

Chapter 1: Eschatology in the Book of Revelation

Since we have already made inroads and progress on last things and since that is what most people think of in Revelation, we will continue from the last chapter of volume 1 (“Eschatology in the Old Testament”) with the eschatological aspects of Revelation. Later we will have the more pleasant surprises of the timely messages of Revelation that deal with our churches and our lives today! Let us first survey such passages in the book of Revelation, then we will go back to review, highlight, and reinforce what was found on last things from the Prophets in volume 1 of the LEARN CHRIST COMMENTARIES. About the most serious mistake people make on eschatology and the book of Revelation is to study it isolated. In other words, come to the book of Revelation and treat it as isolated from the rest of the truth of the Bible. We will not do that. Remember, we are looking for truth from the Apostles and Prophets, and the consistent truth for ALL the Apostles and Prophets. We will find the consistency between the eschatology of Revelation and the eschatology of the Prophets, between the Apostles and Prophets and Jesus.

25-1: Last Things (eschatology) passages in the book of Revelation. (As you will see in this commentary, the book of Revelation is far from being a book only about last things or eschatology.**

1. The opening of the Seven Seals, Revelation 6,7. There is little doubt in anyone’s mind that the events of Revelation 6 and 7 deal with the very end times.

"But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals..'"
(Revelation 5:5)

- (1). Rumors of wars, Revelation 6:2, bow and white horse.
- (2). War, Revelation 6:4, sword and red horse.
- (3). Famine, Revelation 6:5,6, black horse and scales.
- (4). Accidental death, Rev 6:8, pale horse and Death.
- (5). Tribulation, Rev 6:9-11, martyrdom.
- (6) The Day of the Lord, Rev 6:12-17. (**Here in the book of Revelation the

Day of the LORD has been further developed from the consistent theme throughout the Old Testament, almost always in terms of the dark sun and moon and the falling stars as the old universe crumbles.) "I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig the drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand.'" (Revelation 6:12-17)

(**It should be apparent to you that this is an elaboration on the Day of the LORD of the Old Testament and the Day of the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament, the same Day or period of time. Like with the Hebrew word for Day, it can be a period of time.)

2. Sealing of the Elect of God, Rev 7.
3. Opening of the Seventh Seal with the forthcoming of the Seven Trumpets, more elaboration on the Day of the Lord of the Sixth Seal, Revelation 8-11, of the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24 of the elements melting with a fervent heat of the Apostle Peter, and of the consistent DAY theme of the Old Testament.
 - (1). Hail, fire, and blood-letting.
 - (2). Burning mass into sea becoming bloody.
 - (3). Polluted wars and death.
 - (4). Darkening of moon, stars, and sun.
 - (5). Locusts with the power of scorpions to harm non-Christians.
 - (6). Four angels released to kill a third of mankind with an army of horsemen.
 - (7). The Mystery of God finished with the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

"...but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets." (Revelation 10:7)

{**NOTE the phrase of verse 7 about the prophets, "...AS HE DECLARED TO HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS...: It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the Prophets as background for Revelation. And also NOTE that this mystery is in the same sense of the mystery of godliness or the mystery of Christ; that is, something hidden that God is about to make clear! However this is the mystery of the Day of the LORD that God revealed often to His Prophets, but is now making much more clear to the

whole world. This tells of the actual event from the mind of Jesus. This is the Day of the LORD actually completed on the earth. You get a lot of fiction from LeHay and other PREs where some truth is mixed with fiction and half truth, much like with the Mormons and their extra four Bibles. However in the case of the PREs, it is most generally based on the Scofield Reference Bible notes rather than the Bible itself. (I have known people to memorize these notes and treat them as if Scripture itself. The book of Revelation also has something to say about this near the end.) This is just one of the unsound doctrines of the fundamentalists: the others being a fighting spirit and a substitution of the American Democratic Faith for the Faith of the Bible and Christ. However this will be further discussed in the chapter on “Some Sounds of a Sound Faith”.

4. The Romans tread Jerusalem underfoot for 42 months, Revelation 11:1,2. **{**Right now it is important that you get away from the sequence flow of most books where what you read at the beginning is historically before what you read next. There is somewhat a historical flow in the book of Revelation in that in the first chapters it deals with problems in the churches of the first century and then finally in the last chapter all is wrapped up with the new heaven and the earth; however often like in this case there are flash-backs in history. This is first century history as in approximately 48 A.D. the Romans destroyed the temple and Jerusalem and took most of the residents captive. Jesus in Matthew 24 also skipped in time. He would end things at the very end of time like when He taught the gospel would be delivered to every nation and then the end would come, then later in Matthew 24 go back to fill in some of the details. This is a consistent pattern in eschatology: like radar to make an initial sweep from a distance that picks up the broad outline, then later a closer look that fills in the details. Why does the Bible do this on eschatology? To confuse people? Perhaps partly to confuse a lack of spiritual discernment, but primarily because time is like that to God the Father and therefore to the Son: the past, present, and future are to them like one day or a thousand years, and what the future holds as God has determined it is as much a settled fact as the past.**}**

5. Two witnesses, Revelation 11:1-14. **{**Although the more classical interpretations of the two witnesses will also be presented, I must see this as a tribute to the Apostles Peter and Paul.**}**

6. The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, Rev 11:15-14:20

(1). The Woman and the Child, Rev 12. **{**You must see this also as the past . A “God-perspective” of Mary and the birth of Jesus, putting it in the total context of world history as warfare between Satan and the forces of evil with Jesus and the people of God.**}**

(2). The Beast and the False Prophet, Rev 13. **{**Even as there has always since**

Christ been two witnesses, there has always been a Beast (that is Satan) and some false prophet. That false prophet can also be an anti-Christ, and the Apostle John said in I John that already in the first century there were many anti-Christ. Do not confuse this with the man of sin, the son of perdition, that Paul writes about in II Thessalonians 2. There Paul clearly identifies that several things have to happen before the Second Coming: the falling away of churchmembers after the increase in lawlessness and the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from the world scene which is the unloosing of Satan for a little while, and then also the revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition, which I would speculate is Osama Bin Ladin or an associate or relative.**}

(3). Babylon and the people of God, Rev 14. **{**In God's perspective of history even as there has always been two witnesses and a Beast and a false prophet, there has also always been a wicked city. Babylon was the best known, but it was not the first; and surely not the last. The Babylon of the first century was Rome. The Babylon of today could be Paris or New York or Washington. The contrast is once again between most of the people in the world, who are of course in the big cities, and on the other side the people of God (albeit small in number and appropriately represented by seven thousand.**}**

7. Seven angels with the seven last plagues, Rev 15-16. **{**More details on the Day of the LORD and Lord.**}**

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete." (Revelation 15:1)

- (1). First angel with a bowl, foul and loathsome sores on non-believers, Revelation 16:2.
- (2). Second, blood in the sea and total death, Rev 16:3.
- (3). Third, rivers and springs turned to blood, Rev 16:4-7.
- (4). Fourth, sun and intense heat, Rev 16:8,9.
- (5). Fifth, darkness, Rev 16:10,11.
- (6). Sixth, the waters of Euphrates dried up, Rev 16:12-16, with the preparation for the great battle of Armageddon. **{**You know where the Euphrates is? In Iraq. People are right to be thinking that with our troops in Iraqi and the increasing Muslim opposition from the whole region, that the stage is set for the final great battle of Armageddon. In fact what we can expect in the not-too-distant future is an invasion against the American army in Iraqi from Muslims all over the world as they flood in from Iran, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia led by Osama or a follower with the subsequent retreat of the US army to the camp of the saints outside of Jerusalem and then the destruction by God of the gigantic Muslim army (perhaps supported by other countries like China,**

Table 1: The Phases of History in Revelation, starting with the Teachings of Jesus.

1. Beginning of Sorrows, Matthew 24:5-8	2. Persecution Tribulation, Matthew 24:9	3. Period of Offences, Mathew 24:10	4. Falling Away, Matthew 24:11-14
1. Many false Prophets come			False Prophets
2. Many deceived		Many offended	Falling Away
		Betray one another	lawlessness abounds
		Hate one another	man of sin revealed
3. wars and rumors of war		lovers of self and money	Holy Spirit withdrawn
4. nation against nation		despisers of good	Satan unbound
5. famines		form of godliness without inward power of God	battle of Armagaddeon
6. pestilences		intolerance of sound doctrine	love of many waxes cold
7. earthquakes		blasphemers, proud, arrogant, and trouble makers	shaking of heaven and earth
	tribulation from the unbelieving	turn away from truth and be turned aside to fables	physical tribulation from God
	abomination of desolation		elements melt with heat
	great tribulation shortened for the elect		Gospel to every nation
	false rumors about Second Coming		Second Coming of Christ

Russia, and some European countries--all needing the oil supplies.}**

"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I am coming as a thief, blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." (Revelation 16:12-16)

{NOTE: Obviously, like the Prophets told us this "great day of God Almighty" is the "day of the LORD" of the Prophets and the "day of the Lord" of Peter. How foolhardly for PREs to weave their fiction of Christians not being there for this final tribulation in**

light of Jesus saying to “watch”. If there were no Christians on earth at the Day of the LORD and the Second Coming, how could they watch for the Second Coming which happens immediately after the Day of the LORD and Lord.**}

(7). Seventh angel and bowl, "It is done", Rev 16:17-21, with the great earth quake. This earthquake, one like never before seen on earth puts it in the category of a once for all time or end time event.

"And there were noises and thundering and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth." (Revelation 16:18)

8. The Woman and the Beast with seven heads and seven horns, Rev 17:1-18:24. **{**This is obviously the specific Babylon called Rome since it represents in the “sevens” the famous seven hills of Rome and the infamous seven Caesars that persecuted first centuries’ Christians. The “Woman” is of course Rome, and the Beast as always is Satan.**}**

9. The Word on the white horse with his army against the kings of the earth, Rev 19:1-21, with the beast captured and his followers into the lake of fire and brimstone. **{**Christ’s Second Coming to personally intervene with the destruction of the Muslim plus army, and the subsequent casting of Satan and his followers into the lake of fire and brimstone. Some think it is terrible that God created a hell. Well, beyond hell is the lake of fire and brimstone. The dead unbelievers wait in hell now for the lake of fire and brimstone. Once again you will not find this in the history books or even in LeHay’s fiction: it is God’s perspective and predestination of history.**}**

10. Satan chained to the bottomless pit for one thousand years so that he cannot deceive the nations, and then released for a little while, Rev 20:1-3. **{**It is important to see the thousand years as just a long time from man’s perspective. Even as “a little while” is an indefinite period of time, so is a thousand years. All we know for certain is that a little while is much less than the long period of a thousand years, and that is all that we are meant to know except for the two signs that much happen before the Second Coming preceded by the Day of the LORD and culminated by the battle of Armagaddeon: remember the two signs of II Thessalonians 2: revelation of the man of sin, the son of perdition; and the Falling Away of churchmembers from God, Christ, and the Bible. If God had wanted us to know exactly the number of the years, He would have told us. It is even more important to see that what chained Satan was the coming of the Holy Spirit on earth, and that what releases Satan for a little while is the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit during the “Falling Away” that Paul writes of in II Thessalonian 2.**}**

11. The Souls that witnessed for God and Word reigned with Christ one thousand years,

Table 2: The Phases of History in Revelation, starting with the Teachings of Jesus.

1. Beginning of Sorrows (since the beginning they continue), Matthew 24:5-8	2. Persecution Tribulation, Matthew 24:9	3. Period of Offences, Mathew 24:10	4. Falling Away, Matthew 24:11-14
	1. Many false Christs will deceive many.		
	2. wars and rumors of wars but not the end war		last great war, look for the carcasses, Armageddon
3. nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom and famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in different places			great earthquake of all earthquakes
	4. tribulation: kill you and hated by all nations for the name of Christ, this is the great tribulation during #2 above.		8. the final tribulation leading to the Day of the LORD
	5. many believers offended, believers betray and hate each other: proliferation of false prophets and the deception of many believers		the falling away of II Thessalonians 2:3 as lawlessness abounds and the love of many waxes cold
6. gospel of the kingdom preached to every nation as a witness to every nation, and then the end.			THE END: The Day of the LORD and Lord
7. abomination of Desolation of Daniel, 58 A.D with destruction of Jerusalem and the beginning of persecution in the Roman Empire.	9. many false Christ's and many false prophets will arise by showing great signs and wonders and if possible even deceive the elect		
			10. gathering of the carcasses and the eagles
			11. That DAY, after the tribulation of those days sun and moon darkened with the shaking of heaven and earth; and then Second Coming with the Gathering of Elect.

Rev 20:4-6. **{**Believers throughout history from the chaining of Satan by the Holy Spirit to the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit, the time represented by the thousand years, go immediately in spirit or soul to be with Christ and God after death. What happens at the Second Coming of Christ when the elect are gathered by the angels from all corners of the universe is the resurrection of the physical body. Of course unbelievers are waiting in hades or hell for the lake of fire and brimstone with their leader, the prince of this world, Satan.**}**

12. Satan released for a little while at the end of the thousand years, to deceive the nations and gather against the camp of the saints, and fire comes down from heaven to destroy Satan and his army, Revelation 20:7-9. **{**I think it is quite obvious that this is a real battle, and that the army of the saints is losing against the Muslims and their unbelieving allies until God and Christ intervene. I know it strained us to think of the US army as an army of the saints, but**

it is perhaps the closest to saints that this earth can have remaining at that time.**}

13. Satan cast into the same lake of fire and brimstone as the beast and the false prophets, Revelation 20:10.

"And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:10)

14. Old heaven and earth pass away, judgment with believers judged according to the book of life and all others according to other books of their deeds, and then comes the second death which is the lake of fire and brimstone, Revelation 20:11-15. **{**You see how a second death which is the lake of fire and brimstone demands a first death where souls come to an intermediate place called "hades" or "hell". Incidentally that is where Peter says that Jesus went for three days after His crucifixion to preach, and it is mistakenly confused with "paradise" (paradise is more appropriately called hades) where the day of the crucifixion Jesus met with the thief on the cross to further explain to him and all residents of hades the way of salvation.**}**

15. New heaven, new earth, and a new Jerusalem, Revelation 21:1-22:1-5 **{**It is true that we will again live on this earth, and for eternity; but it will be a new earth and a new heaven--in other words a new universe. The new Jerusalem is lowered down from heaven as a place where believers can live and worship. You see the old universe has already been melted with fervent heat: you see all unbelievers and Satan have been defeated by Christ and cast into a separate place called the lake of fire and brimstone. Unbelievers have been judged by their works as every deed has been recorded; and believers are judged on a separate basis as to whether their names have been written in the book of life. By the way, when you become a member of the Assembly of the Firstborn (Jesus Christ was the Firstborn from the dead), then your name is written in two books: you are recorded in heaven as a member of the only Church or Assembly that really counts, and you are simultaneously written in the book of life. Wow, that is something worth shouting about!**}**

Perhaps we should speculate as to why the large group of PREs that now dominant the Southern Baptist Convention, historically they are essentially the same as the fundamentalists that left the SBC about 1920 and decided 20 years ago to take control with a fighting spirit, are so determined to have a thousand year reign on this earth: (1) it is primarily due to inadequate Bible exegesis and hermeneutics (rules for Bible interpretation that are established by the Bible itself) whereby the reader or teacher takes Scripture like in the book of Revelation out of the context of the total Bible; that is, away from the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24, that of Paul in II Thessalonians 2, that of Peter, and that of the consistent Day of the LORD and of the Lord

of both the Old Testament and New Testament; (2) a desire to not be here for the final tribulation which is just good old human nature and the desire of teachers and preachers to tell churchmembers what they want to believe (this is coupled with another out of Bible context failure to see the great tribulation as during the first centuries and the simultaneous failure to see tribulation as part of each century); and (3) if the majority is wrong and the minority right as Jesus taught about the many and the few, the broad way and the narrow way, and if the majority of churchmembers fall away from God, Christ, and the Bible during the Falling Away, and if we are in the Falling Away right now, and if the Falling Away includes the heaping away of sound teachers of sound doctrine who will teach and preach the truth, and if the Falling Away that we are in now includes, as the Bible teaches, the teachers of itching ears teaching congregations of itching ears what they want to hear, the comfort of a materialistic kingdom for themselves, then it should be no surprise that a majority of churchmembers in the populous SBC support a thousand year reign on earth. Materialism among churchmembers is far more pervasive and determinative than any American cares to admit. You see it in the America of today and yesteryear in what Henry Steele Commager and other American Studies scholars call “the gospel of wealth” and the corollary of “success”.

25-2: Phases of Historical Events.

It is obvious with this previous summary of last events that there is some repetition. A help would be key to find the overlap and chart it as shown in Table 2 on page 10. Consider the heading numbers of 1-4 as historical sequence, and the numbers in the body of the Table, 1-11, as more an outline of the teachings of Jesus, supplemented by the Apostles. The “false Christs deceiving many” of number 1 in the outline of Jesus, as you can see, overlaps the four phases of history. Also the wars and rumors of wars start in the beginning of sorrows and continue to the falling away where they culminate in the last great war, the battle of Armageddon. Likewise in the outline of the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24 as supplemented by the Apostle John and the Ascended Christ in the book of Revelation, number 3 with earthquakes in divers places continues until the last great earthquake of the DAY of the LORD, number 4, tribulation is a characteristic of every historical phase with the greatest in the first centuries and the final during the Falling Away period. **{**The final tribulation is only great in the sense of the tribulation from God as He shakes the whole universe.**}** Also continuous is the false prophets that deceive many of the four phases that also culminates with the Great Deception of the Falling Away of churchmembers of the fourth phase of history according to Jesus. Of course, the gospel of the kingdom is preached in each phase until the end at that DAY and the Second Coming.

Before we deal thoroughly and decisively with the “chaining of Satan” for a thousand years, which is no doubt one of the most divisive of all issues in eschatology; we must consid-

er some fundamental principles of hermeneutics. (I think it was mentioned previously but hermeneutics is the study of the principles of Biblical interpretation, which by and large come from the Bible itself, but which received widespread recognition in the books of Bernard Ramm.) The prime principles of heremeneutics is to keep the book or section of the Bible under studying the context of the total body, in this case the book under study is the book of Revelation. This is based on the very fundamental doctrine that the total Bible came from the single source of God; and therefore like God Himself, it is consistent. (One of the primary reasons in Christian evidences that we are convinced of the inspiration of the Bible--that is, that it is divine in origin--is because that what we read in Paul agrees with what we read in John, and what we read from a Prophet like Moses, the first writing Prophet of the Old Testament, agrees with what we read in Malachi, the last writing Prophet of the Old Testament. Although separated by thousands of years Moses and Malachi agreed, because the initial source was not Moses and Malachi, but God Himself through the Spirit of Christ.

There is another principle of Bible interpretation we should consider and that is to first go with the most straightforward and simple to understand, like the teachings of Jesus and Peter, or sometimes even Paul, then to look at the more difficult passages like in the book of Revelation in the light of the simpler. One reason that the book of Revelation is somewhat difficult is that it is a book of visions with symbolic meanings more than straightforward statements like from Paul or Peter. (Of course, even here it is in the category of certain Old Testament books like Zechariah; and if we read and understood the book of Zechariah more then we would also understand the book of Revelation more. A case in point will be when we come to the two olive trees and the two lamstands standing before the God of the earth of Revelation 11:4, which if a person already knew Zechariah would be a way to identify the two witnesses of Revelation 11:3.)

Now, on the chaining of Satan it is the Apostle Paul in II Thessalonians 2:1-12 that gives us the clearest understanding. (It is a long passage and you should read it straight from the Bible and in which ever version you prefer. The meaning will be the same.) Instead of quoting it here, I will paraphrase the passage.

1. This passage is dealing with the subject of the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gathering of the Saints at His return (II Thess. 2:1). Well, that's obviously eschatalogy of all eschatalogy, the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the Saints.

2. Paul calls this the Day of Chirst (II Thess. 2:2). Recall that previously we talked of how is is the Day of the LORD in the Old Testament, and the Day of the LORD and the Lord in the New Testament.

3. Paul wants the Christians at Thessalonica not to get all shook up (II Thess 2:2). There is probably more getting all shook up over the book of Revelation and eschatalogy based on it

than over any other book in the Bible. Certainly Satan has worked overtime to confuse the understanding of this book. Satan's work here must be considered the best he can do to simulate God's confusion of tongues and languages at the tower of Babel. Of course, some of it is still the veil that the Apostle Paul speaks of in Hebrews in the reading of the Bible that is done way with when a person knows Christ. And I think there is still a third factor, human pride. Have you ever noticed that if there is a little confusion in a group, there is always a hero to come to the rescue to take leadership with strong convictions, sometimes based on false assumptions. Of course, the people in the First Century at this church, and no doubt at many of the other churches, had decided that the Second Coming of Christ had already passed and therefore since they were not caught up in the air to meet Christ, they were not among the elect. (I don't know why they did look around themselves and among themselves for the most saintly, like say an Apostle, to see if he was still among them.) But this was a serious problem! We know according to II Timothy 2:17,18 that two preachers of such false doctrine were Hymenaeus and Philetus, who were saying that the resurrection was already passed, and how that they with this unsound doctrine were overthrowing the faith of some. Well, brother or sister, today we have some (no many) teachers with itching ears (perhaps even the majority as a characteristic of the end time), who are overthrowing the faith of many or at least shaking them up with unsound doctrine.

3. Okay, now in verse 3, we start to get into the nitty-gritty, and in particular to the understanding of last things and the chaining of Satan that we need in order to proceed to the historical cycles of Revelation (II Thess 2:3). "THAT DAY" (the Day of the LORD and the Lord) will not come until first there is a Falling Away and the Man of Sin is revealed.

{NOTE about the Tables and the Teachings of Jesus in Matthew 24: let us never forget as we get into the "harder-to-understand" eschatalogy of the book of Revelation, that The Day of the LORD and Lord comes immediaily after tribulation--that Day as in all other places of the Old and New Testaments being marked by the sun and moon darkened and the falling stars. Then Christ comes again, and then the elect are gathered up to meet Him in the air.**

(1). There is the general fallling away of churchmembers first; and

(2). It becomes obvious as to who the "man of sin", the son of perdition is, as he is revealed. Of course, he must first make his appearance, and then he must become infamous to be known.}**

By the way, let me suggest right now before later study of the subject that Osama Bin Laden can fit the bill of the description in Daniel 11 of the man of sin. Osama is a man of war and a person who has a low esteem toward women. Also he seems to be fitting the description of the person of another country who first fights in a foreign country (like Afganistan) then

goes back to his home country (in Saudi Arabia on the border of Yemen), and then leads an uprising from there that extends to Israel and the Middle East. You see even if he has made his appearance, it is still not clear that he is the man of sin. If killed, then he is not; and perhaps one of his likeminded sons or followers is the man of perdition.

4. The Holy Spirit in verse 6 and 7.

“And now you know what is restraining (what restrains or chains Satan for a thousand years) that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He (and noticed this is capitalized for Holy Spirit, a member of the godhead) who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” (II Thessalonians 2:6,7)

Of course, the thousand years of Revelation 20 where Satan is bound for that period of time and then released for a little while to deceive the whole world is an indefinite period of time. We learn that from the Apostle Peter who talks of how indefinite a period of time is to God. It can be a day or a thousand years. Peter also in that passage of II Peter 3 on the subject of the day of the Lord tells people not to get shook over the scoffers that come during the last days period to talk about “where is Christ’s appearing”. Therefore it is amazing that the single subject that has been most divisive among Christians becomes the simplest to understand in the light of Peter and Paul’s teachings (which by the way they received from Christ), and hence the chaining of Satan for a thousand years becomes the firm foundation for the historical cycles of the book of Revelation. The table and the cycles also have their start in the teachings of Jesus, especially in Matthew 24, and in the teachings from Paul and Peter. Really, it is Jesus Himself who starts the cycles going in a major outline of Matthew 24, and leaves it for the disciples like John to fill in the gaps between the majors. (Recall how in John 14-16 Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them more as they were able to understand it.)

Keys to an understanding of Table 1.

1. The last cycle, of course, is the fourth, when the end comes; and the previous cycles do not stop but continue all the way from cycle 1 to cycle 4. In other words all through these cycles, the false prophets and wars and rumors of wars, famines, etc will continue.

2. You notice that there are a lot of gaps. Exactly, Jesus left it for His apostles, in particular, John and Peter and Paul, to fill in those gaps.

3. While this division may at first seem a little artificial, remember it is from a literal interpretation of Jesus in Matthew 24 based on the “THENS” and “AND THENS”.

4. In no way can we place a period of time on each phase or claim that they are equal. For example, the beginning of sorrows started shortly after the resurrection of Christ, and the continuation of sorrows, the famous persecutions of Christians during the First Century, were well under way after the destruction of the temple of 70 A.D.

5. Don't get lost in the phases. The Table is for assistance in understanding, not to make a dogma of history. It is much like the efforts in volume 1 to sequence the books of the Old Testament. Use it as far as it helps, after all it is only an approximation, and please don't make a religion out of it like some have done for the notes in the Scofield Reference Bible.

6. It should be explained that Satan is bound only to the extent as indicated in the passage that he can no longer for a thousand years deceive the nations as he did during the Roman Empire. The method of deception in the Roman Empire is now obvious: Satan used the Emperor, the Caesar if you will, to demand worship of the citizens of the Emperor. So that John and the Spirit through the Apostle John is telling us that for a complete and long period of time, a thousand years, Satan will not be allowed to deceive all the nations of the world through worship of a giant dictator. Satan can still and does deceive in many ways, and as a lion goes about seeking whom he may devour; but this is not deception on the world-of-nations level. Of course, for a little while after the thousand years Satan is loosed to establish control over and use a giant dictator again. The Holy Spirit is busy during that one thousand years to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. But woe be to the world when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn, causing Satan to be released. Lawlessness abounds and the love of many waxes cold. Believers and churches become intolerant of sound doctrine. States and nations ignore the teachings of God.

7. As you would expect from the next to the last row in the table, with the great earthquake, it is also the phase for the old heavens and the old earth pass away. Remember there have been earthquakes all along but this is the great earthquake; there have been anti-Christ's all along but this is the time of the man of sin; there have been the ups and downs of the "perilous times" but as the folly is no longer obvious of churchmembers with a only a form of godliness", then comes the full fledge falling away. There has also been tribulations all along; but in this phase comes the great tribulation that is more physical than persecution. It is physical tribulation as the earth's passing away involves the earth and the mountains being ripped apart, pieces of the universe falling from the sky, the molten material in the earth erupting out and all over the earth, the shaking of heavens and earth, and the fervent heat that Peter speaks of as the elements themselves melt.

25-3: Eschatalogy in the Prophets.

What Jesus had taught the Apostles on the Prophets was background for the eschatalogy of Revelation; what the Apostle John spent his life reading from the Prophets was background for the eschatalogy of Revelation; and of course, what Jesus the Risen Christ appearing to John on the isle of Patmos taught him was background for the eschatalogy of Revelation. In short, we need that background of the Prophets to properly understand the eschatalogy of the book of Revelation. We will use the outline of Carroll in a sequencing of the Prophets. It is amazing

the amount of literature written on the Prophets, but it is also amazing that with the advent of historical criticism and then the reaction of the superficialities of the fundamentalists centered around the Scofield Reference notes that little new contributions have been made to the Prophets.

I. The Assyrian Period of (1) Obadiah, (2) Joel, (3) Jonah, (4) Amos, (5) Hosea, (6) Isaiah, (7) Micah, and (8) Nahum; II. The Chaldean Period of (9) Zephaniah, (10) Habakkuk, (11) Jeremiah, (12) Ezekiel, and (13) Daniel; and III. The Persian Period of (14) Haggai, (15) Zecharia, and (16). Malachi. This outline is the same as in the "Quicksweep by Quotes" chapter of volume 1 in this order of the New Testament quotes from the Prophets. You can do the same thing: simply read through the New Testament making a note for each time you see a quote from the Old Testament Prophets, and then rearrange those quotes in the order of the Old Testament Prophets.

1. Obadiah.

If this sequencing is correct that places Obadiah at the beginning of the Prophets, and I think it is since both Sampey and Carroll use it, then Obadiah has the burden of starting the eschatology of the Prophets. This it does well with the introduction to the "day of the LORD", a time of final judgment that makes for the righting of many wrongs.

"For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head." (Obadiah 15)

Even as the Hebrews thought of the heathen as Gentiles, and Paul so quoted the Old Testament putting Gentile in place of heathen, so also after Paul's development in Romans of God's people as Jews and Gentiles who are believers, so also must we expand our concept to the heathen as being non-believing Jews and Gentiles. Leslie C. Allen in THE NEW INTERNATIONAL COMMENTARIES writes about this passage from Obadiah.

"The final portion of the poem (Obadiah) sets the downfall of guilty Edom within a wider perspective. A substantial part of the prophetic literature of the O.T. is concerned with eschatological expectations, in which the themes of the Day of Yahweh and his people's dominations of other nations come to the fore. It is to this larger hope that our prophet now not unnaturally turns in climatic conclusion. Relating his own theme to the great traditional framework of the future, he is still much concerned with Edom but shows how his special message fits into the eschatological pattern of God's final triumph. The conquest of Edom already predicted is now presented as a signal inaugurating that traditional widespread demonstration of divine justice and grace which is associated with the Day of Jahweh. Behind the fate of the nations, as behind that of Edom alone in the preceding part of the book, stands the fall of Jerusalem in 587 as the crime that sets the wheels of divine retribution in motion."

We must recall from the previous look at eschatology in Revelation that on the Judgment Day of Revelation 20:11-15 several books are opened as the "dead" stand before God. The "standing before God", of course is the Judgment of the Day of the LORD. Books were opened and a Book of Life was opened: the dead are judged according to their works, good or bad, from the books; but believers according to their names being written in the Book of Life. So what the Prophet Obadiah is really telling us, or the Spirit of Christ speaking through Obadiah, is that Edom because of the treatment of God's people (the Jews at that time being essentially all of the people of God, and even then only a remnant of the Jews), Edom will be judged out of the books according to their deeds. NOTE: Believers are judged by grace as to whether they believe with their names written in the Book of Life. Others are judged according to works. **"The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." (Revelation 20:13-15)**

Allen continues on Obadiah.

"This first piece is a divine pronouncement of coming punishment for all the nations, i.e., excluding the Jewish nation. (This really has to be the nation of Romans 11 of all Jews, God's children of Jews and Gentiles, will be saved.)...The O.T. looked forward to a time when Jahweh would finally intervene in human affairs and set right the wicked world, a time when man's day of self-sufficiency and oppression would be brought to a close. This future period, when moral debts would be settled and Jahweh openly revealed to all as the upholder of right and justice and the victor over sin and violence, was called the Day of Jahweh. A basic and traditional part of this eschatological motif was the participation of the people of God in his victory."

John in Revelation also tries to make it clear of how God's people who reap the final rewards are primarily Gentiles, or rather Jesus the Risen Christ tries to make it clear through John. For while the first of Revelation 7 talks about the 144,000 that come from the tribes of Israel, the second part tells of the multitude of Gentiles that come from all nations.

"After these things I looked, and beheld, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with loud voice, saying, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Revelation 7:9)

This theme of judgment on Edom is repeated throughout the Prophets all the way up to Malachi.

"I have loved you," says the LORD. Yet you say, 'In what way have you loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" says the LORD. Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have

hated, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness. Even though Edom has said, 'We have been impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places, thus says the LORD of hosts: 'They may build, but I will throw down; they shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. Your eyes shall see, and you shall say, the LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.'" (Malachi 1:2-5)

Paul deals with this question of the love of Jacob over Esau and Edom in Romans 9, and as to whether there is a matter of unrighteous favoritism with God. It is part of the Apostle Paul's great treatment of the doctrine of election. The older of Esau was chosen to serve the younger Jacob before the two were born, and before they had done any good or evil. God wants it by election rather than by works. God will have mercy and compassion on those whom He decides to have mercy and compassion!

2. Joel.

The subject matter of Joel is very similar to Obadiah; however, for some reason Joel is more frequently quoted in the New Testament.

(1). For example, there is that very popular passage already alluded in the chapter on Last Days where the Apostle Peter quoted from Joel 2:28-31 to refer to what was happening on the first Pentecost after the Resurrection. It is a passage that begins fulfillment on the first Pentecost and runs all the way to the end of time. Only the mountaintops are seen, but it does give an outline that can be filled in with the valleys and lesser peaks during a study of the book of Revelation. And I think it would be wise here to follow a procedure that we will use later on the book of Revelation, that of considering the very last things first then backing up to what happened on this last day of Pentecost.

- a. The great and notable day of the LORD.
- b. Wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth: blood, fire, smoke with the sun turned to darkness and the moon into blood.
- c. The beginning of the last days with the democratic outpouring of the Spirit of God, and the salvation of all that will call upon the name of the LORD.

(2). Jesus quotes from Joel 3:13 as recorded in Mark 4:29 and Mark 13:24.

"Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the whimpers is full, the vats overflow--for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be shelter for His people, and the

strength of the children of Israel." (Joel 3:12-16)

Obviously we can get our perspective both from the end of time seen in the heavens and earth from Peter's explanation, and some perspective from Mark 4 and 13: (1) Mark 4 is a parable Jesus told about the kingdom of God which He established during His life on this earth, how the seed would grow and then harvest time would come with the sickle, obviously another reference to judgment which we see is also the main subject as it says "I will sit to judge all..."; and (2) Mark 13 is the equivalent of Matthew 24 with the great eschatological teachings of Jesus.

"Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?" (Mark 13:4)

Once again we will look at the end events like we did with Matthew 24, but this time we will work from the time of the end of history with the passing of the heaven and the earth and work forwards to the Phase 1 of Jesus, the beginning of sorrows.

1. Heaven and earth shall pass away (13:31). We should pronounce what Jesus said about that day and that hour when the heavens and earth pass away. He said no one knows when that is, not the angels, not even the Son of God, but only the Father. Now, there could be some question as to whether the Father told Jesus when He got back to heaven after the Resurrection, and therefore told John in Revelation.

2. Jesus comes in the clouds with great power and glory (13:14), and then Jesus will gather His Elect from the four corners of the earth and of heaven.

3. After tribulation, the sun will be darkened, the moon will stop giving light, and the stars will fall, and the powers in the heavens shaken (13:24-13).

4. Tribulation like no other time in history, shortened only for the sake of the elect of God, with false christs, false prophets.

Allen writes in his commentary on Joel about the plague of locusts, the dominant event of Joel: *"Enemy invasion was to blame, but from no human adversary. Advancing in their myriads, the locusts had done as much damage as any army could. Joel is to develop the military metaphor in 2:4-11...Observers have often commented on this terrifying phenomenon, of 'the myriads of insects that blot out the sun above and cover the earth beneath and fill the air whichever way one looked.'"*

And further Allen relates this locust plague to the Day of Yahweh as sort of a percussive, or image lesson: "First, the prophetic DAY of Jahweh, which Judah underwent in a kind of trial run in the form of the locust plague, is to be unleashed in its full force upon the nations, according to Joel. The curtailed prototype of Judah's experience is now built into its fully developed counterpart. Secondly, Judah is to experience a reversal of the devastation caused by the locusts and drought. The curse will be no more: it is to give way to a wealth of blessing."

We should briefly also look at what Carroll has to say on the plague of locusts: "*The locust is used else where in the Bible symbolically, to represent a curse (Rev 9:3-11).*"

You recall what we briefly considered on the locusts in Revelation 9:3-11. As the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, a star fell from heaven to the bottomless pit where poured out smoke with a darkening of the sun. From the smoke of the bottomless pit came locusts with power like the scorpions of earth have power. These locusts were very unique as they had instructions to ignore the green grass and trees, but to only sting the men on earth who did not have the seal of God in their foreheads. Likewise the scorpions were not given power to kill, only power to torture; and that torture would be like the torment of a scorpion. Then Revelation 9 further describes the locusts as having a shape like battle horses, with something like gold on their heads, and with faces like the faces of men. You notice how much of the description is in terms of "like": the locusts are like scorpions, the shape is like battle horses, like gold, and like the faces of men. Like women was their hair, like lions' teeth were their teeth, like breastplates of iron were their breastplates, like the sound of chariots with many horses running in battle were their sons, like scorpions were their tails with stings. The angle of the bottomless pit was their king. You know what it sounds like: a great final battle of choppers and other aircraft. So that even as the locusts of Joel sound like an invading army so do the locusts of Revelation 9 sound like an invading army over which Satan rules, but Satan can only hurt the non-elect of God.

25-4: Bottom Line of the book of Revelation.

Now, with eschatology out of the way, we can come to the main messages of the Bible. Like for first century Christians under the great tribulation, we under the last tribulation need practical messages for the daily life, even beyond the comfort that comes from the assurance that the ultimate justice of God will prevail. You can consider 22:11-21 as the last instructions.

Keep living like you live already, the unjust being unjust, the filthy being filthy, the righteous as righteous, and the holy as holy (22:11) Hey, just keep doing what you are doing already! You know the consequences of what is done. That will not waiver nor change. God is the same yesterday, today, and eternally. The results are inevitable for the unjust and filthy; and as for the righteous and holy, Jesus is Coming quickly to give to every man rewards according to his works. Jesus is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. The blessed are those who by doing his commandments prove that they have a right to the tree of life. These will enter into the gates of the holy city. Outside the city are dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, those that lie and love a lie (22:15). This message is from Jesus and He has given the message to angels to give to the churches. Jesus is the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star (22:16).

The Holy Spirit and the Christ say "Come" to drink of the water of life freely (22:17) If

any man who hears or reads the book of Revelation and adds words to it, then God will add to him the plagues of this book (22:18). This is a compulsion to good exegesis. You will hear a lot in this commentary about the Mormons as a good example of the bad practice of “falling” away from sound doctrine to turn away from the truth and ultimately turn into fables. It is not that they are so different from other denominations where churchmembers are also falling away from sound doctrine, it is only that they lead the fleet, so to speak. They need prayer. Two curses are on their head and we need to remind them of these two curses from the Bible: (1) the curse above which comes from adding words to the Bible as the Mormons have actually added the additional words of three more Bibles; and (2) the curse of advocating a reformed gospel that is different from what Jesus gave to the Apostle Paul to deliver in word and print.

Recall that isogesis is adding meaning to the Bible. The bottom line of this warning and the next is to not read too much into or out of the original meaning or intention! This is also a clue as to what is the worse that can happen to a person besides their name not being written in the book of life. What are the plagues? Since this is, no doubt, a summary of the wrath of God and the worse that can happen, we will cover it in the next section. If any man takes away from the words of this book, God will take away his name from the book of life and from the holy city, and from all the good things that are written in this book (22:19). Jesus says, "I come quickly" (22:20)

It is a shame that we do not let the easiest to understand parts of the Bible be guides for what is more difficult to understand; for example let the simple, straightforward words in II Thessalonians from Paul about the Holy Spirit being withdrawn be a commentary on Satan being released in the book of Revelation. It should be obvious that Satan was bound as the Holy Spirit came in great power on the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection, that the Holy Spirit restrains for an indefinitely long period of time which is represented by the thousand years; and then Satan is released for a short period of time as the Holy Spirit is withdrawn.

It is at this period that the United States will have so declined, even as the Roman Empire declined, that it will no longer have the power as it did in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Kosovo to contain dictatorships. These dictatorships will expand, rule the world, with the elimination of the separation of church and state, and Satan will again deceive the nations as he did during the time of the Roman Empire.

12-7: Composite Witness of the Five of the New Pentateuch.

The composite witness of the five books from John is that God is not willing that any person should perish because of last things, but rather that through the last events and knowledge of the last events might turn to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. J. B. Phillips in his translation of the book of Revelation so aptly lists 5 great themes that emerge from the book of Revelation.

1. That God is absolutely sovereign and that His eternal purpose is to destroy all forms

of evil.

2. There will be inevitable judgement and judgements from God on all forms of evil such as the worship of false gods (this includes riches, power, and success as in the Judgment on the large, collective group call Babylon).

3. It is expected of the believing reader of Revelation that they maintain patient endurance (steadfast and immovable as recorded in Paul) made secure in the knowledge that God is in control of history. The first volume of THE LEARN CHRIST COMMENTARIES is "The Great Maker of History", where the theme is developed from the Apostle James and the book of Acts that "known unto God are all His works from the beginning."

4. Such spiritual realities as the New Heaven and New Earth, New Jerusalem, the tree of life, and etc provide complete assurance of complete, ultimate victory in spite of temporal difficulties and tribulations.

5. Worship and Adoration of God and the Lamb of God are the resultants of seeing something of the power, majesty, and glory of God and His Son.

One such witness of the Five is from John 3:17, after the famous John 3:16 of "God so loved the world" and after the less famous John 3:18 of how the none believer automatically is under condemnation by not believing.

"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)



Chapter 26: Pride or Worship God, Revelation 1-3

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked...” (Revelation 3:17 KJV)

The worst thing that any individual or church can do is to feel sufficient within themselves—that they do not need God or anybody- because in so doing they leave no room for the grace of God! This is no new problem: it is only an old problem with new disguises. There are only seven New Testament churches mentioned in the introduction to the book of Revelation; although relatively new as New Testament churches, still in the First Century, each of those seven churches had problems; but one of them in particular had the glaring problem of self-sufficiency.

Self sufficiency or self reliance is difficult for an individual or church to see without an objective and outside warning. Look at what this church at Laodicea thought of itself: we are rich, we have plenty of goods, and we are self-sufficient since we have “need of nothing”! Look at what the Ascended Christ speaking to the Apostle John thought of this same church: you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked! Quite a contrast between what the church thought of themselves, and what Christ thought of the church. While throughout this chapter and the rest of the book the Mormons will be used as the extreme example of those who are self-sufficient, depending on their own works for salvation, and that is one of their official doctrines as stated by Joseph Smith in THE DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS, this problem is by no means isolated to the Mormons nor to the religious. After all, Mormons are only about the 14th largest denomination in the world. Now this is an INTERNAL PROBLEM; and that is part of the reason that it is so difficult to see by an individual or church. We need to blame everything on Satan or someone else EXTERNALLY—the old matter of “the devil made me do it”, while we tend to overlook the greater problem of ourselves and the fact that as the Apostle James quoted from the Old Testament that “the spirit (the human spirit) that dwelleth within us lusteth to envy” (James 4:5)

26-1: External Church Problems, Revelation 2.

These seven churches of Asia Minor, typical of all New Testament churches, had many external problems; and these like the internal problems of self-sufficiency and a sinful human

spirit were placed up front as the total summary of problems before the vision of God in control of most of the book of Revelation. Let us briefly note some of these external problems of the churches, not forgetting that these are also individual problems as churches are composed of a certain discrete number of individual Christians.

1. Liars who claimed to be Apostles of Jesus Christ in the church at Ephesus, Revelation 2:2. The history of civilization is replete with attempts of various groups to number the elect of God in a circle about themselves; and Joseph Smith tried to do it first with three more Bibles, then with establishment of the only church and with himself as the Prophet; and then with both the quorum of the seventy and the Apostles.

2. The Ephesian church had the works of the Nicolaitans to contend with: Revelation 2:6, works or “deeds” which this church hated and God also hated.

3. Tribulation and poverty surrounding the church at Smyrna, Revelation 2:9.

4. Also being in the same community as a “synagogue of Satan”, and listening to those worshipers blasphemy as they claimed to be Jews, the chosen people of God, Revelation 2:9. If you study Mormonism closely you will find that what has happened instead of the Restored Gospel is the Restored Jewish Religion. They have restored everything about the First Century Hebrew religion that Christ came to do away with: the Temple, good works for salvation, sacrifice, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men, and worshipping God with their lips while their hearts are far away.

5. The surety of suffering and the fear of suffering, Revelation 2:10.

6. The church at Pergamos which had to perform Christian works, uphold the Christian faith, and to speak the name of Christ in a very community which was considered as the “seat of Satan”, Revelation 2:13. Allowing only a few to become temple members and “card carrying” Mormons in the Utah vernacular with secret rites of sealing is the very opposite of the truth of Christianity which is to be shouted from the housetop. You don’t light a candle and hide it in a locked temple.

7. Satan was so active in the community of Pergamos that a Christian had actually been physically martyred, and so active that Christ referred to the community as “where Satan dwelleth”.

8. The church in the community of Thyatira had a problem that was both external and internal (Revelation 2:20-24): Jezebel, a prophetess was the external problem, and the internal problem was that the church not only allowed her to teach to them but also accepted her as a prophetess. We will be as bad if we accept Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, or even the current LDS President Ezra Taft Benson as a Prophet. In fact since you will find the God of the Mormons and the Jesus of the Mormons not to be the real God and Jesus of the Bible, the

admonition of II John is upon us of not accepting them into our homes or bidding them god-speed.

9. I suppose that the problem of the church in Sardis was also external as well as internal: externally they had the reputation in the community and perhaps in the State of a real First New Testament Church, but internally they were either “dead” or near dead, Revelation 3:1-4. Here is where we need to deal with the problem of appearance versus the reality in the sight of God. Where Mormons have faked many people out including their own people is in the appearance of faithfulness to the Bible and to Christ while secretly they have become disciples of Satan, the lie, distortions, and half-truths. We need to think about what has impressed us about the Mormons—things like a pretended emphasis on family, on evangelism, on good music, on talented speakers, and good works; and then we need to see how in Christian churches these appearances can also exist without the reality of the worship of God with the heart.

10. The real problem of the church at Philadelphia was in the form of a challenge: Christ had opened the door before them of a challenging opportunity that no man or group of men could shut including the synagogue of Satan, the Jews, that were influential in that community, Revelation 3:7-9.

11. Likewise the previously mentioned problem of the church at Laodicea, that of being lukewarm instead of cold or hot, could also be considered external as well as internal; for even as a cold body or hot body must radiate a temperature consistent with its own internal temperature, even so must Laodicea and all similar Christian churches today ultimately radiate externally what they consider most important internally; and if they consider themselves to be self sufficient without the need of help from God and from other Christians, then that self-centered ego will reflect to those outside the immediate community of the church itself.

26-2: Internal Problems

1. The prime internal problem of all the churches can be summarized as INTOLERANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE. Chapter 2 and chapter 3 answer the question, “What do you do when most in your church and your denomination become intolerant of sound doctrine?” You may have done like I did for years in reading, teaching, and preaching, to overlook the fact that after each passage to one of the seven churches, there is an appendix. An appendix written not to the church or to the angel (pastor) of the church; but an appendix written to the individuals in the church. I like to call it the CHRIST FOR INDIVIDUALS APPENDIX.

2. The Ephesian church had the works of the Nicolaitans to contend with: Revelation 2:6, works or “deeds” which this church hated and God also hated. This was mentioned earlier in the External Problems, but actually it was both internal and external since the widespread First Century doctrine was widespread: it said essentially, “You can do whatever you want to do as

long as you are a Christian.” It has historically been easy for Baptists, who naturally according to the Bible emphasize “salvation by grace”, to adopt a practical extreme position of “since we are saved by grace, let us not worry about works.” Paul dealt with this question in Romans and Galatians when he said Bible believers might conclude “let us sin that grace may abound.” Baptists, as Bible believers, do believe in The Security of the Believer as a Baptist distinctive; but also we believe in the rest of the Bible. I recall as a young preacher in Hot Springs Arkansas teaching a study course on the book of James. Having always been committed to strict Bible exegesis, I taught right down through the book of James verse for verse, letting the Bible speak for itself. As the end of one session, an active churchmember of this large SBC church said, “Is this good Baptist doctrine?” My answer was essentially that the Baptist distinctive of all Baptist distinct doctrines is that the Bible is the Word of God: (1) divine in origin, (2) absolute in authority, (3) high fidelity in its communications, and (4) sufficient in its message. Many of the Baptist’s statements of faith talk about “the Bible is the sole criterion for faith and practice.”

{This has been eroded in Baptist churches as we ease further and further into the Falling Away, as churchmembers will no longer endure sound doctrine.**}** Someone has jokingly said, “The only difference between the Baptists and the Methodists is that Methodists believe in falling from grace but Baptists practice it. **{**By the way, let us not confuse “falling from grace” with The Falling Away. Baptist churchmembers will inevitably be part of the Falling Away from God, Christ, and sound doctrine of the Bible, and perhaps lead in it as the largest Protestant denomination. It is not a falling away from churchmembership as church attendance will actually go up as certain churches become more popular with and conformed to the world. The big difference between the two is that “falling from an initial work of grace in the heart, called the new birth is impossible. Even God can not deny His own children that have been born again by the power of God. However, when you get down to the nitty-gritty of the Falling Away as in the first falling away of the children of Israel in the wilderness over 20 years of age, there was never a work of grace there in the first place.**}**

3. Tribulation and poverty surrounding the church at Smyrna, Revelation 2:9. This was also an internal problem since it looks like the “poverty” and “tribulation” had come into the church. We should never fear being poor as Jesus came primarily to preach the Gospel to the poor. **{**Tribulation as a major problem will be discussed often in Revelation, but we should quote here the Scripture that “all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” It may not be physical but it must be there.**}**

8. The church in the community of Thyatira had a problem that was both external and internal (Revelation 2:20-24): Jezebel, a prophetess was the external problem, and the internal problem was that the church not only allowed her to teach to them but also accepted her as

a prophetess. I think as the Falling Away progresses with first an itching ears lack of endurance for sound doctrine because of personal desires, then a heaping up of itching ears comforting teachers and preachers, then a turning away from the truth and a subsequent turning into fables, that one of the fables will be to find “prophets” like Jezebel to tell the people what they want to hear. This can easily be done in churches of all denominations like the Mormons have done it: to claim latter day “prophets” with the same status as the Prophets of the Old Testament who held the office of a prophet, or even of the New Testament “prophets” who briefly exercised a predictive element in prophecy. **{**It is very important to realize that the Old Testament Prophets, whom we know spoke for God, had a message first of all for their generation, which is the same message for us today: like do not mistreat the people in the land, stay away from iniquity and immorality, don’t make an idol by putting anything or anyone in the place of God for first priority, and your nation will fall if you do not stay close to God. We are always told to test the prophets as to the consistency of their message with the Bible, and we are told above all to test the spirit of their message.**}**

As serious as all these external problems are, especially Satan and the servants of Satan whom we must never underestimate, the real problems that will ultimately destroy us are internal problems. The Apostle James illustrates these internal problems in the matter of public and private prayer. The problem is why do we pray and do not receive an answer or answers to our prayers? And the answer of the Apostle James is—

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy.” (James 4:3-5 KJV)

Furthermore the cure of this problem of human spirits that lust and of self sufficiency is given as the grace of God given to the humble in James 4:6-10.

Cure of Self-Sufficiency in James

1. The assurance is given that as surely as God resists the proud, He also as surely gives grace to the humble. The hope for those Mormons that have not seared their consciences by supporting lies and giving themselves over to the temple worship is: (1) Since Hebrews tells us that the way to please God is through faith, we do not know how much faith it takes to please God; and (2) Even as a child is placed by Christ as the example for faith, the amount of doctrine that a child actually knows is very minimal. In other words how much unsound doctrine as recorded in the revelations of the LDS can a Mormon believe and still exercise sufficient faith in the God of the Bible, the God of Creation, to be saved.

2. Every avenue of life, individually or collectively in the church, is to be submitted to God. There are to be no secrets or withholdings from God.

3. Satan is to be resisted, leaving him no alternative but to flee away from you. Satan wants clearly to be worshipped. That is the way he tempted Jesus. As the “god of this world” he had the power to take Jesus up to the top of the temple from which he could show Him all the kingdoms, then tell Him that all those would be His if He would only worship Satan. Jesus responded with: “God only should you worship and serve.”

4. Directly proportional to your drawing nigh to God is the nearness that He will respond in staying close to you. This is not works. This is just accepting the grace which God provides.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9 KJV)

5. The cleansing of external actions and internal motivations of the heart is a prerequisite to the grace of God. The problem with Mormons as an extreme example of others is that they maintain that you must be good enough for God to bless you.

The Cure of Self-Sufficiency in Revelation

1. Remember, repent, and do. That is remember your past from which you have fallen, repent of the changes that lost you your first love, and do the deeds that you did at first—Revelation 2:5.

2. Listen to what the Holy Spirit says to the churches about overcoming and eating of the tree of life to live eternally—Revelation 2:7.

3. Do not fear; be faithful even until death; and Christ will give you the crown of life, eternal life—Revelation 2:10.

4. Listen to what the Spirit says to the churches about overcoming in order to escape the Second Death—Revelation 2:11.

5. Repent of the teachings of Baalim and of the Nicolaitans- Revelation 2:14-16.

6. Listen overcomers, you can have the hidden manna and a new name written on a white stone—Revelation 2:17.

7. You that have not known the deep things of Satan hold fast to those things that you have as Christians—Revelation 2:24,13. This points out the group of people who have seared consciences as they have also learned the deep things of Satan, the kind of things you would learn secretly in a temple, and who have committed the unpardonable sin.

8. Listen overcomers, even as Christ receives authority from God the Father He will pass on authority to you. Authority is a very important matter in Christianity and religion. The Bibles of the Mormons do not even meet the same Canon criterion that was placed on New Testament letters before they were included in the Bible. Things such as they had to be written by an

Apostle or the associate of an Apostles, consistency of doctrinal teachings, and consistency with the teachings of Christ.

9. Wake up; strengthen the good things that remain but which also are about to die; and complete your deeds in the sight of God—Revelation 3:2.

10. Remember, keep it, and repent. That is, remember what you have received from God and heard from God; keep that you have heard and received; and repent of any changes from what you know to be from God- Revelation 3:3.

11. Listen overcomers, you can have white garments and Christ will confess your name before the Father and angels—Revelation 3:5.

12. Hold fast to what you have already so that none will also take away your crown of life, eternal life—Revelation 3:11.

13. Listen overcomers, you can be a pillar in the eternal temple of God! Revelation 3:12.

14. Purchase gold from God, white garments, and eyesalve to see. That is, the gold is a matter of suffering for the cause of God; white garments represent the righteousness of God that covers the nakedness of sins; and eyesalve is to see things with the improved vision and perspective of God—Revelation 3:18.

15. Be zealous and repent—Revelation 3:19.

16. Open the door of grace, and Christ will come in and live with you—Revelation 3:19.

17. Listen overcomers, you can sit on the throne with Christ- Revelation 3:21.

26-3: The Ascended Christ Completes the Bible.

It is important to see the giving of the book of Revelation to the Apostle John as the last work of the Ascended Christ in the completion of the Bible. (1) Jesus during His life on earth got the Apostle Matthew started on the Gospel and the New Testament with what He did and said; (2) After His Ascension Jesus appeared to the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus and then in Saudi Arabia to give Paul the revelations for the writing of 14 books of the New Testament; and (3) Finally with this appearance to the Apostle John Jesus gives John the final revelation. Revelation 1:1-3 tells us—

1. God the Father Who on the First Day of Pentecost after the Ascension gave Jesus the Holy Spirit to send down on earth, now gives Jesus the Revelation to give to the Apostle John, lifting John up to heaven where Jesus is.

2. John is called a “bond-servant” and the Revelation is given through John to those also who are called “bond-servants”. This reminds us of Paul’s own epitaph in Colossians where he writes “Remember My Bonds”, implying (1) the bonds of imprisonment for them and for Christ; (2) the bonds of the Spirit of God, “Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives”; (3) the bonds of the Seven Ones, the major doctrines of the Bible

as One God, One Lord Jesus Christ, one Spirit, one body, etc.; and (4) The books or epistles of Paul that tell about these doctrines.

3. The means of transmission of this book of the Bible, the book of Revelation is not simple as an angel is also involved. It goes like this—

(1). God the Father originated the book of Revelation;

(2). The Father gave it to the Son even as He gave the Holy Spirit to the Son before given on earth; and

(3). The Son, The Ascended Christ, gave it to a messenger, and angel, for actual delivery to the Apostle John.

(4). The angel gave it to the Apostle John.

“...the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John.” (Revelation 1:1b NASV)

Later this angel becomes very important as a fellowservant of the Apostle John—

“And I (the Apostle John) fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10 KJV)

26-4: Worship God

You want a primary theme for the book of Revelation, here it is from the angel that actually delivered Revelation from God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ to the Apostle John, “WORSHIP GOD”. If you are truly worshipping God then you will not and can not be internally self-sufficient; if you are truly worshipping the God of the Bible, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Author of the Bible and the Creator of the Universe, then you will have less external doctrinal problems. How does this reconcile with the gist I have announced of “Seven Christian Thousands”. Well, you will have to read the whole book for that but I will give you a clue now from what God told Elijah when Elijah felt even as those few Christians and only seven churches in Asia Minor thought that they were all that was left of servants of God; and when I refer to that event of from God to Elijah I read it from Romans as quoted by the Apostle Paul to explain why most of the First Century Jews did not accept Christianity.

“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. What ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according

to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more or works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise work is no more work.” (Romans 11:1-6 KJV)

Seven Christian Thousands, seven thousand for each generation represent the chosen people of God for each generation, a people that come independent of good works through the election of grace. Grace is grace and work is works, and the two are never to be confused in any generation; and although mankind has developed hundreds of ways to identify and number the people of God, God always reserves the right to number His own people. “Seven Christian Thousands” acknowledges that numbering by God Himself, and by the Grace of God!

26-5: Dominant Perspectives for the book of Revelation.

“...the things which must shortly take place...” (Revelation 1:1 NASV)

Allow most of what you can to be literal in the book of Revelation and you will not be so inclined as many others to go off into weird interpretations independent of the total context of the Bible. There is not one theology for the book of Revelation and another theology for the rest of the 66 books. While you can not allow the Dragon, etc. to be literal, you can much of the book of Revelation including the one thousand years and this statement above that most of Revelation will take place shortly and immediately. In fact, I know of only the following events to remain to be fulfilled in the book of Revelation: (1) The release of Satan from bondage after a thousand years of not being able to deceive whole nations which probably also took place somewhere between 1820- 1948; (2) Revelation of the Man of Perdition and the False Prophet; and (3) The Final Battle of Armageddon as Gog and Magog come against a camp of the saints in Jerusalem.

Everything else has to have an immediate message for the First Century Christians that are immediately undergoing persecution, who in their churches have already become self-sufficient as if they did not need the real Apostle, John, nor God nor His Ascended Christ and Holy Spirit; and who have developed most of the external and internal problems that we as individuals and churches face today! The message by and large for those First Century Christians is the same message for us today!

How We Identify the Author as the Apostle John? Well the book does that for us in the first and second verses of chapter 1. “...by His angel to His bond-servant John, who...” (Revelation 1:1,2 NASV)

1. John, “who bore witness to the word of God”.
2. John, “who bore witness to the testimony of Jesus Christ”.
3. John, “who bore witness to all that he saw”, what he saw during the “Revelation of Jesus Christ”.
4. The John that would write to the seven churches of Asia Minor, Revelation 1:4.

5. The John who is a brother and fellow participant with the Christians of the seven churches, Revelation 1:9.

6. The John that was on the isle of Patmos because of his testimony to Jesus and to the Word of God, Revelation 1:9.

7. The John who was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, Revelation 1:10.

8. The John who was chosen to write down what he saw then send it to the seven churches of Asia Minor, those seven churches specifically being named in Revelation 1:11.

First to Speak to John is the Ascended Christ

It is important to realize that while an angel was the primary messenger of the book of Revelation, that the first to speak to the Apostle John with "a loud voice like the sound of the trumpet" was the Ascended Christ—

“And when I saw Him, I fell at his feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, `Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”
(Revelation 1:17,18 KJV)

How Revelation 1:12-18 identifies the loud voice as the Ascended Christ—

1. One like a “son of man” clothed in a robe and girded with a golden girdle, Revelation 1:13.

2. One who stood in the midst of the seven golden lampstands which represented the seven churches, Revelation 1:12.

3. His head and hair were white like snow, and His eyes were like a flame of fire, Revelation 1:14.

4. His feet were like heated brass in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters, Revelation 1:15.

5. In His right hand were seven stars, the seven pastors of the seven churches; His face shined like the sun; and from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, Revelation 1:16.

6. He identified Himself as the First and Last like God the Father of Revelation 1:8, Revelation 1:17.

7. He identified Himself as the living One, the One who was dead and now was alive forevermore, Revelation 1:18. That alone is enough to identify Him as the Ascended Christ!

8. He identified Himself as the one who has the keys to death and Hades, Revelation 1:18.

John gets Initial Instructions/Interpretations

“Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things. As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are

the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.” (Revelation 1:19,20 NASV)

1. Write, John is to write a book of the Bible.

2. What this book will cover—

The things John has already seen, the vision of the Ascended Christ.

The things which are in the Seven Churches of Asia Minor, the subject of Revelation 2 and 3.

The future, the things that will take place after the vision of Christ and after the things that exist in the seven churches of Asia Minor.

3. Christ’s own assistance in the interpretation of the book of Revelation—

The seven stars are the seven angels of the churches. Yes, churches like little children have guardian angels! But what is really being spoken of here is the pastors. Yes, the pastors as messengers of God are called angels. Was that to keep the Romans and persecuting Jews from knowing the place the elders or pastors had in the sight of Christ. I don’t know, but it is quite awesome to think that your pastor is so revered in the sight of Christ to be called an angel. It hopefully, if appreciated, would prevent so many pastors from being run off from their churches; and even beyond that as a factor in the intolerance toward sound doctrine that is the trend in our contemporary churches, it might help in letting the pastor rule over the church. What is happening in most churches today--yes, particularly in Southern Baptist Churches--would have to be called “anarchy”. Like Jannes and Jambres and others among the children of Israel in the wilderness the people have rebelled against pastors, God, and Moses!

The seven lampstands are the seven churches. You know we should consider here if there is any relationship between the two lampstands and two olive trees of Revelation 11 and of the book of Zechariah (the two witnesses), and the seven lampstands of the seven churches. Surely this beginning of proper interpretation should relate to the whole book of Revelation and to what is the primary theme of the book of Revelation. The Ascended Christ wants John and John’s fellow Christians to see His power and Ascended capability as in the middle of the seven churches with the seven angels who have the power to preserve or reprimand those churches.

The Ascended Christ wants to identify with the God the Father that is to be worshipped! Jesus refers to Himself in the very same words that have come from God the Father in Revelation 1:8—**“I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev 1:8 NASV)**

26-6: Pride

Pride is by far nothing unique to the Mormons. It is only that they have made an official doctrine and practice out of pride, maintaining in their DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS that God blesses those who are good enough; and that is the ultimate in self-pride as it bespeaks of self

sufficiency and eliminates a need of the grace of God. (It is called by them THE REFORMED GOSPEL.) And I would by no means attempt to enhance the already well developed persecution complex of the Mormons. Also while it is highly questionable if the LDS should be even classified among Christians, the Mormons with their many churches and with their claim to be the only Church are the very personification of the first three chapters of Revelation in that they have a name, a reputation, but they are dead. That in adopting the other three Bibles, in adopting the false concept of a Prophet who speaks revelations to be respected beyond that of the Bible and their other three Bibles, in the false concept of a Restored Gospel that modifies and replaces the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the false and self-disillusionment that they only are the Latter Day Saints, with the reality that it is difficult for any real Saint to remain among them, they are showing the ultimate in pride: a pride that leads away from the acknowledgment of the God of the Bible, the real God; and that leads away from salvation through the only real Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet they are only an ultimate example of pride as was the church which had a reputation for being alive but was dead. We also have individual pride and church pride. A pride that can give us the same appearance of religion in good attendance, many meetings, a wonderful sounding choir and musical program, evidence of good works, an emphasis on the family, and even an appearance of evangelism in the name of Christ; but be for nought except as a matter of self-justification and a matter of bragging before other men about our exclusive religion. If we learn nothing else from the follies of the Mormons we must learn that good music, dynamic speakers, attendance and meetings, an appearance of evangelism, and family life with an appearance of good works will not get it done! You see, okay what is left that is not covered by those things; and what can we do that they are not doing already. The answer is simple: (1) Worship the true God, the God of the Universe and the God of the Bible, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) Daily live in the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ; and (3) Find your salvation only in the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible, the Son of the God of Creation and the Bible.

Organization

I'm afraid God may have withdrawn from Southern Baptists because of the warfare between the moderates and the fundamentalists. Open warfare as it exists now in the Southern Baptist Convention can not co-exist with love so that it becomes evident that Southern Baptists like the church at Laodicea has left its first love. And so has gone every denomination of Christianity as evidenced in the History of Christianity as the organization itself becomes paramount over anything else. While many verbal disguises have been used during the last decade of warfare between the moderates and fundamentalists, it has primarily been a political warfare for the control of the organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Organization is most often a substitute for enthusiasm; and if we stop to think about it, which do you think the Holy Spirit can most easily work through, organization or enthusiasm? The answer is self-evident! How quickly a church or a convention of churches can depart from its beginnings in first love. This is evidenced by what happened at Ephesus, the single church of the seven of the book of Revelation that we know a great deal about. Acts 19 records the beginnings of the church at Ephesus under the ministry of the Apostle Paul, a ministry which saw the Gospel preached in all of Asia—

“And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.” (Acts 19:10 KJV)

We learn what is going to happen almost immediately in the future of this fervent and evangelistic church of Ephesus by what Paul tells the elders at Miletus—

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29,30 KJV)

And we know from Revelation 2 this is what really did happen in Ephesus—

“I know thy works, and thy labor, 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 labored, 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.” (Revelation 2:2-5 KJV)

Considering that the church at Ephesus was organized in approximately 54 A.D. and when this indictment against them was written it was approximately 94 A.D., a period of only 40 years to go from the fervor of evangelism to the decadence of organization, to go from first love to secondary pursuits; then do you think it strange that with a history of from 1861 to 1991, or 130 years, more than three times that of the almost fall of Ephesus, that the SBC in 130 years could repeat both the history of other denominations and of the church at Ephesus.

26-7: Seven Christian Thousand.

If in this generation there are only seven thousand people of God as in the time of Elijah, I don’t think we should look for too many of those people among the Southern Baptists or among the Mormons!

Some Exegesis Points of Revelation 1-3.

1:1 The connection of revelation, secrets, and the book of Daniel as an introduction to the prophecy of the book of Revelation—in particular Daniel 2:28-30—is evident. While the Mormons in their Temple worship are in the secrets keeping business, God and his true

Prophets and prophets are in the secret revealing business. During this study we will find an inevitable connection between the spirit of prophecy and the testimony of Jesus; and Jesus early in His ministry to the apostles and other Christians made it clear that what is entrusted by way of revelations is to be shouted from the housetops, not keep in secret.

1:7 This quote or RevRecon from Daniel 7:13,14, makes it clear that the wicked dead will also see Christ at His Second Coming. Also in the evident RevRecon nature of Zechariah 12:10 and the words of “even those who pierced him”, we see the double or beyond nature of prophecy in that Zechariah 12:10 is first of all clearly a reference to the Crucifixion of Jesus still to come with the subsequent outpouring of the Spirit and grace to follow; but by the use of those same words here in Revelation, we see that it also applies to the Second Coming. And it is not so much a double nature as a fuller nature that covers much more spread of time that in those terms of which we normally think. Even Joel’s prophecy that Peter quoted on the first day of Pentecost as beginning to be fulfilled with what was happening that day, the beginning of the last days, also including the great and notable last One Day of the Lord when the old heavens and earth would pass away. And the whosoever would call upon the name of the Lord applied at the beginning or near the end of the Last Days.

1:8 This LORD God the Father of the book of Revelation was no new God in the Bible; for like here identified as “Alpha and Omega” was so identified as the God of the Prophets in Isaiah 41:4: “I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.” (KJV)

1:9-20 Even as God’s pattern as part of the tabernacle construction of Exodus 13:31-40 was the golden candlestick of seven lamps, so John sees seven golden lampstands which represent the seven churches and the seven stars represent the seven angels of the churches. (We find angels to be more than angels in the book of Revelation.)

2:1 Immediately you know “angel” not to be an angel in the conventional sense of the rest of the Bible, because there would be no need for Jesus to write to an angel. The angels are right there in heaven with Him, and can be spoken to directly. Therefore, the angel is really the pastor or leader of the local church. Angel in the book of Revelation has more the meaning of “messenger of God”; and what we will find is that this is a small key to the unlocking of the mysteries of Revelation. It is these angels, fellow servants, brethren, and holders of the testimony of Jesus and of the Word of God that also have the spirit of prophecy. How then can we distinguish between an angel with the power of an angel and an angel in the making still on earth? In the context of the verse and chapter!

2:4 The church at Ephesus was not the first assembly of God to leave its first love as we find in Jeremiah 2; and this background helps us understand exactly what the leaving of the first love at Ephesus was—

“Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit....For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.” (Jeremiah 2:11,13 KJV)

To leave the first love is to depart in concept and conscience from the God of the Bible, the God of salvation. It entails two evils: (1) Forsaken the God of the living water of salvation and His Son; and (2) Making other gods that can not provide this living water. Hence the last invitation of the book of Revelation to Ephesus, to the other churches of Asia Minor, and to all Christians and churches is to “Come” to the living water and drink (Rev 22:17).

2:7 Since another chapter of this book, SEVEN CHRISTIAN THOUSANDS, is on the “overcomers”, and the overcomers are mentioned here, it should also be pointed out how that the promise here of eating from the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God is the subject also of Revelation 22 where with the new heavens and earth comes a new Jerusalem with the Tree of life in its midst. When God after the expulsion of man made it impossible for anyone to find the Garden of Eden and the tree of life, we must decide that He pulled it up into heaven approximately 1500 miles from which it will be lowered with the Tree of Life when the new city with its Garden is lowered. There were also “overcomers” in the book of Proverbs, Proverbs 11:30,31—

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.” (Proverbs 11:30,31 KJV)

The “overcomers” are identified as: (1) The righteous and this is consistent with the final admonition of Revelation 22:11 where the righteous and holy are to keep on being righteous and holy; (2) Those who win souls by the testimony of Jesus and by the Word of God, a consistent and repeating theme in the book of Revelation; and (3) As the opposite of the wicked sinner where also in Revelation 22:11 it is admonished to let the filthy and liar keep on being filthy and a liar.

2:14 The teachings of Baalim are not new to the book of Revelation and to the church at Pergamos. Besides the original teachings of the Baalim of the Old Testament (Numbers 22), the Apostle Peter wrote earlier of this problem in II Peter 2, starting the discussion in 2:1 in terms of “false teachers” and then climaxing in 2:15,16 with about loving the wages of unrighteousness. From II Peter 2 then the teachings of Baalim would include: (1) Those teachers who bring damnable heresies among the people that serve to deny the atonement of Christ (2:1); (2) Those who follow their own fickle way bringing an evil reputation on the way of Truth (2:2); (3) With fake words and out of a covetous heart they make merchandise of Christians, or profit from Christians (2:3); (4) They that walk in the flesh with uncleanness, despise government,

are presumptuous, self-willed, and speak evil of higher-ups (2:10); (5) Speak evil of those things which they do not understand (2:12); (6) Spots and blemishes among Christians with deceptions that they parade before Christians (2:13); (7) With eyes full of adultery, hearts full of sin, unstable souls (2:14); (8) Wells without water, drifting clouds, and recipients of the darkness (2:17); and (9) Speakers of great swelling words of vanity that led those previously escaped from such back into the lusts of the flesh (2:18). (NOTE: A study of these teachers and teachings of Balaam of II Peter, Revelation, and the book of Jude as well as certain correlating passages from Paul could be considered a study of much of the Mormons and Mormonism. Baalim as Satan always has his followers. The teachings and practices are the same only the name is changed to protect the guilty!)

3:9 While we may be somewhat fearful of labeling a spade as a spade and the Mormons as under the leadership of Satan, the book of Revelation does not hesitate to call the Jews at Philadelphia “the synagogue of Satan”. Now, that is intolerant and religious persecution; but true.

James 2:17,18: Neither Faith Nor Works Alone

Mormons and Baptists stand at the two extremes of the faith-works spectrum with Mormons placing an overemphasis on works for salvation without faith and Baptist placing an overemphasis on faith for salvation without works. “EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS IS DEAD, BEING ALONE.” (James 2:17 KJV) And the opposite would also be true: EVEN SO WORKS, IF IT HATH NOT FAITH IS DEAD, BEING ALONE. The primary point of James and the rest of the Bible is that faith and works go inseparable together. While Baptists need primarily the message of James, the Mormons need primarily the message of the book of Galatians. Both beliefs are intolerant of sound doctrine.

“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.” (Galatians 5:4 KJV)

Hear that Mormons! You may call yourself the “Church of Jesus Christ”, but that name is “of no effect” for you and your salvation as you simultaneously seek to be “justified by the (works) of the law”. You have fallen away from the grace of God by which only there is salvation.

26-8: Works, Faith, and Grace.

When you look at the total number of times these three words—works, faith, and grace—are mentioned in the New Testament, there is absolutely no doubt which is the most important subject: the word “works” is found 118 times, the word “faith” 245 times, and the word “grace” 131 times. It is almost as if God in the writing of His New Testament through the Spirit and Apostles is saying I will balance works and grace, respectively 118 and 131 times; and then I will deal with the primary subject of the Bible which is faith. And if you add the word “believe” which is the verb form of the word “faith”, you find a combined total in the New Testament of 369 times.

In short, what the Mormons have had to do in order to make effectively their own King James Version of the Bible that is consistent with their other four or more Bibles is to take approximately 118/618, or 19%. Baptists have done a little bit better in taking approximately 81% of the Bible. However that is only officially. In fact and unfortunately, both Mormons and Baptists have effectively through indifference and ignorance taken only a little of the Bible for all practical purposes, having created a religion of the world through the exercise of their own conscience rather than an objective Bible exercise.

At the end of the chapter in tabular form is a comparison of the New Testament on the four words “works”, “faith”, “believe”, “faith and believe”, and “grace”. From these numbers, indications of the way God wrote the New Testament, you have no doubt that the book of Revelation is the book of WORKS, having the largest number of usages of the word “works” in the New Testament, 17; and the only other New Testament book close to that in usage of “works” is the Gospel of John written immediately after Revelation. The way the Apostle John compensated, or rather the Spirit of God through John, in order to make the Gospel of John more a book of faith and believe was to use believe an even greater number of times!

The books that are more on “works” than “faith” and “grace”; or WORKS > FAITH AND GRACE books—

1. Revelation.

Wow, the book of Revelation stands alone here; because even the book of James of which we normally think of as a book of “works”, there is a balance between works and faith and grace, respectively 10, 12, and 2. While you were thinking of so many other characteristics of the book of Revelations such as eschatalogy, etc. surely you overlooked the fact that the book of Revelation is the paramount book of all the Bible on the subject of works as compared to faith and grace. You notice that “faith” plus “believe” are only mentioned 4 times and grace only twice!

The books that are approximately balanced on “works” and “faith” and “grace”; or WORKS = FAITH AND GRACE—

1. Matthew with 12 and 12 respectively on works and faith.
2. James with 10 and 12 respectively on works and faith.

NOTE: When James emphasizes that faith and works stand together, he is practicing what he teaches in the writing of his book.

3. Titus with 6 on works, 5 on faith and believe, and 4 on grace, perhaps the most balanced on the three subjects in the New Testament.

AND OF COURSE WHAT THAT LEAVES IS THAT THE REST OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT ARE MORE ON FAITH-BELIEVE AND GRACE THAN ON WORKS—FAITH

BELIEVE PLUS GRACE > WORKS—OR THE REMAINING 23 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

“Works” in Revelation

With this in mind, we definitely should take a closer look at what the “works” references tell us in Revelation, noting that while the Mormons are farther away from the rest of the Bible than Baptists, we must check to see that with their works are they closer to the truth in the book of Revelation than are Baptists?

1. Revelation 2:2.

“I know thy works, and thy labor, 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...” (Rev 2:2 KJV)

While we tend to think of Mormons as emphasizing works over Baptists, here we find that the Baptists fare much better than the Mormons in good works as the Baptists have had far less tolerance with those who falsely claim to be Apostles than have the Mormons!

2. Revelation 2:5.

“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.” (Rev 2:5 KJV)

It is amazing in these words from the Ascended Christ Himself in that the “fallen” sounds much like Galatians 5:4 although it is primarily on grace! And ultimately we must find that a failure to do the first works is the equivalent of the attempt to be justified by the works of the law! To fall or fail is to do the works of the law rather than the works of faith and grace!

3. Revelation 2:9.

“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.” (Rev 2:9 KJV)

Well, we know where the works of blasphemy and of Satan are in our American society! Well, at least some of them; and it should be refreshing to pick on somebody other than the Mormons. I have reminded you that the Mormons are only the best example of the bad aspects of the falling away. Let me parenthetically remind you that the gap between churchmembership and Christ today is in all churches and all denominations!

4. 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.” (Rev 2:13 KJV)

Satan was declared to be there because that was where faithful Christians were being slain! Notice also that it is not enough simply to name the name of Christ—"holdest fast my name": it is also necessary to "hast not denied my faith"

5. Revelation 2:19.

"I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first." (Rev 2:19 KJV)

Is the Ascended Christ saying that the last works of the church at Thyatira are greater than the first works; or do we have two different words for "works" in this one verse? We are assisted by the translation of the NASV:

"I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first." (Rev 2:19 NASV)

6. Revelation 2:23.

"And I will kill her children (the children of the prophetess Jezebel) with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." (Rev 2:23 KJV)

God gives to each church and each individual in the churches according to their individual works.

7. Revelation 2:14.

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations..." (Rev 2:14 KJV)

We think of Paul's "always abounding in the work of the Lord", which is never in vain. The end will be at the end of the falling away, and then the Second Coming of Christ with the catching up of believers to meet Him in the air. Those that fall away during the great falling away do not work until the end: they have turned away from the truth of all sound doctrine including the works of Jesus.

8. Revelation 3:1,2

"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. Be watchful and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God." (Rev 3:1,2 KJV)

The works of any church can be such that in the community and American society they are a good name or reputation, and yet such that in the sight of God that reputation is nothing; that is, those works are nothing. Dead surely would be the equivalent of fallen, of justification by law or dead works, and of Christ being of none effect!

9. 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, hadst not denied my name.” (Rev 3:8 KJV)

We are beginning to realize that “works”, at least in Revelation, has more meaning than works as in work; for what are the works that the Ascended Christ knows here?

(1). That they have a little strength which means grace and the power of grace since the power, grace, and strength of a church even as an individual comes from the grace of the Spirit of God.

(2). That they keep the Word of Christ.

(3). That they have not denied the name of Christ.

So that while perhaps two out of three are works in the sense of what we normally think of works, at least one third is grace!

10. Revelation 3:15.

“I know works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou were cold or hot.” (Rev 3:15 KJV)

We see that works are more the characteristics of the churches. What they are doing and what they are saying and what they are believing and how they are loving and serving!

11. 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: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” (Rev 9:20 KJV)

Well, it is obvious that most of these works are exactly what we think of as evil works which violate the laws of God: of murder, fornication, and stealing; and only the first is a different yet somewhat similar work in that is the worship of devils instead of the worship of God. Of course, again we remember that the first commandments are laws of the worship of God.

12. Revelation 14:13.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.” (Rev 14:13 KJV)

What are the characteristics of the true saints, those who “die in the Lord”? That: (1) They rest from doing works; and (2) That their works or labors follow them to the new life. So that works being the opposite of rest is what we ordinarily think of in terms of works!

13. Revelation 15:3.

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.” (Rev 15:3 KJV)

The “works” of God give us a clue as to what the works of men and of churches are to be: (1) The works of God are marvelous and great; and (2) The works of God are just and true. AND ONLY THIS GOD OF THE BIBLE, THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, IS THE KING OF SAINTS!

14. Revelation 18:6.

“Reward her eyes as she rewarded you, and double unto her (Babylon or the New Babylon, Rome) double according to her works; in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.” (Rev 18:6 KJV)

The deeds of Rome, and of any subsequent generation, as they persecuted Christians will return to them double for what they have done!

15. Revelation 20:12,13.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12,13 KJV)

There is a set of books by which works are to be judged; and then there is one book, the book of life, which is the book that list all those who by grace and faith have been in the Lord, that once listed in that book the books of works have nothing to do with them. It is only that in the churches of all kinds there are many individuals who must be judged according to works, because they have never experienced the faith and grace that comes from God! You will find from the last chapter study, that when Christ tells the church at Sardis that there are “only a few who have not defiled their garments”, they tells us how sad it can get among churchmembers in any given church.

Let us be frank or honest: how pastors, other church and denomination leaders have done during the “perilous times” of II Timonty 3:1-9 and the {**falling away**} “time” of II Timothy 4:1-4, is to redefine works, illustrated as following: “the men will be lovers of themselves” is redefined by leaders as acceptable self-fulfillment; the lovers of money is made a goal for all Christians and a sign of the blessing of God; the boasters are promoted to positions of leadership since they have all the answers anyway; the proud, ah yes pride, the subject of this chapter--well, the proud become the inheritors of the Fallen churches while the poor in spirit inherit the rest of the earth; the blasphemers are allowed to remain anonymous as long as they take the name of God in vain only at work, home, and play; the disobedient to the Bible teachings

of their parents are excused in terms of the natural evolution of a new generation, the necessity to be “cool” and keep up with the times; the unthankful are allowed to cry their poison out to the whole congregation as self-expression; the unholy--well, the unholy, how can we know the difference without sound doctrine; the unloving, well if we go by the appearance of things instead of the reality, and we say “love, love, love”, or Touched by Love, then it must be so; the unforgiving are allowed to vent their anger in the spirit of the fundamentalists; the slanderers are placed in charge of weeding out the moderates and liberals in the Southern Baptist Convention; those without self-control are allowed freedom of expression and dominance in the anarchy in church government; the brutal appear as defenders of the faith; the despisers of

works	faith	believe	faith/believe	grace	New Testament books
12	12	7	19	0	1. Matthew
9	31	2	33	7	2. Hebrews
8	34	8	42	20	3. Romans
10	12	1	13	2	4. James
0	12	6	18	6	5. I,II Thessalonians
1	13	6	18	19	6. I,II Corinthians
5	20	1	21	7	7. Galatians
2	7	1	8	10	8. I,II Peter
6	5	0	5	4	9. Titus
4	18	3	21	3	10. I Timothy
3	8	1	9	12	11. Ephesians
3	8	1	9	4	13. II Timothy
0	4	1	5	3	14. Philippians

good subvert the concepts of right, wrong, and doctrine; the traitors ignore Baptist and Bible sound doctrine; the headstrong charge on conquering for the benefit of the Falling Away; the haughty support them; the lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God dominant the democratic process; and the form of godliness that denies the power of God becomes the norm for church membership; more new teachers are heaped up to send them into homes where they can make captive more silly women laden with sins; those that will not endure sound doctrine are provided alternative convictions; that their new doctrines are based more on their desires is alleviated by the pastor as creative expressions; the itching ears are tickled each time the church comes together; the heaping up of unsound teachers is promoted and the heaping out of sound teachers becomes a regular practice; and finally there is no absolute truth, only fables.



Chapter 27: Number the People of God or Worship Christ, Revelation 4-7?

Before we thank God that we are not as the Mormons, the Church of Christ, the Roman Catholics, Jehovah Witnesses, and some non denominational churches who claiming to be the only Church and the only Christians have numbered the people of God in a circle about themselves; before we thank God that we are not as the hypocrites, the Jewish people of the First Century who also claimed to be and still do to be the elect of God in spite of the rejection of Jesus Christ, we should also consider our own guilt of a priority for numbering what we consider to be the people of God over the Worship of Christ. This chapter explains that!

Church people like other people have the two great needs of (1) guilt relief and (2) self-identity. Even in the churches these needs are not met according to God's ordained methods in the Bible: (1) confession and forgiveness of sin and (2) personal identification with Christ through repentance and faith. Therefore you expect in the larger American society there must be substitute solutions for these two great needs. Guilt relief can be found in the church when the appearance of relief is chosen over the reality by justification through attendance, and self-identity rather than with Christ can be found by identifying primarily socially with the other members of the church who may or may not have properly identified with Christ or found proper guilt relief.

These artificial means of guilt relief and self-identity are enhanced by the pastor and the people when they like so many others in history attempt to number the people of God in a circle about themselves. It seems pathetic to us who objectively witness it when a very small church has so rationalized in such a manner as to think they are the only people of God in the whole world. Of course, Elijah felt the same way when things were not going so well; except he felt as if he was the people of God of one, one individual—

**“Lord, they have killed the prophets, and digged own thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”
(Romans 11:3-5 KJV)**

“THERE IS A REMNANT”, that is what I mean when I say “Seven Christian Thousand”. It may be six thousand, it may be eight thousand or nine thousand. It is only that today as the today at the present time of which the Apostle Paul wrote in the First Century there is a small number of the real people of God as compared to those who call themselves the people of God, and the seven thousand Jews in the land of Israel during the time of Elijah only serves to remind us how small the remnant may be as compared to all those who claim to be the people of God.

27-1: Worship the Almighty God on the Throne, Revelation 4.

The theme of Revelation 4 is the worthiness of LORD God the Father to be worshipped, and is best expressed by the last verse of that chapter—

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:11 KJV)

It reminds us of the Model Prayer where Jesus taught disciples how to pray to God the Father, beginning with “Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name...” and ending with “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

1. The book of Revelation as other books of the Bible is a self revelation originating from God and delivered through the Lord Jesus Christ by way of some messenger. The Apostle John looked toward heaven, and “a door was standing open in heaven” (Rev 4:1). John only heard a voice through the open door, saying “Come up here” and I will show you things that are going to happen in the future after this present time.

2. The first voice John heard in Revelation 1:10 was the voice of Jesus, and turned to see Jesus standing in the midst of the seven lampstands, Who then delivered to John the messages to the seven churches. The “first voice”, also like a trumpet, from the open door of heaven is another voice (Rev 4:1), and the voice which identified himself in Revelation 19:10 as a fellow-servant.

3. The trumpet-like voice invites John to “Come up” in order what? To see “the things which must be hereafter” (Rev 4:1), the things of eschatology and the future. So that immediately after timely messages to the seven churches comes eschatology, seven as they are typical of all churches. **{**There were actually more than seven churches in the Asia Minor of the first and second century.**}** We can find a message for our church, denomination, and ourselves in the book of Revelation. We are not trying to ignore eschatology as you see by the extensive discussion in the last chapter, but we are saying the first priority is a timely message from Christ to the churches and then eschatology; and then beyond that to a timely message from Christ TO INDIVIDUALS. **{**Hence the volume 3 title, “Christ for Individuals”, in this volume of the LEARN CHRIST COMMENTARIES.**}**

4. “immediately I was in the spirit” (Rev 4:2)—this is hard to understand, for John was already “in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day” in chapter 1. It would naturally lead one to believe that

this was a day after Sunday. Recall that the Sabbath Day of the Old Testament became after the Resurrection the Lord's Day of Sunday. Sunday is really the new testament Sabbath; and by the way, according to Jesus, it is made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

5. God the Father on the Throne: "behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne" (Rev 4:2,3):

(1). The reflections of light from Him on the throne were so great that John could in writing only compare it with "like a jasper and a sardine stone"; and

(2). The rainbow that surrounded the throne of God, obviously reflecting the grace of God, and it reflected like an emerald. I believe God and heaven are much closer to earth than we can possibly imagine, in another dimension that we can not see since the wavelength dimensions of our visual sight are very short anyway; and that this is the actual rainbow that we are seeing on the earth all the time. After all, the Bible tells us that God sits on the circle of the earth, and that the clouds are His footstool.

6. Worship God on earth as God is worshipped by the elders in heaven—"thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven": Revelation 4:4,5.

(1). Here starts the numbering of God that is unique, or almost unique to the book of Revelation as first it is mentioned that around the throne are 24 seats and then exactly 24 elders in those 24 seats. The number of leaders before the throne of God are exactly the number that God planned to be there, and that number is twice the number of God's ordained leaders of the First Century: there were 12 Apostles and there are 24 seats with 24 elders before the throne of God.

(2). They were clothed in white raiment. The white raiment obviously represents as we learn later in the book of revelation being washed white in the blood of the lamb.

(3). They had on their heads crowns of gold. This obviously represents the reward of God for their service and persecution; and with their position before the throne, also represents their leadership in heaven.

(4). The sound was as awesome as the sight and sound of lightnings, thundering, and voices came out of the throne.

(5). Seven lamps were burning in front of the throne which the Apostle John—and note only the Apostle John—identifies as "the seven Spirits (or spirits) of God" (Rev 4:5). I emphasize that these are words from the Apostle John that he added when he wrote the book of Revelation, and therefore are based on some things that were explained later to him in the revelations of the book of Revelation.

Since we know that there is only One Holy Spirit of God, we are more inclined to lean toward "spirit" instead of the "Spirit" that the King James translators used. Unfortunately there

is only one Greek word, the word “pneuma” literally meaning wind, for both the Holy Spirit and other spirits like human spirits.

7. Worship God as all living creatures of heaven and earth worship God: Rev 4:6-9.

It does not matter so much what the living creatures, unfortunately called “beasts” in KJV, look like as the fact that all the living creatures besides humans here on earth are worshipping God—**{**To really pray from the heart the “thy will be done on earth” part of the Lord’s Prayer (more appropriately called he Model Prayer), we should be worshipping God more nearly the way He is worshipped in heaven. God could use more of our thought time, more consistent time talking to Him, and much less time--like zero--taking His name in vain.**}**

a. They keep up this tireless worship of God both day and night and forever; and

b. They say: “Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” (Rev 4:8) This is the same Alpha and Omega of Revelation 1:8 that John moved forward after the giving of the whole book and immediately after John talks about Jesus Christ. You see these words about Jesus and God the Father are preliminary summaries of the main messages of all the book of Revelation as is of all the books of the Bible.

c. This is glory, honor, and thanks to the God Almighty on the Throne from all living creatures not human.

d. It is glory, honor, and thanks to the Everlasting God. **{**By the way contrary to the way of much of the “praise” worship and songs, Jesus never taught people to pray to Him, only to God the Father through Jesus. And since praise must be a aspect of prayer and worship, this is inappropriate. Also Jesus taught to pray without vain repetition as the heathens do, and notice some of these simple praise songs which repeat three or four words over and over. That fits more in the vain repetition category, and less in the pray with understanding category. This should also eliminate that vain babbling of so-called tongues in worship as Paul was particularly talking about this matter in Corinthians when he wrote that we are to speak in the church with understanding (that is, so others can understand) and pray and sing with understanding). On the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Jesus, when the Jews from every country of the Roman Empire spoke in tongues, it was not unknown tongues. It was the tongue of a certain country. In other words if some Jews were there from Spain, they heard in Spanish; if from France they heard in French, et cetera. Of course, the really unsound doctrine of this charismatic movement in worship is that it tries to make this emotionalism of speaking in truly unknown tongues synonymous with Sanctification. Sanctification is not that easy. According to the sound doctrine of the Bible in spite of popular practices otherwise, sanctification is the third aspect of salvation after initial belief and new birth**

whereby the Christ follower becomes more and more like Christ until at the Second Coming, “we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.” This sound Biblical sanctification takes hard work, thus the Apostle Paul says “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”. Would that it could happen instantly at one worship service or evangelistic meeting or even each Sunday, but that is hardly consistent with the Bible. And what you will most generally find is that this kind of worshipper quickly forget during the week as far as real life changes, what happened to them during that worship. It is an unsound doctrinal substitute for the sound doctrine of the Bible.**}

e. It is synchronized with worship from the leaders. Andrew Blackwood wrote a wonderful book on public prayer entitled LEADING IN PUBLIC PRAYER in which he offers this abbreviation to remember the Biblical aspects of proper public prayer, ATCSS. It stands for Adoration of God, Thanksgiving to God, Confession to God of sin, Supplication to God for such basics as daily needs, and Submission to the will of God. You can follow those aspects through the Model Prayer, and it would also be a good basis for your daily personal prayer, expanded of course, and put in your own words and thoughts.

8. Worship God as all living creatures and leaders in heaven worship God: Revelation 4:10,11

“The four and twenty elders fell down before him that sat on the throne, and worshiped him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:10,11 KJV)

(1). God the Father created all things of heaven and earth; and

(2). All things were created for God the Father. The ultimate purpose of the Christian calling is to glorify God, thus W. O Carver calls his commentary on Ephesians, THE GLORY OF GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN CALLING. Ephesians is the best, short book of the Bible to cover all aspects of the Christ life, both BIC (before in Christ) and AIC (After in Christ), and besides my own commentary on Ephesians, ONE COMMENTARY ON EPHESIANS, it is one of the best. Anyway “great things He has done”.

27-2: Worthy is the Lamb of God, the Christ, to be Worshipped, Revelation 5.

Oh yes, don't misunderstand, Christ is to be worshipped. This chapter is outlined as follows: (1) The need for someone to open the book that was in the right hand of God the Father, Revelation 5:1-4; (2) The Lamb of God takes the book while all living creatures around the throne of God worship the Lamb, Revelation 5:5-10; (3) Thousands of angels join in this worship of the Lamb, Revelation 5:11-12; and (4) All living creatures of the universe of heaven and earth join in the worship of the Lamb, Revelation 5:13,14. How did they worship Christ? With a new song with many different words and much meaning for understanding!

27-2: Correlation of the events from Jesus of Matthew 24 with the Seven Seals on the Book of Revelation 6. It actually takes six chapters for the Lamb of God to open all seven seals of the book, Revelation 6-11; but six of the seals are opened in Revelation 6, and then the seventh seal is opened at the beginning of Revelation 8, but it takes 8-11 to discuss it since that seventh seal has seven trumpets. Revelation 7, after the first six seals and before the opening of the seventh seal, is an important insert about God's numbering of His own people.

As is the nature of prophesy throughout the Bible where high points are given by one Prophet then elaborated on by another Prophet, Jesus as recorded in Matthew 24 gives the high points of the future with seven aspects of the Time of Sorrows, and in the book of Revelation these are expanded into the Seven Seals on the Book with the Seven Seal having seven trumpets.

The disciples asked Jesus privately about eschatology—

“Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3 KJV)

First, the beginning of the Time of Sorrows: Matthew 24:4-8.

Then the continuation of the Time of Sorrows: 24:9-14.

Then the Abomination of Desolation of Daniel, in 80 A.D. the destruction of the Temple, Jerusalem, and for all practical purposes the Jewish religion of the First Century: A.D.: Matthew 24:15-20.

Then Great Tribulation of believers: Matthew 24:21-13.

A Final Tribulation on all flesh and on the universe shortly before the Second Coming: Matthew 24:29.

The Second Coming of Christ: Matthew 24:14-31.

One place that the Apostle John moves progressive revelation on eschatology forward, based on and going beyond what Jesus taught in Matthew 24 is in allowing us to see these six categories as continuing events. Of course, you must remember that the book of Revelation is coming from the Ascended Christ so that Jesus the Ascended Christ is elaborating on what Jesus the Son of God taught before His crucifixion and resurrection! Events of the beginnings of sorrows continue while the time of sorrows goes deeper, the destruction of the temple continues as destroyed while the tribulation of the First Century takes place, also the time of sorrows; and so on through the six categories: (1) The Beginning of Sorrows; (2) The Continuation of Sorrows; (3) The Abomination of Desolation; (4) Great Tribulation on flesh only; (5) Final Tribulation on the universe and flesh, and (6) The Second Coming of Christ with the Gathering of the Elect. We will briefly compare the six categories of Matthew 24:4-8, the beginning of sorrows, with the six categories of the six seals of Revelation 6:1-10. To summarize the six seals

of Revelation 6:1-10: (1) white horse rider with bow and power to conquer; (2) red horse rider with power to cause a world war; (3) black horse rider with famine; (4) pale horse rider with power of Death and Hades; (5) the souls under the altar slain for the word of God given robes; (6) The Great Day of the LORD with the shaking of the whole universe.

Matthew 24:4-8	Revelation 6:10-7:17
1. The beginning of sorrows 24:5-8	1. white horse rider with power to conquer: 6:1,2
2. Continuation of sorrows 24:9-14	2. red horse rider with power to take away peace from the earth: 6:3,4
3. Abomination of Desolation 24:15-20	3. the black horse rider of famine and hunger in Jerusalem 6:5,6
4. Great Tribulation on flesh only 24:21-13	4. pale horse with power to kill one fourth of population 6:7,8
5. Last Tribulation on flesh 24:29	5. The Cry of Martyrs during the tribulations 6:9-11, 7:1-17
6. The Day of the LORD and Lord 24:	5. The universe crumbles and men cry for relief 6:12-17

Should it be a surprise that we have a one to one correlation between the events of Matthew 24 and the six seals of Revelation 6. You see how easy it is if we keep Scripture, including the book of Revelation, in the total context of the Bible. The beginning of sorrows finds expansion in the first seal as the rider on the white horse with a bow went out to conquer; the continuation of sorrows correlates with the rider on the red horse who has the power to take peace from the earth; the rider on the black horse that delivers famine and hunger is an expansion of what happened in Jerusalem during the Abomination of Desolation, the period the Romans surrounded and then destroyed Jerusalem, as a quart of wheat sold for a day's wage.

27-3: Seven Christian Thousand

It is in Revelation 6:9-7:17 that we see the primary theme of the book of Revelation as we witness the three ways in which Christ and God the Father number their own people: (1) First the martyred souls under the altar who are told to be patient until the number of those to be so martyred is complete; (2) Then 144,000 Jews from the twelve tribes of Israel; and (3) The vast multitude from every nation that no man can number.

That is no really many Jews among the people of God is the Jews of each generation that were truly of the remnant, or people of God, was only seven thousand like God said during the time of Elijah. If you divide seven thousand into 144,000; or— 14×7 equals 20.57 generations

From Earthquakes to Final Tribulation. Notice also that the sixth seal of Revelation 6:12-17 goes all the way from the simple earthquakes of the beginning of sorrows to the sun darkened of the Final Tribulation that is on the whole universe as well as man—

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Revelation 6:17 KJV)

“...(all men living) hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains...” (Revelation 6:15 KJV)

“And the heaven departed as a scroll” (Revelation 6:14 KJV)

“And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth...” (Revelation 6:13 KJV)

“the moon became as blood” (Revelation 6:12 KJV)

“the sun became black as sackcloth...” (Revelation 6:12 KJV)

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake...” (Revelation 6:12 KJV)

Considering these in reverse order, or in the original order of Revelation 6:12-17, what you have is: (1) The lesser earthquakes of the beginnings of sorrows to at the end of time becomes one great earthquake that shakes the whole earth; (2) The sun becomes dark just as predicted by Jesus and by the Old Testament Prophets as an event before the Great One Day of the LORD and Lord; (3) Also the moon ceases to give light; (4) The stars fall from heaven, another event before the Great One Day; (5) The old heavens began to pass away in preparation for a new heavens; (6) The whole old earth is shaken in preparation for the coming of the new earth; and (7) This is the One Great Day of the LORD and Lord.

Satan. We already know from the clear teachings of II Thessalonians that Satan has been bound for a figurative one thousand years since the first Day of Pentecost after Christ's resurrection. That is when the Holy Spirit came in great power putting a restraint on the successful works of Satan in terms of sin, righteousness, and judgment. As Paul tells, when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn at the peak of the increase in lawlessness, then Satan will be empowered to do all his dirty works. It is much like the happenings between God, Job, and Satan as recorded in the book of Job. God gave Satan permission to take away Job's possession, family, and his health. In the case of the release of Satan, God for a short time gives Satan the leeway (with the Holy Spirit removed) to harass the whole globe as he did Job.

The Prophet. Another thing that the book of Revelation demands in the way of last events is a last False Prophet to support the last great world leader, the son of perdition, who is also under the control of Satan; and while the Mormons are by no means the only group that could supply such a False Prophet, they are a good example of one of several such good groups. Each President of the LDS is considered God's modern day Prophet on earth so much so that any time he speaks on secular or religious matters it is revelations from God. Well, one of those Prophets, Brigham Young, according to the criterion established by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy for a false prophet is a false prophet. If he foretells something as Brigham

Young was foolish enough to foretell that men were on the moon, which was proven to be false when the Astronauts landed there. and it doesn't come true, then he is a false prophet.

The Son of Perdition. While there are several sons of perdition mentioned in the Bible including Judas, and meaning that these are men under the control of Satan, the ultimate son of perdition like the ultimate false prophet is reserved for the last events of the last times; and the Apostle Paul writes of this son of perdition in II Thessalonians 2:1-5.

From this passage and from the total context of the Bible the dominant theme of eschatology must be kept in mind of the ONE DAY OF THE LORD AND Lord. Sometimes you do not get that impression from reading books on last things nor even listening to sermons or lessons, but for every one time that matters like a thousand years, the battle of Armageddon, Satan, and the False Prophet and Man of Perdition are mentioned, the One Day of the Lord is mentioned at least ten times. There is no more consistent theme in all the Bible other than on God Himself, on Jesus and salvation, than on the subject of the One Day of the Lord.

And it is with the subject of the One Day of the LORD and Lord that Paul in II Thessalonians 2 also mentions the Man of Perdition.

“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to him, that you may not be quickly shaken from you composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.” (II Thessalonians 2:1,2 NASV)

The sequence of primary last events are here—

1. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Gathering of Christians to Him that are alive at His Second Coming.
3. The One Day of the Lord when all these things will happen of the Second Coming, the gathering of Christians, and judgment on Satan, the Man of Perdition, and the False Prophets with all unbelievers. Some people think that hell is horrible; but there is something far worse than hell about which the last chapters of Revelation tell us. We are told that death and hell are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone with Satan, the False Prophet, and the Man of Perdition.

4. The One Day of the LORD and Lord preceded by an Apostasy of Christians.

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first.” (II Thessalonians 2:3 NASV)

5. Then the Son of Perdition is revealed which the NASV calls the “man of lawlessness” and “the son of destruction”.

“...and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat

in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?” (II Thessalonians 2:3b-5 NASV)

What we learn here about the Son of Perdition as foundational for the more we will learn in the book of Revelation—

(1). False worship sets the stage for him to exalt himself above those false objects of worship.

(2). He leads in the ultimate deception as he takes the primary seat of honor in the very temple of God.

(3). He displays himself as God!

Honesty Versus the Lie. Every time an individual or a group of individuals in a church or any other organization contribute to a lack of honesty, to half-truths, distortions, and lies {****the Mormons with their four Bibles that distort truth and sound doctrine are not the only ones, only the best example of the worst unsound doctrine****}, they are also contributing to the release from bondage of Satan to again deceive all the nations as he did the Roman Empire in the First Century. Seem strange, then read again II Thessalonians 2 where the mystery of lawlessness is at work centered around the believing of a Lie. Evidence of the big lie comes when churches or other organizations like that of Sardis have a reputation of being alive while the reality is that they are dead. It can also happen to an educational institutions, a state, or a federal government. It can happen to any leader, secular or religious, as a divergence develops between their reputation and the reality. Here as an aspect of sin or lawlessness, we are dealing with what Elton Trueblood calls “intellectual honesty”. It is a lie when appearance is promoted through PR that is a distortion of reality.

You see the reason the reputation can be so different from the reality is that while man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart of an individual or organization. The way of the world is the way of appearance. The way of God is the heart. The way of the world is the appearance of the building and the organization, the way of God is the inward motivation and strength of the spirit. This is the reason Jesus said, “Judge not by appearance; but judge righteous judgment.”

We see the ultimate the appearance of religion versus the reality as we listen to what Jesus had to say to religious leaders about the First Century Hebrew religion—

“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Matthew 15:7-9 KJV)

1. Since this was a quote for Isaiah, it was the indictment of God against the Hebrew religion years before it took place; and it figured in significantly to the rejection of Jesus by most of the Jews.

2. They were practicing vain worship. Isn't that horrible to assemble sabbath day after sabbath day, to speak the name of God, and to even proclaim that it is in the name of God; and for it all to be vanity. Worthless worship!

3. The mouth and the lips of the worshippers were speaking the right words, even the appearance of the words was right; but their hearts were far away from God.

4. Along with vain worship was the teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. The doctrines of the Bible had been subverted into the commandments of men.

27-4: Exegesis of Revelation 4-7

4:1 John saw a door standing open in heaven. The eternal secrets of heaven were about to be revealed. John is going to be told what shall happen "after these things"; but what has happened after the things? Only the things of the problems in the seven churches, and this interpretation is verified by the words with which this verse starts—"After these things..." You see these problems in the Christian churches were as much revelations of secrets as the seven seals and seven trumpets to follow, because these churches and Christians did not realize that they had these problems. Only whole church thought it was alive and was dead, had a reputation among many churches of being alive; but the secret revealed to them is that they were dead. Another had left their first love, the original concept of the God of the Bible, and did not know it. One thought it was rich, but it was poor; and so on...

4:2 The Throne is important, sitting in heaven; for when the old earth passes way and the new earth comes with the New Jerusalem, this same throne of God will be lowered with the 1500 mile high city and God on that throne.

4:3 Even as much of the news of the new earth has the appearance of jasper, clear and sparkling so the God the Father who sat on the Great White Throne had that appearance. It is the appearance of purity and righteousness.

4:4 You can see that the new Jerusalem is going to be a place where God and the 24 elders rule all nations as the new Jerusalem is going to be lowered to earth. That is, it will close the gap between heaven and earth!

4:5 The seven "spirits of God", spirit not Spirit, are the spirits of the prophets, the spirits of the angels.

4:6-8 All living creation is represented in the four living creatures, like a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle; and the point is that all living creation worships the Almighty God.

You know that even as seven represents completion so the opening of the seventh seal on the book of heaven will wrap up all the events of Matthew 24 and of history. The Seventh Seal

in short is the Second Coming of Christ; but the story of the end is spread out in that there are seven trumpets to be sounded, in that history is reviewed from beginning to end from the perspective of God and of God's heaven! After this review of history from the perspective of God, the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet of the Seventh Seal is the Second Coming of Christ.

The first six trumpets represent the Judgements of God against the earth in answer to the prayers of the saints—

“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.” (Revelation 8:1-4 KJV)

Recall that the original prayer of the souls under the altar of Revelation 6:10 was, **“How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” (KJV)**

As the first angel sounded the first trumpet fire and blood was cast upon the earth destroying one third of the trees and all the green grass; as the second sounded a mountain size ball of fire was cast into the sea destroying one third of the ships and one third of the life in the sea; at the third a bitter star poisoned the fresh water of earth so that many died; at the fourth trumpet the light of the sun, moon, and stars was darkened by one third; at the fifth trumpet the angel of the bottomless pit is released with his scorpions to torment men that who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads—“They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss, his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon” (Revelation 9:11 NASV); at the sixth trumpet an army of two hundred million which killed one third of the men on earth; and at the sounding of the seventh trumpet the kingdoms of the earth become the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15-19).

How do these seven trumpets of the seventh seal compare with the broad outline of eschatology of Matthew 24? After the Abomination of Desolation of 70 A. D., Jesus tells of: (1) A Great Tribulation on flesh only but so terrible that if it were not shortened no flesh would survive; (2) The arising of many false Christs and false prophets; (3) The death of many men as carcasses for the gathering of the eagles, another great tribulation but this time one that affects the environment as well as flesh; (4) The shaking of the heavens with lessened light from the sun, moon, and stars; (5) Second Coming of Christ in power and glory; and (6) The angels gather the elect of God together from heaven and from earth. And once again you see how the aspects of each category spill over from one sequence in history to another as first there is a great tribulation on flesh only which took place in the First Century, and indeed had already

begun to happen in the history of Revelation where you find the martyred souls under the altar, similar to the Great Tribulation of the very last days that is on the universe and flesh.

You also see how the seven trumpets are simply more details on the eschatology of Jesus of Matthew 24. Also the aspects of the fire and brimstone of the seven trumpets elaborate on the earth melting with a fervent heat of the Apostle Peter and of II Peter 3:

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men....But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements of the earth shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” (II Peter 3:7,10 KJV)

The fervent heat starts on earth as the first trumpet of the seventh seal sends hail and fire to earth that burns all the green grass and one third of the trees; the heat gets hotter as with the second trumpet the mountain of fire affects the ocean life and ships; a burning and bitter star falls into the fresh water at the sounding of the third trumpet; and the heavens began to be effected— sun, moon, and stars—with the fourth trumpet; with the fifth trumpet as the bottomless pit opens to let out the angel-king, more of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened by the smoke from the bottomless pit; and from the army of two hundred million came fire that destroyed one third of the men living on earth. This is the Greatest Tribulation on the universe and man for which the Great and shortened tribulation was only a foretaste.

The Apostle Peter in reference to why God was withholding the sounding of the seventh trumpet with the end of time and the Second Coming of Christ writes about the patience and mercy of God—

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one days is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (II Peter 3:8,9 KJV)

Yet during the judgments from the sounding of the fifth trumpet rather than repent as God is seeking by the delay in final judgment, they continued not to worship God!

27-3: Patience and One Thousand Years

Although we will encounter the famous one thousand years of Revelation in Revelation 20, so called by many as the “millennium”, since the Bible has so little to say about this “one thousand years” with references only in Revelation 20 and here in II Peter 3:8,9, it behooves us to take note of what Peter writes in progressive revelation before the Apostle John writes Revelation and Revelation 20. Peter is making a point of the patience of God, and that to God one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like one day. However, in spite of this Bible relativity whereby to God one day can mean anything from a day to a thousand years and vice

versa, I think we should take the thousand years during which Satan is bound as literal, starting when Satan could deceive the nations no longer when the influence of the Roman Empire was destroyed in the world, or approximately somewhere between 400 and 1400 A.D. Since I think that Joseph Smith had to have supernatural help in the generation of so many lies, distortions, and half-truths as are represented in the three unique Bibles of the Mormons, I think Satan had to be released somewhere before or about the time of the famous golden plates on which was recorded the book of Mormon. That would mean that Satan had to be released somewhere before 1820. If we speculate Satan's release as approximately 1800, then one thousand years before this would be at approximately 800 A. D. when Satan is bound in that he can no longer deceive whole nations. (Satan was not bound in that he could no longer deceive individuals, only nations!) I like this date of approximately 800 since it places it closer to the destruction of the Western Roman Empire than to the destruction of the Eastern Roman Empire. After all, since Christ told us that no man knows the exact time, what we are doing is using God ordained signs in the book of Revelation and in the rest of the Bible to speculate. It is the trends that we must look for that will conclude the end of time. The two great and detrimental trends of rejection of the knowledge of God and of the increase of intellectual dishonesty in lies, half-truths, and distortions.

The Apostle Paul had something to say about this increase in dishonesty with a corresponding rejection of the knowledge of God, and identified the trends as the "latter times". (This "latter times" reminds you of what Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 4.)

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." (I Timothy 4:1-3 KJV)

Notice that on the positive side that those "which believe" are also those who "know the truth"; and that with a seared conscience, seductive spirits, and faith departure also comes "lies in hypocrisy". (Since we know which denomination called by them a Church abstain from meats and forbids to marry, we also know which Church besides the LDS is active in "lies in hypocrisy" with the seared conscience, faith departure, and seductive spirits and doctrines of devils. Also recall that it is devils that are being worshipped in Revelation 9:20 that keeps them from repenting in spite of the torments of scorpions from hell of the fifth trumpet, and in spite of the slaying from the army of Satan of one third of mankind.

Chapter 28: The Seventh Seal, The Completion of History, Revelation 8-12

To keep in mind the panorama of flow of Revelation up to this point, that is up to the point of through Revelation 12, we should review what has happened with the seven seals—

Recall first of all that this is seven seals on the book that the Apostle John ultimately makes part of his life as he eats it in Revelation 10:8-11; and the same book about which John cries when no man is found worthy to open it to reveal the secrets until the Lamb-Christ in Revelation 5:7 is found worthy to reveal these sealed secrets of God to John and therefore to the saints. In short, this book of seven seals is the book of Revelation. In fact, an alternate title for this commentary or for the book of Revelation itself could be THE BOOK OF THE SEVEN SEALS. After all when you consider the seven seals with the seven trumpets of the seventh seal, the seventh not being sounded until Revelation 11 with the fact that from Revelation 12-20 you have the implications of what is happening to the people of God, then either 11 out of 22 chapters is about the book of seven seals, and if you consider the implications for God's people in the war against the remnant of Revelation 12- 20, then it is the subject matter of 20 out of 22 of the chapters of Revelation.

28-1: Introduction to the Seven Sealed Book: Revelation 5

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

In other words it was a double sided book that most of the ones that we are accustomed to with printing on both sides of the back, except no doubt it was rolled up in the form of a scroll.

First Seal, Rumors of War: Revelation 6

“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 beats saying, Come and see. 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.” (Revelation 6:1,2 KJV)

Recall that rumors of war and limited wars remain part of the periods all the way to the last great Battle before the second Coming of Christ, indeed are part of the great and greatest tribulation.

Second Seal, World-Wide War: Revelation 6

“And when he had opened the second seal, I hear the second beast say, Come and see. 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.” (Revelation 6:3,4 KJV)

The four beasts, or living creatures, around the throne of God with the twenty-four elders take on more significance now as we realize that with the first four seals each of the four living creatures say in turn “Come and see”. Of course, only the Lamb-Christ is actually worthy to open the seals.

Third Seal, Famine: Revelation 6

“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. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measure of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” (Revelation 6:5,6 KJV)

While the third beast or living creature says to Come and See to John when the Lamb opens the third seal, it is a voice from the middle of the four beasts which talks about the costliness of food and that tells to leave the oil and wine alone. Think how many times this kind of famine has happened during the times of sorrows, after the Day of Abomination, during the Great and Shortened Tribulation of the First through the Fifth Centuries, and that will happened also in the Greatest Tribulation on the universe as well as on flesh; and think of the poverty and cost of food today in Russia.

Fourth Seal, Death: Revelation 6

“And when he (Christ) 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.” (Revelation 6:7,8 KJV)

Later we will see that with the sounding of the sixth trumpet of the seventh seal, one third of mankind is killed. Here it is only “one fourth”; and we begin to realize that with war and famine would also come death, however accompanied by death is also hell the place of the lost until with Satan they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. Some people think that hell is too horrible to be in the Bible, to be from a God of love; but I have news for them there is something worse than death and hell, and that is the second death where death and hell are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

Fifth Seal, Where are the people of God?: Revelation 6

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that swell on the earth?” (Revelation 6:9,10 KJV)

The answer is only two more seals until it is all wrapped with the end of time!

Sixth Seal, Shaking of Old Heavens/Earth: Revelation 6

“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Revelation 6:17 KJV)

Seventh Seal, Introduction to Seven Trumpets: Revelation 8

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.” (Revelation 8:1,2 KJV)

28-2: The Trumpets.

First Trumpet, Fire on Earth: Revelation 8

“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.” (Revelation 8:7 KJV)

The shaking and destruction of the old earth and heavens that started with the opening of the Sixth Seal now continues mildly at first with the first trumpet as fire destroys only green grass and on third of the trees on earth.

Second Trumpet, Fire Mountain in Oceans: Revelation 8

“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.” (Revelation 8:8,9 KJV)

It is obvious that this is nothing less than the beginning of what Peter told of in II Peter 3 as to how the old heavens and old earth would be melted with a fervent heat in preparation for the new heavens and new earth of Revelation 21 and 22.

Third Trumpet, Fiery Star on Fresh water: Revelation 8

“And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters. And the name of the star called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.” (Revelation 8:10,11 KJV)

Men died here even before the fifth trumpet when men were to be tormented not killed, and recall that this whole process of the shaking of the heavens and earth started with the opening

of the sixth seal as the “heaven” (Heavens) departed like a scroll and the stars fell and the sun and moon were darkened (Rev 6:12-17). Again we must see repetitions in the historical periods.

Fourth Trumpet, Darkened Lights of Heavens: Revelation 8

The diminishing of lights from the heavens that started with the sixth seal continues now in intensity, building up to the point where one third of the lights of the heavens is diminished—
“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 were darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.” (Revelation 8:12 KJV)

Fifth Trumpet, Bottomless Pit Opened: Revelation 9

This is the release of Satan from bondage, but in other words.

“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. 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. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth; and unto them were given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 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. 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. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee them.” (Revelation 9:1-6 KJV)

The events that follow are—

The locusts that tormented unsealed men on earth are described as simultaneously like warhorses, crown-like on top, and like men’s faces in front with hair like women and teeth like lions; with a breastplate like iron and a sound like many chariots of war.

With the sting of scorpions in their tails they were given power to hurt all unsealed mankind for five months.

Their leader-king is Satan.

“One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.” (Revelation 9:12)

We don’t have to make parenthetical emphasis in the book of Revelation, the book of Revelation will do that for itself as here where it is required; and this parenthetical emphasis of two other woes under the fifth trumpet and related to the fifth trumpet are highlighted. Those two other woes are respectively identified in Revelation 8:13 and 11:14—

“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!” (Revelation 8:13 KJV)

“And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand; and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, beheld, the third woe cometh quickly.” (Revelation 11:13,14 KJV)

NOTE: That above the Seven Thousand Men that are killed in this generation is the reciprocal of the remnant of God’s people, because the people that were not killed turned to God.

Review, what happened during this second woe of the Sixth Trumpet related with woes and identified with trumpets: (1) The same hour of the Ascension of the two witnesses to heaven is a great earthquake; (2) The same hour is the fall of one tenth of the new Babylon while seven thousand men are slain; and (3) At the same time is the remnant of the city that turn to God; and (4) So quickly behind the second woe of the sixth trumpet is the seventh trumpet where Christ comes again that “the third woe (seventh trumpet) comes quickly.” (Revelation 11:14 KJV)

Seventh Trumpet. Realized Kingdom of Christ: Revelation 11

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15 KJV)

What more do we need? And why is there more of the book of Revelation after Revelation 11:19? Because Christian are still suffering and still living on the earth in the First Century and now, and they need some more assurance of where they fit into the end events, where they fit into the warfare of eternity, heaven, and on earth.

28-3: Mormons in the Completion of History

If you get tired of hearing about Mormons, remember that they are not so different from Southern Baptists, or members of any churches or denominations that “have a form of godliness and deny the power thereof. They are simply the most outstanding representation of this form without substance, works without faith. Mormons could have their part in the completion of history all right but not as Latter Day SAINTS as they claim for themselves, but rather in furnishing the last False Prophet of the end time! To see this first we must be willing to face up to several obvious truths: (1) The Mormons claim to have 12 living Apostles that is among the ruling body of the LDS, and this is a false claim—THEY ARE NOT APOSTLES LIKE THE ORIGINAL TWELVE APOSTLES OF JESUS EXCEPT FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF ONE OF THEM, JUDAS WHO FELL BY TRANSGRESSION; and (2) They claim that their First President, originally Joseph Smith and then Brigham Young and now Ezra Taft Benson is a living Prophet that speaks Word of God by revelation, and he is a False Prophet.

Of course, we must allow for other groups than can also furnish the last False Prophet who combines with the Man of Perdition, the last world leader, to lead to the destruction of the Final Battle of Armageddon. Only a couple of weeks ago we heard Robert Schuler tell of the secret meetings which had created among several denominations—he never names the denominations—a group called “Churches Uniting for World Mission”. If in their beliefs and practices, they allow for and promote the opposite of the separation of church and state; that is, for a Church or group of churches to rule over the State or co-rule with the Prophet and the Man of Perdition co-ruling together then we have here a possible mechanism for the end “Gog and Magog” with the False Prophet that comes against Jerusalem. There are also other possibilities. Until recently we could not think of Russia and the United States working together as the possible “Gog and Magog” of the isle of the Gentiles; although certainly these two countries, Russia and the United States with a coalition of European countries, certainly do dominate the isles of the Gentiles. And the current news tells us of the increasing rift between Israel and the United States which is happening at the same time that Russia, the United States, and Europe grow closer together.

We should look at the history of the “false prophet” in the Bible as background for what we find about the last “false prophet” of the book of Revelation—

1. Acts 13:6.

“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus-jesus; Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy (Spirit), set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?” (Acts 13:6-10 KJV)

Let us not be deceived. Any person today who claims to be a Prophet that gives revelations is a false prophet and anyone today who claims to be an Apostle like the original Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ is a false Apostle! Therefore what the Apostle Paul said to Elymas, the false prophet, would also apply to the Mormons: (1) They are “sorcerers” as well as false prophets and the Old Testament also has much to say about “sorcery”; (2) Like the false prophet Elymas withstood Paul and Barnabas, the Mormons today withstand the work of all true leaders of Christ; (3) The Mormons like the false prophet before them are “full of all subtlety and all mischief”; (4) They are children of the devil who ultimately they worship, and whose cause they support in works for salvation and in the secret practices of their temple; (5) They are the enemies of righteousness in that they promote a substitute righteousness which is not by faith; and

(6) They “pervert the right ways of the Lord (Jesus Christ)” while doing so subtly and mischievous in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There were other false prophets, called “exorcists” who tried to do work in the name of Jesus “whom Paul preached”; but like Mormons were overcome by the false spirits and false demons in whose name they really worked.

“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.” (Acts 19:13-16 KJV)

Mormons have also been overcome of the same evil spirit that they sought by works to escape in spite of the fact that they have sought like Sceva to do it in the name of Jesus!

2. Revelation 16:13.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief, Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” (Revelation 16:13-16)

We find three individuals working together to form up the nations of “Gog and Magog” for the final battle: (1) The Dragon which is Satan; (2) The Beast which is the man of perdition, the last great false leader; and (3) The Prophet, the “false prophet”. And all of the mouth of all three of these working together comes the “spirits of devils”; and it is these spirits of devils like the false prophets of the book of Acts that inspire the nations to gather for the last great battle, the battle whose purpose is really for Almighty God to wrap up the events of the earth.

3. Revelation 19:20.

“And I saw the beast (the first beast was the Roman Emperor and the last beast will be the world leader, the man of perdition), and the kings of the earth (Gog and Magog), and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army (they are doing battle against the Lord Jesus Christ and His supporters, how foolish). And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beat,

and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone...” (Revelation 19:19,20 KJV)

Mormons with their False Prophets and False spirits and their influences from Satan may only be a good example of what can evolve before the end, or they may provide THE FALSE PROPHET!

4. Revelation 20:10.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth (THE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE HERE RATHER THAN ON GOG AND MAGOG; FOR IT IS ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH—RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND EUROPE, ETC, AND IT IS ONLY THAT ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH—ALIAS THE ISLES OF THE GENTILES ARE FURTHER DESCRIBED IN OLD TESTAMENT TERMS EVEN AS ROME WAS DESCRIBE IN OLD TESTAMENT TERMS AS BABYLON), Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle the number of whom is as the sand of the sea (we have already seen in the Persian Gulf War how easily all the nations can be gathered together for battle). And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:7-10 KJV)

The Man of Perdition and the False Prophet are already in the lake of fire and brimstone before Satan gets there!

28-4: “False” in the Bible.

In order to get a Bible wide perspective of this whole matter of the opposite of true and truth, we briefly look at “false” in the total Bible. The word “false” is found 64 times in the Bible in 60 verses; and we will skip the more obvious ones of the law where “you shall not bear false witness” although a very good Bible argument could also be made that herein the Mormons are also violated the Ten Commandments by their witness supposedly to the God of the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible is really a witness to a false god and false lord Jesus Christ!

1. Exodus 23:1,7.

“Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment....Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not; for I will not justify the wicked.” (Exodus 23:1,2,7 KJV)

These would be words of caution to those who want to stay in Mormonism long after they have seen the error of the way of the mass or multitude of Mormons, or those who attempt to dabble in Mormonism, not being all the way in nor all the way out!

2. Psalm 27:12.

“Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.” (Psalm 27:12-14 KJV)

David expresses the frustration of all including the Christ Himself who realize that they are surrounded by people who have made themselves enemies with their lies and false witnesses; and that as always the relief and peace comes from taking the eyes off them to place it on the LORD God Almighty of Creation and of the Bible—to wait on Him and to worship Him!

3. Psalm 119:104,128.

“Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way....Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.” (Psalm 119:104,128 KJV)

In this context the reader is talking about a spiritual exercise with the Word of God, the Bible; and the inevitable result is that as we love the precepts and the understanding that comes from the true Word of God is that we “hate every false way”. IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE THE TRUE SWEETNESS OF THE TRUE WORD OF GOD WITHOUT LIKEWISE EXPERIENCING THE BITTERNESS WHEN WE ENCOUNTER THE FALSEHOOD OF THE FALSE WAYS!

4. Psalm 120:3.

“In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me. Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue? Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper. Woe is me, that I sojourn in Mesech, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar! My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace; but when I speak, they ar for war.” (Psalm 120:1-7 KJV)

Truly this has to be GOD'S RESERVES that dwell in the land of Mesech, in the tents of Kedar, surrounded by lies, falsehoods, false teachers and false prophets; and feeling the sharp arrows and woes as the true people of God are overwhelmed with the claims of the false people of God.

5. Proverbs 6:19.

“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Proverbs 6:16-19 KJV)

I think if we observe carefully and cautiously we will find that the same people who are the false witnesses that spread lies in the place of truth are also the people that God hates, the people who also: (1) Have the proud looks, the pride in what they themselves can do; (2) A lying tongue and that is what leads to the lies, that is, an inclination to lie in the first place; (3) Hands that also commit the murders of reputation destruction, etc.; (4) Imaginations from the evil heart that are wicked, and (5) That are quick or swift, even agile, at mischief (recall Paul’s indictment in Acts of false prophets that were subtle and mischievous); (6) Sowers of discord among Christians.

6. Proverbs 11:1.

“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.” (Proverbs 11:1,2 KJV)

Notice what comes with a pride in good works: a false balance, and shame; and the path of wisdom is the opposite, to be lowly in a concept of our own good works!

7. Proverbs 12:17.

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkens unto counsel is wise. A fool’s wrath is presently known; but a prudent man covers shame. He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness; but a false witness deceit. There is that speaketh like the piercing of a sword; but the tongue of the wise is health. The lip of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil; but to the counsellors of peace is joy.” (Proverbs 12:15-20 KJV)

We have a rapid series of contrasts here centered about the false witness; and if we already know who the false witnesses are that are spreading lies then it all makes sense—

<u>The Fool</u>	<u>The Wise</u>
Right in his own eyes	Listens to Bible counsel
Talking shows what like inside	Silence hides sinfulness
Deceit goes with falsehood	Righteousness with truth
Words that wound	Words of spiritual health
No eternal values	Eternal values
Evil imagination with deceit	Joy with peace

8. Proverbs 14:5.

“A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies.” (Proverbs 14:5 KJV)

The opposite is also true and helps us to identify the false witnesses to God and the Lord Jesus Christ: the source of the lie and lies is the false witness!

9. Proverbs 17:4.

**“A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.”
(Proverbs 17:4 KJV)**

Likewise once we have identified the liar as also the false witness, then we can also identify that same lying false witness as THE WICKED DOER. THE WORKS MAY BE THERE, BUT THEY ARE WORKS AND DEEDS OF WICKEDNESS INSPIRED BY THE GREAT LIAR AND WORKER OF WICKEDNESS, SATAN!

NOTE: THESE BIBLE VERSES ON “FALSE” WILL BE CONTINUED AT THE END OF THE NEXT CHAPTER.

Chapter 29: War with the Remnant, Revelation 12-20

The War starts in heaven with the introduction of the woman with child—

“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.” (Revelation 12:1,2 KJV)

There must be the other side so that the second wonder is Satan being cast to earth (Revelation 12:3,4).

The Woman on earth brought forth the Christ “who was to rule all nations”. (Revelation 12:5,6)

Back up in heaven Michael and his angels fought the Dragon (Satan) and his angels, and they were cast from heaven to earth at the same time that Salvation was come so that at the point on the cross when Christ bought salvation was the point that Satan lost direct access to God in order to accuse Christian before God; and the overcoming spreads to the brethren of Christ. Now the warfare continues on earth—

“Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them (now, it is safe up there). 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 the he hath but a short time.” (Revelation 12:12 KJV)

First Satan persecutes the woman with child as through Herod Satan tries to kill the newborn Christ, and warned of an angel in a dream Joseph takes Mary and the child to Egypt.

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

This is the story of the history of earth and heaven from now on up until the end of time as Satan and his angels war against the remnant!

However before we continue the saga of this war between Satan and the remnant of Christ that runs from Revelation 13 all the way through Revelation 20 where Satan, his angels, is cast into the lake and fire and brimstone, and whoever was not found written in the book of life, we will briefly look at some of the RevRecons of Revelation 12-20 in order to verify that the inter-

pretation of those chapters is according to the Old Testament. Recall that just as in the first eleven chapters of Revelation, the same events and categories are repeated several times, especially the last great battle, one time being called the Battle of Armageddon.

29-1: RevRecons in Revelation 12-20

[Yes, there is an overlap between the subject matter of the previous chapter and the subject matter of this chapter as that is the nature of the book of Revelation and of eschatological prophecies. You see that Revelation 12 is discussed there and here.]

1. Revelation 17:5.

“...and upon her (the great harlot) forehead a name was written, a mystery, `BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” (Revelation 17:5 NASV)

This is a RevRecon from Revelation 14:8 and Revelation 16:19 and Revelation 17:2 which in turn are ReCons from (1) Isaiah 21:9, (2) Jeremiah 51:7,8, and (3) Daniel 4:30. Babylon is a large and wicked city that rejects God: first it was Nineveh which became the city of Babylon, then it was Rome and Jerusalem, and past those two will be other large and wicked cities although it will come back to Jerusalem.

(1). Isaiah 21:9.

“And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen: and all the graven images of her gods he that broken unto the ground.” (Isaiah 21:9 KJV)

(2). Jeremiah 51:7,8.

“Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD’s hand, that made all the earth drunken; the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are made. Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed; howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed. 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.” (Jeremiah 51:7-9 KJV)

(3). Daniel 4:30.

“All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. The king spoke, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.” (Daniel 4:28-31 KJV)

2. Revelation 14:8.

“And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, `Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.’” (Revelation 14:8 NASV)

{**NOTE: Since we saw the seventh angel sound the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11:15, we should say something about this third angel, how many angels we are now going to hear from, and the origin of these angels. By the way the King James Version does not list this angel of Revelation 14:8 as a third angel. In the KJV the angels that appear after the seventh angel of Revelation 11:15 are—

- * “another angel” (Rev 14:6) flying through heaven with the everlasting gospel.
- * “another angel (Rev 14:8) where NASV translates it as a third angel, the angel which says that Babylon is fallen.
- * “and the third angel followed them” (Rev 14:9 who warns against worshipping the beast.
- * “and another angel came out from the altar” (Rev 14:18).**}
- * Seven Angels reappear with Seven Plagues—

“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 15:6 KJV)

And with this identification of “the seven angels” we are inclined to think that primarily even after Revelation 11:15, we are dealing with seven angels.

29-2: Assignments of the Seven Angels

Since all seven of the angels mentioned again in Revelation 16:1 pour out their vials in chapter 16, called “the seven last plagues” in Revelation 15:1, we will have in chapter 16 a condensed survey of the functions or assignments of the seven angels.

1. The first angel (16:2) poured out his vial which caused a sickness on the men of earth who had the mark of the beast and that worshipped the image of the beast.
2. The second angel’s (16:3) vial affected the Oceans (Seas) so that all in the Seas died.
3. The third angel’s vial (16:4-7) affected all the fresh water and is specifically called “the angel of the waters”.
4. The fourth angel had power over the sun so that it scorched men with great heat (16:8,9).
5. The fifth angel is the angel of a city that causes darkness to come over it—the city of the seat of the beast—and from the darkness men received pain and sores.

If the fifth angel is the angel of darkness, then the fourth is the angel of the sun, the third the angel of fresh water, the second the angel of the Oceans, and the first the angel of the earth.

6. The sixth is the angel of the River Euphrates.

7. The seventh is the angel of the air who says, "It is done" (Revelation 16:17).

From General to Specific. We see that what was general with the first encounter with the seven angels as they blew their seven trumpets was very general in judgments, only a little less general than the seven seals, and being wrapped up in Revelation 11-15 with more about what is happening to God's people; then it becomes more specific in judgement as the seven angels focus on a specific city and a specific river, etc. Of course starting with the Beast in chapter 13, obviously Rome, the judgments do become more specifically as on the city of Rome, the harlot, the beast the Roman Empire, and the Roman Emperors.

Specific Chapters and General Chapters. Revelation 14:6 through Revelation 18:24 is specifically about the Roman Empire of the first few centuries with the judgments announced on Rome, the Roman Emperors, and the Roman Empire. Revelation 19 and 20 goes more general again with the events of the very last times with the loosing again of Satan, the battle of Gog and Magog against Jerusalem and the end.

So what we really have in the grand flow of the whole book of Revelation is first seven seals and seven trumpets where the general nature of the judgments of God go all the way up to the Second Coming and the end of time; then starting with Revelation 14:6 the more specific judgments against the Roman Empire and Rome, the New Babylon with the same seven angels delivering more specific judgments; and then the same sweep of events as in the first general treatment repeated with more information in Revelation 19 and 20.

29-3: Specific Judgments on the Roman Empire, Revelation 14:6- Revelation 18:24

These specific judgments on the Roman Empire start where the Christians were in the first century after the Ascension of Christ, entrusted with the everlasting gospel and trying to spread it; but

Revelation 14:6 being from heaven's perspective has an angel ready to preach the everlasting Gospel.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountain of waters." (Revelation 14:6,7 KJV)

1. The Gospel must go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people.
2. Fear God, give God the glory, and Worship God.

3. If the general judgments on the whole world of the first of Revelation and repeated in Revelation 19,20 would be considered the One Day of the LORD and Lord of the whole Bible, **{**And for the most part they are!**}** then the judgments to follow on the Roman Empire can be considered the one hour of that One Day.

Then the specific events are listed that will fall in judgments on the Roman Empire within the next two hundred years—

1. The fall of Babylon, the city of Rome: 14:8.
2. Doom of the Beast, a composite of the Roman Emperors under the dominance of Satan: 14:9-12.
3. Armageddon: 14:14-20.
4. The Seven Angels with seven specific plagues for the Roman Empire: 15:1-16:21.
5. More on the Doom of Babylon: Revelation 17,18.

The specifics of the Roman Empire ending with—

“And in her (Rome, the Babylon of the first century) was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” (Revelation 18:24)

29-4: Back to General Judgements for Another Sweep Until the End of Time, Revelation 19,20

1. God reigns supreme over the universe and His judgments are just: Revelation 19:1-6.
2. Worship God if you are invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb: Revelation 19:7-10.
3. The Second Coming of Christ: Revelation 19:11-16.
4. The Greatest Battle of Armageddon: Revelation 19:17-19.
5. The Doom of the Greatest Beast and False Prophet: Revelation 19:20.
6. The Victory in the War Completed: Revelation 19:21.

And there is still another complete sweep of these same general events in Revelation 20—

1. Satan cast into the bottomless pit so that for one thousand years he could not deceive all the nations: Revelation 20:1-3.
2. The dead in Christ live and reign with Him during that one thousand years: Revelation 20:4-7.
3. Satan is loosed and leads in the battle of Gog and Magog against Jerusalem: Revelation 20:8.
4. When this mighty army under the leadership of Satan and the False Prophet came against the camp of the saints in Jerusalem, God sent down fire from heaven to destroy them: Revelation 20:10.

5. Hell, death, Satan, the beast, the false prophet and all those not written in the book of life are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone: Revelation 20:11-15.

29-5: God’s People, The Seven Christian Thousands Of Revelation 11- 19

How many of God’s people are there?

1. Revelation 11, the martyrdom of the two witnesses after their testimony is complete, and their subsequent resurrection.

“And after the three and a half days the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here’. And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld.” (Revelation 11:11,12 NASV)

In order to identify this time of resurrection of these two dead Christian leaders, typical of all leaders that died in Christ, the great earthquake is presented in Revelation 11:13.

How Many? Two Martyred Christ Witnesses.

2. Revelation 12:10,11 is “our (Christian) brethren” who have been accused night and day by Satan in the presence of God, the OVERCOMERS, who:

- (1) Overcame because of the blood of the Lamb;
- (2) Overcame because of the word of their testimony; and
- (3) Overcame because they did not put the love of their own lives in front of every thing.

How Many? The Number of the Overcomers.

3. Revelation 12:17, when the dragon Satan is frustrated in his attempt to devour the woman and child, he makes war against “the rest of her offspring” (NASV).

How Many? The number “who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus” (Revelation 12:17 NASV)

4. Revelation 13:7 where the beast with authority from the dragon makes “war with the saints and to overcome them.”

How Many? The number against which the Roman Emperors under the control of Satan are making war.

5. Revelation 13:8 is an identification of the people of God by implication as first all those living on the earth at the time of the Roman Empire worship the beast, “every one whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain” (NASV).

How Many? The number written in the book of life from the foundation of the earth.

6. Revelation 13:9,10, How many? The number that even as they are numbered by the list in the book of life are also numbered during the persecutions of the Roman Empire to:

- (1). Go into Captivity;
- (2). And to be killed with the sword—

“Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.” (Rev 13:10 NASV)

How many? The number who (1) persevere and (2) hold faith, the same number as written in the Lamb’s book of life from the foundation of the world!

7. Revelation 13:15 where the “image of the beast”, the next Roman Emperor and no doubt former General Titus who killed all the Jews and Christian Jews at Jerusalem on crosses, now kills all that will not worship the image of the beast. **{**abomination of desolation**}**

How many of God's people under the Roman Empire? The number who do not worship the image of the Beast, the counterpart of the Old Testament number who did not bow the knee to the image of Baal, the number who did not receive a mark on their right hand or forehead, the number who could not buy or sell in the marketplace (Revelation 13:16,17).

8. How Many? 144,000 standing on Mount Zion with the Lamb Christ, the number who are "having His name (the name of Christ) and the name of His Father written on their foreheads" (Revelation 14:18 NASV).

9. How many? The 144,000 who only could learn the new song, "who had been purchased from the earth" (Rev 14:3), "who have not been defiled with women" (14:4); "who follow the Lamb wherever He goes", who were chosen from among men to be "firstfruits to God and to the Lamb", the Apostles; and who were honest witnesses (14:5).

10. How many? The number of dead "who die in the Lord from now on"! (Revelation 14:13 NASV)

"'Yes', says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.'" (14:13 NASV)

11. Revelation 15:2,3 where "those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image" (NASV), from the Roman Empire and Emperors, now stand on the sea of glass and fire with the harps of God and sing the song of Moses.

12. Revelation 16:4 where when the third angel pours out his vial into the fresh water turning it to blood, it is the Righteousness of God because "they poured out the blood of saints and prophets"—

"...and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it." (Revelation 16:6 NASV)

Here is the answer to "How Long?" of Revelation 6, How Long before their blood is avenged?

13. How Many? The number of the "Blessed" of Revelation 16:15 at the Second Coming of Christ—

"(Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.) (Revelation 16:15 NASV)

(1). The number who stay awake; and

(2). The number who keep their garments from exposure to men.

14. How Many? The number whose blood was drunk by the Harlot, Babylon or Rome, **"the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus" (Revelation 17:6).**

This makes it clear that the two witnesses of Revelation 11 as leaders represent all the witnesses of Jesus.

15. How Many? The number that is with the Lamb when the kings wage war against the Lamb who overcomes, the number who:

(1). Are called; (2). Chosen; and (3). Faithful (Revelation 17:14).

16. How Many? The number who come out, separating themselves from the harlot Rome—

“Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues...” (Revelation 18:4 NASV) {Remember that Babylon can be any city just like Rome so the commission of the Christ follower is counter-cultural; that is, you may not participate in the sins of the city.**}**

17. How many? The number who rejoice with heaven, “saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her”. (Revelation 18:20 NASV) The number who rejoice at the Fall of Rome and the Roman Empire which by the way looked such indomitable at 94 A.D., the time of writing of the book of Revelation.

18. How many? The number that God avenged of His “bond-servants” when He destroyed Rome the harlot (Revelation 19:2)

29-6: RevRecons

Revelation 11-19

For these detailed exegesis of these ten chapters of the book of Revelation, Revelation 11-20, we will depend on the Old Testament’s interpretation of the book of Revelation, the RevRecons, and we will look at those backwards, starting with Revelation 19 then moving back to Revelation 18,17...11.

1. Revelation 19:2 and Psalms 19:9.

“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9 KJV)

“And after these things I hear a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments; for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.” (Revelation 19:1,2 KJV)

2. Revelation 19:3 and Isaiah 34:10.

“And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.” (Revelation 19:3,4 KJV)

“It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.” (Isaiah 34:10 KJV)

Since it provides such a good background for the understanding of Revelation 19 and the whole book of Revelation, we will briefly look at an exegesis of Isaiah 34-

Table 3: The Phases of History in Revelation, starting with the Teachings of Jesus.

1. Beginning of Sorrows, Matthew 24:5-8	2. Persecution Tribulation, Matthew 24:9	3. Period of Offences, Mathew 24:10	4. Falling Away, Matthew 24:11-14
1. Many false Prophets come			False Prophets
2. Many deceived		Many offended	Falling Away
		Betray one another	lawlessness abounds
		Hate on another	man of sin revealed
3. wars and rumors of war		lovers of self and money	Holy Spirit withdrawn
4. nation against nation		despisers of good	Satan unbound
5. famines		form of godliness without inward power of God	battle of Armagaddeon
6. pestilences		intolerance of sound doctrine	love of many waxes cold
7. earthquakes		blasphemers, proud, arro- gant, and trouble makers	shaking of heaven and earth
	tribulation from the unbelieving	turn away from truth and turn into fables	physical tribulation from God
	abomination of desolation		elements melt with heat
	great tribulation shortened for the elect		Gospel to every nation
	false rumors about Second Coming		Second Coming of Christ

- (1). Let all nations, people, the whole earth, and universe listen as the indignation of the LORD is on all nations as He has delivered His fury on all nations and their armies. (Isaiah 34:1-3)
- (2). All the heavens of the universe shall be dissolved, rolled up like a scroll (Isaiah 34:4).
- (3). God's judgment will come on "Idumea" (Isaiah 34:5).
- (4). The land is filled with blood on this "day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion" (Isaiah 34:6-8).
- (5). The land shall become burning brimstone forever with smoke coming up night and day (Isaiah 34:9,10).
- (6). It shall be a land of buzzards, the owl and the raven, a land of confusion and emptiness with no nobles or princes (Isaiah 34:11-15).
- (7). Read the book of the LORD for it specifies that these things will come to pass, indeed have in fact as good as already come to pass (Isaiah 34:16,17).

3. Revelation 19:5 and Psalms 116:13.

"And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great." (Revelation 19:5 KJV)

"The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great." (Psalm 116:12,13)

4. Revelation 15:3,4 and Exodus 15:18 and Deuteronomy 31:30 and Hosea 14:9.

- (1). Revelation 15:3,4.

"And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, `Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty, Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. Who will not Fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art Holy; For all the nations will come and worship before thee, For thy righteous acts have been revealed.'" (Revelation 14:3,4 NASV)

We are told this is "the song of Moses" so we expect to see it in Moses and in the rest of the Old Testament as quoted or referenced from Moses. **{**the way to sing and praise**}**

- (2). Exodus 15:18.

"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spoke, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown in the sea." (Exodus 15:1 KJV)

This is clearly the beginning of the Song of Moses. **{**yes, war is part of God's character**}**

- a. The LORD is my God (15:2).
- b. The LORD is His name, He is "a man of war" (15:3).

- c. The Greatness of Your Excellency has overthrown the enemies that have come against you (15:4-10). **{**God is omnipotent, that is all powerful**}**
- d. None is like the LORD among the gods, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, and doing wonders (15:11-12). **{**capital LORD is for Jehovah God, the Father**}**
- e. You have led the people you redeemed (15:13-17).
- f. The LORD will reign for ever and ever (15:18-21) and triumphed gloriously.

(3). Deuteronomy 31:29,30.

“For I know that after my death (Moses to Israel) ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands. And Moses spoke in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended.” (Deuteronomy 31:29,30 KJV)

(4). Hosea 14:9.

“Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the LORD are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.” (Hosea 14:9 KJV)

29-7: The Spirit of the book of Revelation

Since the book of Revelation is more a book of emotion than logic, you must get the spirit of the book more than the logic of the book in order to understand it. This is exactly what we are told in so many words in Revelation 19:10—

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10 KJV)

We already knew that Revelation is a book of prophecy so that here we are being told that such a book of prophecy has the spirit which is “the testimony of Jesus”; and to see how this “testimony of Jesus” is different from the testimony of Jesus as for example in the four Gospels or in the 14 letters of Paul, we will look at the other places in the book of Revelation where “the testimony of Jesus” is mentioned.

1. In the first two verses of the first chapter the Apostle John in attempting to identify himself, first calls himself (1) a “bondservant” then further identifies himself as (2) one “who bore witness to the word of God”, and (3) also as one who bore “the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all those he saw” (Revelation 1:2. It is interesting that with these reference to the testimony of Jesus in the next verse is also a reference to “prophecy”—

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.” (Revelation 1:3 NASV)

The ability to understand this prophecy and the spirit of this prophecy is more in terms of: (1) reads; (2) hears; and (3) heeds.

2. Other Christians who like John had been faithful to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus were not as fortunate as John, they had been martyred and were “souls under the altar” in Revelation 6:9. When they cried “How Long” and after they were given white robes they were told to wait a little while until (1) the number who would die as they died would be complete, and that (2) Those were their Christian “brethren”.

3. It is both clear that the “two witnesses” of Revelation 11 are related to the Apostle John and to the souls under the altar, and more specifically the “testimony” of the two witnesses which is completed in Revelation 11:7 is the testimony of Jesus for which the beast out of the “abyss” kills them.

4. When the Deceiver is thrown out of heaven by Michael and his angels, this Deceiver Satan is identified as the accuser of the “brethren”, the brethren who overcome on earth in spite of the accusation because (1) of the blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, (2) of the word of their testimony, and (3) because they did not love their life until death (Revelation 12:10,11).

{NOTE: Constantly in the book of Revelation we detect some sort of relationship between the status of God’s people in heaven and the status of Satan, bound and loosed, or kicked out of heaven and turned loosed on earth with wrath as in Revelation 12:12.**}**

29-8: The Deception of All Nations

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and sat 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 20:1-3 KJV)

The key to understanding the binding and loosing again of Satan, the thousand years, what happens during the “little season” after the loosing of Satan including the war of Gog and Magog against the camp of the saints in Jerusalem, and much of the book of Revelation, especially of that which remains to be fulfilled is the matter of how Satan deceives all nations—“that he should deceive the nations no more”. The fundamentals that we realize from this passage are: (1) Satan deceived all nations before he was bound and cast into the bottomless pit; (2) When bound he was not able to deceive all nations for a thousand years; and (3) After he is loosed Satan will again be allowed to deceive all nations for a “little season”. Surely a little season as compared to a thousand years would be no greater than 10% of 1000 years; however recall that it was also a little season for the first century persecution until the number of the martyred souls under the altar would be complete. **{**approximately 200 hundred years**}**

The bottomless pit in which Satan is bound and sealed has three obvious possibilities: (1) It is inside the earth in which case it would not be bottomless; (2) It is hell; and (3) It is outer space which makes more sense in that as far as we know there is no bottom to space. The mistake that is often made is to equate (1) Hell with (2) the bottomless pit with (3) the lake of fire and brimstone; but they are three distinct places which is made clear in Revelation 20:10,14,15:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever....And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:10,13-15 KJV)

Therefore with this obvious key to understanding it behooves us to look at all in the Bible, the rest of Revelation and otherwise, for all references on deceive—especially of all the nations—and Satan and deceiving. From Volume 17 of my ONE BIBLE COMMENTARIES, “God’s Conscience”, come the following references to deceive and deceit—

1. There were already “many deceivers” in the world when the Apostle John wrote II John near the end of the First Century, and the “deceiver and an antichrist” there is one who denies that Jesus Christ is come in flesh.

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” (II John 7 KJV)

This leads us to believe that as in the First Century there are always many deceivers or deniers of Jesus Christ; and that Satan, loosed or bound, has a part in that deception, but it does not directly address the deception of all nations. **{**all nations make a big army**}**

Recall however, that a key to the time of the Second Coming of Christ with the end of time is the Gospel being preached to every nation (Matthew 24:14); and that to assist in the witness of the Gospel to every nation, Satan is limited by the presence of the Holy Spirit so that he can not prevent that spreading of the Gospel until the end of the thousand years. Revelation 12 is a key to understanding all history in that we see history as essentially a warfare between two sides: (1) The side of Satan and the other fallen angels, the beasts of Satan, the false prophets of Satan, and all that give allegiance more to Satan than to Christ; and (2) The side of God and His Christ, the angels that kept their original state, and the seed of the woman, the remnant.

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

What we have in Revelation chapter 12:1-6 basically is the birth of Christ from heaven's perspective with the attempt of Satan through Herod to kill the babe Christ. If 12:7 follows historically immediately after 12:1-6, then the war in heaven between good angels and evil angels takes place immediately after the birth of Christ; and therefore at the birth of Christ, Satan and his angels are cast from heaven to earth at that point in time (Revelation 12:7-12). However the obvious problem is the "short time" of Revelation 12:12 that Satan knows he has left after being cast onto earth. Yet we can see in the "little while" that the martyred souls are told to wait, the same little while before Satan is bound in order to not deceive all the nations; and the little season after the thousand years during which Satan is bound, if these are added together as the sum of two little seasons, the total again might be a little while, say surely no greater than two hundred years.

Of course, Revelation 12:13 makes the obvious that Satan was cast from heaven to earth at the time of the birth of Christ, because when "Satan saw that he was cast unto the earth" is when he tried to kill the baby Christ and Joseph with Mary and Jesus fled to Egypt. And being able to get the progenitor of the seed of the woman, Satan became even more angry, turning that increased wrath on the other seed of the woman- those who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus (Rev 12:17)—until he is bound for a thousand years, being physically confined to outer space so that he is unable to completely deceive all nations as he did under the Roman Empire. Of course, the key to this deception of all nations is the One World Government that existed during the First Century where Rome ruled the known world.

And it is here also that we get a key to understanding Rome as the New Babylon of the book of Revelation. The first Babylon was Babel where all nations were one in language, and they attempted to build a tower right up to heaven. The wickedness of this city, and the religious worship of the tower and city was so wicked that God confused the tongues. It took many thousands of years later with the spread of the Greek language during the Greek Empire and the subsequent spread of the Roman Empire with the retention of the Greek language as the language of the marketplace (also of the New Testament) before again nations were re-united as they had been under the first Babel or Babylon. Therefore it seems obvious that we will need one world government before Satan can again deceive all nations, or at least effectively one world government, say for example "world democracy". Last week Yeltsin said before the United Nations that the efforts of Russia and the United States were for "global democracy" by the year 2000. Does that mean that Satan has already been loosed, and among other places is working among the government leaders of Russia and the Soviet Union to established a one world democratic government? **{**Perhaps Russia will join the Muslims for their oil.**}**

2. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:5-7 makes it clear that "whoremongers", the "unclean person", the "covetous man", and the "idolater" are the reason that the final judgment will come

on these disobedient, and that such have no place in the kingdom that is God's and Christ's. The admonition of Paul here is not to let such "deceive you with vain words". So thus far we have three ways that Satan can deceive: (1) All the nations through one democratic government; (2) With vain words from the whoremongers, unclean, covetous, and idolaters; and (3) with the truth of the Holy Spirit withdrawn during the falling away, nations will believe the Lie.

3. In II Thessalonians 2:1-4 Paul warns the Thessalonians and therefore other Christians not to be deceived about the time of the Second Coming as before the Second Coming these things must take place: (1) First a falling away of Christians; (2) The man of sin or perdition being revealed which would correspond to the beast of Revelation, the first in the double nature of prophesy being the Roman Emperors and the next being those of the end times with some in between; and (3) This son of perdition sits in the temple of God saying that he is God. This some of the Roman Emperors did, and again it must be done at the end. (For example, Mormons claim to be God; and so do others.)

So we know have three ways that Satan can deceive all nations: (1) One democratic world government; (2) Vain words from idolaters; and (3) False claims to be God Himself.

4. The Apostle James in James 1:14,27 cautions Christians to be wary that they not be deceived by those who deceive themselves by thinking they are religious when they do not keep themselves unspotted from the world as well as perform the essential works of visiting the suffering fatherless and widows; and we come to a fourth way in which Satan can deceive all nations: (1) One world government of democracy; (2) Vain words from idolaters (say, THE GODMAKERS, but there are also others; (3) False claims to be God Himself; and (4) Vain religion that is spotted and indifferent to suffering.

5. Jesus Himself in Matthew 24 teaches many times about deceit as connected with: (1) Those who claim to be Christ's, 24:4,5; (2) Many false prophets that will also deceive many, 24:11; and (3) False Christs and prophets that can show great signs and wonders, coming close to even deceiving the elect, 24:24. And this gives us a fifth way in which Satan can deceive all the nations again: (1) One democratic world government; (2) False words from idolaters; (3) Personal godmakers; (4) Vain religion; and (5) False Christs and Prophets.

6. According to the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3:12,13 there are two ways to live "in Christ Jesus": (1) godly which means persecution and therefore comparable to great tribulation, or at least tribulation; and (2) ungodly or as "evil men and seducers". And it is these evil men and seducers that become proponents of Satan in the deceiving again of all the nations as they "wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived".

Six ways for Satan to deceive all the nations again: (1) One democratic world government; (2) The false words of religious idolaters; (3) Godmakers who make themselves gods; (4) Vain religion like the LDS or the Church of Scientology or the Mooners; (5) False Christs and

Prophets; and (6) The Deceivers in turn experiencing the ultimate deception as Satan takes them over completely. **{**possible because Holy Spirit is withdrawn in the Falling Away**}**

7. The Apostle John speaks in I John 1:8 of those who say that they are sinless being those who also have not the truth inside them; and now, temporarily we will wrap up our brief discussion on deceit with the seventh manner in which Satan can again deceive all nations: (1) One world democratic government; (2) A false religion of idolaters that worship god but not God; (3) Other idolaters that claim to be a god; (4) Vain religions; (5) False Christs and False Prophets that support the vain and false religions; (6) Deceivers being increasing suckered into ultimate deception by the Great Deceiver; and (7) The falsehood of sinlessness among the religious.

What this reminds us of is the false Christian leaders of II Peter 2:17 and Jude 12:

(1). II Peter 2:17.

“These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.” (II Peter 2:17 KJV)

(2). Jude 12.

“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds, trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.” (Jude 11-13 KJV)

4. Jeremiah 14:14.

“Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spoke unto them; they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.” (Jeremiah 14:14 KJV)

False prophets with their false claims and false messages are as old as the Old Testament! Do these false prophets remind you of anyone we know? **{**a bunch must be here**}**

5. Jeremiah 23:32.

“Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their light-

ness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 23:30-32 KJV)

Since we hear about the “restored gospel of Jesus Christ” so often we might forget the seriousness of such who would substitute the original gospel of Jesus Christ, of the Old Testament, and of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. The prophecies with the lying restored gospel are efforts to steal God’s own words of the real Gospel from neighbors! It is serious! Their own people or any other people who listen to these lying prophets of the LDS will not be profited by any means in terms of salvation in this life or the life to come!

6. Lamentations 2:14.

Even as the original people of God rescued from Egyptian bondage and eventually brought to the land of Israel and established had false prophets in each generation which had extensively increased by the time of Jeremiah in Lamentations, so each subsequent generation of God’s people in Christian times have had false prophets also increasing to the peak of the falling away.

“Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee:” and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity: but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.” (Lamentations 2:14 KJV)

The Bible clearly teaches false prophets. Paul told the Ephesian elders that after his departure in the first century even then grievous wolves would come in that take advantage of the flock. Jesus also foretold in Matthew 24 false prophets. Now, you know they must exist now and that they must exist in our country. So how do you identify them. A general way is in terms of popularity: since according to the teachings of Jesus the majority is wrong and the minority is right (difference between the many and the few), popular preachers are more suspect than little known preachers; and of course, the most popular are on television. For more specific things to look for in a false prophet, according to Lamentations, is:

- (1). Vain and foolish things;
 - (2). Things that do not show your own sinfulness;
 - (3). Messages which do not deliver you from your captivity to sin and Satan;
 - (4). Messages that put false burdens on you that will in no way help with your salvation;
- and
- (5). Messages that cause your banishment from God now and eternally.

7. Malachi 3:5.

You who attempt to identify yourselves so closely with the Jewish people, calling all other except yourselves Gentiles, and having restored more the Jewish religion of the First Century more than the Gospel of Jesus Christ, listen to what was happening to the majority of the Jews

just before Christ, with only a remnant of the remnant, a small portion of GOD'S RESERVES if you would:

“And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers (remember another word for false prophets), and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:5 KJV)

8. Matthew 7:15.

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Matthew 7:15 KJV)

9. Matthew 15:19.

“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man; but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.” (Matthew 15:18-20 KJV)

It is difficult but we must keep the record of the Bible straight on the Mormons or on any other American people: Without the new birth from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by the grace of God, independent of all works which man can do, the natural and sub-natural man is going to do consistently with a heart full of sin. In spite of their claims that in the Garden man fell up instead of down, becoming more like God, the Bible still teaches that sin like gravity causes man to fall down.

10. Matthew 24:11,24.

“And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many.” (Matthew 24:11 KJV)

Do you know many that have been deceived? Perhaps you live among them in the land of Mesecsh, in the tents of Kedar?

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” (Matthew 24:24 KJV)

God's true RESERVES or saints must be careful less they also be deceived by these false prophets with their false Lord Jesus Christ, who falsely claim to be the Latter Day Saints, confusing themselves with the elect of God who are God's Reserves!

11. Luke 6:14.

“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:14,27 KJV)

29-9: What About God's Witnesses, Revelation 10-12?

Some commentators on the book of Revelation like to call Revelation 10-12 "parenthetical" since it is an extended passage between the sounding of the sixth and seventh trumpet; however while it is parenthetical in that the seventh trumpet of the Second Coming of Christ is not immediately sounded after the sixth trumpet which affected only the non-people of God, yet it does make us naturally ask about the main theme of the book of Revelation, what is happening to the people of God? (1) What happens to the Apostle John as he eats the little book that was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach (Revelation 10:1-11); (2) What happens to Moses and Elijah or any other two witnesses until their testimony is complete or after their testimony is complete (Revelation 11:1-14); (3) What happens to the remnant of God's people that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 12:1-17).

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

The chapters of revelation following are a commentary or elaboration of this "War with the remnant of Her Seed", Revelation 13-20. Actually the final battle of this war takes place twice between Revelation 13 and Revelation 20, once in Revelation 19 and then again in Revelation 20, and perhaps others. Also you will find several reminders during these chapters of what is happening to the elect or people of God since this is the primary theme, and what is paramount on the mind of those who read the book of Revelation, especially during times of persecution and martyrdom as in the First Century A.D. **{**great tribulation as contrasted to the final tribulation: the final is greater only in the number of people affected, the world**}**

The People. If you look carefully at the number of passages that relate to the people of God, about comfort for the people of God, and an identification of those people, you can see how this under the theme of "Seven Christian Thousands" is the primary theme of the book of Revelation. "Seven Christian Thousands" is just another way to say the "people" or "elect" of God! **{**Christ for Individuals necessary with a limited number of elect in the churches**}**

1. Revelation 1:1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave to Jesus "to shew unto his servants" so that the very introductory words are reminders of the goal of the book as one to show the people of God as servants "things which must shortly come to pass"; and one of those servants so named in the same verse as a "servant" is the John to whom the book of Revelation was sent and signified unto by way of an angel. (In this book we must consider what the rest of the Bible teaches about angels, so important are the angels as part of the message. We must also consider the fallen angels, chief of which fallen angel is Satan.)

2. Revelation 1:3. A special promise of "blessing" to God's people is given also as introductory words since only God's people would do those things which are admonished of (1)

Reading the book of Revelation, (2) Hearing the words of the prophecy of the book, and (3) Keeping those things which are written in the book of Revelation. This also implies that these Christians (God's people) of the First Century needed the words of this book, and need it immediately as "the time is at hand". **{**what was most "at hand" was the great tribulation**}**

3. Revelation 1:4. "Grace" and "peace" to God's people of the "seven churches". "Seven" as always throughout Revelation and the rest of the Bible being the magic number for completion. We know Paul and Acts that there were more than seven churches in Asia Minor.

4. Revelation 1:5. The witness of John to Jesus as "the first begotten of the dead" implies as always in the Bible that God's people are the second begotten; and the double "us" in "loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" with the "us" speaks more of God's elect. **{**John likes the word "firstborn" for Jesus as Paul calls in Hebrews the only important church and churchmembership as the "Assembly of the Firstborn", written in heaven**}**

5. Revelation 1:6. Also the "made us kings and priests unto God and his Father" speaks of the peculiar selection of a certain group of people often in the Bible called the remnant or the people of God. **{**only a few kings and priests and only a few true believers**}**

6. Revelation 1:9. John identifies himself as "I John", and specifically as "brother" and "companion in tribulation" to the implied elect of God which have been also specified in the previous verses. **{**John already a participant in persecution with them exiled by Rome**}**

7. Revelation 1:11. Not only does the Ascended Jesus supervise what the angels lead John to see and hear, but He first specifies to whom the book of Revelation is to be given, "send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia", naming them specifically

8. Revelation 1:20. The first vision of Christ and the seven candlesticks is about the people of God, Jesus explaining so that it is clear up front that this book is a revelation for the people of God, and for the comfort of the people of God: "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches". (Again we see the importance of angels in the book of Revelation.)

9. Revelation 2-3. Each message to each church is a specific message to the people of God at that location with their particular problems and assets, and as the seven representative churches of all Christian churches is a combined message to all Christian churches today.

10. Revelation 4:4. With the vision of God on His throne was also the encouraging vision of some of God's former people on earth, now "elders" around the throne, clothed in white and with crowns of gold on their 24 heads.

11. Revelation 5:8. While the Lamb is at the center in this verse, also worshipped by the four living creatures and the 24 elders, even here the people of God and in particular "the prayers of saints" are remembered as central to the message of the book.

12. Revelation 5:10. That the 24 elders are former living on the earth people of God is made clear in the last words of the “new song” that they sing to the Lamb of God, the Christ—**”And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth” (KJV).** {**With the 4 living creatures and 24 elders around the throne are “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands of angels” (Revelation 5:11) so that for quantity alone the angels would be important in the book of Revelation.**}

13. Revelation 5:13. When every creature in heaven and on earth give honor to God the Father on the throne and to the Lamb-Christ, you know that either this is a vision of a reality to happen at the end of time or a look at the reality to come, or both; and that among these “every creature” is the 24 elders of 5:9 who have been redeemed, God’s people “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”. The fact that they are out of every living people makes it something for after the end of time. With his transformation to heaven does the Apostle John also receive a transformation in time? Surely! The visions are visions of the future as well as of heaven and earth in the future. {**a minority now, a majority later**}

14. Revelation 6:9-11. In this longer than one verse identification of some of the people of God we learn that: (1) These are souls of God’s people under the altar; (2) They were slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus; (3) They cry “How Long” until their blood will be judged and avenged of those still on the earth; (4) Each of them—”unto every one of them”—was given a white robe; (5) They were told to wait for a “little season” until the number was complete (the seven thousand) of fellow servants and brothers who were killed liked them.

15. Revelation 7:1-3. Between the sixth seal and the seventh seal and at the beginning of the long passage on “What is happening to God’s people”, we are given the assurance of preservation of God’s people in the following words—

“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, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.” (Revelation 7:2,3 KJV)

16. Revelation 7:4-8. “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.” (Rev 7:4) The Jewish number of the Seven Thousand.

17. Revelation 7:9-17. Not stated as the sealed also but also identified as the equivalent of sealed in Revelation 7:14 is the numberless multitude of every kindred, nation, and tongue—**“What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?....These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Rev 7:13,14 KJV)**

18. Revelation 8:3,4. “the prayers of all saints”, incense before God through angels.

19. Revelation 9:4. Satan, the angel of the bottomless pit released at the sounding of the fifth trumpet is not allowed to harm the sealed people of God, implied in “only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads” (KJV). **{**NOTE: What did these men do that was so bad as to turn loose Satan and his army on, the same things of which in Revelation 9:20 they would not repent even during the horrible torment? They worshipped: (1) Devils, (2) Idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. And once again you see that a remnant of God’s people are there during this final tribulation.**}**

20. Revelation 10:11. That this verse, special comfort for the Apostle John, as is all of Revelation 10 through Revelation 11:1-14. It is hardly parenthetical: notice the words of the mighty angel warning of how time will be no more when the Seventh Angel sounds—

“THAT THERE SHOULD BE TIME NO LONGER: 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.” (Revelation 10:6,7 KJV) **{time and all finished at the Sounding of the 7th trumpet**}****

(1). Time ceases to be at the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet of the Seventh Seal, the same time that Christ comes again. **{**no longer even a way to count a thousand years**}**

(2). Time ends when the Seventh Angel begins to sound the Seventh Trumpet.

(3). This end of time will complete also the eschatological mysteries of God of the Bible.

(4). These are mysteries that will be made evident in historical reality even as they have been revealed in the Bible by the Prophets. **{**mysteries are always made clear by God**}**

29-10: Baal or Christ? **{Baal really represents any object given priority over God**}****

To fully appreciate the main theme of Revelation as the proper identification of the people of God, we must consider the two options of Baal or Christ. When people do not worship the LORD God the Father through Christ as God has ordained in the Bible, who do they worship? You can see the answer to that question in Revelation 9:20. God allows Satan, the angel of the bottomless pit, to torment all of the non-sealed of God on the earth; and yet they do not repent. Instead, what do they do?

“And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of THE WORKS OF THEIR HANDS, so as not to worship DEMONS, AND THE IDOLS OF GODS AND OF SILVER AND OF BRASS AND OF STONE AND OF WOOD, WHICH CAN NEITHER SEE NOR HEAR NOR WALK; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.” (Revelation 9:20,21 NASV)

It is clear what happened! When they rejected the worship of God, THEY WORSHIPPED DEMONS AND IDOLS! And we must make clear also what happens when any people worship other than the God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible, and for example wor-

ship “Baal” or any other idol of a god which does not exist. Since Baal or any other of the gods of idols do not really exist, they end up worshipping Satan who does exist. How many men today would change their ways if they knew that it comes down to only two alternatives: You either worship the God of the Bible or your worship Satan!

“But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.” (Deuteronomy 4:29-31 KJV)

Did you notice that? “tribulation” and “the latter days” so that indeed Deuteronomy 4 and Revelation 9 are talking about the same times. It is only that Deuteronomy 4 includes both periods of Old Testament History when the chosen nation of Israel was Captive in Babylon and Persia, later in Old and New Testaments captive to Greece and Rome, and then during the very last days is captive to this great army of Satan.

God Is Merciful. {another character trait of our God to be worshipped**}**

Notice those words of Deuteronomy 4:31 to the extent that God Is Merciful. More specifically what it does is identify a characteristic of the God of the Bible as “the LORD thy God is a merciful God...” Knowing this about God the Father helps us understand the limitation that He places on Satan who has been released **{**If indeed we are in that period of the Faling Away, the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit, and the release of Satan for a little season.**}** from the bottomless pit to torment men.

“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. 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. 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.” (Revelation 9:3-5 KJV)

With the judgments of this fifth trumpet before the sixth and seventh trumpets that end time, God is patiently dealing in judgment with all mankind even as He patiently dealt with the Pharaoh of Egypt. God first sent the milder judgments of lice, frogs, etc. before Pharaoh rejected God, then built up into the intensity of judgments until death was brought on all the firstborn in Egypt.



Chapter 30: “How Long?”

“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 live and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:4 KJV) **{the souls lived and reigned with Christ**}****

Back in Revelation 6:9-11 when the souls under the altar cried, “How Long”, the answer was “rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled” (Rev 6:11 KJV) Times up here in Revelation 20:4! The “little season” is over at the same time that Satan is bound with the Coming of the Holy Spirit on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension. The number is complete that have died as those souls under the altar died; and furthermore Revelation 20:4 elaborates on how those souls under the altar of Revelation 6:9-11 died, “them that were beheaded”, and we realize immediately if tradition is true that Peter and Paul were beheaded the same day in Rome, then the Apostles Peter and Paul were among those who were reigning with Christ for a thousand years. We almost miss this central message of the numbering of God’s martyr’s in terms of the number that will be so honored since most often we become overly enamored with the thousand years and with the binding and loosing of Satan. What the book of Revelation is telling First Century Christians is that it is a badge of honor to be martyred by being beheaded. These Christians get to heaven one thousand years before those Christian which were not martyred—**“But the rest of the dead lived not again unto the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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 20:5,6 KJV)**

The dead, not believers, do not live in heaven during the thousand years. They live in an intermediate place called Hades, awaiting judgement and casting into the lake of fire and brimstone. How do we know this “rest of the dead” is the non-believers. Well, a lot of people were dead during the great tribulation, and other tribulations; and “the rest” would have to includthem. Besides, you see it in the context later, in Revelation 20:12-15, where it is “the dead, small and great”, and the dead were judged by works **{**only unbelievers are judged by works**}**, and

death, Hades, and the Sea gave up the dead that were in them. **{**The three words mean the same thing as so often in the Bible: the dead in the Sea and in Death are all in Hades.**}**

30-1: The Little Season.

And if we are sharp enough to pick it up this also gives us an approximate gauge of years by which to judge the amount of time that Satan will be allowed to run free on this earth after his release. Since Satan was knocked down, his head bruised (Genesis 3:15) as his power to rule over the world became restricted, and then with the Coming of the Holy Spirit in approximately 33 A.D., then loosed a thousand years later, or approximately 1033 A.D.; and John wrote approximately 100 A.D. with the little season starting then that the souls under the altar were told to wait until the number that died as they died was complete (that happened with the end of the persecution under Domitian approximately 313 A.D. **{**Fox in FOXE'S BOOK OF MARTYRS identifies the tenth persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperors as ending in 313 A.D.**}**), so that little season, from the persecution under Domitian where John was exiled (100 A.D. to the ceasing of persecutions by the Roman Emperors, 313 A.D), gives us approximately 200 years for this little season. Now if the little season is 10 percent of the long season of a thousand years, then the one thousand years would be the real number of 2000 years which would be 2033. **{**I am playing the numbers game with a lot of imagination, though based on some history; but you see how foolish such attempts are to date the actual events.**}** Of course, we are only dealing in speculations as Jesus says that no man knows the time but only the Father. .

How Many is the Number of God's People? Let us forget the many ways that humanity has developed throughout history to number the people of God, generally in a circle about themselves; and review the ways that God in Revelation uses in order to number His people. The way that God numbers those people is in terms of the characteristics that identify the people. Here as tabulated in each previous chapter we will review those characteristics, adding also additional insight in the context of the chapter and verses. Since it will be easier to remember, we will work backwards again, starting with Revelation 20.

1. Two categories are given for the dead in Revelation 20:5,6 and Revelation 20:12-15: (1) those dead who take part in the first resurrection as they live and reign with Christ for a thousand years, and over which the second death have no power; and (2) then naturally follows the second category of the dead who do not experience the first resurrection and hence do not live and reign with Christ forever, and over which the second death of the lake of fire and brimstone for eternal punishment does have power. (Revelation 20:5,6)

2. Those can be the most confident of being among the people of God who have had their blood shed for God and Christ. This is repeated often in Revelation in many different words. (Revelation 19:2) **{**According to Fox most Apostles and many other Christian leaders**

were martyred during the ten persecutions by Rome; of course, including Peter and Paul of whom tradition and Fox say that they were martyred the same time in Rome.}**

3. Among the number are those Apostles, prophets, and saints of the first few centuries under the Roman Empire (Revelation 18:20); and of course most of these were killed because of the stand **{**Like Martin Luther’s “Here I Stand”.**}** they took as Apostles, prophets, and saints, and therefore lived and reigned with Christ at the beginning of the one thousand years. It was a special honor for being martyred. **{**You see since all of these martyrs did not die at the same time, and since all of them witnessed from heaven as the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the earth and the unbinding of Satan, then one thousand years is just a long time, not a specific amount of years.**}**

4. The separated people under the Roman Empire which distinguished themselves from the life-style of the Roman Empire—in other words “the ones who while in Rome did not as the Romans did—are numbered among the people of God by God Himself. (Revelation 18:4)

5. The called, chosen, and faithful in Revelation as in all the rest of the Bible number the people of God as the elect. (Revelation 17:14)

6. Again obviously the bloody under the Roman Empire, saints and witnesses of Jesus. (Revelation 17:6)

7. Those who stay awake and do not expose their nakedness to men. (Revelation 16:15) If you recall the parable of the second coming of Luke 12:35-41 where the owner of the house is caught off guard by the thief in the night, as well as losing belongings, as his lack of full dress is discovered.

8. Again the bloody, Revelation 16:4.

9. Again the victorious over the Roman Empire and the Emperors, Revelation 15:2,3, those who can sing the Song of Moses. And while it may seem strange that these victorious stand on a sea of glass mingled with fire, we are reminded of I Peter 1:7–

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, thought it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” (I Peter 1:7 KJV)

Where are we in the series of last events as given in Revelation? Are we at the Second Coming of Christ, before or after? The last and seventh trumpet of the seven seals was sounded in Revelation 11; and now with the beginning of Revelation 15 again there are seven angels, this time with seven last plagues as the judgments previously more general in nature now become more specific on the Roman Empire. And before in Revelation 16 the vials or plagues are poured out, the status of God’s people are reviewed in Revelation 15. I would have to say that this is before the Second Coming, but with assurance of the sure standing of those being persecuted that while they are surrounded by fire that they stand on a sea of glass.

10. Those who die in the Lord after the firstfruits of Christ of the Apostles, etc. (Revelation 14:13)

11. The firstfruits of Christ. (Revelation 14:4) These are numbered at 144,000 with many different characteristics (Revelation 14:1-5): (1) Father's name written on their foreheads, and that is much better than having the name of the Roman Emperor stamped on their foreheads or hands, the elect of the Roman Empire; (2) Numbered as the only ones that could learn to sing the new song before the throne of God; (3) They could learn this new song only because they were the redeemed from the earth, meaning that it must be because of their gratitude for the experience of redemption; (4) Virgins, not defined with women; (5) They followed the Lamb-Christ wherever He went; (6) Redeemed from among men, the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb; (7) Justified, no guile in their mouth or fault before God.

Why 144,000? Well, for several reasons. There were also 144,000 in Revelation 7:4-8 where "the number of them which were sealed" is also 144,000 of the twelve tribes of Israel, or the number of Jews. The significance of numbers make it obvious: 12 for the 12 tribes; don't leave out any of them in the numbering so multiply it again by 12; and then just in case to make all of the persecuted believing Jews of the first century and beyond, multiply it by the number one thousand for magnitude. Or you could multiply the twelve apostles by the 12 tribes. It is only a numbers game intended to show that the numbering by the same God who has the hairs on our head numbered has also numbered accurately the people who have believed.

30-2: Repeats with More Information.

What the Old Testament does on prophesy over a period or periods of hundreds of years, the book of Revelation does in a few chapters. It repeats what has been previously revealed of future events, then adds additional information. We see that in the matter of the souls under the altar that are introduced in Revelation 6:9,10 and then repeated again in Revelation 11:11,12 with the two witnesses, and then repeated again in Revelation 20:4 where these same martyred live and reign with Christ the same thousand years during the time in which Satan is bound. We can start a chart as follows that will help to unlock the revealed mysteries of the book of Revelation—

	Revelations		
Event	First	Second	Third
1. Martyred Souls	6:9,10	11:11,12	20:4
2. Who the Angel is?	19:10	22:9	
3. Worship God	19:10	22:9	

And we can add other obvious repeats as shown above such as when the angel identifies himself to John as a former Christian brother, and in the same context when the angel emphatical-

ly states to worship God. Are we therefore to think that the angels are former Christians on earth? It certainly looks that way, except we now that some angels had to exist before even the Creation of man since Satan who tempted man in the Garden was a fallen angel. **{**It is most probably that the original Greek word was “messenger of God”, the angel being one type and former Christian brothers another.**}**

With this as a foundation we can start to reconstruct other less obvious repeats of the book of Revelation such as the Great Last Battle to end all battles, sometimes called Armageddon; and also the signs of the times introduced by Jesus as the earthquakes, wars, etc., and elaborated on by the other Apostles such as Peter **{**Peter on the elements melting with a fervent heat.**}** and Paul’s the whole Creation groaneth in travail up till now. To assist in this process three key words can be used: (1) war or battle; (2) earthquake; and (3) fire.

1. War or battle.

War is not mentioned by that word with the opening of the first seal and the rider on the white horse, but it is obvious that war is implied with the “conquering and to conquer” (Rev 6:1,2). The same is true of the rider on the red horse of the second seal that takes peace from the earth and kills (Rev 6:3,4). Likewise war is implied with famine and death in the pale rider of the fourth seal (Rev 6:7,8). By the way “famine” would be another key word as implied in the rider on the black horse of the third seal (Rev 6:5,6). And quickly we are reminded of what is happening today in Russia with the cost of food with the thought that while this has happened without war, it has not happened without the rumors of war; for it is the cold war with the arms race and the race for space with the money spent by Russia in these directions which no doubt has greatly contributed to the lack of adequate funds and efforts in the direction of the necessities of life.

In the construction of our key to the understanding of Revelation Table, we should combine “war and famine”. And this event becomes the fourth for the charting of the major events of the book of Revelation as shown on the next page. We will also start to rearrange the events according to which one is mentioned first, etc.

Event	Revelations		
	First	Second	Third
1. War and Famine	6:1-8	_____	_____
2. Martyred Souls	6:9,10	11:11,12	20:4
3. Earthquake, fire, earth’s end	6:12-17	_____	_____
4. Who the Angel is?	19:10	22:9	_____
5. Worship God	19:10	22:9	_____

And before we continue with the repeats of war, battles, and famine, we will take a brief look at earthquakes since we know that opening of the sixth seal after the revelation of the souls under the altar included earthquakes.

2. Earthquakes, fire, and end of old heavens/earth.

“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...” (Revelation 6:12-17 KJV) {Always the Day of the LORD and Lord is described in terms of the dark sun and moon, so this is this Day with the opening of the sixth seal.**}**

And since it is obvious that this earthquake is tied in with the whole destruction of the old heavens and earth {**That is what that Day is!**}, we will add that to this grouping. So if this is the end of the old heavens and old earth, why does not the book of Revelation quickly pass from Revelation 6 to the new heavens and new earth of Revelation 21,22. The answer is that these events must be repeated with more information. That is the nature of prophecy..

30-3: Ezekiel, RevRecons, and Revelation

Since we find so few direct quotes of the book of Ezekiel in the New Testament as compared to the size of the book, we naturally suspect that the Prophet Ezekiel makes a contribution to the total flow of the Bible in some avenue other than direct quotes. The very nature of the book of Ezekiel suggests that this contribution is as RevRecons to the book of Revelation.

Ezekiel helps to provide the language of Revelation. For example when John tries to describe what he sees of God on the great white throne in Revelation 4:3, it is with the reference of Ezekiel 1:28 that he describes the rainbow. It is a “rainbow around the throne” in Revelation KJV, it is “as the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about” in Ezekiel KJV. The Prophet also makes it clear that there is a struggle to describe the appearance of God and His glory, stating, “This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.” The two words “appearance” and “likeness” make it clear that there is a struggle to put into human words any vision of the LORD God the Father. Revelation builds on Ezekiel in that the second RevRecon in Revelation 4:6, only three verses from the first, jumps in Ezekiel from the first of Ezekiel 1:28 to the second of 10:12. It is background for the description of the four living creatures that are in the center and around the throne. If we compare the faces of the four living creatures between Ezekiel and Revelation, it goes as shown below—

	Ezekiel	Revelation
1. First	cherub	lion
2. Second	man	calf
3. Third	lion	man
4. Fourth	eagle	eagle

While the order is not the same in both books, we do notice that three out of four faces are the same likenesses in both books, those of the (1) lion, (2) man, and (3) eagle. The one face or appearance that is different is that of the “cherub” in Ezekiel, and the “calf” in Revelation. Calf we understand, but what is a cherub? We learn of the cherubim in Psalm 18:10 and Ezekiel 9:3. The LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE comments on cherubim in these words:

“Cherubim are mighty angels. One of the functions of the cherubim was to serve as guardians. These angels guarded the entrances to both the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) and the Most Holy Place (Exodus 13:18-22). The living creatures carrying God’s throne in Ezekiel 1 may have been cherubim.”

These faces of Ezekiel 1 are essentially the same as Revelation, the exception being that it is “ox” in Ezekiel and “calf” in Revelation.

“As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.” (Ezekiel 1:10 KJV)

And quickly while we notice that each of the living creatures of Ezekiel have the four faces, the living creatures of Revelation have one different face each. This can be seen from Ezekiel 10:14 and Revelation 4:7.

The Prophet defines these cherubim as “the living creature”:

“And the cherubim were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.” (Ezekiel 10:15 KJV)

Also in Ezekiel 10:20-22:

“This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubim. Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.” (Ezekiel 10:20-22 KJV)

There is also some similarity between the book of Ezekiel 2:9,10 and the book with seven seals on it in Revelation 5:1. It gives us some background for revelations of the seven sealed book when we read in Ezekiel 2:20 of how the book had inside it “lamentations, mourning, and woe”. The eating bread by weight and care of Ezekiel 4:16 with the water by measure provides background for the famine of the third seal of Revelation 6:5,6. The “four sore judgments” of Ezekiel 14:21 provide background for the first four seals of Revelation 6:

“For thus saith the Lord GOD: How much more when I send my four sore judgments upon Jerusalem, (1) the sword, (2) and the famine, (3) and the noisome beast, (4) and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and beast?” (Ezekiel 14:21 KJV)

The mountains moving out of their place, with the islands, of Revelation 6:14 is similar to the mountains being thrown down of Ezekiel 38:20; and the total context of both Revelation and Ezekiel make it clear that this the final tribulation that affects both man and the universe with the “that day” of Ezekiel 28:19 being the same One Day of final eschatology and the rest of the Bible:

“Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 28:19 KJV)

The book of Ezekiel could not make it any clearer that it speaks of the end time as well as the end of Israel than in the words of Ezekiel 7:2 where the “four corners of the land” remind us of the four angels of Revelation 7:1 are standing at the four corners of the earth to hold back the winds. And just as in Revelation 7:3 where the four angels are stopped until the bondservants get the seal of God on their foreheads, so in Ezekiel 9:4 a similar thing is done in Jerusalem as there is “set a mark upon the forehands of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof” (Ezekiel 9:4 KJV). SURELY THERE IS NO BETTER PREPARATION FOR THE READING AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION THAN A READING OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL. IT IS PREPARATION BOTH IN LANGUAGE AND CONCEPTS!

Ezekiel 37:27 and Revelation 21:3. Here is also obvious eschatological content as these words of God tabernacle with His own people are so similar to that of Revelation 21:3 on the new earth under the new heavens—

“My tabernacle also shall be with them; yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Ezekiel 37:27 KJV)

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, `Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them.” (Revelation 21:3 NASV)

Ezekiel 38:1 and Revelation 20:8. The Gog in the land of Magog is spiritually the same as the Gog and Magog of Revelation 20:8 even as Rome is spiritually the same as Babylon, Jerusalem the same as Sodom, Egypt, and Samaria.

“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, hoeses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armor, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.” (Ezekiel 38:1-6 KJV)

{**NOTE: In spite of Scofield’s notes that place Magog as Russia and Europe, you see much more to this army than that with the emphasis more on those nations in the middle East. Obviously here you have a coalition of Arabs as Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya. What we can most probably expect at Armageddon since just about all the Muslims in the world are mad at us or getting mad, a coalition of Iran, Iraqi, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, and some others under Osama or a follower; and allying with them some European countries like Russia and France and even countries like Japan and North Korea. The need for oil and the dislike of the US policies can make some very strange allies.**}

“And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.” (Revelation 20:7-9 NASV)

What is really important here is that “Gog and Magog” represent all the nations of the four corners of the earth even as in Ezekiel Gog and Magog had a coalition of nations surrounding Israel. It would be much like the coalition of nations that came against Saddam in the Persian Gulf War except the alliances and coalitions would have to be somewhat rearranged.

38:20 And the obvious last things content of Ezekiel continues with the “all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence” showing that Ezekiel is much more than the immediate judgment on Gog here and on this limited time content. Notice the similarity of the details of judgment on earth as compared to Revelation 6:14 where the islands and the mountains are moved out of their place. {**NOTE: Attaching spiritual names to previous locations as Sodom to Jerusalem, Babylon to Rome, and Gog and Magog to the army that comes against the camp of the saints in Jerusalem in the last battle to end all battles is not a matter of physical location. Even as Rome was far to the West of the original Babylon, Gog and Magog of Revelation 20:8 need not be located in the same place as the original Gog and Magog. However even as there were similar characteristics in wickedness between Babel, Babylon, and Rome, so there should be some similar characteristics between the original Gog of Ezekiel 38,39 and that of Revelation 20:8.**}

Ezekiel 40:1-48:35 and Revelation. While scholars tend to emphasize the first or primary meaning of the book of Ezekiel, we know by now that even most of Restored Jerusalem will be the new Jerusalem of the new earth. People get quickly deceived by the prophecies for the new earth as applying them too stringently to Israel on the old earth, and to the nation of Israel

instead of the Israel not of the nation of Israel only. All understanding should have been altered in the New Testament when Acts and the Apostle Peter taught of the tabernacle not made with hands, and the Apostle Paul taught in Romans in the new Israel of a few real Israelis and the rest Gentiles. John tries to make GOD'S RESERVES or God's remnant or God's seven Christian thousands clear in Revelation 7 with both the vision of the 144,000 of the nation of Israel and then the multitude that no man could number. It takes both of these crowds to describe the new Israel, the new remnant!

Ezekiel 40:3. Even as Ezekiel in a vision was transported back to Israel from Babylonian captivity and to a high mountain and to a city where a man who looked like brass and with a measuring rod made measurements of the city, so also in Revelation 11:1 John is given a measuring rod to measure: (1) the temple of God; (2) the altar of God; and (3) those who worship in it.

Ezekiel 40:17. Starting here there are details about the outer court of the temple even as John is told by the time of the book of Revelation not to measure the outer court as it is "given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months." (Revelation 11:2 NASV)

Ezekiel 42:20. Here the man measures part of the temple, that of the wall which was give hundred reeds long and five hundred broad; and in Revelation 21 the wall of the city is measured where the length, width and height are equal.

30-4: Work and Word in James

If we do not read James 1:22-13 we miss the subtly difference between usage of "word" and "works" confusing them often as we do in our reading, memorization, and message—

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, be being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." (James 1:22-13 KJV)

Where we easily get confused is with those words of: "being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work..." Even as the "forgetful hearer" implies the "forgetful hearer of the WORD so we expect that the hearer with the good memory will also be the "doer of the WORD; BUT IT IS WORK NOT WORD! DID YOU NOTICE THAT. WE HAVE SWITCHED FROM FORGETFUL HEARER OF THE WORD TO A GOOD MEMORY DOER OF THE WORK!

Perhaps the same passage in the NASV can help us—

"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks

at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22-13 NASV)

You see how the NASV makes it clear that the contrast of the last sentence is between the forgetful hearer and the doer with a good memory. The contrast is not been faith and works; but rather between doers of the word and hearers of the word. The hearers of the word only have not necessarily exercised faith, the works will show the hearers that have also exercised faith!

Even as in a much earlier chapter, we looked at “works” in the Bible, so now with the inspiration of James 1:22-13, we should look at the singular of “work”—

1. The people that “work” but “work iniquity” and who claim that they prayed “Lord, Lord”, naming the name of Christ, will be told by Christ on the judgment day that He never knew them as His own people (Matthew 7:23).

2. Jesus told the parable of the two sons being told to go “work” in the vineyard, one said he would but did not, and the other said he wouldn’t but later repented (Matthew 21:28).

3. Jesus reprimanded the disciples in that while they considered the ointment poured on His feet by Mary of Bethany as a waste whereas it could have been sold and the money used to buy food for the poor, Jesus said that it was “a good work” which she had done (Matthew 14:10).

4. Jesus Himself could do “no mighty work” in Nazareth since the people had no faith in Him, except to heal a few sick folks; the implication being that while this healing was “work”, it was not a mighty work or miracle of Jesus (Mark 6:5).

5. Jesus compared Himself to man taking a journey that gave to his servants, each a “work” (Mark 13:34).

6. Six days should man “work” (Luke 13:14).

7. To finish God’s “work” was to do the will of God for Him, and was also the meat of Jesus, more important than eating (John 4:34).

8. Jesus said, “I work” because My Father continues to work (John 5:17).

9. This verse in John 6:28 is interesting in that it combines “work” with “works”: “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” Thus in one verse of one sentence we have: (1) The works of God; (2) To work the works of God; and (3) What to DO in order to work the works of God?

We should look at the answer of Jesus to this question.

“Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (John 6:29 KJV)

10. The next question was, Okay, what signor work do you show us in order that we might believe in You (John 6:30). The answer of Jesus is:

“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then sid they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”
(John 6:32- 35 KJV)

11. When Jesus said that He did one work (John 7:21) and that the Jews marveled at this one work, it was the work of the teaching that He gave to them in the temple as He taught with authority.

12. Jesus uses “work” and “works” together as He states that He must “work the works” of the Father that sent Him; and that He must do it while there is still daylight, before the darkness comes when no man can work (John 9:4). Obviously the only time when man can no longer work is after the end of time!

13. Jesus asked the Jews for which good work did they try to stone Him, and they replied not for a good work but for blasphemy as He claimed to be equal with God the Father (John 10:33).

14. As Jesus prayed before the Crucifixion, He told the Father that He had finished the “work” the Father gave Him to do, glorying the name of the Father (John 17:4).

15. Gamaliel counsels the Sanhedrin to leave Peter and John alone, who have performed many signs, wonders, and miracles, stating that if this “work” and “counsel” be of men it will fail, if a “work” of God, then they will find themselves opposing God Himself (Acts 5:38).

16. The Holy Spirit told the church at Antioch to set aside for missionary work the “work whereunto I have called them”, of Barnabas and Paul (Acts 13:2).

17. Paul in the synagogue at Antioch tells the Jews of how the Prophets of the Old Testament condemned the despises, telling them that they would “wonder” and “perish”; because of (1) A work of God in their days; (2) A work of God in their days that God would work; and (3) It would be a work that they would not be able to believe under any circumstances (Acts 13:41).

{NOTE: Personally I think the Mormons, and in spite of the fact that one of my best friends is one, as despisers of the truth of God in the Word of God, the only Bible of 66 books, have done a marvelous job of identifying with the Jews, the majority of whom rejected Jesus Christ; because going about to establish their own righteousness through the law, and not submitting to the righteousness of God by faith, they missed the whole truth of salvation.**}**

18. “Work” is fulfilled in Acts 14:14 upon the return to Antioch to the church that had sent them out on the missionary journey. The way the church had sent them out was by “recommending them to the grace of God”.

19. John Mark did not go with them to the “work” (Acts 15:38).

20. “much work” was required of the sailors in the boat (Acts 27:16).

21. The non-Christian Gentiles “show the work of the law written in their hearts” by: (1) Accusing one another out of a natural conscience; and (2) Excusing themselves out of the same natural conscience (Romans 2:15).

22. Before in Christ and while still “in the flesh” it was the “work” or motions of sins by the law working in the members that brought forth the fruit of death (Romans 7:5).

23. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—all things -”work together for good to them” who love God and are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 KJV).

24. God the Father will make a “short work” on the earth in that He will save only “a remnant” of the nation of Israel although the total number of them be as the sand of the sea (Romans 9:28).

25. “Work” is no more “work” if: (1) salvation be of works; and (2) salvation is not of grace. But if truly salvation is of grace, as it is, then salvation can not be of works; and otherwise grace would not be grace (Romans 11:6). **{**NOTE: Mormons, see how confusing you make it for believers in the ONE Bible with your “reformed gospel” of works as necessary for initial salvation as is grace, and when you ignore Paul’s statements that if any preach another gospel or bring another spirit, let them be accursed! You make it impossible for us to accept you as Christ believers, muchless as Latter Day Saints.**}**

26. Meat and the eating of meat, or any other law of works, can not destroy the “work” of God in the salvation of an individual conscience and soul (Romans 14:20).

27. At the Judgment and the fire of the Judgment, the “work” of each man will be revealed whether it stands the test of fire or not; and further the fire will test what “sort of work” it is that a man has done (I Corinthians 3:13).

28. If a “man’s work” survives after the fire of the Judgment Day, then he will get a reward for that “work” (I Corinthians 3:14).

29. If a man’s work burn up, he will suffer the loss of reward; but he himself, being saved by grace, shall be saved (I Corinthians 3:15).

30. The Apostle Paul tells the church at Corinth that they are his “work in the Lord” (I Corinthians 9:1).

31. True Brethren of Christ are to “be always abounding in the work of the Lord” with steadfastness and stability (I Corinthians 15:58).

32. Paul states to the church at Corinth that Timothy “worketh the work of the Lord” as Paul himself does (I Corinthians 16:10). So that there is the working and then there is the work of the Lord, and even if a person does not work it must be the work of the Lord at which he does not work. Faith must come in the “work of the Lord”, and working is with faith in the work of the Lord.

33. The way to abound in “every good work” is only through the grace of God also abounding in the same life, II Corinthians 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work...”

34. Every Christian should prove his “own work” to himself so that he can rejoice in himself rather than in others (Galatians 6:4).

35. The “work of the ministry” is: (1) To perfect the saints; and (2) To build up, or edify, the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). So what would be the other words that we would use for “the work of the ministry”, the calling of the ministry or the career of the ministry?

36. There is a bad “work” which is called “to work all uncleanness with greediness” from those who are past natural feeling and who have given themselves over to “lasciviousness” (Ephesians 4:19). **{**NOTE: You see generally how dangerous it is to talk about “work for salvation” since some work is good and some bad! Granted however that Paul in Hebrews admonishes to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” since our “God is a consuming fire.” This is a matter of applying efforts to continue in the Christlikeness process called sanctification (not the instantenous emotional process of many today called charismatic). If Christ followers are busy working on or working out their salvation based on the grace that they already have, then they do not need to fret about their salvation during the Falling Away. The Falling Away is what Paul is primarily concerned about in Hebrews. In many ways the book of Hebrews can be considered a book of the Falling Away. It tells of the first falling away of the Hebrew children in the wilderness who participated in the works of God for 40 years. If the second Falling Away, the real challenge of our generation, is like the first, it is only the people 21 years of age and over who will have to worry. All the people of God in the wilderness of 20 and below were allowed to enter the Promised Land. Those 21 and older could not enter the Promised Land or eternal rest because of their unbelief.**}**

37. God who has started “a good work in you” with initial salvation will also continue the same good work in you until the Day of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6). You see if we talk about work for salvation, it must be identified as the work of God, not of man!

38. It is the “work of Christ” by a faithful Christian, not the work of that Christian, that is referenced in Philippians 2:30.

39. To be “fruitful in every good work” for Christians is also to: (1) Walk worthy of the Lord, or live such a habit of life as to be worthy of the Lord; and (2) Increase in the knowledge of God. Good work here is a habit of life and an increase in knowledge. Habit and increase in knowledge not necessarily works as we might think of ordinarily.

40. What Paul remembers about the faithful of the Christians in the church at Thessalonica is (I Thessalonians 1:3): (1) Their “work of faith”—that sounds like a good work, one that is “of faith”;(2) Their labor of love; and (3) Their patience of hope in Christ and God the Father. 41. What Paul wants the Christians at Thessalonica to continue to do is (I Thessalonians 4:11):

(1) Study to be quiet;

(2) To take care of their own personal business; and

(3) To “work with your own hands”. Working with a person’s own hands as a Christian, rather than being a work for salvation, is a work that proves that salvation has started and will continue to take place. This is the kind of justification that the Apostle James writes of in the book of James. There is faith which is a product of only listening and talking and which shows no works, and there is faith which is a product of listening and doing which shows works.

41. What we ask God to do in our salvation (II Thessalonians 1:11):

(1) To count you worthy of this calling that has already been extended to you;

(2) That He will fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness; in other words, complete the salvation that has been God’s pleasure to start in you; and

(3) Fulfill the “work of faith” in you by His power. NOTE AGAIN: That it is the work of faith of God!

42. Revelation 22:12. The single time that “work” as contrasted to works is mentioned in the book of Revelation. Remember however that while the book of Revelations is the book of “works”, it is not the book of “work”.

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

Chapter 31: New Heavens and New Earth, Rev 20,21

“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.” (Revelation 21:1 KJV) {God’s heaven will not pass away, wherever it is; because that will instantly be our new home when we die, where Jesus is, making a home for us; and sometimes the Bible translators are careful to distinguish between the heavens of the universe where the stars, sun, moon, and planets are located and the heaven of God’s home. We do have a clue that heaven exist in another dimension from space and the heavens, since the Bible tells us that God sits on a great white throne with His feet in the clouds. In our prayers we should increase our awarness of God up there on the Great White Throne, and with Jesus Chrsit at His right hand making intercession for our sins and preparing to come get us again in great power and glory. With the new earth and new Jerusalem, we will again dwell on earth**}**

“the first heaven and the first earth were passed away”: this is a significant world-wide historical event. Is is written in a few words but can you imagine the forces and movement of earth and mountains and islands and planets to make a whole universe pass away. When did the old heavens and old earth pass away? During the last 20 chapters of the book of Revelation. Working backwards first and in preparation for the new heaven and new earth of Revelation 21,22, we have in Revelation 20:11 the fleeing away of the old earth and heavens—

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.” (Revelation 20:11 KJV)

One reason that John can so glibly write of the awesomeness of the whole old universe passing away is because of relativity. So much greater is He that sits on the great white throne and from whom whose face the old flees away. It is a very personal matter with God. He wants all things old that are tainted with sin removed and to have a new beginning. We need to start developing some kind of time perspective for these cataclysmic events, sort of a **BEFORE** and **AFTER** sequence centered around THE PASSING AWAY OF THE OLD UNIVERSE. Let us call that gigantic event THE DAY OF THE LORD and Lord, just like the Bible, since the destruction of the old universe is always centered around those phrases in the Old and New Testaments.

The Day of the LORD/Lord is **AFTER** the devil that deceived all the nations is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet already are (Rev 20:10), and **BEFORE** the new heaven and the new earth (Rev 21:1).

31-1: Passing Away of the Old -- Before the Completion of Passing Away and After Completion of the Passing Away.

We can start with the more obvious events of Revelation 20 and 21.

1. Rev 20:11	Rev 20:10	Rev 21:1
old earth/heaven fled	Devil in lake	new earth

It is obvious that the old earth and heaven have fled away at the Day of the LORD, also almost as apparent that the Devil is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone is before that DAY since it is in the verse before the fleeing of the old universe; therefore we will start our Watershed of the Day of the LORD chart above with these three events. NOTE: that the actual fleeing away of the old universe is not in the chart since it is the Watershed marker. Remember what we are considered is the events before that DAY and after that DAY.

2. At the pouring out of the last of the seven plagues or vials, Revelation 16:17-21—"It is done"—making it clear that this is also the end of the old earth and heavens and time itself as the greatest earthquake man has ever experienced is on earth causing all the nations to fall and Babylon (Rome) to be remembered, also the islands and mountains. The main thing that makes it clear that Revelation 11:13,14 is also among those passages describing the very end is the After of Revelation 11:15-19 where the seventh angel sounds with the Second Coming of Christ since "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ..." (Rev 11:15 KJV) And this is where we really get the clue that Revelation repeats in cycles with more information given during each cycle as two woes introduce a third woe to come (Rev 11:13,14). Here only a great earthquake as compared to the greatest earthquake of Revelation 16, etc.

4. Actually it takes the first six trumpets of the seventh seal to bring an end to the heavens and earth with the battle of Armageddon being at the sixth trumpet. (Revelation 8-9) No mistaking that here—Revelation 6:12-17—the sixth seal—the old heavens and earth end as "the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places" (Revelation 6:14).

IF WE COULD PRECISELY DETERMINE WHERE EACH CYCLE ENDS AND THE NEXT STARTS, THE BOOK OF REVELATION WOULD BE EASY; FOR WHAT WE WOULD HAVE WOULD BE A REPEAT OF LAST EVENTS AS (1) THE PASSING AWAY OF THE OLD HEAV-

ENS AND EARTH; (2) THE SECOND COMING; AND (3) THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH WITH MORE DETAILS IN EACH CASE.

Before the Watershed of that DAY	THAT DAY	After the Watershed of that Day
devil cast in the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10)	the old universe melts since no place is found for heaven and earth (Reve 20:11)	a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1)
Satan bound at the Coming of the Spirit on Pentecost and released as the Spirit is withdrawn before that DAY (Revelation 20:1,2)	the pouring out on man (tribulation) of the seven plagues from seven angels of the wrath of God (Rev 16:1-17a)	"it is done", after the seventh angel poured out his bowl or plague into the air (Revelation 16:17b)
same thousand years as above (Satan bound), martyrs go immediately to be with Christ and the rest of believers await Second Coming	noises and thunderings and lightnings (Revelation 16:18a)	if there is a first resurrection, there must be a second; and this is at the Second Coming of Christ when all remaining believers are caught up
Satan deceives all the nations when the Holy Spirit is withdrawn (Rev 20:7,8)	the greatest earthquake ever seen on the earth (Revelation 16:18b)	Satan, the beast and the false prophet tormented forever, day and night, in the lake of fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10)
Satan gathers a gigantic army against the camp of saints outside Jerusalem (Revelation 20:9a)	Babylon (wicked cities) and all the great cities of the earth crumble (Revelation 16:19)	Judgment before great white throne and all not in the book of time cast into lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15)
Armageddeon: a fire comes down from God in heaven to destroy the forces of Satan outside Jerusalem (Revelation 20:9b)	the islands and the mountains disappear (Revelation 16:20)	
	great hail, each the weight of a talent, falls on mankind (Revelation 16:21a)	
	you would think it would be a time for repentance, but "men blaspheme God" (Rev 16:21b)	

31-2: New and Eschatalogy

However though the passing of the old is preparatory, the real subject of this chapter and of Revelation 21,22 is the new heavens and the new earth. If the primary themes and events of eschatalogy in the rest of the Bible is no firmly nailed down before the eschatalogy of the book of Revelation—in other words if the fundamentals are not understood how can we understand the eschatalogy of the most difficult book of the Bible. From the rest of the Bible the repeating themes and events of eschatalogy most fundamentals are—

(1) The One Day of the LORD and Lord when the old heavens and the old earth pass away; and (2) New Heavens and New Earth. While in the New Testament the One Day of the LORD God the Father has added to it the One Day of the LORD and Lord with the addition of the Second Coming, throughout the Old Testament it is primarily the One Day of God the Father. Understand this and these from the other 65 books of the Bible and you can come closer to understanding the spirit of prophecy of the book of Revelation. Indicative of these fundamentals on eschatalogy are the following other scriptures from the rest of the Bible: (1) Isaiah 65:17; and (2) Isaiah 66:22.

1. Isaiah 65:17.

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17 KJV)

2. Isaiah 66:22.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall our seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.” (Isaiah 66:22-24 KJV)

Exegesis Points of Revelation 20 and 21. {Exegesis is the reading out of the Bible meaning as contrasted to Isogesis which is going to the Bible with preconceived conclusions and reading in the meaning. Obviously “exegesis” is good Bible interpretation: “isogesis” is bad. Bible scholars like Bernard Ramm in THE PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION like to call it “hermeneutics”. I like to say that the Bible itself lays down certain principles for understanding, and I will come to those in chapter 38, “Some Sounds of a Sound Faith”. Read it now if you would like!**}**

1. It is obvious in 21:1 that John needs to see a new heaven and a new earth as “the first heaven and the first earth passed away”. In general in most of the rest of the Bible there is heaven where God dwells, the heavens of stars, moon, stars, and planets, and the earth; but

the book of Revelation does not distinguish between heaven and heavens, although the text of the verse does as here since we know that God's heaven has not passed away.

2. The reason that there is in 21:1 "no more sea" is that the fervent heat that God sent down from heaven in the destruction of the old earth and heavens has evaporated all the water.

3. The bride of the Lamb-Christ is the "New Jerusalem" (21:2) with the emphasis of the chapter more on the physical dimensions of the New Jerusalem as contrasted to the people. Where many have problems with Old Testament references like in the vicinity of Isaiah 65,66 above where it also mentions a new or reconstructed Jerusalem is that some look for that to happen before the destruction of the old heavens and earth. In other words they mistakenly look for a New Jerusalem on earth before this one is lowered from heaven to earth.

4. It is clear about the origin of this New Jerusalem (21:2): (1) It comes down out of heaven; and (2) It is from God.

5. God comes with the New Jerusalem (21:3): (1) God tabernacles with man on the new earth; (2) God's dwells among the new people of the new earth; (3) The new people of the new earth are God's people; and (4) God the Father is right in the middle of His people on the new earth.

6. Some of the advantages of dwelling with God on the new earth are listed (21:4), also some of the things that pass away with the old earth and heavens. Eliminated are: (1) Death; (2) Tears and crying; and (3) Pain and mourning.

7. The God the Father that sits on the great white throne mentioned throughout Revelation tells what He is doing: "Behold, I am making all things new" (21:5).

8. Another cycle could be made through the book of Revelation with the times when something like "Write, for these words are faithful and true" is mentioned; but this time it is from God the Father Himself (21:5). Recall that one time, Revelation 10:4, John is told not to write.

9. "It is done", the God of beginning and end says to John (21:6); and this is a preface for the invitation to drink of the spring of the water of life without cost. It is of grace.

10. The Overcomers are primarily the subject of the next chapter of this book, but it is introduced here in 21:7.

The Overcomers: (1) Inherit all these things of the new earth; (2) God Himself will be the God of the overcomers; (3) And overcomers become sons to God.

11. The Non-overcomers (21:8), or succumbers, are identified as the: (1) Cowardly; (2) Unbelieving; (3) Abominable; (4) Murderers; (5) Immoral persons; (6) Sorcerers; (7) Idolaters; and (8) Liars.

12. The Succubers participate in the lake of fire and brimstone. This lake is identified as the second death (21:8).

Then John wants us to know which seven angels talk to him next, one of the seven with the seven plagues; and this one is going to show him the “bride” of the Lamb. The marriage of the Lamb and the wife of the Lamb was mentioned previously in Revelation 19:7-10.

31-3: Exegesis of Selected Verses

21:10 Important is it that we must see the origin of this holy Jerusalem: (1) it came from God; and (2) it came down from heaven. Of course that is the only way it could be holy.

21:11 Characteristics of this new Jerusalem are described: (1) it had the glory of God as its glory; and (2) the light of it was clear like a jasper stone.

21:12 Description of the wall of the city is next: (1) a great and high wall; (2) 12 gates with 12 angels; and (3) the name on each wall was one of the tribes of Israel. Here is still another way to say “Seven Christian Thousands”, or all of God’s children are numbered by God and accounted for.

21:13 Three gates were on each symmetrical side of the 1500 miles by 1500 miles city.

21:14 The twelve foundations of the wall had in them the names of the 12 Apostles. This is more thorough numbering on the part of God, after the 12 tribes come the 12 apostles.

21:15 The angel had a golden reed to measure the city, the walls, and the gates.

21:16 The city measured a cube of 1500 miles by 1500 miles by 1500 miles.

21:17 The amazing revelation here is that human measurements are the same as angelic measurements.

21:18 Materials are identified: (1) clear jasper for the walls; and (2) pure gold for the city.

21:19-20 The stones of the twelve foundations are identified.

21:21 Each gate was made of a single pearl, and the streets of transparent gold.

21:22-23 Having no temple, the holy Jerusalem has God the Father and the Son as the temple. God and Christ are the light.

21:24 The light of the city is so bright that all the nations of the earth can see to walk by it. The kings of the earth bring their glory to this city. As it didn’t have enough light, the kings bring some more.

21:13 There is no night in the city, and the gates are always open.

21:14 Whatever glory and honor the nations have with their kings will be brought to the holy city.

21:27 This fascinates us; for it implies that on the new earth will also live (1) the unclean, (2) the abominable, and (3) the lying which are not allowed in the city. Only those allowed in the city are those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22:1 The river of the water of life, clear as crystal, came out of the throne of God and the Lamb.

22:2 The tree of life is described: (1) it has 12 kinds of fruit; (2) it fruits each month; and (3) the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations.

22:3 The water, the fruit, and the leaves remove the curse of Genesis. The curse is removed so God and His Christ can have direct fellowship with men, a certain kind of men which are called the servants of God.

22:4,5 These servants, the seven thousands: (1) See God face to face; (2) God's name is in their foreheads; and (3) They shall reign with God for ever and ever.

22:6,7 The last sayings from the angel: (1) You can count on these sayings; (2) God is identified as the Lord God of the holy prophets; (3) God sent his angel to show God's servants what is happening in the future; (4) These things of the future will be done shortly; and (5) the angel speaks directly for Christ, "Behold, I come quickly".

22:8,9 After John saw and heard these things he started to fall down and worship the angel as before in Rev 19:10; but he is told: (1) It is a fellow servant talking to him; (2) He is from among his own brethren, the prophets; (3) And he is from among those who keep the sayings of the book of Revelation; and (4) Worship God, also as in 19:10.

22:10-11 Final Instructions to John and the readers—

- (1) Don't keep secret what is written in this book;
- (2) The time is close for these events to happen;
- (3) Let every man continue to be what he is now—
 - a. Either unjust and filthy, or
 - b. Righteous and holy.

22:12-16 When an ambassador like an angel speaks, what he speaks for himself, or for the President and Vice President is almost inseparable; and here in only a few verses we pass from what the angel speaks for himself to the quoting of Jesus Himself to the quoting of Jesus and the Spirit.

22:8 John speaks about the angel.

22:9 The angel speaking about himself says that he is really a fellow Christian.

22:10,11 The fellow Christian, alias angel, speaks for the book of Revelation.

22:12-15 The angel speaks for Jesus, Jesus speaking first for Himself, then God.

22:16 The angel speaks directly for Jesus again:

- (1) I Jesus sent this angel;

(2) I am the root and offspring of David;

(3) I am the bright and morning star.

22:17-19 The angel speaks directly for Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

22:20a The angel reminds that this is the testimony of Jesus that He will come quickly.

22:20b John speaks for himself and to Jesus, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus".

22:21 John speaks for himself and to Christians, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

The 1500 Mile High City. The New Jerusalem for the New Earth and New Heavens will be 1500 miles high! Denver is the mile high city; but this is ridiculous, we might think, why in the world is it necessary to have a city 1500 miles high? After all, most of us that live in the West would be terrified at the thought of living in giant skyscraper-like apartment complexes. However, the reasons for the 1500 mile high new city are:

1. To fill the gap between heaven and earth. Since there are 12 foundations to the new Jerusalem, you can see that even in the floor level of the city is high above the ground level of the earth; and since orbit is approximately 80,000 feet or 15 miles, I would suspect that the floor of the city is above this level. We can easily see how transport between heaven and earth becomes easy by means of the new city.

2. To provide light for all of the nations of the earth and for the heavens. This is the new source of light for the new heavens and the new earth.

31-4: Bible Verses on "False"

While we have looked on the positive side of the Bible with looks at "true", now for intellectual honesty with the Bible we must look at the word "false". This is considered as a prelude to the "Faith and Faith Contending" of chapter 37. **{**Even as the American Democratic Faith (I suppose Gabriel, an American Studies Scholar, coined the phrase with the writing of his book, MAIN DOCTRINES OF THE AMERICAN DEMOCRATIC FAITH) is not the same as regular Faith in Christ and the Bible, so in our land of the free and the brave there has to be some false prophets. Where are they? Only among the Mormons who are accursed because they have preached another gospel, the reformed gospel, that Paul did not deliver; and doubly accursed because in violation of the last words of Revelation they had added to the Scriptures with their four Bibles? No, I am sure that we in the country are prolific with false prophets: the place to look is at the popular since while the American Democratic Faith is popular, being the Faith of the majority, Christ Faith is as Jesus taught the narrow way of the minority.**}**

1. II Corinthians 11:13.

“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.” (II Corinthians 11:13-15 NASV) {I’m afraid that even in the land of the free and the home of the brave, you must look for some false apostles and deceitful workers in disguise. Since they are in disguise and simulate the genuine, they will be hard to recognize. You see they clothe themselves as servants of righteousness. Of course you will see more and more as we in this country fall deeper into the Falling Away, and because of their increased popularity of doctrine that will tickle itching ears, they will be harder to recognize.**}**

You know you can not help but wonder if Joseph Smith having known of his commitment to the side of Satan did not take this verse as inspiration for a new religion, one that would disguise itself with righteousness as Satan disguises himself. Aspects of this passage:}

- (1). There are “false Apostles” just as there are false Christs and false prophets;
- (2). These false Apostles are deceitful workers in that they work with deceit;
- (3). These false Apostles attempt to disguise themselves as the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, calling themselves the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- (4). Satan disguises himself as an angel of light; and either when Satan appeared to Joseph Smith as the angel Moroni Joseph was deceived or recognizing Satan as Satan he desired to perpetuate the lie;
- (5). False Apostles who claim to be the Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ are indeed servants of Satan;
- (6). These False Apostles like the Satan they serve will strive to look like righteousness and light; and
- (7). In the end of time their true deeds will be known.

It behooves us further in the context before this passage to see what some of the characteristics are of these false apostles—

“But what I am doing, I will continue to do, that I may cut off opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the matter about which they are boasting.” (II Corinthians 11:12 NASV)

So that we will look in II Corinthians for the characteristics of the ones at Corinth who were boasting; and having come full circle we are back to where we started on Revelation with Pride, those who are proud of their works and achievements more than the grace of God and of the Gospel of grace and faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Boastful Ones of II Corinthians. The word “boast” is found zero times in I Corinthians, but it is found 5 times in 5 verses of II Corinthians: II Corinthians 9:2; 10:8; 10:13;

10:16; and 11:16. It is obvious that the tenth chapter, having three of those five, is the chapter on boasting! As we look at these from the Apostle Paul, we must recall that this is the same Apostle Paul who wrote in Galatians 6:14:

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” (Galatians 6:14 KJV)

I will not try to repeat the arguments here of Volume 8 of ONE NEW EXPANDED COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE, entitled “The New Dimensions of Gospel Pride”, where I deal with the only real pride that the Apostle Paul allowed himself to retain was Gospel Pride, the only real boasting, and the only way he chose to glory; and while many Americans today, especially Mormons, tend to glory in their families, their own achievements, even their churches and church Bible, all these things took a secondary place of crucifixion as things of the world to the Apostle Paul. Paul’s real Gospel Pride was expressed in Romans 1:16:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 KJV)

In stating “I am not ashamed” the Apostle Paul is really saying that I am proud of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and this in short is Gospel Pride; and as we continue with glorying, boasting, and pride—essentially words that describe the same attitude—we will find how careful the Apostle Paul was to show pride and boasting in anything but the Gospel.

And before we continue with the word “boast” in II Corinthians, we should briefly look at the word “glory” in some of the letters of the Apostle Paul—

1. Romans 15:17.

“Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy (Spirit). I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought be me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed. Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.” (Romans 15:15-20 KJV)

However as an Apostle of Jesus Christ, you will note that Paul carefully guarded his God-given authority as an Apostle!

2. I Corinthians 1:29,31.

“That no flesh should glory in his presence....That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” (I Corinthians 1:29,31)

3. I Corinthians 3:21.

“Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are your’s. Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are your’s; And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.” (I Corinthians 3:21-23 KJV)

4. I Corinthians 9:16.

“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of (obvious the same as boasting or to be proud); for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” (I Corinthians 9:16 KJV)

5. II Corinthians 5:12.

“For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart. For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God; or whether we be sober, it is for you cause.” (II Corinthians 5:12,13 KJV)

6. II Corinthians 10:17.

And in the primary chapter where we deal with “boasting”, we find a key verse on “glory”.

“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.” (II Corinthians 10:17,18 KJV)

7. II Corinthians 11:12,18,30.

Even as II Corinthians 10 is the chapter on boasting, so II Corinthians 11 is the chapter on glorying.

“But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ....Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also....If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.” (II Corinthians 11:12,18,30 KJV)

And here you see what is happening centered around this boasting, glorying, and pride: Paul is trying to support His own Apostleship and fruit of his Apostleship in order to rescue them from false apostles that are “deceitful workers”.

Now we are ready to look at the five verses on “boast”: (1) Paul boasted of the giving of the church at Corinth to the churches in Macedonia, and that boasting provoked other churches to give even as the Corinthians did, II Corinthians 9:2; (2) Paul was not ashamed when he boasted of his authority from the Lord Jesus Christ to be an Apostle as the boasting was for their edification, not for their destruction as was the authority claimed over them by false apostles, II Corinthians 10:8; (3) Paul would allow himself to boast only to the full measure or

extent of the grace of God given to him for the ministry and for the help to the churches, II Corinthians 10:13; (4) Paul sought to preach the Gospel in regions where there had been no evangelism, and to boast according, not to boast of authority over churches as some did where they had done no evangelistic work, II Corinthians 10:16; and (5) Paul does boast himself a little, urging that the church not think him foolish, II Corinthians 11:16, so that the church will see that if Paul desired he could glory more in the flesh than those false apostles who are trying to usurp authority over them.

Now, Completion of “False”. Recall that it was the false apostles, like false prophets, which led us to go into boasting, glorying, and Gospel Pride, all centered around II Corinthians 10 and 11. Now we continue with “false” in Titus 2:3.

1. Titus 2:3.

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teacher of good things...” (Titus 2:3 KJV)

Thus we see that “false” is not limited to false prophets and false prophets, but anyone can be a false witness or false accuser, including aged women!

2. Galatians 2:4.

“But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised; And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.” (Galatians 2:3-5 KJV)

Galatians is the book that deals with the problem of Christians having started salvation by faith through grace, and this providing liberty in Christ from the law; then at the insistent of false leaders with a restored gospel in that laws were added to the gospel of grace, faith, and liberty, they were losing that liberty and being subjected to new and unnecessary bandages. In short, what these false leaders were trying to do with a false Gospel, just like the Mormons, was to restore legal requirements for salvation; and while doing so establish their own authority over churches and Christians! Galatians is the book to answer the Mormons.

3. II Timothy 3:3.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come, For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers...” (II Timothy 3:1-3 KJV)

4. II Peter 2:1.

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that

bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you; whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.” (II Peter 2:1-3 KJV)

5. I John 4:1.

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (I John 4:1 KJV) {**Do you seriously think that if there were false prophets and false Christian spirits in the land and area where the Gospel of Christ started, and in the first century, that they will not also be in this American land and two thousand years later. That would be gullible, and it would be confusing the Faith of Christ and the Bible with the American Democratic Faith. By this I mean it would be similar to what Prime Minister of Israel, Begin, said a few years ago: “You Americans are born Christians just like we Israelis are born Jews.”**}

31-5: A Brief Summary of the Book of Galatians

While we tend to be tolerant with Mormons and with Mormonism in the efforts to love them and in the hope of rescuing some from such a hideous fate of being cursed, we dare not overlooking the seriousness of their false claims to speak for God with a Gospel that is a substitute for the Original Gospel of Jesus Christ as given in the Old Testament, by Jesus Himself, and by the Apostles of Jesus.

It may seem a bit strange to start a brief commentary on Galatians for the Mormons and centered around the word “gospel” by a quote from II Corinthians, but that is the nature of the Bible: the way to understand the Bible is by comparing scripture with scripture since it all in the 66 books originated in the mind and heart of God—

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.” (II Corinthians 11:3-4 KJV)

YOU MIGHT BEAR WITH HIM, JOSEPH SMITH, BRIGHAM YOUNG, AND THE OTHER MORMONS WHO ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE BROUGHT TO YOU ANOTHER GOSPEL THAN THAT ORIGINALLY GIVEN, THE RESTORED GOSPEL. We dare not bear with them in the name of tolerance in this curse of the restored gospel that attempts by works to replace the original Gospel, the original Jesus—for truly their Jesus is not the Jesus of the Bible and the Jesus that we believe in—and their spirit is not the Spirit of God and of the Bible!

And while it may shock you that something written long before the origin of Mormonism in the United States could so aptly deal with their attempts to present a substitute Jesus, Gospel, and spirit, we must also recall the other many things that Paul warned about false leaders to come—

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (II Timothy 4:3,4 KJV)

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29,30 KJV)

So into the real Word of God for the real Gospel, the Gospel in Galatians for the Mormons.

1. Gospel in Galatians 1:6.

Notice what happens at the same time that one is removed from the original Gospel, they are also removed or taken far away from the “grace of God”!

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you. let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6-9 KJV)

Do you hear that in the name of tolerance for the Bible? Joseph Smith is “accursed”; Brigham Young is accursed; all the so called living prophets and apostles that support the restored gospel which is beyond this original gospel are accursed; and any and all Mormons who really believe and support the so called restored gospel are accursed. That is unless, you can find in Galatians to follow and that part in particular centered around the gospel any support at all for a “restored gospel”; but I warn you, you can not!

How did Paul know in the First Century of a movement that would begin in the United States in the 18th century? Well, he could have known through the Spirit of God; but since Mormonism is nothing new being rather the Restored Jewish Religion of the First Century much more than any restored gospel, while Paul was dealing with this number one problem in the church at Galatia and in the book of Galatians, he was also dealing with Mormonism. Mormonism is an effort on the part of Satan and those who have given themselves in allegiance to Satan to restore the Jewish religion of salvation by works that the Jews had cultivated for hundreds of years, and which disappointed Satan so much as Jesus destroyed it in the first century, Satan knowing that through this religion and this type of religion that he was able to

divert so many from the grace of God to the restored gospel of Satan. It should be no strange matter that Satan revived so a religion: what is strange is that it took him so long, and that should lead us to believe that he was bound for a thousand years in that he could no longer deceive all the nations to a restored religion of works, being released shortly before the “angel” Moroni gave Joseph Smith the silver plates with new scriptures to restore a religion of works!

We should carefully note “another” in Galatians 1:6,7: (1) “removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; and (2) Which is not another. For the Greek language has two words for another: another of a different kind which is the Greek word in the first case; and another of the same kind which is the Greek word in the second case. So what the Apostle Paul, and God through the Apostle Paul, is writing is: I am surprised that you are so quickly removed from the gospel of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ to another gospel of a different kind (a gospel of works), which is not another gospel of the same kind as that in which you believed, that which Paul preached, that which Jesus taught, and that which was proclaimed by the real Prophets in the Old Testament. That gospel which is still in the real Word of God, only a sample of which is here in Galatians to the Jews and Mormons!

2. Gospel in Galatians 1:7.

There always have been and always will be those who will trouble Christians who believe in salvation by the grace of God. The Jews of the First Century troubled the first Christians, and the Mormons of these Latter Day centuries will trouble the Latter Day Christians!

“Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” (Galatians 1:7 KJV)

Let there be no misunderstanding that the restored gospel of the Mormons attempts to “pervert the gospel of Christ”.

3. Gospel in Galatians 1:8.

Don't believe that fallen angel that sits on top of the Temple in temple square, striving to get mankind to worship himself in the place of Jesus even as he tried to get Jesus Himself to fall down and worship him, promising Him the world even as he promises Mormons and others the world today if they will only worship him!

“But though we, or and angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8 KJV)

Okay, what is the gospel that Paul preached? From Galatians and “gospel” in Galatians to follow, we will compare it to this restored, perverted gospel of the Mormons. While we are doing this don't forget the curse that rest on Mormons!

4. The Gospel in Galatians 1:9.

“As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:9 KJV)

5. Gospel in Galatians 1:11.

**“But I certify you, Brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.”
(Galatians 1:11 KJV)**

We know the Gospel that Paul presents here in Galatians to be the Word of God, who is this guy Joseph Smith and how does he have the audacity to speak and write for God. He has no marks of an Apostle, nor of a Prophet. He did not live as righteously even as an ordinary Christian. If the same criterion were applied to Joseph Smith’s four Bibles as was applied by Christian churches to select the Bible Canon, then the Bibles of Joseph Smith and the Mormons would flunk: (1) They were not written by an Apostle or an associate of an Apostle; (2) They do not present consistent truth with the rest of the 66 books of the Bible; and (3) Christians do not accept them!

6. Gospel in Galatians 2:2.

This gospel that the Apostle Paul preached is the same gospel that God gave him by revelation through the Ascended Christ in Arabia. It is the same gospel that Paul presents in the other of the 14 New Testament letters that he wrote, the same gospel of the Apostle Peter and the Apostle James and the Apostle Matthew.

“And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which are of reputation, lest by any mean I should run, or had run, in vain.” (Galatians 2:2 KJV)

You speak of “in vain”: yesterday, I heard a man saying “Jesus Christ” several times, taking the Lord’s name in vain; and that is little different with the Mormons mentioning the name of Jesus often including in the name of their “church?”; for Jesus spoke of how the first century Jews and likewise these Latter Day Jews worshipped God in vain, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

7. Gospel in Galatians 2:5.

The truth of the gospel must continue with Christians and with Christian churches unadulterated by the gospel of works from Jews or Mormons!

“To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.” (Galatians 2:5 KJV)

Even at the Great Jerusalem Circumcision Conference that Paul and Barnabas attended after the first missionary journey, the attempt to add works to grace for salvation was a problem in the very First Church at Jerusalem. And although this problem centered around the work of circumcision as a work to add to the gospel of grace, it was an early effort to pervert the original gospel with just one little law of work in order to later open the door so that salvation by works could come to again replace salvation by grace!

8. Gospel in Galatians 2:7.

Read the gospel from the Apostle Peter as recorded in I, II Peter and you will find it to be the same as the gospel from Paul; and the Apostle Peter even reaffirms what the Apostle Paul is writing in Galatians and other scriptures.

“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation, even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you: As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned, and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” (II Peter 3:15,16 KJV)

To their own destruction!

Unlearned and unstable!

Wrestle with the scriptures!

What an adequate description of the Mormons!

And when Paul writes of the Gospel of the uncircumcision, what he means is the Gospel to the Gentiles, while Peter delivered and had primarily the Gospel to the Jews; however, it was the same Gospel. It was only that while Peter had the commission of God to deliver the Gospel primarily to the Jews, the Apostle Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, had the commission to deliver it primarily to the Gentiles. Both delivered the same Gospel to both Jews and Gentiles!

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16,17 KJV)

And so we have provided adequate background for a presentation of Galatians 2:7.

“But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter...” (Galatians 2:7 KJV)

9. Gospel in Galatians 2:14.

In spite of the fact that Paul had to rebuke Peter who was getting carried away with the other Jews in Jerusalem, Peter later wrote those words about Paul and scripture that we read above from II Peter.

“But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them, all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the gentiles to live as do the Jews?” (Galatians 2:14 KJV)

AND ALL THESE PREVIOUS “GOSPEL” REFERENCES DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM, IN PREPARATION FOR THE SOLUTION; AND IN PREPARATION FOR THE STRAIGHT FORWARD PRESENTATION AND DEFINITION OF THE GOSPEL WHICH FOLLOWS, THE ORIG-

INAL GOSPEL OF JESUS AND THE OLD TESTAMENT, THE ORIGINAL GOSPEL WHICH PAUL PREACHED AGAINST WHICH THERE IS NO OTHER OF THE SAME KIND!

10. Definition of the Gospel in Galatians 3:8!

**“And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.”
(Galatians 3:8 KJV)**

(1). This is the original gospel of the actual Prophets of the Old Testament, the gospel of Abraham and the gospel as quoted in Galatians from Genesis 12:1-3.

(2). God Himself preached this original gospel to Abraham.

(3). This gospel is justification through faith!

Chapter 32: Overcomers are the Seven Thousand

If Mormons want to be accepted as Christians they must prove that their LDS organization is more than a socio-political and economic group; and they must change their concepts about God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit to be more like the Bible of most Christians (not their five special Bibles), and especially must they change their concept of revelation. If Christians want to be accepted as overcomers, they must become more like the seven Christian thousands of the book of Revelation. And if churches want to be assemblies of overcomers they must heed the positive and negative admonitions of the book of Revelation. The LDS is more the Latter Day Selectors taking a little doctrine here from one Bible, a little doctrine there, and a little more there; and except for the 87 at the top, differing in the type of religion they have from one individual to another: but once again they are only an extreme example of what is happening to people in other denominations during this historical period of THE FALLING AWAY. Senator George McCain of Arizona said, "terrorism is the challenge of our generation." From the perspective of the Bible and hence of God, I would think that the falling away is the challenge of this generation!

"Leave Them Alone"

When Jesus was still on earth, the Apostle John found some working in the name of Jesus that did not belong to their group; and John told them to stop working in the name of Jesus. Jesus told John and hence the rest of us to "Leave Them Alone" because none can speak lightly of Jesus who is working in the name of Jesus. And there in Revelation 22:11,12 is the equivalent of that in the let them just keep doing as they have done for years.

"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the one who is holy, still keep himself holy. Behold, I am coming quickly, and My rewards is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done." (Revelation 22:11,12 NASV)

In other words, don't worry about judging other people, or who are the chosen people of God. Christ will take care of that when He comes again. It is to Him that God the Father has committed both judgment, rewards, and the determination of who are the children of God!

32-1: Overcomers Worship the God of the Bible.

It may seem simple at first to say that the Overcomers, alias the seven Christian thousands, are those who worship the God of the Bible, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Creator and Controller of the Universe. IT IS NOT SIMPLE! As I read more of the distorted concept of the Mormons about God the Father where He was once a man like them, becoming God and they too can become “gods”, I modified my daily prayer to “Our Father which art in heaven, God of Creation and Control, Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Author of the Bible, and Sender of the Holy Spirit”; because I did not want my prayers mis-addressed to the wrong “god”. The bottom line of this whole matter as pointed out in Romans 11:4-8 is that when men of any generation worship another god other than the God of the Bible, and since these other gods really do not exist except in the minds of the human creators, it is a worship of Satan.

Now, it would be a simple matter if only the Mormons were guilty of creating their own images of a god that does not exist, or the Buddhist or the Moslems, or even the Jews of the Old and New Testaments. But it is not that simple for all of us as Christians have an inadequate concept of and conscience on God as compared to the fullness of the God of the Bible, the God of Creation; and what it comes down to in the final analysis is when do we have an adequate concept or conscience about God, for the Mormon or any other person, whereby that conscience on God becomes adequate in faith to be honored by God. **{**Years ago J.B. Phillips wrote the book YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL to deal with the same problem among all denominations.**}** We don't know! And we need not be worried about it except in that we have an adequate understanding of the problem. JUST LET HIM THAT IS FILTHY AND LYING REMAIN FILTHY AND A LIAR, AND LET HIM THAT IS RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY REMAIN RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY UNTIL CHRIST COMES AGAIN TO FETTER OUT GOD'S PEOPLE FOR GOD!

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.” (I John 3:18-21 KJV)

The Worship of God as a primary theme **{**There are many primary themes, as you might expect in a book as large as Revelation. We have considered the dominant theme as how to number the people of God with a larger theme when all five books from the Apostle John are added of “Christ for Individuals. However this is not greatly different from the worship of God which must be done individually and among the numbered people of God.**}** starts early in the book of Revelation, Revelation 4:7,8 where the four living

creatures representing all of Creation worship the LORD God Almighty night and day. And this is a good point to revise our Repeat Table in order to show this as the first example of the Worship of God.

The Repeat Chart of Revelation

Event	First	Second	Third
1. Worship God	4:6-8	19:10	22:9
2. Acknowledge Lamb-Christ	5:8-10	—	—
3. War and Famine	6:1-8	—	—
4. Martyred Souls	6:9,10	11:11,12	
5. Earthquake,fire, earth end	6:12-17	—	—
6. Who the Angel is?	2:1	19:10	22:9

Notice that this changes the priority of events to put the worship of God in first place. And what do you think should be second in priority to the worship of God the Father? Yes, you are right, the worship of the Lamb Lord Jesus Christ; and indeed we do find that in Revelation 5:8-10, before the opening of the seals of war and famine or before chapter 6, is the worship of the Lamb-Christ. Recall that it is always the “Lamb” for Christ in the book of Revelation reminding us of His atonement for sin on the cross; or the bride, reminding us of His place as head of the church.

Also we have to change the first reference to angel, for we know that the angel of the church of Ephesus of Revelation 2:1 had to be the pastor of the church. Angel being used in Revelation in a general sense of “messenger of God”. And this places an unusual priority on the Table whereby messengers of God could take precedence over the worship of God and Christ; and since we know that is not true, we must look for earlier than chapter 4 and 5 references to the worship of both the Father and the Son. Then since that will extend the range of the repeats, we must add additional levels of revelations.

The Repeat Chart of Revelations

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
1. Worship God	1:4	4:6-8	19:10	22:9
2. Acknowledge Lamb-Christ	1:5		5:8-10	—
3. Who the Angel Is?	2:1	19:10	22:9	—
4. War and Famine	6:1-8	—	—	—
5. Martyred Souls	6:9,10	11:11,12	20:4	—
6. Earthquake\fire\earth's end	6:12-17	—	—	—

You can not miss the worship of God in the introduction of the Apostle John to the book, in Revelation 1:4, with the order of mention being God the Father, the seven spirits before the

throne, and the Lord Jesus Christ. And while we are dealing with some priorities, having first of all in the writings as well as in our hearts and minds established the priority of God the Father and the Son, we should also realize that the martyred Christians have priority over such future events as war and famine. In other words, people—especially God’s people and God’s martyred people—are more important than predictions; and that the predictions should give comfort to God’s people in order to be part of prophecy, first to those of the first Centuries who were undergoing persecutions and then to all of God’s people of all time that look for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ was the correlating events. Amen.

In short, the event for Who the Angel is should be combined with the Martyred Souls! Why? Well, just read again the answers of the angels as to who they were—

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10 KJV)

“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. 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 22:8,9 KJV)

The Repeat Chart of Revelations

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
1. Worship God	1:4	4:6-8	19:10	22:9	___	___
2. Acknowledge Lamb-Christ	1:5	5:8-10	___	___	___	___
3. Who the Angel Is? (martyred souls)	2:1	6:9,10	11:11	19:10	20.4	22:9
4. War and Famine	6:1-8	___	___	___	___	___
5. Earthquake\fire\earth’s end	6:12-17	___	___	___	___	___

And we begin to suspect that even as there are six repeats for the Angel/Martyred Souls, there are also six for the other major events; and perhaps seven since seven is indeed the magic number of completion of the book of Revelation as in the rest of the Bible. Indeed in order to finish this commentary with a Complete Repeat Table, we should be looking for a 7 X 7 Repeat Table of Seven Major Events and Seven Repeat Columns. Immediately we can think of two more with the Second Coming of Christ and Judgment as one, and the New heavens and earth as another.

One more step on the repeat chart, and we will have a complete 7X7 Table.

It should be obvious that in order to construct such a table we must add an additional column, shorten the first column of events, and therefore identify the seven major events with a single word as follows—

Repeat Revelations

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
1. Worship God			1:4	4:6-8	19:10	22:9	— — —
2. Acknowledge Lamb							
-Christ			1:5	5:8-10	—	—	— — —
3. Messengers			2:1	6:9,10	11:11	19:10	20:4 22:9 —
4. Battle	6:1-8	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. End	6:12	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. One Day	6:17	7:14	—	—	—	—	—
7. The New Heaven							
and Earth		7:15	—	—	—	—	— — —

32-2: Overcomers are Saved By Grace, Not Works.

“But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works, otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.” (Romans 11:4-8 KJV)

“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.” (Revelation 22:17 KJV)

In this bottom line of invitation to all men as a closing invitation of the book of Revelation, there is no work involved, only grace!

(1). There is no work to “Come”, only grace.

(2). “heareth”, there is no work to hearing, only grace.

(3). Drinking of the water of life freely. There is no work to drinking this water, only grace.

The Martyred Messengers

Obvious among the Overcoming Seven Thousands are those who were martyred messengers as these are so privileged as to go to reign with Christ, complete with resurrected bodies, at the beginning of the thousand years. If we look again at the Repeat Table the last time we tried to We notice this will require seven repeats of the Martyred Messenger-Angels, then we need to

find one more which has been overlooked, and eureka, there is one in Revelation 12:17. Wouldn't you know that a book like Revelation that likes the number seven as a number of completion so much, would also repeat seven times. **{**Remember how much the book of Revelation likes to play with numbers for meaning, and how also the number 6 is the number of incompleteness, and 666 the number of falling so short.**}**

The Repeat Chart of Revelations

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
1. Worship God	1:4	4:6-8	19:10	22:9	___	___	___
2. Acknowledge Lamb-Christ	1:5	5:8-10	___	___	___	___	___
3. Messengers (angels/souls)	2:1	6:9,10	11:11	12:17	19:10	20.4	22:9
4. Battle (War and Famine)	6:1-8	___	___	___	___	___	___
5. Day of the LORD/Lord	6:12-17	7:14	___	___	___	___	___
6. Second Coming/Rapture	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
7. New Heaven and Earth	7:15	___	___	___	___	___	___

{Note that “Revelations” is used for the revelations in the book of Revelation.**}** The martyred messengers are also those who when Satan fails to get the first seed of the woman, the Christ-Lamb, he goes to battle against, the second seed of the woman by faith, the remnant of those who believe—

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

The characteristics of the messengers, alias the angels and martyred souls, stay constant as: (1) Holding the word of God, here as keeping the commandments of God; and (2) As holding the testimony of Jesus. And here those are identified as the “remnant”.

32-3: Overcomers Have the Testimony of Jesus!

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held...” (Revelation 6:9 KJV)

(1). These overcomers are “souls” and “under the altar” because they have not become resurrected bodies since that happens when Satan is bound for the thousand years.

(2). These have overcome because they were slain for—

- a. The Word of God; and
- b. The Testimony of Jesus.

(3). They have soul rest and are given white robes until the number of overcomers who died as they died is a complete number.

“And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto the, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” (Revelation 6:11 KJV)

32-4. Overcomers Have the spirit of Prophecy!

(1). The Prophet Joel was one of the first of the Old Testament to identify the more democratic nature of prophecy that would come in the New Testament days as contrasted to the very exclusive nature of Prophecy and the Prophets.

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...” (Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16,17 KJV)

(2). And the Apostle Peter continued to quote from Joel in explaining what was happening at the beginning of these “last days” on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ—

“And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pas, that whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:18-21 KJV)

NOTE: Parenthetically it also takes no work to “call on the name of the Lord”, only grace!

(3). It was the Apostle Paul who first defined for the Revelations of God in the Bible what prophecy really is.

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.” (I Corinthians 14:3 KJV)

a. Prophecy is speaking to men clearly for their own edification.

b. Prophecy is speaking to men in assembly with the conviction of a loud trumpet in order to exhort other men.

c. Prophecy is speaking for comfort.

And therefore if you are not edifying other men, exhorting and comforting other men when you speak then you are not engaged in prophecy.

(4). It was also the Apostle Paul who distinguished between Prophets of the Old Testament and prophets of the New Testament in that the New Testament prophets, the prophets of the last days, are gifts from the Ascended Christ. (prophets as contrasted to Prophets, and like apostles, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given by the Ascended Christ which only happened in New Testament “last days” times)

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, and he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles, and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers...” (Ephesians 4:7-11 KJV)

{**NOTE: Parenthetically here is more grace, not works, in the giving of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists. It is grace or a gift to the individual that receives one of these offices, and it is a gift from Christ to the church which receives the gift or gifts of these men. Incidentally for others of unsound doctrine who would attempt to run the church (I like to call it anarchy in church government, which has become prevalent in Baptist churches where pastors of sound doctrine are run off and their authority subverted), the authority in a church comes from the Ascended Christ through apostles and prophets (now, their words in the Bible), through pastors which are also teachers, and through evangelists.**}

(5). After Paul has passed on into eternity, the Apostle John adds one more step to the understanding of prophecy. Rather, the same Ascended Christ who gave Paul the understandings of I Corinthians and Ephesians, gave John the revelations of Revelation!

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10 KJV)

Was this angel really the Apostle Peter? I think more than likely it was the Apostle Paul who John did not recognize because he had never met him on the earth; but it was the resurrected Apostle Paul projected in time, since those martyred as Peter and Paul, as those souls under the altar, would be resurrected approximately 450 A. D. at the same time that Satan was bound for a thousand years.

32-6: “God’s Reserves”

Think about the full meaning of what God told the Prophet Elijah: you don’t know who they are and you haven’t worshipped with them, but I have reserved for my own people seven thousand in Israel that have not bowed their knee to Baal (Satan)”. The problem that Elijah had was that he thought he and God were alone in doing the work of God. He was saying in effect, “Why are we fighting these battles anyway against King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, and the majority of the people and leaders of Israel?” And God was telling Elijah in effect, “You are doing it for the benefit of my seven thousand people whom you don’t know, but who worship Me.”

The Word “True” in the New Testament.

Table 4: The Phases of History in Revelation, starting with the Teachings of Jesus.

1. Beginning of Sorrows, Matthew 24:5-8	2. Persecution Tribulation, Matthew 24:9	3. Period of Offences, Mathew 24:10	4. Falling Away, Matthew 24:11-14
1. Many false Prophets come			False Prophets
2. Many deceived		Many offended	Falling Away
		Betray one another	lawlessness abounds
		Hate on another	man of sin revealed
3. wars and rumors of war		lovers of self and money	Holy Spirit withdrawn
4. nation against nation		despisers of good	Satan unbound
5. famines		form of godliness without inward power of God	battle of Armagaddeon
6. pestilences		intolerance of sound doctrine	love of many waxes cold
7. earthquakes	Seal 5, Cry of Martyrs, Revelation 6	blasphemers, proud, arro- gant, and trouble makers	shaking of heaven and earth Seal 6, Cosmic Disturbances, Revelation 6
Seal 1-4, Revelation 6	tribulation from the unbelieving	turn away from truth and turn into fables	physical tribulation from God Seal 7 with 7 trumpets, Revelation 8,9
	abomination of desolation		elements melt with heat
	great tribulation shortened for the elect	Gospel to every nation	
	false rumors about Second Coming		Second Coming of Christ

Having considered the word “false” at the end of several previous chapters, it is a comfort to end this last chapter on a more positive note as we look at “true” in the New Testament. The word “true” is found in the New Testament 54 times in 50 verses with 10 of those times in the book of Revelation, and as you might suspect this is exceeded only by the Gospel of John where the word is found 19 times. It is one word that is used more exclusively by the Apostle John than the Apostle Paul, what with adding the 3 times in I and III John for a total of 32 times from John, or 32/50 for 64%; and with the two from Peter, four from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts that leaves only 12 verses for the 14 letters of the Apostle Paul. Of Paul’s 14 letters, true is mentioned the most in the first which is “The Gospel to the Jews According to Paul”.

We will try to list verses in the most probably order in which the New Testament books were written and/or delivered in order to get the flow of “true” in the progressive revelations of the Bible-

1. Matthew 22:16.

“And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.” (Matthew 22:16 KJV)

Jesus is called “true” by the Pharisees and Herodians, which doesn’t mean that they meant it since they were always trying to trick Him, and quite often by flattery; however it was true of Jesus as He Himself had said on occasions, and this must be part of the being True: (1) Jesus taught the way of God truthfully; (2) Jesus did not cater His teachings to the whims or desires of any man; and (3) Jesus did not have a respect toward persons, honoring some more than others because of their position, wealth, or success, etc.

2. Hebrews 8:2.

While the tabernacle in the wilderness and the temple were patterns of what would come in New Testament times, the “true tabernacle” is and was Jesus Christ’s own body.

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” (Hebrews 8:1,2 KJV)

3. Hebrews 9:24.

This verse is similar to Hebrews 8:2, the “true holy place” of heaven and Christ in heaven with God the Father being foretold by the holy place of the temple built with man’s hands.

4. Hebrews 10:22 is about a “true heart”.

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:22 KJV)

5. Romans 3:4 is about God being true, men a liar.

“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in they sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” (Romans 3:4 KJV)

6. II Corinthians 1:18 is also about God being true.

7. II Corinthians 6:8 is part of a contrast whereby Paul while dealing with glorying, boasting, and Gospel Pride in order to gain acceptance and keep acceptance as the ministers of Christ and effectively being all things to all people:

“By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true...” (II Corinthians 6:8 KJV)

Paul seemed to strike most people in their responses to him as an Apostle at either one extreme or the other, some making evil report of him and others good reports, some honor and others dishonor, and some calling him and his fellow ministers “deceivers”, other calling them “true”.

8. I Thessalonians 1:9.

Here God is also true, but “true and living” as contrasted to the idols from which those Christians at Thessalonica turned in order to worship the true and living, rather than the false and dead god and christ which the Mormons still worship.

9. I Timothy 3:1 and Titus 1:13 respectively deal with a “true saying” and a “true witness”.

10. I Peter 5:12.

Even among those who see salvation by grace can evidently be a “false grace”, because the Apostle Peter in this verse refers to “the true grace of God wherein ye stand”; and of course, in doing so testifies and exhorts that our salvation standing in by the grace of God.

11. II Peter 2:22.

The “true Proverb” quoted by the Apostle Peter from the book of Proverbs is about the dog returning to its vomit about the false leaders who attempt to led people away from the grace of God, stealing their liberty and placing them in bondage to requirements of the law.

12. Ephesians 4:24 about the “true holiness” of the new birth and sanctification by grace through faith.

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24 KJV)

13. Philippians 4:3 is about a “true yokefellow” who works with Paul in the Gospel, and who is urged to help other fellowlaborers in the Gospel whose names are written in “the book of life”, the same book of Revelation 20:12 that replaces all the books on works for the Christian. (I have to admit it would surely be nice to have an Apostle like Paul talk about yourself as one whose name is written in that book of life, but we dare not deceive ourselves with such contemporary false assurances!)

14. Philippians 4:8 with “true things” are other things that Christians are to think about.

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 KJV)

32-7: “True” in the book of Revelation

As mentioned earlier, the word “true” is found in ten verses in the book of Revelation.

1. Revelation 3:7, “He that is true”.

“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 3:7 KJV)

This is the same He that was alive, dead, and alive forever more talking of Revelation 1:18 so that it is the Ascended Christ of whom we learn that He is: (1) Holy; (2) True; (3) The One who holds the key of David, in other words the kingdom of David that will exist forever; and (4) When Christ shuts or opens, it can not be reversed.

2. Revelation 3:14, “The Faithful and True Witness”.

The prime subjects of the Bible are that of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is even more so in the book of Revelation if we pause to see that fact in spite of the often frantic search to learn about the future events.

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God...” (Revelation 3:14 KJV)

The characteristics of the Ascended Christ are accumulating rapidly. Here Christ is: (1) The Amen; (2) The Faithful and True Witness; and (3) The Beginning of the Creation of God, obvious another reference to Jesus as the “firstborn”. I suspect that if we look at all the initial words to each church we will learn far more about the Ascended Christ.

(1). In addressing the church at Ephesus, Revelation 2:1, Christ is: (a) He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, recalling that the seven stars are the angel/pastors of the seven churches; and (b) He is the One who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, representing the seven churches.

(2). In the address to Smyrna Christ is: (a) The First and Last; and (b) He that was dead but is now alive, Revelation 2:8.

(3). To Pergamos Christ is He that has the sharp sword with two edges, Revelation 2:12.

(4). To Thyatira Christ is: (a) The Son of God; (b) With eyes like a flame of fire; and (c) Feet like fine brass, Revelation 2:18.

(5). To Sardis Christ is: (a) He that hath the Seven Spirits of God; and (b) He that hath the seven stars, Revelation 3:1.

And what we have accumulated about the Ascended Christ is 16 characteristics of His Divinity.

32-8: THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST!

Following is some of the references to the divinity of Christ in the book of Revelation__

Revelation Characteristics of Christ's

Reference Divinity

2:1 (1) Holds the pastors in His right hand as gifts to the churches, Ephesians 4:7-11

(2) Walks in the midst of the churches

2:8(3) He is the First and the Last

(4) He is the Christ Risen From the Dead

2:12 (5) Possesses the Sword, the Word of God

2:18 (6) He is the Son of God

(7) His eyes are like a flame of fire

(8) His feet are like fine brass

3:1(9) He controls the Seven Spirits of God

(10) He controls the seven pastors

3:7(11) He is Holy

(12) He is True

(13) He controls the keys to the kingdom of David, shutting and opening

3:14 (14) He is the Amen

(15) He is the Faithful and True Witness

(16) He is the Firstborn

32-9: Continuation of "True" in Revelation

3. Revelation 6:10, God the Father is Holy and True.

And now what we begin is characteristics of God the Father! God the Father is not used, but it is the same "Lord" being addressed that sits on the great white throne in Revelation 5.

"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10 KJV)

4. Revelation 15:3, True are the ways of the Lord God Almighty.

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." (KJV)

5. Revelation 16:7, True and Righteous Judgments.

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

6. Revelation 19:2, Again True and Righteous Judgments.

“For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.” (Revelation 19:2 KJV)

7. Revelation 19:9, The True Sayings of God.

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (Revelation 19:9 KJV)

8. Revelation 19:11, Back to the Faithful and True Christ.

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

9. Revelation 21:5, Back to the Lord on the Throne Whose Words are True and Faithful.

“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 21:5 KJV)

10. Revelation 22:6, The Sayings from the angel-messenger are Faithful and True.

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

32-10: Accumulated Characteristics of God the Father

Revelation Chief Name for God Characteristics of the Father

6:10	Lord	(1) Holy and True (2) Judge (3) Avenger
15:3	Lord God Almighty	(4) Great, Marvelous works (5) Just, True Ways (6) King of Saints
16:7	Lord God Almighty	(7) True, Righteous Judgements
19:1,2	Lord our God	(8) Salvation (9) Glory, Honor, and Power (10) True, Righteous Judgments (11) Judged (12) Avenged

- 19:9 God (13) Source of True Sayings
 21:5 One on the Throne (14) Maker of all Things New
 (15) True, Faithful Sayer
 22:6 Lord God of the holy prophets
 (16) True, Faithful Sayings
 (17) Sender of Angels
 (18) Shower of Future Events

32-11: The Word “True” in the Gospel of John

As mentioned earlier the Gospel of John with 19 verses with “true” in them is the majority of the New Testament books on True: (1) In John 1:9 Jesus the Word is the “true Light”; (2) In John 3:33 God is true when the testimony of Jesus and the testimony of God the Father to Jesus; (3) True Worshippers worship the Father in spirit and truth as that is what God has sought, John 4:23, and this naturally implies that there has and can be much false worship, Jesus Himself quoting the Old Testament to the extent that in vain do the religious Jews worship God, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men; (4) In John 4:37 the Saying is True of “one soweth, and another reapeth” because it is quoted from the Old Testament even as the Proverb was true which was quoted from the Old Testament book of Proverbs by Peter—in Revelation the Sayings of God are True because they come straight from God; (5) In John 5:31 Jesus talks of a true witness, and likewise in 5:32 where the true witness is God the Father Himself bearing witness to the Sonship of Christ; (6) The true bread from heaven is to believe on Jesus, John 6:32; (7) A true or truth speaker can be determined by whether he seeks the glory for the One that sent him or for himself, John 7:18; (8) In John 7:28, The God that sent Jesus is True, Jesus says, and they do not know Him; (9) The Pharisees claimed that Jesus record was not true since He bore record of Himself, John 8:13, but in 8:14 Jesus replied that it is true since He knew where He came from and where He was going; (10) In John 8:16 Jesus says that when He judges it is true judgment because the Father and Him are making it together; (11) John 8:17, the testimony of two witnesses is true in the law, Jesus and the Father being those two witnesses; (12) The God that sent Jesus is True, and Jesus speaks the things that God gave Him, John 8:14; (13) All the things that John the Baptist spoke of Jesus are true, John 10:41; (14) Jesus is the true Vine and the Father is the Vine tender, John 15:1; (15) What is life eternal?

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3 KJV)

—gods can be known that are not the true God, but only through knowing the true God does life eternal come

—the same about true and truth applies to Jesus Christ, the Jesus Christ whom the True God sent

“But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it (The Apostle John is speaking of himself without the mentioning of his name in the record even as he does at the end in 21:24) bare record, and his record is true; and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture said, They shall look on him whom they pierced.” (John 19:33 37 KJV)

“This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.” (John 21:24 KJV)

32-12: “True” in the Little Epistles of John

1. I John 2:8, where true is found twice, once of the true light and once “true in him”.

“On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.” (I John 2:8 KJV)

The gist of the passage, much like in James, begins with I John 2:4 where the contrast is made between the man who says, “I know Christ”, but does not keep Christ’s commandments. The verse calls that man a liar.

2. I John 5:20 where a series of three trues in one verse can almost lose us.

“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is tue, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” (I John 5:20 KJV)

The difficult part of this verse is to keep the “him’s” straight which can be done with the phrase “even in his Son Jesus Christ”. So that if we work first backwards from this phrase: it is God that we are in who is true; then we know God that is true; and that Christ has come to give us an understanding to know the true God. Then working forward from the key phrase is a statement to further identify the true God in terms of the Son of God: this true God that also gives eternal life.

3. 3 John 1:12, where the record from the Apostle John about Demetrius is true. After the Apostle John had identified that those who did not believe the doctrine of Christ were neither to be received in the church where Gaius was nor in their homes, then by the time of III John one Diotrephes in the church was rejecting the messenger Demetrius that John had sent.

32-4: The Book of Life.

We close this commentary on Revelation with a very true word about “the book of life”! The words “book of life” are found in 8 verses of the New Testament, and 7 of those are in the book of Revelation. IT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS ALSO THE BOOK OF LIFE!

1. “Book of Life” in Philippians 4:3.

“And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.” (Philippians 4:3 KJV)

Let us never be removed from the “simplicity which is in Christ”, from the simplicity of the gospel; and how that in the final analysis all the books of works count for nothing for those whose names through faith in Christ and in the simple gospel of Christ by grace have been written in that one, single book, the book of life!

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:16-19 KJV)

2. Book of Life in 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 3:5 KJV)

What Jesus says here as the Ascended Christ reminds you of what He said as the Pre- Resurrection Christ:

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32,33 KJV)

This confession of Christ has to be the real Christ; for the confession of another Christ which is not the real Christ is to take the name of Christ in vain, no better than cursing, and so that this type of confessing of less than the real name of Christ is really a denial of the name of Christ which falls into the second category of Matthew 10:33!

3. Book of Life in Revelation 13:8.

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

The “worship him” is the worship of Satan, a worship on the part of all those whose names are NOT written in the Lamb’s book of life. Why should it be thought a strange thing to us that a group of people centered around temple square in Salt Lake City with a monument on top of their temple dedicated to and in honor of the fallen angel Satan and underneath where so many questionable practices occur have worshipped Satan since all one day on the earth will worship Satan that have not been written in the book of life!

4. Book of Life in Revelation 17:8.

“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life form the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” (Revelation 17:8 KJV)

That “beast” is the servant of Satan, the equivalent for all practical purposes of Satan himself, being Satan incarnate! He was because he deceived all nations through the gospel of works before he was bound for a thousand years; he is not because he was bound in the bottomless pit of outer space for a thousand years before Joseph Smith in order that he could no longer for a thousand years deceive all the nations with a gospel of works for salvation; and he is now, released and holding all people on the earth in “wonder” because of the marvels of the LDS!

5. Book of Life in Revelation 20:12.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12 KJV)

There are the books of the same kind, the books of works; and then there is the book of another kind, not the same, the book of life. The dead are judged out of the books of life. The living dead are not judged- there is no need for that—as their names are written in the Lamb’s book of life; and Jesus has already testified about them to God the Father!

6. Book of Life in Revelation 20:15.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15 KJV)

There is the choice of the Mormon as for any other individual on earth; to be judged according to the books of works; and that is what they confess that they desire, or to be judged solely by grace and by the Lamb’s book of life. They have chosen the books of works over the book of life; and although they are in many ways wiser than the children of light in their own generation, the eternal habitation of such who chose the books of works over the book of life is “the lake of fire”!

7. Book of Life in Revelation 21:27.

With their works they have also excluded themselves with their lies and their supports of lies and the Father of the Lie, Satan!

“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.” (Revelation 21:27 KJV)

8. Book of Life in 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 re written in this book.” (Revelation 22:19 KJV)

Oh how dangerous it is to mess with what is known to be the revealed Word of God! God’s Reserves are and always has been those of each generation whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life, those who accept the words, works, and Word of God as it is without tampering!