broad ways or the streets. "The watchman that go about the city found me," she said, and she just passed by a little way and found him. In Chapter 8, verse 5, we read, "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?" (Read Matthew 5:14; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 21.)

**Revelation 12:15** *And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.*

The flood is a symbol of people (Revelation 17:15; Jeremiah 46:7; Jeremiah 47:2). Daniel 9:26 tells us that Jesus would be cut off for the people, that Jerusalem would be cut off with a flood. After Jesus died on the Cross, it came to pass that old Jerusalem was overthrown by the Roman army (Luke 21:20-21; Matthew 24). So after the fall of mystery Babylon, the devil, from a new platform, began to use men and women to set up creeds and preach other doctrines, to set up denominations. This goes back to Ezekiel 34:13 where God's people are scattered in the dark and cloudy day. The devil's hope is to carry away the woman (church). If there is anything the devil wants, it's that people do not find the true Church of God. He has many people in the streets and byways, saying that it doesn't matter what the name of the church is that you belong to. If it doesn't matter what the name is, then why have all the others? Take what God gave us and live according to the teaching and name God gave us to begin with. How do you identify with God's family if you won't have His name? God's family is His church, and they have His name. Jesus prayed that we all be one: one in name (Zechariah 14:9), one in faith (Ephesians 4:5), one in baptism, one Lord, one body, one hope of our calling, one Spirit, one God that is above all, through all, and in you all. This means those that are one, not all different beliefs and creeds. Ephesians 4:13 tells us that preachers are to help all to come to the unity of the faith. All that are not cause divisions.

**Revelation 12:16** *And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

In Revelation 13:11 we have the dragon speaking out of the mouth of the beast that came up out of the earth, so symbolic of nations, multitudes, and peoples in Revelation 17:15, that the system of Rome and denominations set over, taking in people. They say everyone should worship according to their own conscience. This did help the woman (church), because of the persecutions, according to history. But division was everywhere. Martin Luther could not stop it. Leaders split the people. Paul preached to the Corinthians that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another (1 Corinthians 12:25), but the earth swallowed up the nations and peoples.

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



The dragon has been in opposition over the years against God's church. He has always wanted to be justified by the church. He has always wanted to be justified by the church. He wants to use his own creeds. The true church has always stood firm for the truth. We are always hearing people say that it doesn't matter what you belong to as long as you are saved. The Pharisees claimed to be saved, and many others that we can point to in the Word of God. Jesus will not accept the doctrines or the creeds.

In Matthew 23 Jesus called them the same thing He called the dragon (Revelation 20:1-2) – serpents. The serpent in the garden in Genesis 3 changed the teaching just a little and deceived Eve. So don't forget, the devil has churches and preachers. He is against the CHURCH OF GOD.

***Revelation 18:1** And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

This symbolizes God's ministry and the preaching of truth with the anointing of the Spirit. It brought light to earthly religions and people could see the glory of God. If people see Jesus, we must have the Spirit of God to show Him to the people. If we don't have God's Spirit, then they will not see Jesus in us.

***Revelation 18:2** And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

Ezekiel 16:44 tells us that the daughters will be as the mother. Revelation 17:5 tells us that mystery Babylon is the mother of harlots. Look at the mother and what she did. She was drunk on the blood of the saints. Those who don't warn souls of sin and don't preach unity of the one church will have blood on their hands (Ezekiel 33). We know from history that all denominations started from the fall of Rome. The Catholic religion and the Reformation sprang forth. Many were glad for a while, but then came other denominations. Babylon had her fall, and there was a woe placed (Revelation 12:12). There are all kinds of spirits in Babylon. They are unclean and hateful. Amos 5:7 also tells us that they are bitter, because they leave off judgment and righteousness.

***Revelation 18:3** For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

John 6:53 sheds light on this and helps us to understand this verse. Jesus told them in this verse, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." If we then look at Babylon, we can see that it is the teaching that the angel is speaking of. The mother is drunk (Revelation 17:15-16), so are the daughters, and has committed fornication. In Judges 19:29 we read of a concubine that was cut into twelve pieces and sent into all the coasts of Israel. This is a type of the old harlot's fall, and a part of her lives on in all religions. God said that her sins have reached unto Heaven (Revelation 18:5). Nations are drunk on her teaching, and she remains a mystery unto them. So many leaders have learned the trade of their mother and can get people and hold them in confusion.

*Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

According to this verse, she has sins. God has some people in the kingdom that have not yet found the church. The church is found through the doctrine. Hebrews says in Chapter 5, verses 13-14, that it is strong meat.

*Revelation 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

The word *iniquities* implies the deeds of sin. So many things are never questioned among the church. Some are accepted as being all right but came up from Babylon and found their way to the church.

*Revelation 18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

According to Revelation 13 and Daniel 7:25, she thought to change laws to wear out the saints. Prophecies in the old have double meaning; they were fulfilled literally and have a spiritual fulfillment. We can preach what Jeremiah preached to Israel of old (Jeremiah 51:1-6). He told the people to get out of Babylon. It is said by John in the Revelation: Get out of Babylon. She is drunk; she has changed God's laws and seeks to wear down the saints. If Babylon was right, John would never have said to come out of her. Some think that this was just a city that fell long ago. John made it so plain. It is mystery Babylon, and it is spiritual. Jeremiah 12:9-10 told us in symbolic language that she is spiritual. It lets us know that pastors in her are out to destroy God's vineyard, which is also figurative of John 15.

*Revelation 18:7* How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

John let us know, through his vision, that she has exalted herself. All her talk is how glorious she is, but the truth showed her up. She was at one time a cup in the Lord's hand. Martin Luther and Jerome took their stand against the error of Rome, then changed to other teachings anyway.

*Revelation 18:8* Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Jeremiah 51:9-10 answers this for us: "We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies. The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God." Here is the prophet of the Old Testament and John of the New speaking to people to get out of Babylon. She is receiving the judgment of God (Revelation 16). Today, Babylon means confusion, which God is not the author of.

## THE VIALS OF WRATH

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

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

We find that this beast is earthly, carnal, and yet he claims to be the system that everyone must join. In the same chapter, we find God's church is from Heaven and has a heavenly atmosphere (Ephesians 2:6; Revelation 21). The voice that was heard seems to be the one giving the authority of the preachers (Revelation 1:20). All His ministers are in His hand.

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

Here will be given an excerpt from *Wickersham's Church History*:

In the year 1891 as the truth began to be preached in the southern states, it also met with some opposition. As the saints were assembled at Beach Springs Schoolhouse in Mississippi, while the minister was preaching the Gospel, bricks and clubs came crashing through the window, all undoubtedly hurled in wrath at the speaker. Nearly half of the sash was broken in, and the glass flew all over the house. The speaker stood about seven feet from the window and nearly opposite, but the hand of God protected him from harm. At Spring Hill, Mississippi, was another scene of persecution, which might be of interest to note. D.S. Warner, B.E. Warren, and others were conducting meetings in this neighborhood in the month of February 1891. The excerpt from that report published this: The first night of the meetings three souls came to the altar. Two consecrated for entire sanctification, and one was gloriously pardoned. The next night, the fierce powers of hell being fully awakened from their brief slumber occasioned by our absence, a couple of lead balls (buckshot) were thrown through the open window by means of a rubber concern that we are told is even dangerous to life. These wicked wretches also threw stones with slings at some of God's saints that night on their way home, regardless of women and children in the crowd. One woman was hit. That was a little of the lowest and most cowardly work we have ever yet met with. The next day, four of Satan's chief

servants rode out in four directions, five and seven miles, to enlist by his lies and slanders such as were brass enough to join in a great mob to assault us that night. During the day we learned about the movement, and at a meeting at a brother's house, we recalled the meeting for the night, seeing no possible chance of doing good. Being there was no meeting where the mob could assault us, they beset the house where we were staying until about midnight. They reported their number between seventy-five and one hundred. They were armed with guns and revolvers. They stated their objective was only to give us orders to leave that part of the country the next day. A brave army gathered from several miles around, numbering around one hundred, to tell a few little children of God to leave the next day!

While the mob gathered about the house, they were clamoring for us to come out, stating they would not hurt us, etc. But if men are low enough to fling buckshot into a congregation and rocks into a crowd, you might as well tell us that wolves and hyenas do not care for fresh meat. Our absence was undoubtedly the best thing to avoid trouble. Oh, may God show mercy to all of that crowd who is in the reach of mercy, that we may meet them at last among the redeemed! After all left the house, not a great way off, they fired off their pieces, which for a few seconds mimicked the dings of war.

This is what the first seal preaching did by pouring out on the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast is a part of the beast. It wasn't just in the year 1891 that people got angry. They still get angry when the ministers of God pour out the vial on the mark. So little of that is done today. They won't carry the same strong message today as they did in that day.

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

In Revelation 8:9 we see that one third of the people who had life lost it when the church went into the sea. They became bitter as wormwood. The Scripture in Amos said that they left off judgment and righteousness (Amos 5:7). The vial angel shows the truth by pouring out his vial, the people that held to the sea died. The sea, as in Ezekiel 28, finds Tyrus taking his seat in the midst of the sea. He was proud and inaccessible because of his island throne, and he made sport of any threat to his security. But God took him down. When the truth comes as the vial is poured out, God's judgment comes on falsehood and will take it down.

Remember Babylon set herself high. Old Babylon took the city that the King of Tyrus reigned over. People who stay in Babylon (spiritually) after being brought to the understanding of it will die in it.

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

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

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

Revelation 11:6 says, "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will." These two witnesses are the Word and the Spirit of God. It was during the dark age that they were not a rule to walk by or to be led by. They were dead as far as people having their life in them. The star in Revelation 8:10, according to Chapter 1, verse 20, shows the star to be the ministers (Galatians 1:8) that fell. He was said to be a lamp. He had a name by symbol, wormwood, which Amos 5:7 said they turn judgment to wormwood, and righteousness they leave off. The word *waters* here is a symbol (Revelation 17:15). This people had a call to come out of Babylon in Chapter 18, verse 4. They were told to worship Him who had made heaven, earth, sea, and fountains of waters. The trouble was the spirit in pagan Rome and the Catholic religion. It follows right into Protestant religion (Revelation 16:13). As we all know, they are of a dividing spirit (1 John 4:1). When a spirit gets hold on people, it is very hard to get them to ever accept truth. People will bring their blood upon themselves (Acts 13:26-27).

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

The altar here is a symbol. It points to worship. The voice that came from there said that God is righteous in pouring out His judgment. Many times people cry against strong doctrinal preaching. They say, "You will hurt people"; but when truth is taught, false begins to fade away. Every time truth goes forth and people turn it down, wrath will follow. God does not speak to people to hurt them. We are chastised because He loves us. He wants every person to have the chance to have truth. If we don't give place to the truth, we will be chastised. Read Hebrews 12:5-8.

## THE SPACE OF ONE HOUR

Read Jeremiah 13. "What city is like unto this great city?" (Revelation 18:18). The message from this passage (Isaiah 21:9) toward Babylon of old is a type or shadow for us in this chapter. God's judgment of old Babylon was because of the way she lifted herself up and destroyed His people. They lost everything, all who traded with her. This cry is made in the beginning of Revelation 14. Jeremiah 51 tells the people to get out of her: "Deliver every man his soul." Read Ezekiel 27:29-30; Revelation 17:16-24. With what we see today, these verses are illuminated. We can understand that Babylon is stripped of her standard. All who have trade with her are either enlightened or go into greater darkness. You can talk with older people who years ago saw how Babylonian teachings have changed today. Many standards have been let down and gone with the beast. John is showing us how that Babylon is found no more. Along with the rest of this chapter and Ezra 2:65, John sees the people leaving spiritual Babylon. There is no sound of God in her. It is all beast of some sort. God's people heard the call to come out and got out!

Revelation 18:23 speaks of nations being deceived. If people knew they were deceived, they would not be deceived. The sorceries were the deceiving of the people. People don't just stop and think for themselves. They let their preachers think for them and listen to what they say without searching the Scriptures for themselves. They never question why they believe what they believe. They just take the preacher's word for it. We should know why we believe what we believe, and be able to prove it by the Word of God (Matthew 16:17).

Looking at verse 24, we see all the blood of those killed. This false system killed more people for prosperity than any other, except Hitler. She called herself a church and yet was killing people. She never killed anyone while he walked this earth for opposing His teachings. Some delivered themselves to their own deaths (Revelation 17:6). She is drunk on the blood of the saints. This religion is still lifted high by many today (Jeremiah 25; Isaiah 13:19-22).

Read Revelation 19:1-21. The saints are heard in this passage of Scripture doing what all true saints of God do when truth is put on the old whore. They are shouting instead of crying because truth is judging her. All should shout because she is judged. The four beasts brought in the fourth verse are those that Ezekiel spoke of in Chapter 1, verse 10. It helped him see what lay ahead for him and old Israel. Thunder in verse 5 is a symbol of the voice of God (John 12:28-29). Verse 7 shows

the marriage of the Lamb. This is to show the old covenant is no longer at force, but we are married to Christ in the new covenant. Verse 8 allows us to see that we put on the robe of righteousness here, not when we get to Heaven. If we are not righteous here, we won't be in the next life. We wear the marriage robe here. If we are not married to Christ here, all the children are born out of wedlock. Verse 10 of this chapter tells us to worship God and Him only. We should not even worship the Bible, but the God of the Bible. In verse 11, God is faithful. In every vision John saw, God was always faithful. He was never carnal. Some wonder why God allowed such things to take place, but they forget; God made us and gave us freedom of choice. We do only what we choose to do.

Read Ecclesiastes 8:17. God always surpasses man. This passage of Scripture surely shows us that. Read Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 2:10. Take note that when the Spirit of God is spoken of, a capital "S" is used. When speaking of our spirit, a lowercase "s" is used. The Spirit of God searches us, and we are seen through the Spirit. Read Revelation 6; Genesis 9:13; Matthew 2:2; Revelation 7:14; Revelation 14:4. These passages tell us that Christ was born a King; so He had a crown on His head.

Going back to our main Scripture in verse 14, we find God's people dressed in white. The righteousness of God is the fine white linen. The white horse is a symbol of a pure and clean warfare. Kings always had a prized one in the Old Testament (Judges 5:10). In verse 15, we find the sword is coming from His mouth, not His hand. We find out what the sword is in Hebrews 4:12. It is the Word of God. (Isaiah 49:2; Exodus 4:3; Revelation 12 are all texts using the rod, which is also the Word of God.) In verse 16, we find what He had written on His vesture. In earlier warfare in the Bible, it was the customary to have a title or rank written on the vesture. The one here certainly describes our Lord. Reading verses 17 and 18, do you remember what Isaiah 13:20-22 said would be left in Babylon and at her fall would inherit it? In the beginning of the eighteenth chapter of Revelation, we find that spiritual Babylon is falling. She became a cage of every unclean bird and a hole for every fowl spirit.

Now it is suppertime. God's army gives the call: come to your supper. Eat fleshly teachings from the people who have led the war against truth. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:14 that natural man cannot receive the things of God, neither can he know them. So the leaders that are in spiritual Babylon give the carnal things for the spiritual. Souls are starved, eating of the flesh. While this is going on, the people of



God are called to the supper of the Lord. Here we find that birds fly through the midst of the heaven. People pass through the church and are bid to the supper. Verse 19 shows us a picture of the armies rising up against the truth of God. They never understand that they are fighting against truth and light. Yet, their children will stand and fight against the truth and never take a moment to think for themselves. After reading verse 20 of this text, go to Genesis 19:24; Job 18:15; Psalm 11:6; Luke 17:29. This is the punishment of the wicked. This will be the portion of their cup. All of this because they knew not God. Read verse 21 of this chapter and then Jeremiah 12:9-10. Here he was speaking of the birds. He spoke of them as pastors. The pastors are destroying the vineyard. Now John brings us to his vision in Revelation 20:10-15. John seems to be looking out to the end of the wicked and seeing their doom. In verses 11-12 we find that since Jesus died on the Cross, the righteousness of the Law is brought into the new covenant. Judgment will be according to the books, meaning the Old and the New.

Read Isaiah 14; Isaiah 28:15; Jeremiah 17:13; 2 Timothy 3:6. These Scriptures speak of hell. Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Jeremiah speaks of those that have their name in the earth. Timothy speaks of the dead as old silly women. This is speaking of those in this old Roman system, and they will be there when judgment takes place.

## SEALING OF THE 144,000

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

Most all our chapters of Revelation begin with the word *And*. It seems to be a followup of what was being talked about in the chapter before. This follows the sixth seal chapter. He begins to show what the vision was bringing to him. "Four angels standing on the four corners of the earth." We need to be reminded that Daniel 7:23 speaks of four kingdoms standing upon the earth. In the first two or three verses, he saw them rise out of the sea. Then in Revelation 13, the four beasts came out of the sea. In verse eleven the two-horned beast came up from the earth. This is symbolic language of the four corners, which is spiritual. Each kingdom had its place and time as well as its spirit, symbolized by the wind (Ephesians 4:14; Acts 2:2; Hebrews 13:9), which was and is their doctrine, or teaching. The sea is symbolized in Ezekiel 28:2 by where Tyrus set his seat or authority. Didn't even the Pharisee want to sit in Moses' seat in Matthew 23:2? The sea is a symbol of their decrees. Trees are a symbol, as in Daniel 4:10. The tree was a vision given to Daniel to give Nebuchadnezzar. He is the first king we read of in Babylon that brought the children of Israel into captivity (2 Chronicles 36). The tree pointed to the king.

Sometimes we have trees as people (Matthew 7). The wind was to be held back. This was so the truth could reach the people. There are spirits in all religions (1 John 4:1). Since there is a spirit in these religions, it is hard to get the truth to the people (Chapter 7, verses 2-3).

*Revelation 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,*

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

In Ezekiel 9:4 God asked that the man with the inkhorn go through Jerusalem and set a mark in the forehead of the people that sighed over the abominations that were done in their midst. This would serve as a figure type of the sealing from the four winds. We want to remember, through the dark age of 1260 years and 350 years of

the cloudy days, there was a change many times in generations. We need to remember that God gave the angel charge to hold back the wind. The spirit of those four kingdoms is still with us today. Even now, as it was then, we must get some knowledge across to people before that the plagues or vials are poured out. When we look forward into this message (Revelation 18:5), God is still calling people out from winds that are in cages in Babylon. The figure type gives us a knowledge of sealing people to God. As we all know, the Spirit of God stamps us with truth. That is our seal (Ephesians 4:30).

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

***Revelation 7:5** Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.*

***Revelation 7:6** Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.*

***Revelation 7:7** Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.*

***Revelation 7:8** Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.*

In verses 4-8 we read of the number that were sealed out of the tribes of Israel, which is a figure type of the 144,000, having their Father's name written in their foreheads. We have so many people talking about the mark of the beast. Here God puts the name of the Father in their foreheads. Jesus prayed in the seventeenth chapter of John that we be kept in His Father's name. All of God's church is in His name and are not ashamed of that name. God's name is not just anything and everything.

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

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

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

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

**Revelation 14:5** *And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

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

Some have taken this last verse and taught that there will be 144,000 that are redeemed to come back here and reign. Some use Scriptures, such as 2 Peter 3:16. Acts 13:41 says they would not have it though a man declare it unto them. These that John saw standing on Mount Zion with the Lamb are the first fruits unto God and the Lamb. This is not this generation way down the road. This is a people that God sealed from the nations, or gathered from nations, where they had been, by the preaching of the Gospel. This is a people who never defiled themselves with the woman (Revelation 17:5; Isaiah 4:1). This is a people who stood with the Lamb of God on Mount Zion. Psalm 87:4-5 shows that there is a difference in the two lands: ". . . of Zion it shall be said, . . . [they were] born in her," while of Rahab and Babylon it says "this man was born there." As Paul told the Jews in Hebrews 12, God brought them to the mount, "to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect" (verse 23). This is a mount where the Gospel shakes both the heaven and earth.

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

God's people know the sea (Revelation 15:2) and fountains. Isaiah 49:9-10 shows us: ". . . say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath

mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them." Read Revelation 7:16-17. When reading these Scriptures, we see that He will do what the Law could not do. He will take the sin out of the heart that causes the tears and give souls that will move all plagues. Thank God! Revelation 21 shows us that He did take away the tears in the new Jerusalem.

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

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

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

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

***Revelation 14:12** Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.*

We find here that since she set on the waters in Revelation 17:15, and in Revelation 2:14 and 2:20 we read that she is a fornicator. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her. They are drunken with her doctrine. They say that you can have a religion of your choice. Fornication is used in symbolic form. It means that people have a relationship with the teaching. Anyone who has read these Scriptures should know that the truth is going to hurt them when they get around where it is taught. For God's indignation will arise from His Word. The image, mark, number, and name all came from the beast that came up from the earth. Revelation 13:11-12 says that he spake out of his mouth as a dragon. He has religion but is not of God. Let me point out here that there is no rest day or night. That means they don't rest in their religion, nor do they rest by the day of salvation. Read verse 12 in this passage in Revelation. There are differences in people and the place of their rest. When people keep the truth, they have rest from all of false religions.

## THE DAYS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST FALSE

The day symbol will help us to understand what God meant when He spoke of judgment or plagues (1 Corinthians 3:11-15). Judgment is the same thing that redeemed the soul of mankind (Isaiah 1:27). Peter said that it began with us at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). We all know this is in the Gospel Day, and as truth is preached it will try our works and our spirit. If we have worked and built upon Babylon, our works will be burned. If a person comes to truth, he suffers the loss of his works being burned by the Gospel; and if he takes the Spirit of God, he will be saved. The judgment that God is pouring out in this age, around 1890, and from there, they were times of preparing people for judgment after they had heard the message. God first gives us an opportunity to learn the truth before He puts judgment on us. The preparation that God did with His ministers should be looked at as part of this message.

Some history of how God prepared His ministers should be given here. Read Matthew 5-7; Acts 9. If you can, read the history of D. S. Warner after he separated himself from the Winebrennerians, Henry C. Wickersham, Sarah Smith, A. J. Kilpatrick, and Barney Warren. There were more than these. These are just a few in the early days of the Reformation Movement. It seems that the ministers always had to endure hard tests and trials. Moses of old had been placed in Egypt so he could learn their customs and ways, so he could be used of God to deliver his people. In Revelation 15 we notice that God sends men who have the victory over the powers of beasts and all their forms. They stand on the sea of glass, which is the Word of God (James 1:22).

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

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

Here John's vision let him see some men standing clean on the Word of God. The heavens that John was seeing, with the men in it, is the same place Paul talked about (Ephesians 1:3; 2:10; 3:10). There is no need of God's wrath in His abode, or the ecclesiastical heavens. The sixteenth chapter of Revelation lets us see what wrath is and to whom it is sent. There are seven angels that the plagues are given to, seven

histories of time that the church has come through. There are four things first that need to be looked at: the beast, his image, the mark, and the number of his name. Daniel 7:23 tells us what the beast is. He said the four that he saw were kingdoms. This means heathen in nature (verse 25). In Revelation 13 John saw four beasts with the same characteristics coming from the sea as Daniel saw coming from the sea. The image of the heathen's religions was being carried over into the grace age.

Revelation 17:6 tells us that she is drunk on the blood of the saints, as does history. The beast is heathen religion. Now John saw the image that those on the sea of glass had victory over. An image gets its light from the beast (Revelation 13:11-13). Martin Luther, spoken of in history, stood against the Roman decree and built his faith more upon the Word of God. Many stood with him and brought down the Catholic dominions. People began to make their own decrees. This is where all the denominations come in. God's people stand on the sea of glass and have victory over those as well. This thirteenth chapter speaks of people receiving a mark. The mark takes us back to the heathen's kingdom, as in Daniel 1. They marked the Hebrew children by changing their names. The king changed Daniel's name to Belteshazzar, which means "keeper of hidden treasures of a false god." He changed Hananiah to Shadrach, which means "the inspiration of the sun god." (Babylon worshiped the sun, moon, and stars.) Mishael's name was changed to Meshach, which means "the goddess of Venus." Azariah's name became Abednego, which means "a servant of the shining fire." The king changed their names, but he could not change their nature. People have called Jesus and His church everything, but it is still the CHURCH OF GOD.

Now, those that stand on the sea of glass also have victory over the number of his name. They did not use all the Roman numerals, but the ones used most. Revelation 13 gives the number to be 666. In Roman numerals: I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, M=1000. Now take the name VICARIVS FILII DEI, which is counted in Roman numerals. Remember that a U and V were the same (VICARIUS). The same rules apply that apply mathematically when using Roman numerals. All Popes of Rome must take the name mentioned above; it means the "vicar of Christ." As mentioned in another place in these writings, all different forms of mathematics that used letters for numbers, it still equals 666. King Solomon received his mark in 1 Kings 10:14. This is the number he received his gold in, but the number on the Pope's crown came from the Roman numeral system. The crown was a triple crown, which means threefold. First, his name breaks down into three; then Revelation 16:13 gives us three spirits that go back to the beast and the dragon that was before

him. Revelation 12 gives us the false prophet that came up from the earth. Read Revelation 13:11. God's people have victory over it all. God's people can sing as Moses and his people did after being delivered from Egyptian bondage. They can sing the song of the Lamb, for they are free from all the beast's names and powers. If you go into a man-made religion, they will give you their name or religion's name. There is the mark. You will take the spirit of it. Think about this!! No one will preach this to you unless he is free from it all. He cannot see the truth as long as he is under those spirits. The thing that troubles the understanding of people is this thought: Is it the name? NO, not just the name!

God's name is not just any and everything. If we are His church, then should we not be kept in His name, as in John 17:11? YES, we should be kept in His name and His only!! All names that belong to the beast are names of blasphemy (Revelation 13:1). It is the spirit that comes out of the mouth (Revelation 16:13.) We should all take notice that the spirit is unclean, just as sin is unclean. Yet there are those who say they are a Christian and a sinner at the same time. This is an unclean spirit. There are those who have hid the kingdom in three measures of meal (unclean spirit) – Matthew 13:33. There are spirits of all kinds that are offering all kinds of doctrines. The Bible teaches that there is only one line of truth (Isaiah 28:10). There is so much more that souls should give more thought to.

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

If you think that the saints of God could sing and not have victory over ALL, try it with Psalm 137; then look at Isaiah 35:10. One had lost their victory (Isaiah 28:10; 35:10). They were returning to victory. Think on this for a while. In the third verse of Revelation 15, this people was praising the Lord for His works. They lift up His works and call them marvelous. No backing up on God's truths. He is praised for His ways. This includes holiness and feet washing, and you can live ABOVE sin.

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

God showed John that the Son of God had made it so all nations could come before Him. This wasn't the case in Matthew 10 until Jesus went to the Cross and took



down the middle wall that was between the Jew and Gentile. Read Ephesians 2:2; John 10:16. He had other sheep that were not of the fold, but He said that He would bring them together into one fold. Here is the question: How can we glorify His name unless we all be in His name? Just because you claim to know Him doesn't mean you belong to His family. People say it doesn't matter about the name. If it doesn't, then take the name He gave instead of man-made names. How would people know you without your name? You can speak with people and learn a lot about their families, but it doesn't mean you belong to their family. In order for people to know who you are, you must wear the family name. That is why it is so important to wear the Father's name.

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

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

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

Read Hebrews 8:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Revelation 19:10. We can see here that the tabernacle is the church. We are His temple and His Spirit dwells in us. We know that the Spirit of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy. The prophecy is His testimony. The Word of God explains itself. The testimony had been hid while the folks were in dark places. Light wasn't there as it is here. When they were able to get free from all men, the testimony of Jesus was there in the church. The church was still the church in the dark and cloudy day, but the people were away from it. Now these people are at home singing. The testimony of God is in God's church and not down in Babylon. Read Exodus 28. God set the priest's office with the standard of garments that he should wear. The girdle had the names of the children of Israel by twelve stones. Six were on each shoulder, and you can find those same stones in Revelation 21, which is the Church of God, not Heaven as some believe. So the angels (Galatians 1:8) come out of the temple being a symbol of ministers bringing the preliminary judgment of God and bearing the name of all God's children. Think about this! Read Revelation 15:7; Ezekiel 1:10; Revelation 4:7-8; Numbers 2; Romans 1:18. We find here the same symbols found in Ezekiel 1. It was the four divisions of Israel and what was to take place later, or was at the time. So those that walked with God by faith, as the prophets did, brought truth to the gates of the church. As the angels are to pour out God's wrath today, Paul went to Rome doing just that in Romans 1:18.

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

Read Psalm 91:9-10. Since breaking free from confusion and division, the angels have been pouring out the wrath of God. Each angel seems to have a place to pour out the vial. God's preaching comes with the anointing of his Word, and the Holy Spirit uses His ministers (angels) to pour out that wrath. God is only glorified in the preaching of the truth. God gets glory from those who stand on His Word. We understand to whom this vial is being poured out on and why. Psalms tell us that God's people are under His wing. The plagues won't come nigh our dwelling place. We can rest while truth is being preached, and we won't feel the plagues at all. Truth is the best cover we can have. There is no one who can hinder or interfere with the Lord's wrath being preached with His true ministers. This is the place to make preparations for the judgment of God.

## THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

**Revelation 3:7** *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;*

**Revelation 3:8** *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.*

**Revelation 3:9** *Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.*

**Revelation 3:10** *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

**Revelation 3:11** *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*

Isaiah 22:22 says the key is laid on Him and no one can shut or open. John 10:9 says He is the door. All must come by the one way. John 14:6 says that He is the way, the truth, and the life. If one climbs up some other way, he is as a thief and robber. So, forget about joining a religion. Isaiah 5:8 puts a woe on joining. Jesus has done things for His people in this church age. He gave us the knowledge of the door and promised if they kept His Word that He would make them as those of the synagogues. In the sixth seal age, thousands upon thousands across the land came to the Church of God. The Gospel was preached, souls came from denominational churches and took their stand for the Church of God. Jesus encourages the church to hold fast. Let no man take your crown. Truth is a crown. It is the honor that God gives to us.

**Revelation 3:12** *Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

**Revelation 3:13** *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*

From 1 Kings 7:21 the two pillars there by name seem to mean strength to support the temple at the door. First Timothy 3:15 seems to show that the pillar was a place of stay for the church. Galatians 2:9 seems to be those who carry the burden of the work and who are able to perceive when others should be given the right hand of fellowship. We should realize the church has the right to fellowship or cut loose if they perceive the spirit is not right. God has the right to put His name on those that are His. Jerusalem is His, and the Son prayed that it would be kept in His name. Anyone that comes into God's church should remember, God has pillars at the door to perceive resistance. This church was born from Heaven, and it must not carry a man's name on it. This thirteenth verse lets us know God's church is led by the Spirit of God. His Spirit-filled people are the church. One should know the Spirit of God in the study of Scriptures and New Testament. The Spirit gave it, and the Spirit built the church (Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 2:22). Letters and creeds of man will never put people together for God.

## FROM 1930 – 1980 OR TO THE END

The Greek word **sphragizo** – *sfrag-id-zo*: to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication, to keep secret, to attest: – (set a, set to) seal up, stop (Strong's Concordance, page 70, #4972).

Isaiah 8:16 – a message given to His disciple.

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

In this verse, this angel was not earthly. He was from Heaven. John's vision was not about earthly things. This angel was clothed with cloud. Cloud from the old tabernacle was a type of leadership (Exodus 13:21). In the New Testament, it is a witness (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:2 – all were baptized unto Moses' leadership in the cloud and sea). SEA being the Word of God (Revelation 15:2; James 1:22). This angel put his right foot upon the sea and his left foot upon the earth. In verse 2, he had the book that we are all to look to. The cloud and the rainbow were upon his head. The rainbow from Genesis 9:16: "And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth."

Question, where does a rainbow appear? It appears in the cloud. In this cloud, it was on the head of the angel. This was a witness unto John the message of all ages. But at the time, it was to be sealed up. The angel had the covenant in his hand, the everlasting covenant. One foot upon the sea and one upon the earth was to let John know that God had not forgotten His people through all the dark sea time, or the cloudy day. The sea (Ezekiel 28:2) would be the Roman covenant. They call themselves the holy sea. The earth (Revelation 13:11) and the two-horned beast came up from the earth. This is a type of earthly born religion, where people have their names apart from the Lord (Jeremiah 17:13). This angel's face shined like the sun (Exodus 34:29-30). In Moses' hand were two tables of testimony – two things under the feet, sea under the right foot and earth under the left foot (Revelation 10:2). Read 1 Corinthians 15:25.

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

Look at this Scripture closely. The feet were on the sea and the earth. Rome seems to have been higher and longer in its reign than Protestantism (Daniel 7:5). God had the enemies under His feet in the Old and in the New Testaments. The angel's face shone as the sun, just as Moses talked with God and came to the people with the testimony. The angel came to John with the little book, which hath the "spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

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

When does a lion roar? It is when he seizes his prey. Read Daniel 12:3-9. We have a time symbol in Revelation 11:9 for three days and a half. Revelation 13:5 mentions "forty and two months." If we take 1260 and divide it by 30, it gives us 42 months. If we multiply 42 months x 30 days = 1260 years. Daniel, in his vision, saw how the holy people were scattered. John was showing in his vision the angel putting it all under his feet after 1260 years and the 350 years. John was told to take the little book and to eat it. That's what all God's people are to do if they are going to put the sea and earth under their feet.

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

John was told to seal up those things and write them not. Daniel was told that also in Daniel 12, for the fullness of the message had not yet come. Each church age had its own history. Thunder is a discomfort to the enemy and is the voice of God (1 Samuel 7:10; Job 40:9). When it thunders, there is already lightning somewhere. One thing we might get from this is that the devil was discomforted in all the church history we read of. The devil may have done a lot of hurt, but God is the Rock that the church is built on. John, as history says, was out on an island and may have thought he would die there. God told him in this chapter that he would preach again. He was letting John know that the church will live until Jesus comes again. The devil will be discomforted in every age. The seal was so the message will be kept between God and His followers (Isaiah 8:16).

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

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

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

Read 1 Timothy 2:8; Amos 5:7. Paul uses the hands being lifted up to mean all is surrendered to God. No matter where we get a vision, all must be surrendered to God. This word "sware" was by the living God, One who lives forever and ever. The oath was not by man, neither the hand lifted to man, or the court of this land. He let John know the dark and cloudy days are under His feet. This is the last message and all in all is to Him who lives forever and ever. Up to this seventh verse, John had been shown many visions, and this one brings him to the last message. The church is to put all things in the hand of God, eat the Word, and get ready to taste the Word in the mouth. One would feel bitter in the belly. But the sweetness is to understand and know the Word of God and to give all into His hand. But it becomes bitter when people leave the truth, and become bitter to our affection (Amos 5:7).

With the number of years I have been in the ministry, I have seen both. With John of old, I thank God for the history of God's people of the past and for the true church today. According to history, the church has always had the only message of truth. This message is a message where the mystery of God is finished. People are brought to light by the truth of man-made religions. The prophet's messages were now being brought to pass. The things that had been hard to understand are now understood. The evening light is shining (Zechariah 14:6-7). Read Isaiah 27:13. He said that people would come from Assyria and from Egypt and worship in the holy mount at Jerusalem. This is not old literal Jerusalem, for God left it (Matthew 23:37). Besides, this mount is holy. It must be the one of Chapter 21. History tells us that people from all denominations heard the call to "come out of her, my people" (Revelation 18:4). People came from all denominations to the Church of God.

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

John got the little book, and Revelation 1:2 tells us what he had to say. He knew what was in the book after he got it.

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

Two things in the truth are sufficient for God's people. One is the sweetness of the Word will spoil to all wrong. The bitter will be a witness of people's wrong affections. The same was said in Ezekiel 3:3. Before God sent him to His people, they were a people of hard heads. He needed to know the Book.

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

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

John, after many chapters of his visions, now told how God would prepare him to preach again. This message from the little book is for all nations, tongues, and people. It has been said many times that you cannot understand Revelation. John said there is a blessing in hearing it or reading it. John was told to take it to all people; so the book is known by God's people who eat it. It takes the same Spirit to understand as it did to give it.



## AGAIN, THE MESSAGE OF THE SEVENTH SEAL

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

The Greek word for *silence* is **siopē**. It means dumb (but not deaf also), as quiet water (Hebrew – *pices*). This means to look around or be dismayed. Looking back on the tenth chapter, John was told to seal up what the seven thunders had uttered. Now he is brought up to the seventh seal age. He gets the vision of it being opened and silence in heaven for the space of half an hour. Since we live in this age, let me ask a question. Why are people so dismayed in this age? Why are people looking around and so quiet about the message of the Church of God? It was proven in the sixth seal age to bring large numbers of people from all denominations and healing was in the Church of God. It was even reported of resurrections from the dead by Willis Brown, and at Anderson, Indiana, there are said to be rooms of wheelchairs and beds that people were brought into the camp meeting grounds on. They were healed and left the chairs and beds behind. We must be willing to eat the book as John did. We must pay the price as the Apostles did and as the preachers paid in the sixth seal age. Forget about pride – the fact that some ministers have Doctor in front of their names – and lose sight of self. Let God have the glory. Read Revelation 11:15-19. This is the message John was getting the vision of and what is to take place by the sounding of the trumpet. He also saw the great voices in the church.

There are three earthquakes mentioned for us to consider. Revelation 8:5 shows the first one when God sent back the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Souls were saved and great works followed from there. The second is in Revelation 6:12. When this truth was preached, those who didn't come out of denominations took a hiding place. The third trumpet comes in Revelation 11:18. Religions of the world are shown falling, and people are leaving them to come to truth. Looking at the three trumpets and the ages that they sounded in, we see the victory they had. What happened when there was silence should cause all of God's people to raise up a prayer meeting. We should all want that fire to once again burn in our hearts. Instead we have an age that claims to be God's church but are lukewarm, naked, blind, wretched, and miserable (Revelation 3:17).

John's vision between the sixth and seventh seals, or the sounding of the seventh trumpet, would help us see why John saw the victory. The elders worshiped God. Those from the sixth seal had an open heart to God. They rejoiced when more light came, and understanding was given to the people. Then in our day, some hundred

plus years later, Revelation 3:17 tells us our condition as a whole. The center part of God's church is carrying the fire, but they are few and far between. Brother H. M. Riggle said, "The time would come when you would only see ones who are the true Church of God here and there." That day is spoken of in this passage of Scripture. The light is brighter than it has ever been; there is a better understanding in most things. Yet, people are more uneducated as to what the truth is than ever before. It seems as if people have left off studying the Word of God, and they follow what a man says, never reading it for themselves.

In Matthew 19:28 Jesus told them a few things. It seems that John was seeing past tense, after Jesus' death on the Cross. The Holy Ghost got into the hearts of His followers. The books that we read, the Bible, are all given by the Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). According to Luke 1:1-4, the Apostles' order was set. Every time we read one of those books, that Apostle is reigning on his throne. There are twelve of them. They are also judging the twelve tribes of Israel, because the Word is judgment on what is right or wrong. Being in the past tense, the elders were glad for Jesus to take His throne and reign. They could give Him the glory. All churchgoing people understand that there is a teaching of a thousand year reign on the earth. John was seeing past tense, not what was yet to be, as far as taking the throne. He was already on it. We reign now in what was left us by Jesus Christ.

Read Revelation 11:18. John, looking back, saw Jesus take the throne, and Jesus' death on the Cross set judgment. For the Word of God is life to one and death to another. Read 2 Corinthians 2:17. If we don't live by the Word, it brings death, but if we live by the Word, it brings life. Hebrews 9:17 tells us that He put His Word at force. John was telling us that Jesus is rewarding His prophets and servants for their work. Those that did not accept this truth are destroyed, or lost. It meant a lot to God's people to see the work done that Jesus did while He was here, but it also brought persecution. Many turned their backs on God.

Read Revelation 11:19; Hebrews 8:1-2; 2 Peter 1:14; Hebrews 3:6; Acts 2:47. Our bodies are the temple of God and the tabernacle. God made His house out of people who would sell out everything to have this truth. God brought truth back from the dark and cloudy days that Ezekiel 34:12 spoke of. He put the testimony in the hearts of His people (2 Corinthians 3:3).

The Vulgate Bible was a translation of the Latin language, by Jerome, which took place about A.D. 400. It was left this way for a thousand years. But God used John Wycliffe to translate it back into common English, and this is what began to let light

back into the hearts of the people. As time went on, the day got brighter. Lightnings, which are a type of the Holy Spirit, made the enemy uncomfortable (Psalm 18:14). John saw the Spirit of God working here as it did on the Day of Pentecost. Voices are a symbol of many people taking hold of the truth and taking it to others. Thunder is also a symbol. It is the voice of God in His church (heavenly places). In Psalm 18:13 notice *heavens* is spoken of here as being more than one. Read Ephesians 2:6. Earthquake is a symbol. God said He would shake heaven and earth. Read Haggai 1:2, 6-7; Hebrews 12:27-28. He shows us, through the shaking, we have received a kingdom that cannot be moved. Hail is a symbol of the truth that swept away the refuge of lies. This is what John saw in his vision. When God put the Ark of the Covenant into His tabernacle, or His temple (which is in His people), and hearts of men hear the truth and are honest, there will be voices, lightnings, thunder, hail, and earthquakes.

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Read John 12:32. It says, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." Remember the earth religion (Revelation 13:11). Jeremiah 17:13 tells us that "they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters." Through truth, Jesus is lifted up. Truth is the identity of God. He is the line of truth. Earthly religion is Mystery Babylon. It is taken from the symbol of Revelation 13:2. Jesus preached in His time here on the earth by parables. He set forth understanding of the church going down, then coming back up to its hundredfold. Look at the parables in the following Scripture listings: Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20. Matthew gives the church standard being an hundredfold; then Mark gives the church in gathering of God's people to be a small number of thirty, sixty, and some an hundredfold.

Ezekiel 34:12 tells us God's people were scattered. Amos 8:11-13 shows us a dark and cloudy day. These were two times of great confusion. Jeremiah had prophesied of the scattering of God's people. Jeremiah 23:1 put a woe to the pastors that scattered and destroyed the sheep of His pasture. In verse 2 the Lord told them, "I will visit upon you the evil of your doings." Read Jeremiah 50:6. The people of God suffered much trouble after Pentecost. Apostles were killed. John was put on the Isle of Patmos only after he had been put in a kettle of oil to be boiled. God took the heat from the oil. Great trouble was against God's church. The many time symbols throughout Revelation give the history of God's people being scattered. But at this time, God was gathering His people back to Sion. Read Revelation 14:14. Many times, in Exodus and in Numbers, the cloud is spoken of as being over the tabernacle and God's appearance with His people. His presence was with Israel and Moses, their leader. In Exodus 19 God came down on the mountain in the cloud. The cloud is a type of the leadership, as it was in Moses' day. In symbolic language (1 Corinthians 10:2), the crown of gold would be symbolic of the angel being crowned with truth, because of pure faith (1 Peter 1:7). It took the faith to lead God's people back to God. Not just anything that people call faith is real faith.

Jude 3 tells us to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." People do not use it this way now. Why ask anyone, what faith are you? There is only one faith. This is found in Ephesians 4:5. In Revelation 14:15 we find that the earth was where the Protestant religion had its beginnings. Martin Luther and others agreed to have an association in which all believers could worship together. When someone got up to testify, if it was not what the leaders wanted to hear or what they believed in, those people were told to be seated. So, henceforth

came denominations. From that time to this, people remain scattered. This angel here was to harvest the earth. The harvest was said to be ripe. So God got some men that we read of in history to preach the message: "Come out of her, my people." The people were in divisions, and some of the people were honest hearted. God gave the call to come out. The call was made to thrust in the sickle. The sickle is what you gather a harvest with. The Word of God is that sickle for gathering spiritual grain. The sixteenth verse tells us the earth was reaped. Under the sixth seal, it seems many people heeded to the call to come out. They were glad to hear the message. Brother D. S. Warner and many others we read of preached the message, and the ones who came out seemed so happy to be in truth. God healed their sicknesses and saved the lost. Christian literature like *The Gospel Trumpet* was going many places. People began taking a stand for the Church of God. There was no joining, no baptizing to put you in the church, and all came to one body, one faith, and the same doctrine that the Apostles and Jesus Christ had taught. Revelation 14:17 shows us another angel also having a sharp sickle. It seems here that the church had the temple back. Verse 18 shows this angel with power over fire. The fire was that of Revelation 13:13. It was fire that had deceived men. The three Hebrew children had power over fire through our Lord in Daniel 3:25. Paul spoke of a fire that tries our works in 1 Corinthians 3:13. The right kind of works will stand the test. Peter spoke of fiery trials that will try us (1 Peter 4:12). This angel had power over all that. He was to gather from the earthly vine (Deuteronomy 32:32). He was to do it with the sharp sickle, which is the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12). Verse 19 tells us that the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered of the earth, and cast it into the winepress of the wrath of God. God's wrath is explained in Revelation 16 and Romans 1:18. The earth is explained in Revelation 13:11. Being an earthly religion, the vine in this verse is what is being gathered, not the fruit of the vine (Matthew 21:33). The Jews dug out a place in the vineyard to press the grapes. Since it is symbolic, the Word of God is what the vine was cast in to. The Word pressed out the best or the blood that the vine had on their hands. Verse 20 tells us the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six furlongs.

Since the winepress and sickle are used here symbolically, it would be safe to say that 1600 furlongs of blood would be the length they were responsible for. The wrong teachings had brought the blood of the people upon their own heads. Read Ezekiel 33:1-5; Isaiah 63:1-5. We notice in these Scriptures that the "bridles" are in the plural and the "horse" is in the singular. James said we put the bits in horse's mouth to turn about the whole body in 3:3. So the bridles would be used up through time to turn about the body of religions as they wanted them to go. Read Joel

3:13-14. The dark day that Amos 8:9; Ezekiel 34:12; and Zechariah 14:7 had spoken of as well as the cloudy day put many in a valley of decision. Read Revelation 12:16. The dragon opened his mouth and put a flood after the woman. The earth opened and her mouth swallowed the flood. Egypt (Jeremiah 46:7) brought many people into decision when the cloudy day broke. People stood still and made a decision, because more light came. The judgment of God's Word was put forth. It showed up the wrong. It was weighed, and the blood of the vine came on their heads.

Now we can see the seventh trumpet age. Revelation 10:4 says that "seven thunders had uttered their voices." Zechariah 13:8 shows us the message was cut off during the dark and cloudy day. The message under the seventh trumpet gives light of all ages of the church. Read Zechariah 9. Silver and gold are tried here. There are two ages; one has more light than the other. God tries people according to their knowledge. Jesus prayed that His people would be sanctified by truth (John 17:17). *Sanctified* means to be set apart. Ephesians 5:26 tells us that He sanctifies and cleanses with the washing of water by the Word. The Word is what washes away the works of the flesh. Verse 27 tells us that He wants to present a glorious church without spot or wrinkle and that we should be holy without blemish. Jesus even goes on to say that man should love his wife as Christ also loves the church. Cut loose from all the teaching of the past, be sanctified in truth. The Word is the only way we can have knowledge of what is right and wrong. We cannot add to His word nor take from it (Revelation 22:18-19). Many teachers and preachers are adding and have added. This is why there are the denominations. To further study how the Word sanctifies the people, read Matthew 13:37. The good seed here is the Word of God. Read Isaiah 32:20. Remember that water is people (Revelation 17:15). Matthew 13:38 tells us the "field is the world . . . but the tares are the children of the wicked one." At this time, the Word was sown by His children. The Book was not yet written. The seed was the children of God carrying the Word. In Matthew 13:39 we find that the enemy who sowed the tares was the devil. The harvest is at the end of the world. The reapers are the angels. God's ministry, or people, is using the Word to reap or set apart those that will endure. Verse 41 shows us that all will be gathered out that offend, or them which do iniquity. Read Isaiah 31:9. Jesus gave light on how the Word will cleanse. His fire is in Zion, and His furnace is in Jerusalem. As God's angels, or ministers, sow the seed, it will remove what the devil has built. Matthew 3:11 shows us that Jesus came to baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. He separated the wheat from the chaff and thoroughly purged His floor. Matthew 13:42 says that they "shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Verse 43 tells us: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

This chapter is one of symbolism. We know that neither tares nor wheat shine as the sun, nor do they gnash teeth. When the righteous shine as the sun, it is as the woman in Revelation 12.

Read Isaiah 1:25-27. This touches on sanctification. These verses speak for themselves. The light of the Scriptures show how God, by His Word, removes dross. Who were the "judges . . . at the first, and thy counsellors"? Were they divided? Were they all together? Were they God's preachers and teachers? If yes, why is it not wrong to be that way now? Read Revelation 7:7-9. Verse 7 takes place after Pentecost. The Gospel is now gathering all people in all the world. In Matthew 10 they were not to go into all the world. Since Pentecost, the message has been to go into all the world. Every tongue and every nation is to be ministered to. Missionaries have gone into the uttermost parts of the world. People, by the Word, have been gathered back to the truth. The language is symbolic. The throne means to reign with Christ in the truth. The white robes are the righteousness of God (Revelation 19:7-8). Read Revelation 7:10-17. Verse 11 picks up the past, the present, and the future. The beast seems to be the ones that Ezekiel saw, which represented Israel of old and the elder, the prophets. The angel is the Apostle of the grace age. All are on course with the truth, and all are one with Christ.

Some preachers today are preaching that the tribulation is yet to come. This Scripture of verse 14 is teaching that these have already come through it and have gotten victory. They are standing with the church arrayed in the white robes (righteousness of God). There is no other Scripture that tells where they were carried away secretly. Those who teach the secret rapture also teach that the church doesn't have to go through the tribulation. Read Isaiah 49:9 and Isaiah 25:8-9. These people are a sanctified people. They are dressed in white robes and have reached that place where they no longer hunger or thirst for the things the devil has to offer or had given them before. Even the people Isaiah preached to no longer desired the Law or had to cry for grace to deliver them from what the Law could not. God wiped away those tears. Sanctification signifies two things. One, we are begotten by the Word (Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 7:10; John 17:17). Two, we experience sanctification by the Word. The Word of God brings godly sorrow, which leads to repentance. But after repentance, experience with the Word teaches us to go on into perfection (Hebrews 6:1-2). So many people do as this people that Paul was teaching. They lay against the foundation. Read Hebrews 5:12-14. The experience with the Word is to take us to a higher understanding. God purified men's affections by His Word. First Thessalonians 5:15-25 should be read here. The experience of the

Word sanctifying the soul and body settle one into the doctrine of truth, in which all other doctrines are forbidden.

Read 2 John 9-10; 1 Timothy 1:3; Galatians 1:8; Ephesians 4:14. As we all know, after that first experience we didn't understand traditions, customs, and different beliefs. It takes an experience with the Word to see the difference.



## THE WORK OF THE EIGHTH BEAST

Since the time of the Garden of Eden, the devil has worked through many different platforms. He has changed clothes lots of times. He now is developing union, not unity, among the denominations. He is trying to develop a federation of churches or world council. It is hidden under so-called unity. Second Corinthians 2:11 tells us not to be ignorant of his devices. The vision of John on the Isle of Patmos has given light to the true saints of God. For the history of the church, and with the vision of each church age, the devil has raised up some form of religion to hide the true church from view. Now he is working to subdue the true doctrine of the church and cause souls to live lukewarm (Revelation 3:15). He wants people to just use some form of religion that makes them feel good about themselves. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

The Apostle John saw this vision for the future of the church, and it happened. In Revelation 8 the church went down into the sea (Rome) for a thousand years or more. Then the cloudy day was for three hundred fifty years or more. Then the people began to be gathered back from the division in which they were scattered by the Gospel. After the sixth seal, people let lukewarmness get into their lives. They began to mix with everything; so the devil is gathering people for his last stand. Read Revelation 20:1-8. The devil had been shut up in the pit by his own system. He had nothing else to work with or through. All nations were given to him. According to history he would have been there from A.D. 530 to 1530. Turning to Revelation 16:13-14, John saw "three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." In Revelation 17:15 the whore is sitting on the waters, and frogs live around water. We also want to take notice that this water is a symbol of people. So, there is a relationship between the dragon that lay in his river (Ezekiel 29:1-5) and the beast that come up from the sea. Frogs lay their eggs in the water. So the seed of the people were in the dragon's place as well as the others that the spirit came from. So the dragon, beast, and false prophet gave the people the same kind of spirit that they had. Read Hosea 4:9. All take the spirit of their system. This is the reason for people saying that I am of this faith or that faith. They are of their system.

It is a mystery and a miracle of the devil that he has people divided like he has. But all lean to their own system. Read verse 9. John, by a vision, looked into the future and could see the union of the religions that gather about God's people and where they were gathering. This is in line with the seventh seal vial being poured into the

air. Read Ephesians 2:2. Since he used the word *breath*, which would mean air, it was of this world. Most all religions have stayed with the earth in their teachings and preaching instead of setting their affection on things above the earth. The four quarters to me would be the spirits (or dragon), beast, false prophet, and the eighth beast. Gog and Magog would be Catholicism and Protestantism. There are ministers preaching that the Lord is going to have a secret rapture of His church, that the devil will be bound for a thousand years, and that the wicked will be left in the grave. They believe Jesus will return to old Jerusalem through the eastern gate and take the throne of David. They also teach a literal battle will take place where the saints will ride white horses and cut peoples' heads off and the blood will run to the horse's bridles. According to their teachings, the saints do not suffer persecution. And isn't the church *supposed* to be gone anyway in the secret rapture? How then can they ride white horses in battle? The wicked are supposed to be in the grave. The devil is supposedly bound; so who is left to fight against? This battle they speak of is a spiritual battle, and the saints fight it every day of their Christian life. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-17. This is how the saints of God fight their battles.

Read Matthew 5:39; Micah 4:3. We are taught in Ephesians 4:32 to not fight literally against one another but to be kind and tenderhearted, forgiving one another, etc. Many more Scriptures teach God's people that we won't be fighting a literal battle with swords and horses. Babylon is in parts, or sects. She is calling for unity with all denominations, but it really is a union (Revelation 16:19-21). It is said that it took a talent of gold to make seven candlesticks. The truth came with the understanding of the seventh seal. There is more understanding now than there has ever been. Read Isaiah 28:17. In this Scripture, hail is a symbol of truth. Truth is what destroyed Babylon. Truth in this day is what will destroy spiritual Babylon. Going back to Revelation 8:13-16 shows us how the seven plagues worked down in Egypt and that God's people were delivered from there. He also spoke of Moses' battle with that king and the plagues that Moses worked in that day. Gideon also gives us a symbol of how God took a few men and delivered thousands into Gideon's hands. So truth will deliver away the refuge of lies and God's people will have the victory (Judges 7:6). The same kind of spirit has always been against God's church, and all seem to have the same purpose. Let's look at the eight beasts we are studying.

**BABYLONIAN 2250 B.C.**  
**MEDO-PERSIAN 538 B.C.**  
**GRECIAN 330 B.C.**  
**ROMAN 146 B.C.**  
**PAGANISM 146 B.C.**  
**PAPAL ROME 270 A.D.**  
**PROTESTANTISM 1530 A.D.**  
**BABYLON 1880 A.D.**

Since we are looking at the judgment of God by vials that were poured out, we will study the Scriptures carefully of the raising of this last (eighth) beast. Please read Revelation 17:1-18 carefully. So God's Word is pre-judgement against all falsehood in every land. There is only one line of truth (Psalm 19:4; Isaiah 28:9-10). The system of the old whore is setting up over all the earth. Jeremiah 51 gives an account of the fall of old Babylon. The leaders in different religions have all eaten their own bread (Isaiah 4:1). It can be found in all different faiths that all have their own righteousness, as well as their own image (Leviticus 26:26). There is no real joy in Babylonian preaching. Nothing can bring real joy into the heart but truth. Babylonian preaching is spiritual drunkenness, and it is fornication to participate in her affairs (Ezekiel 16:44; Isaiah 47:8). Revelation 12 tells us there were seven heads and ten horns. The crowns were on the heads then and on the horns later. Read Isaiah 47:5. They are all lost. The seventeenth chapter shows she has lost the crowns, both from the heads and horns. She is not the lady of the kingdom. In the third verse she has the names of blasphemy. How many religious names do we see in our world today? These all profess to be the way and to be the Church of God. How many names can you find in the Book of all books? Read Acts 17:22-23; 11:12. Some would set the name aside. But they found they could build with Jesus. Without His name, we are none of His (Isaiah 44:5-6; Revelation 17:4-5; Proverbs 28:9). We read throughout God's Word of those who left truth – the Pharisees and Sadducees, as well as those through the Book of Acts and those in Corinth, and all through the other books. This whore came to knowledge of how to set up her own religion. From Genesis 10 then down through the years, some have risen up to be the head, just as the devil himself. The whole world wanders after it. It is an abomination in the sight of God. She has held the cup in her hand and filled it with abomination. All the teachings that do not fit the Word of God go back to her cup. God said He would have healed her, but she refused. Read Revelation 17:6-11. John was very troubled as he saw this religion given to him by symbolic language as a woman. She had not only made the nations drunk; she was drunk herself with the worst kind of drunkenness. She killed the saints of God and martyrs of Jesus.

This is something everyone in our time should think about. They call themselves the church and are drunk on peoples' blood that at one time or another said no to that religion. Not very long ago we saw how that people bowed down to a dead man. What a shame! Read Isaiah 2:22. John's vision here is given symbolically. He is seeing the eighth beast come from the bottomless pit. He is coming from teachings without a biblical foundation. In Revelation 21 he was put into the pit by a chain, which is the Word of God. That is the only way you can fight the devil, for he is a spirit. You can only bind him or make him of none effect with the Word. Second Thessalonians 2:4 tells us that he now, as the eighth beast, goes into perdition. He set himself up. Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar the dream he had about the tree was to be toward his enemy. The tree all had been under was to be cut down, but the stump was left in and the roots thereof. He was to be under the "dew of heaven . . . [until] seven times shall pass over thee" (Daniel 4:25). Having our name in the Book of Life, that John spoke of, is having our name with God and not on some church record book or in a letter. Those that wander after the beast are not the saints of God. Just because you have your name on some church book doesn't mean that your name is with God. To be the son of perdition means to be utterly lost, without hope or remedy. The horns spoken of earlier were symbolic of the kings (Daniel 7:24; Luke 1:69). Horns are given symbolically. Five have fallen here so they have no crowns. The heads are seven mountains (Jeremiah 3:23). Read Revelation 17:12-17; 19:11. Remember, five of the kings have fallen. That means five kingdoms at that time had gone down. John said these received power in one hour. This is symbolic, meaning a short time. They cannot rule as one time they were set up to. But it may be giving them power over division of churches, all under the same rule. It seems that John is saying they had power over something and took the same mind the beast had. The beasts are religions with men being the heads of them having beastly natures, just as Luke 13:32 calls Herod a fox. It means he was cunning like a fox. John tells us what Babylon is trying to do. It is seeking all religions to come together in a union, not unity, seeking power over congregations and getting old Babylon rebuilt. God's people are faithful and will fight a good fight of faith!! Sometimes we may think of worship as just being around where we live, but false religion is all over the world, mixed with all kinds of religions and most of that is pagan. All of this is nothing but CONFUSION.

Even the false religions don't hold the same standards they did years ago. They all lean toward the beast or have that same spirit. This is how they give power to it. It is sad to think of so many people in our time that are giving themselves over to the beast. They don't seem to question where the teaching came from. Their hearts are dark, and there is a battle against truth.

## REVELATION, CHAPTERS 21 AND 22

### THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

*Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

Read 2 Chronicles 4:1-5. This Scripture helps us to understand the sea. The new heaven and earth are being seen here by John. Old Israel, or the old covenant, is being ended here. Hebrews 9:26 puts it as the end of the age. The old tabernacle had a sea in front of it. The new Jerusalem (Heaven) and new earth has a sea also, the sea of glass (Revelation 15; James 1:22). The old sea was for the priest to wash in, but here John is seeing a new sea coming in view.

*Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

This city spoken of here is the church (Matthew 5:14; Hebrews 12:22). John is seeing this city as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation is completely made of symbolism. The city is adorned. Read Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 19:7-9.

*Revelation 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

Some people put this as happening at the end of time. Others use it to teach a secret rapture. God is showing John the church, His bride. There are those who say we will eat the marriage supper in Heaven. Romans says we are married now. You will find this in Chapter 7. If we were not married now, every child born into the kingdom would be born out of wedlock. We are His tabernacle. Read 2 Peter 1:13. Those teaching the rapture try to prove to us that Christ will return to earth and set up His kingdom. Read 2 Peter 3:10-15. We need to look at this again. Old Jerusalem would not be new. Peter is trying to stir their minds of what Jesus had preached to them in Matthew 24. He left old Jerusalem, and Peter here is telling of elements melting with fervent heat. Elements are those things that separate and seem to be, as Isaiah 34:4 was given, concerning old Israel, and the new heaven and earth coming in with a people, which had not been a people, which are the Gentiles.

**Revelation 21:4** *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Isaiah 65 tells us that God would create Jerusalem anew. In God's church there is no death. Read Isaiah 25:6-12; Isaiah 49:9-13. God moved all plagues. God's people are free. Sin can't be in the church. To take away tears, you have to take away the causes. Under the Law there were lots of reasons, but in the new church, everything has been appropriately placed by Jesus.

**Revelation 21:5** *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

**Revelation 21:6** *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

Verses 5 and 6 are the fulfilling of the prophecy of old. Read Isaiah 65; Isaiah 35; Isaiah 55:1; Zechariah 13:1.

**Revelation 21:7** *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

**Revelation 21:8** *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Verses 7 and 8 show us the first death is sin (Romans 6:23; 1 John; 2 John).

**Revelation 21:9** *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.*

**Revelation 21:10** *And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

You can see the symbolism here in verses 9 and 10. Instead of seeing a woman, he sees a city. The city is the Lamb's bride. This is not in Heaven; it is the church.

**Revelation 21:11** *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

In verse 11 we see the jasper stone. In 1 Peter 2:4 Peter said that Jesus is a Stone, chosen of God and precious. This jasper stone was one of the twelve stones that had the names of the tribes of the children of Israel. Ezekiel 38:13 says they were in the garden until sin came into them. In this verse, John seems to be taken back and sees what has been in the past, as well as what is before us.

**Revelation 21:12** *And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:*

**Revelation 21:13** *On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.*

**Revelation 21:14** *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

In verse 12 we see the wall and gates. Ezekiel 48:31-34 shows that the gates were three tribes and shows their inheritance. The three gates were to each tribe (James 1:1; Matthew 8:11; Isaiah 26:1-3). These Scriptures show us what the walls are for. Salvation will keep the world out, and the saints in. The wall is set on twelve foundations, which are the teachings of the twelve Apostles. They taught salvation.

**Revelation 21:15** *And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof.*

This is a symbol. The church (city) is measured. Ezekiel gave a vision that he received while in captivity (Ezekiel 40-43). Every person in God's church makes up the church by measuring to God's Word. We can only get into the church by measuring up to the Word of God.

**Revelation 21:16** *And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.*

**Revelation 21:17** *And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.*

In Galatians 1:8 Paul says that angels seem to be the ministry. All of his teachings measure every soul that makes up the church. John was getting the details of what the Church of God is.

*Revelation 21:18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.*

Remember, the saints were standing on the sea of glass (Revelation 15), those who had victory over everything. James used it in a symbolic way.

Read James 1:22; Exodus 28:20; 1 Corinthians 3:11. The stone of jasper was in the fourth row set in God. He is the head of the church, and gold is symbolic of the truth we build on.

*Revelation 21:19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;*

*Revelation 20:20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.*

These stones set back in Exodus 28 are given by the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. The priests wore them on their breast and shoulders. The priests were to stand before the people of God and to represent the people to God. All of God's saints are precious in His sight (Psalm 116:15). It is a good idea to read verse 21 really close.

*Revelation 20:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.*

So many people have put this as being over in Heaven. First all, the gates are of one pearl. Matthew 7:6 says, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine." From this we can see that the pearl is the truth of God. All the gates are of one truth. It doesn't matter if we come from the east, west, north, or south; we must all come by one truth. PRAISE THE LORD!

Please take notice that the word *street* is singular; it is not *streets*! There is only one street, and notice that it is in the middle of the river (Revelation 22:2). Colossians 2:13-14 helps us to see why we don't need the sun or moon in this city. God is the light. Read John 8:12. If we follow Christ, we shall have the light of life.

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



*Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

*Revelation 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.*

*Revelation 21:25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.*

*Revelation 21:26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.*

*Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

Read Isaiah 60:3. All that are in God's church are pure. We have had it said of our time that there are hypocrites in the church. They may be in man-made churches, but God sets the members. Just because they sit in the congregation doesn't mean they are in the church. As we have studied in this chapter, all are measured by truth. And no one can get in until he or she measures by the truth.

## REVELATION, CHAPTER 22

*Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*

Here Jesus was showing John His reign from His throne and the water of life, just as He gave to the woman at the well in John 4. He is on His throne when John envisions Him. He is not on the earth. He is, at this time, reigning from His throne in Heaven and giving living water.

*Revelation 22:2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

This verse shows us a river with a street in the middle of it. The tree of life was on either side, and this tree was giving "twelve manner of fruit." The Bible leaves are for our healing, and we will not need healing over in Heaven. The tree of life was in the first garden with Adam and Eve. As long as they ate of it, they would not die. This is God's garden. We are to eat of the tree of life and live. We must also drink of that water of the river. The twelve Apostles of the twelve tribes gave us advice as to how we can have healing from all sin right here. As we read of those leaves, they are always giving healing. Read Psalm 1:1-3.

*Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

*Revelation 22:4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.*

*Revelation 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*

All that drink of the river, eat of the tree, and stay planted by the river have no curse. We have already discussed in this study about the mark of the beast in Chapter 13. This mark is in the hand or in the forehead. The forehead is typical of our brain or our knowledge of God. The knowledge of God marks His people (Ezekiel 9:4). Our reign with God starts on this side of life. We reign over the devil and sin. When life is over, we will reign forever in Heaven with Him. Remember that God is the light of every man. The church is not the light of God. He is the light

of the church. The sun is not the light of God's church, for He is the sun that lights the church (Revelation 12). He is above all light, and without Him, we have no light at all.

**Revelation 22:6** *And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.*

**Revelation 22:7** *Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.*

**Revelation 22:8** *And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.*

**Revelation 22:9** *Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.*

**Revelation 22:10** *And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*

**Revelation 22:11** *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

**Revelation 22:12** *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

John shows us in verse 6 that what he was seeing was yet to come. The seventh verse makes it easier to see. All things that have been revealed in this book are faithful and true. John was seeing this vision in A.D. 96. He was seeing all the way out into the church's future. John was on the Isle of Patmos. The reason for his being there was not just because he stood for God, but he had to be there to get this prophecy (Revelation 1:9). In the ninth verse of this chapter, it tells us to worship God. In the ten commandments we read, "Thou shalt have none other gods before me" (Deuteronomy 5:7). Some people will tell you that this book is a sealed book, but Revelation 6 tells us that the Lamb opened every seal. The first chapter tells us that it is for the servants of God. All it takes to get the message is the same Spirit that gave it (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Ecclesiastes 11:3 reads, "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." You are just as you are. Only the Word of God can change a person, for we are measured by it. The Word of God cannot be separated from God, because the Word is God (John 1:1). Verse 12 of this chapter tells us that we will be rewarded according to our works. The Apostles worked very hard to preach to the Jews that no man was saved by the works of the law. Paul told the Corinthian people that every man's work would be tried. This is found in 1 Corinthians 3. What we are building upon, whether it be hay, wood or stubble, or gold, silver, or precious stones, we are not saved by works. But James said in James 2:18, "Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." Here God is saying that we will be judged by our works.

***Revelation 22:13** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

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

***Revelation 22:15** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

***Revelation 22:16** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

Verse 13 of this chapter tells us that Jesus is the first and the last. We will be judged by Him and Him only. Look at verse 14. Today, our government is doing away with the commandments and putting God out of the government. Let me ask you a question. What is a government without God? To get into the church, the commandments must be kept; we eat of the tree that is in God's garden. Then we enter the city of God. You can see that there is a blessing in keeping the commandments. To those of you who might think this is in Heaven, remember everything in verse 15 was just outside the city. How could that be? Read verse 16; Matthew 1:1; Luke 2:4, 11. Jesus is far more than David of old. He is the bright and morning star.

***Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

What an honor that is given to mankind – to be called of the bride and the Spirit of God. We are called to take FREELY of the water of life.

***Revelation 22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

***Revelation 22:19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

In verses 18 and 19 we are shown what will happen if we add to or take away from the Word. Revelation 16 shows us the many plagues that God poured out on those who have taken from the prophecy of this book and on those who have added to it. The Word is always the same.

***Revelation 22:20** He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

***Revelation 22:21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Having reached the end of this book, I would like to say, along with John, the grace of our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ, be with all. My hope is that this book will be of help to those who read it and more understanding be given.