

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

WEEK ONE: Christ's Letters to the Church

Revelation 1-3: This week, we will cover the following material

- Introduction to **Revelation** -
- The Seven Churches and Christ's Message to the Churches
- The Great Apostasy
- Preparing the Church for Christ's Return
- Revelation - the Big Picture

Revelation - Introduction

1. **Author:** Written by the youngest Apostle, John
2. **Time:** Written about 90 to 95 A.D.
3. **Location:** Written from the island of Patmos, a Roman penal colony off the coast of Asia Minor, modern Turkey (see the map, below).
4. **Recipients:** Written to the "angels" or "messengers" in the seven churches in Asia Minor by Jesus Christ - probably referring to the pastors of the churches.
5. Begins by commending them, correcting them, and exhorting them to believe and obey their calling and instruction.
6. Promises eternal rewards for faithful saints and also provides warnings for the unfaithful.
7. Should be read as a literal timeline and sequence of end-times events leading up to the second coming of Christ. Some chapters provide a symbolic interpretation of the spiritual dynamics behind the literal events.

Map of Asia Minor, Patmos, and the Seven Churches of Revelation



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Why the Letters to the Seven Churches?

1. In the end times, many Christians will leave their faith. This is called apostasy. Some of this apostasy will be because of a love of pleasure, some will come from ignorance of God's Word, some will come from demonic deception. Christ's letters to the seven churches warn all saints to stay ready!

*Then that lawless one will be revealed . . . the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe that is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12***

To Pergamum: *So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth. **Revelation 2:15, 16***

The Nicolaitans

A group of people at the church at Pergamum who practiced polygamy and immoral sexual activities. Church tradition says they were led by a former church deacon, Nicolas (**Acts 6:5**), who embraced "antinomianism". If this is true, the Nicolaitans argued they were no longer subject to any moral law, since they were under grace alone. This heresy is not Biblical and the Lord condemns the Nicolaitans for taking pleasure in wickedness. Jesus commends the church at Ephesus for hating this heresy. This warning is written for our benefit, as well.

2. Some people will be led away from the truth by misleading teachers and false prophets, such as Balaam (**Numbers 22-24**), who loved money more than the truth, and "Jezebel", in Thyatira, who loved immorality.

To Pergamum: *But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality.*

Revelation 2:14

A lamp stand symbolizes a church



Balaam

Balaam was a non-Jewish prophet and teacher, first mentioned **Numbers 22-24**. The Moabite King, Balaak, tried to bribe Balaam to curse the Israelites, but Balaam was unable to do so. Balaam loved money more than righteousness, however. Later, he went to Balaak and told him the Jews could be made to stumble by enticing them with prostitutes and tasty foods sacrificed to idols. The Israelites fell into this trap and received plagues punishment from God (**Numbers 31:16**). A wicked prophetess, "Jezebel", at Thyratira, is accused of a similar sin. (**Revelation 2:20-23**)

To Thyatira: *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idol. I gave her time to*

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. **Revelation 2:20-23**

A star symbolizes an angel.

NOTE: Some people today think that tolerance is a chief virtue and any form of intolerance is a vice. Don't be fooled. From Christ's message to Thyatira, we learn that there should be a limit to our tolerance! Jezebel (probably not her real name) was harming people by leading them away from the Lord into error. She was pretending to be a Christian who spoke for the Lord. Her message was probably demonic. This is never something the church should tolerate!



3. The Bible teaches that people in the end times will seek out teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. They will slip into apostasy because they are controlled and led by their desires, rather than by the Lord and His truth. Although these teachers seem to be godly, their lessons will be from demons.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 4:3, 4

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. **1 Timothy 4:1-3**

4. Some people in the end times will fall away from the Lord because they love the world and the things of the world more than the Lord. This was a problem at the church at Ephesus.

To Ephesus: *"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."*
Revelation 2:4

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **1 John 2:15**

5. Some people in the end times will fall away from the Lord because they have been blessed and they think they are self-sufficient and do not know their desperate need of the Lord. This appears to be what happened to the church at Laodicean church. It is a problem in the American church today.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

To Laodicea: *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked . . .* **Revelation 2:15-17**

6. Some people in the end times will fall away from the Lord because they stopped paying attention to their faith. Many people will just stop going to church all together. The church at Sardis was letting their faith slide.

To Sardis: *Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.*

Revelation 3:2, 3

. . . let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24, 25**

7. Some people in the end times will fall away from the Lord because of persecution, fear, or uncertainty. The Great Tribulation, a time of unprecedented persecution of Christians, will come in the end times. The church at Smyrna was about to experience terrible persecution.

To Smyrna: *Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.* **Revelation 2:10**

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **2 Timothy 3:12, 13**

8. Some people will fall away from the Lord because of unbelief, fueled by pride, a lack of personal restraint or self-discipline.

Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." **2 Peter 3:3, 4**

But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. **John 17-19**

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

9. Some people will fall away from the Lord because their love will grow cold, resulting in lawlessness, strife, rebelliousness, and violence.

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. 2 Timothy 3:1-8

Jesus said . . .

But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. Matthew 24:8-13

Heads Up Christians

1. Be governed by what you know to be right - not by what you want or how you feel.
2. Keep your life centered on the Lord through daily prayer, faithful church attendance, and loving service to others. Learn to hear and heed the voice of the Holy Spirit.
3. Don't be deceived by false teachers and prophets. Become well read in God's Word! This is the only offensive weapon you have in your spiritual battles.
4. Seeking holiness, which is God's best for you and your life. Take care about the music you listen to, the movies and TV shows you watch, the books and magazines you read, and the internet sites you visit. Remember, the Lord is with you always and nothing is hidden from Him!
5. Do not let your love grow cold. Reject a critical spirit. Be quick to forgive and seek to bless others — especially your enemies. Bless your enemies, do not hate them.
6. Do not gossip or receive gossip — it only feeds the flesh.
7. Do not love the world or the things in the world. This is all passing away!
8. Be a faithful witness about Jesus to others. You will bless others and grow in your faith.
9. Find your God-given talents and spiritual gifts and learn how to use them to serve and bless others in Christ's name — it will grow your faith and honor the Lord.
10. Learn to worship and praise the Lord regularly for God's joy! Go to church!

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

	Revelations Messages to the Seven Churches						
	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Description of Christ	holds 7 stars, walks among 7 candlesticks	first and last, was dead and is alive	has sharp sword with two-edges	son of God, eyes like flame of fire, feet like brass	has 7 Spirits of God, seven stars	holy, true, has Key of David, opens and shuts	Amen, faithful and true witness, beginning of creation
Christ Knows Works	labour, patience	tribulation, poverty	dwelling-where Satan's seat is	charity, service, faith, patience	hypocrisy	none -specified	false claims, true condition
Praise	can't bear evil, tests teachers, hates Nicolaitanes	you are rich	hold fast my name, not denied my faith	last works better than the first	a few have not defiled their garments and are worthy	kept my word, not denied my name, kept the word of my patience	NONE
Rebuke	left first love	NONE	some that hold doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaitans	allowed Jezebel to seduce servants, repented not	works not perfect, seems alive but dead	NONE	lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, naked,
Counsel	remember where fallen from, repent, do first works	don't fear, be faithful unto death	repent	repent, hold fast till I come	be watchful, strengthen what remains, repent, remember	hold fast	buy gold and white raiment, anoint eyes, repent, open door
Warning	I will come quickly and remove candlestick	NONE	I will fight against them	sickbed, great tribulation, death, reward according to works	I will come as a thief	NONE	I will spue you out of my mouth
Promises to overcomers	eat from the tree of life	crown of life, not hurt of the second death	hidden manna, white stone with a new name	power to rule nations, morning star	walk with me in white raiment, confess name, not blot name out	keep from hour of temptation, pillar in temple, name of God and city	sup with me, sit with me on throne

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

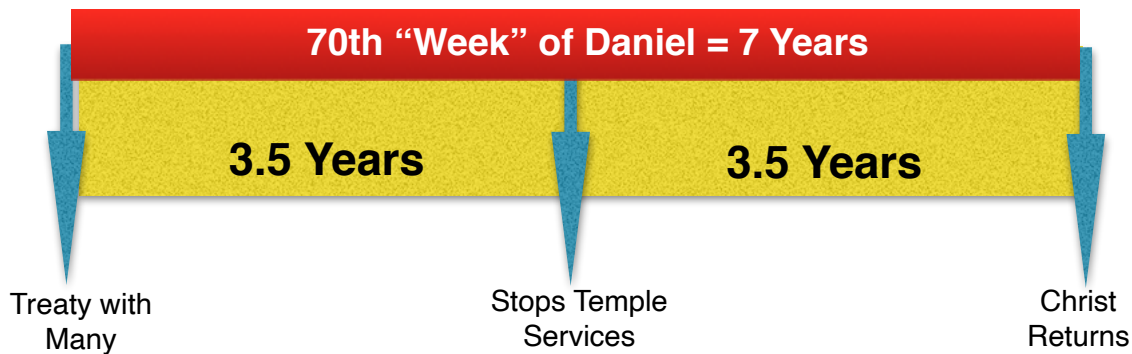
WEEK TWO: The Scroll & Seven Seals, R & R

Revelation 4-7; 8:1 - This week, we will cover the following material

- The 70th Week of Daniel - an overview of key events and characters
- The Sealed Scroll of God's Wrath
- The Great Tribulation - God's purpose and plan for the Church and a lost world
- The Resurrection and Rapture - Clearing the Way for God's Judgment

The 70th "Week" of Daniel = the Last 7 Years Before the Millennium

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." Daniel 9:27



After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." Revelation 4:1

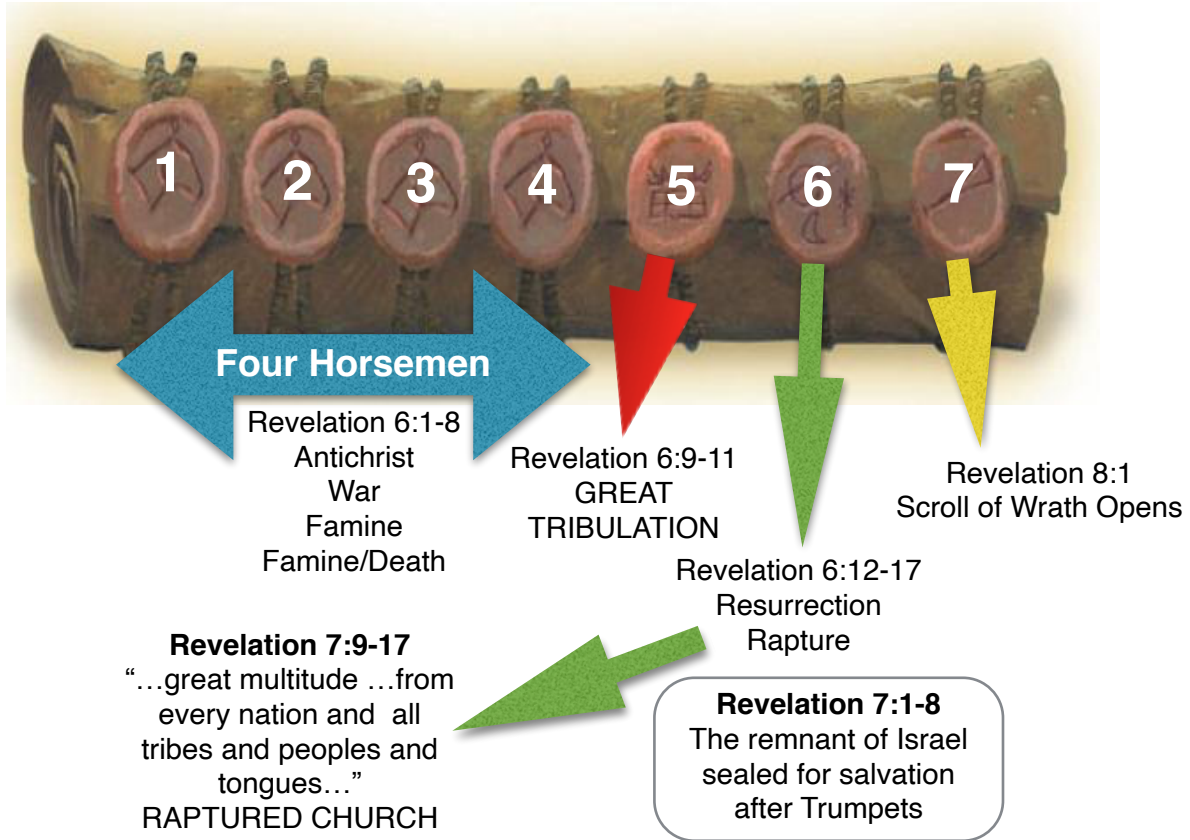


UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

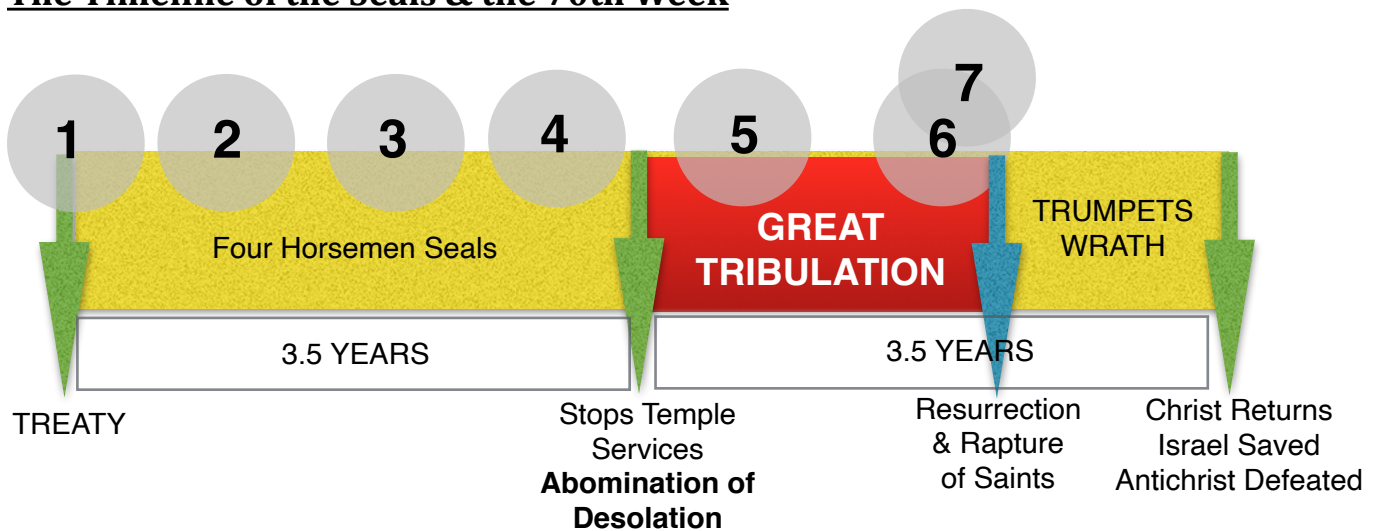
By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. Revelation 5:1

Revelation 6 -7



The Timeline of the Seals & the 70th Week



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS

- **Antichrist = Man of Lawlessness = Son of Destruction = Rejected Branch = Abomination of Desolation - comes in the last hour**

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming . . . 1 John 2:18

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your 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. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, 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 . . . 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation. Daniel 11:31

- **Tribulation (Trouble) is NOT Wrath (Divine Judgment) - different NT words and concepts**

- **The Church is not destined for divine judgment or wrath, but we do have tribulation — even GREAT TRIBULATION**

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . 1 Thessalonians 5:9

. . . how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to await for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come . . . 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10 (also, see Romans 5:9)

In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Matthew 24:21, 22

5

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained ... Revelation 6:9 - GREAT TRIBULATION

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- According to Jesus, the Great Tribulation, as represented by the 5th Seal, will precede the coming of Christ to resurrect and rapture the Church

*But immediately **after** the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

Matthew 24:29-31

- Compare what Christ says happens to the sun, moon, and stars just before He comes with the events described by the 6th Seal of Revelation.



I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.
Revelation 6:12, 13

- The 5th Seal precedes the 6th Seal, just as the Great Tribulation precedes the Resurrection and the Rapture. The surviving saints are rescued from extinction during the Great Tribulation by Christ's return for the rapture (which is preceded immediately by the resurrection! - see *1 Thessalonians 4:14-17*). The Resurrection and Rapture precedes the Trumpets Wrath of God.



- God's purpose for the Great Tribulation is (1) the purification of the Bride of Christ (the Church) before her rapture, and (2) a powerful testimony to a wicked world about to experience God's judgment and wrath. The Great Tribulation is an expression of God's grace!

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- **There is a remnant of Israel that will be sealed by God to protect them through the Great Tribulation and the plagues of the Seven Trumpet Judgments. This remnant represents all the tribes of Israel.**

*Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads. And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed. **Revelation 7:3-8***

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved **Romans 11:25, 26***

7

*When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **Revelation 8:1***

And now, the seven-sealed scroll is opened to reveal the Trumpet Plagues of God's Judgment Wrath

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

WEEK THREE: Trumpets, 2 Witnesses, Israel's Remnant, Beasts

Revelation 8 - 14 This week, we will cover the following material

- *The Judgments of God Written on the Seal Scroll - The Seven Trumpet Plagues*
- *The divine protection of the remnant of Israel*
- *The Two Witnesses of Jerusalem*
- *The redemption of the remnant of Israel*
- *Understanding **Revelation 12 - 14** symbolism & events*
- *The second coming of Jesus Christ for His earthly reign*

The Seven Trumpet Plagues

The Sealed Scroll Judgments



1

Revelation 8:7

Hail, Fire, & Blood - a third of the earth burned up



2

Revelation 8:8, 9

Burning Mountain - a third of the sea become blood & a third of sea life dies



3

Revelation 8:10, 11

Star from Heaven, "Wormwood" - water & men become bitter, death



4

Revelation 8:12

Sun, moon, and 1/3 of stars become darkened



5

Revelation 9:1-12

First Woe - Abaddon & demon army bring 5 month of torment



6

Revelation 9:13-19

200 million demon army kill a third of mankind with fire, smoke, & brimstone



7

Revelation 11:15-17

The Kingdom of Christ on Earth is announced

**? Duration of Trumpet Judgments
- ? About. 1 Yr ?**

Revelation 9:20, 21: *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 gold 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.*

The Two Witnesses: Elijah and ?Moses?

*Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. **Malachi 4:5***

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. **Matthew 17:1-3**

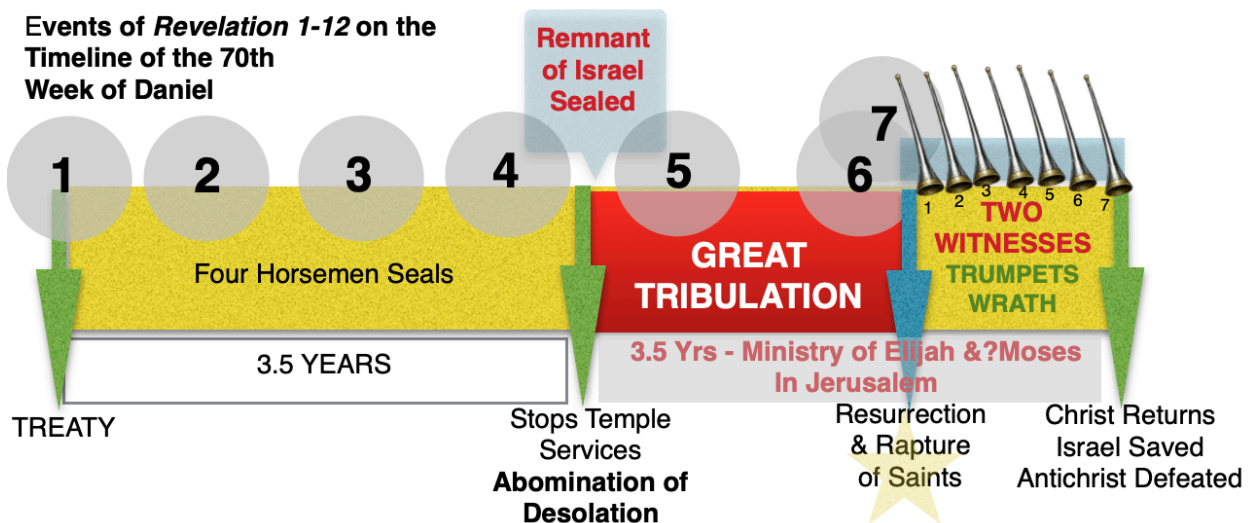
And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. **Revelation 11:3**

1260 days = 42 months = 3.5 years

And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Revelation 11:5-8

**Elijah & ?Moses in Jerusalem
Last 3.5 Years - Bring the Trumpet Plagues!**



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Unraveling the Symbolism and Meaning of Revelation 12 - 14

- **Woman** clothed in the sun, moon, and stars, gives birth to a child, is persecuted by the “dragon”, flees into the wilderness to be protected by God for 1260 days, or 3.5 years = **Remnant of Israel (Rev 12:1, 5, 6)**
- **Child**, born of the woman, a male, will rule the nations with a rod of iron, and was caught up to God’s throne = **Christ**
- **Dragon**, great, red, dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven diadems, also called the “serpent”, swept a third of the stars from heaven to earth, pursued the “woman” into the wilderness, then persecuted Christians, deceives the whole world = **Satan**
- **Michael = Archangel of God**
- **Temple** = the **future, rebuilt Jewish Temple, in Jerusalem**, taken over by Antichrist midway through the 70th Week of Daniel. Jerusalem and the Temple will be occupied and dominated by gentile powers for 42 months, or 3.5 years, in the final days
- **Beast from the Sea**, rises out of the sea, is a hybrid of other beasts (leopard, bear, lion), has seven heads, ten horns, and seven diadems (like Satan), has Satan’s power, speaks arrogant words and blasphemies, makes war on the saints for 42 months (3.5 years) = **Antichrist and his gentile empire (More about the Beast from the Sea later)**
- **Sea** = the **gentile nations** of the world. The sea is sometimes called “many waters”



The False Prophet - the “Lamb Beast” (Rev 13:11-17)

- Arises from the “land” - probably meaning Israel
 - Part of the end-times “Satanic Trinity”
 - Performs false wonders and signs
 - Forces everyone to worship the Beast and accept his mark
 - Head of the Harlot state religion of Antichrist
- The **Lamb** = **Christ**
 - **666** = mystical mark or brand that worshippers of Antichrist and Satan will receive on their right hand and forehead, ta “trinity of 6’s) may mean man trying to be God? (see appendices)
 - **144,000**, godly Jews, now on Mount Zion with Christ, are the redeemed remnant of Israel who were sealed by God before the Trumpets to be protected from Antichrist and his Beast Kingdom for the last 3.5 years of the 70th Week of Daniel. They finally become Christians, having accepted Christ after the two witnesses in Jerusalem were killed by Antichrist.

The Salvation of the Remnant of Israel

● **Israel’s Unbelief**

Their deeds will not allow them

To return to their God.

For a spirit of harlotry is within them,

And they do not know the LORD. Hosea 5:4

● **God’s Response and Prophecy of Israel’s Repentance**

My God will cast them away because they have not listened to Him; And they will be wanderers among the nations. Hosea 9:17

I (God speaking) will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me. Come, let us return to

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth. **Hosea 5:15-6:3**

**The Sign of Jonah: Israel's Remnant is Saved
on the THIRD DAY**
Jonah 1:15 - 2:10
Ezekiel 37
Hosea 6:2
Matthew 12:39

And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:9, 10**

I say then, they (i.e. Israel) did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! . . . For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? . . . For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery — so that you will not be wise in your own estimation — that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,

“THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION,
HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”
THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM,
WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.” (Selected verses from Romans 11)

42 Months Leading to Israel's Salvation



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

**Israel Saved - Two Witnesses
Resurrected**

Revelation 11:11, 12

**Second Woe: Great Earthquake, 1/10 of
Jerusalem Destroyed, 7000 Killed - People Were
Terrified & Gave Glory to God**

Revelation 11:14



**Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb
was standing on Mount Zion, and
with Him one hundred and forty-four
thousand, having His name and the
name of His Father written on their
foreheads.**

Revelation 14:1



*Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." **Revelation 11:15***

**And the nations were
enraged . . .
Revelation 11:18**

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

WEEK FOUR: Seven Bowls, Armageddon, Christ's Victory

Revelation 15 - 19 This week, we will cover the following material

- The Seven Bowls of Wrath Judgments
- The Age of the Gentiles
- Antichrist & The False Prophet
- The Harlot of Babylon
- Beast Kingdoms and The Beast from the Sea
- The Defeat and Imprisonment of Satan
- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Seven Bowls of Wrath

			
Loathsome, Malignant Sores <i>Revelation 16:2</i>	Sea Becomes Blood All Sea Creatures Die <i>Revelation 16:3</i>	Rivers and Springs Become Blood <i>Revelation 16:4-7</i>	Sun Scorches Men with Fire <i>Revelation 16:8-9</i> BLASPHEME GOD

		
Tongue Gnawing Darkness <i>Revelation 16:10-11</i> BLASPHEME GOD	Deceiving Demon Frog Army <i>Revelation 16:12-16</i> BLASPHEME GOD	Thunder, Earthquake, Hail, Cities Fall <i>Revelation 16:17-21</i> BLASPHEME GOD



The Harlot of Babylon

- Is the capital CITY of Antichrist's world religion devoted to worshipping an idol
- Is responsible for leading the global persecution and martyrdom of Jews and Christians - a state religion
- Is the center of commercial activity for Antichrist's Satanic empire
- **IS JERUSALEM !!!**

Revelation 17:3-6, 18; 18:1-24

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.



**Revelation
13 & 17**

The Sea
represents the
gentile nations of
the world.

The Land
often represent
Israel.

**All Beast
Kingdoms
Occupy
Jerusalem**



Beasts
represent gentile
powers that
dominate
Jerusalem - **Age
of the Gentiles**

Antichrist's Kingdom

A Conglomeration of the Prior Gentile Beasts

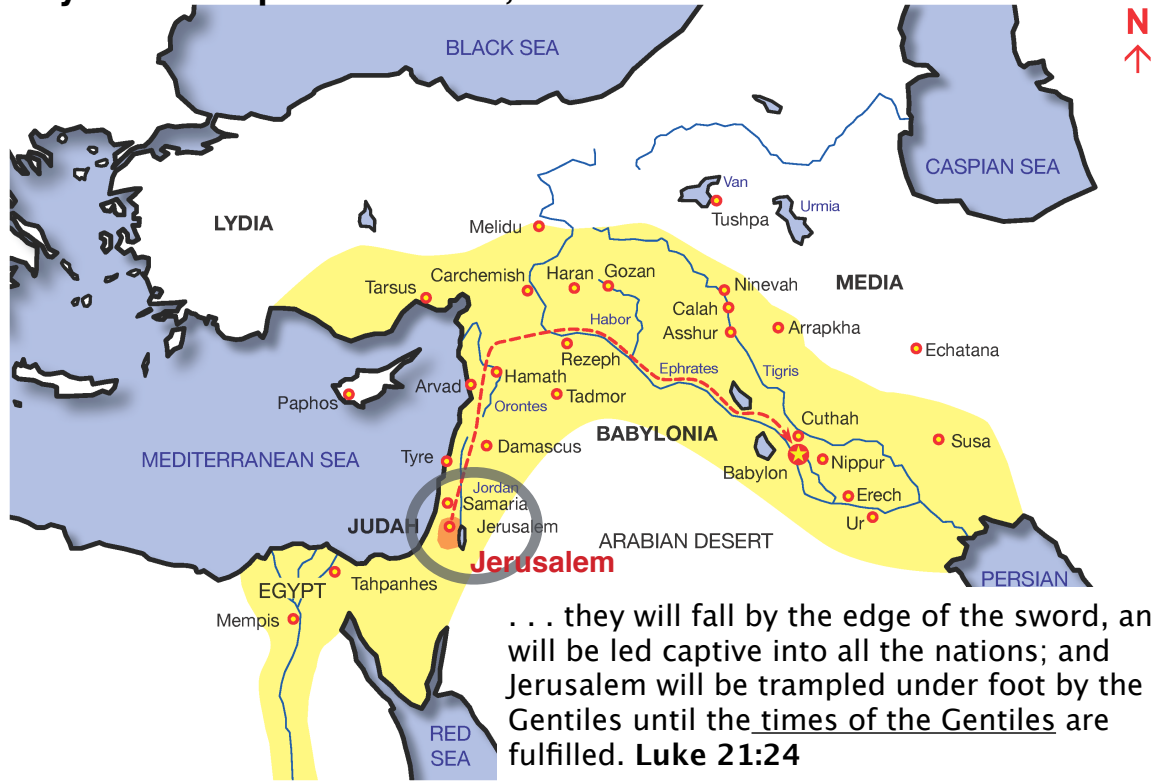
Daniel 2: The same "Beast Kingdoms" revealed in a dream as a statue. Head of Gold: Babylon, Arms and Chest of Silver: Persian-Medes, Belly and Thighs of Bronze: Greece, Legs of Iron: Rome, Feet & Toes of Iron and Clay: Antichrist's Empire. All crushed and replaced by a stone, not cut with human hands - Christ's Millennial Kingdom.



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Babylonian Empire - the Lion, c. 605 BC



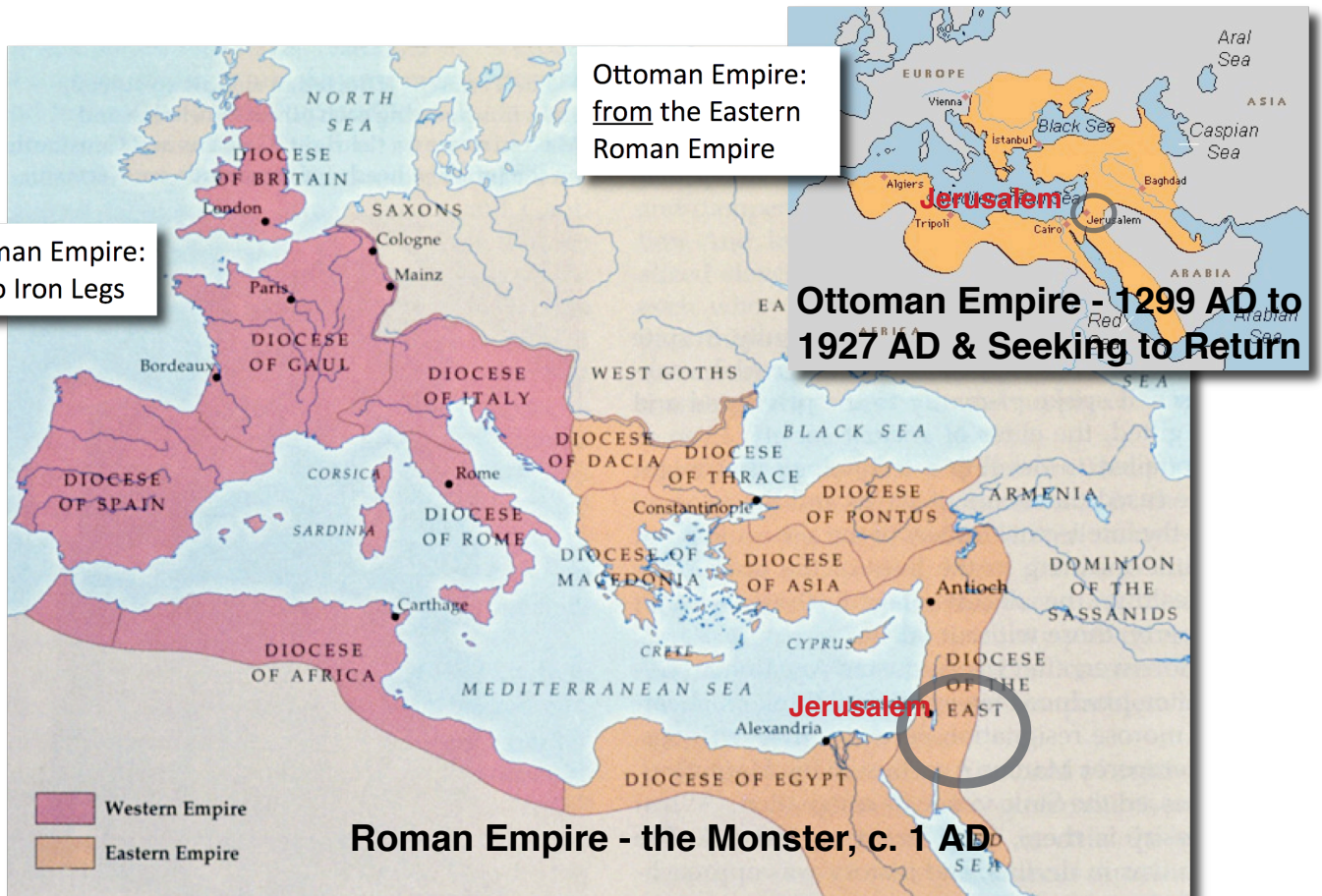
Persian Empire - the Bear, c. 535 BC



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Greek Empire - the Leopard, c. 335 BC



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Antichrist - Who Is He?

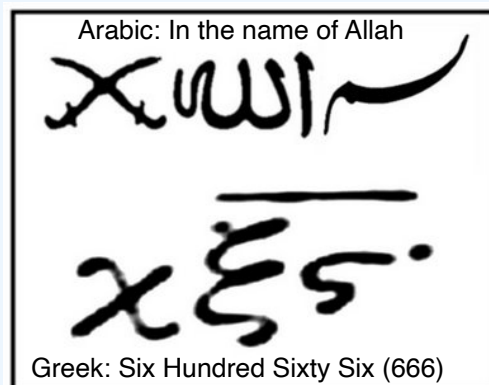
- Many antichrists leading to the Antichrist - **1 John 2:18; 2 John 7**
- An evil man who will arise “in the last hour”. He will be foreshadowed by other antichrists. **1 John 2:18**
- Is a liar and a deceiver. He denies that Jesus is the Christ. He denies the Father and the Son. **1 John 2:22**
- Does not confess that Jesus is from God. **1 John 4:3**
- Does not agree that Jesus came in the flesh. **2 John 7**
- Is the leader who rules the last gentile Beast empire. **Daniel 2, 7. Revelation 12.**
- Invades Israel 3.5 years before the end and sits in the Temple claiming he is God. **2 Thessalonians 2**
- Will persecute and kill anyone who does not worship him, causing the Great Tribulation. The “number of his name” is 666. **Revelation 12; 13:19**
- Sometimes called “the Rejected Branch”, “the Lawless One”, “the Son of Destruction”. **Isaiah 14:19; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 8.** Empowered by Satan. **Revelation 13:2**
- Is defeated by the second coming of Christ at the end of Daniel’s 70th Week. **2 Thessalonians 2:9**

Quotes from the Koran (Qur’an)

- “They blaspheme who say Allah is three in one”. (Qur’an 5:73)
- “In blasphemy you utter that God is Christ, the son of Mary.” (Qur’an 5:17)
- “The Most Gracious One has begotten a Son? You utter gross blasphemy! It is not fitting for the Most Gracious that he should beget a son!” (Qur’an 19:88-92) - NOTE: “Far be it from God that he should have a son!” is written to encircle the inside of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.
- “. . . the Christians call Christ the son of Allah . . . Allah’s curse be on them!” (Qur’an 9:30)
- “That they say we killed Christ Jesus, the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no knowledge . . . for as surety, they killed him not” (Qur’an 4:157-8)
- “Strike off the heads of unbelievers . . . ” (Qur’an 47:4)

Nations Condemned by God

- Ammon & Moab - Jordan (Ez 25; Is 15; Jer 48, 49)
- Damascus - Syria (Is 17; Jer 49)
- Edom - Jordan & Saudia Arabia (Ez 25; Jer 49)
- Philistia - Palestinians (Ez 25:1-17; Jer 47)
- Tyre & Sidon - Lebanon (Ez 26-28; Is 23)
- Egypt (Ez 29-32; Is 19; Jer 46)
- Babylon & Assyria - Iraq (Is 13-14; 21; Jer 50)
- Cush - Ethiopia, Sudan (Is 18)
- Elam - Iran (Is 21; Jer 49)



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

More on the Beast Kingdom of Antichrist

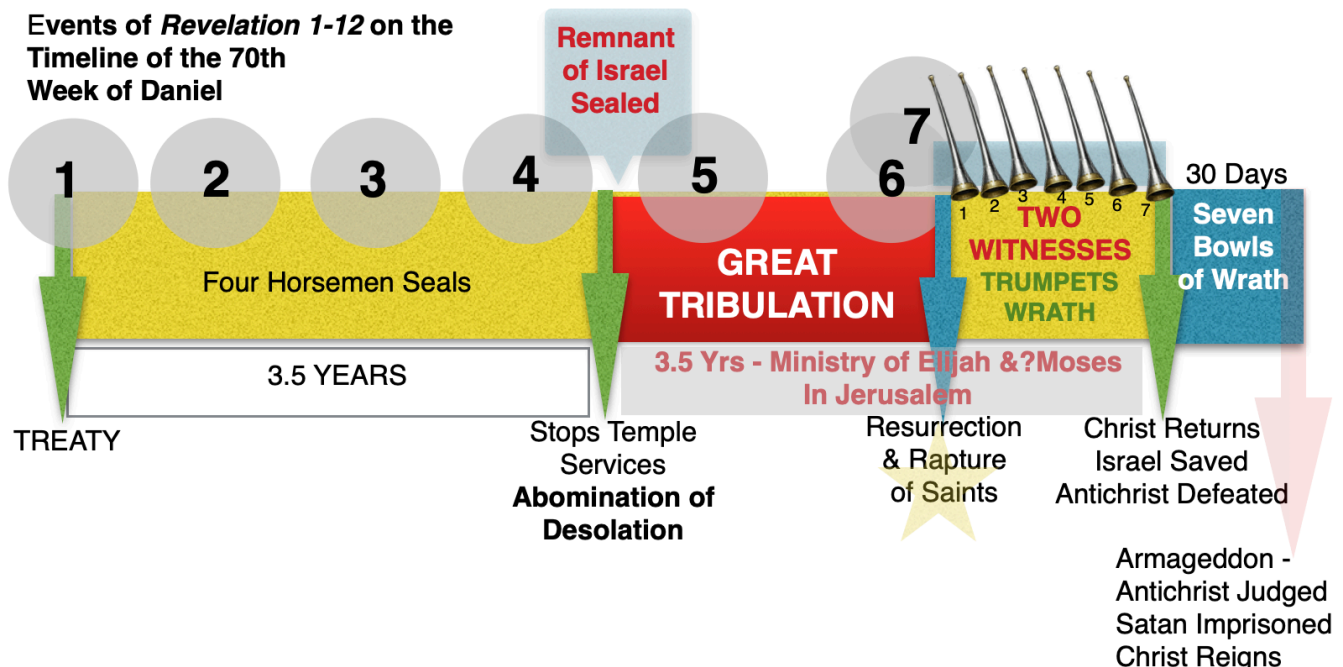
Here is the mind which has wisdom. The **seven heads** are **seven mountains** on which the **woman** sits, and they are **seven kings**; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. The ten **horns** which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. **Revelation 17:9-13**

The Symbolism

- Heads = Mountains = Kings of Beast Kingdoms
- Horns = Kings who rule with the Beast, under his authority, rulers in the Beast Kingdom under the authority of the Beast King, Antichrist
- Woman = the Harlot of Babylon = Jerusalem - gets her authority from the seven-headed beast (which also looks like Satan)

Of these Seven Kings - they do **NOT** all exist at the same time. In the Apostle John's day, the angel said . . .

- Five of the Beast Kingdoms had fallen (? Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Mede-Persia, Greece)
- One Beast Kingdom "is" - Rome (the Beast Kingdom in John's day)
- One Beast Kingdom is in John's future. It is Antichrist's end-time empire. This empire will only last "a little while", which fits the 42 months or 3.5 years period described in Scripture.
- The last Beast Kingdom exists, will cease to exist, and will re-emerge to like an 8th Kingdom. Speculation about this has focused mainly on Germany, the EU, and the Ottoman Empire. Given the information gleaned from the symbolism in **Daniel 2**, the final Beast Kingdom must emerge from the Roman Empire, just as the statues feet and toes emerge from the iron legs, which represent Rome. Other scripture seems to point to the re-emergence of a Muslim Caliphate that looks something like the Ottoman Empire - **but no one knows** .



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." **Revelation 19:9**

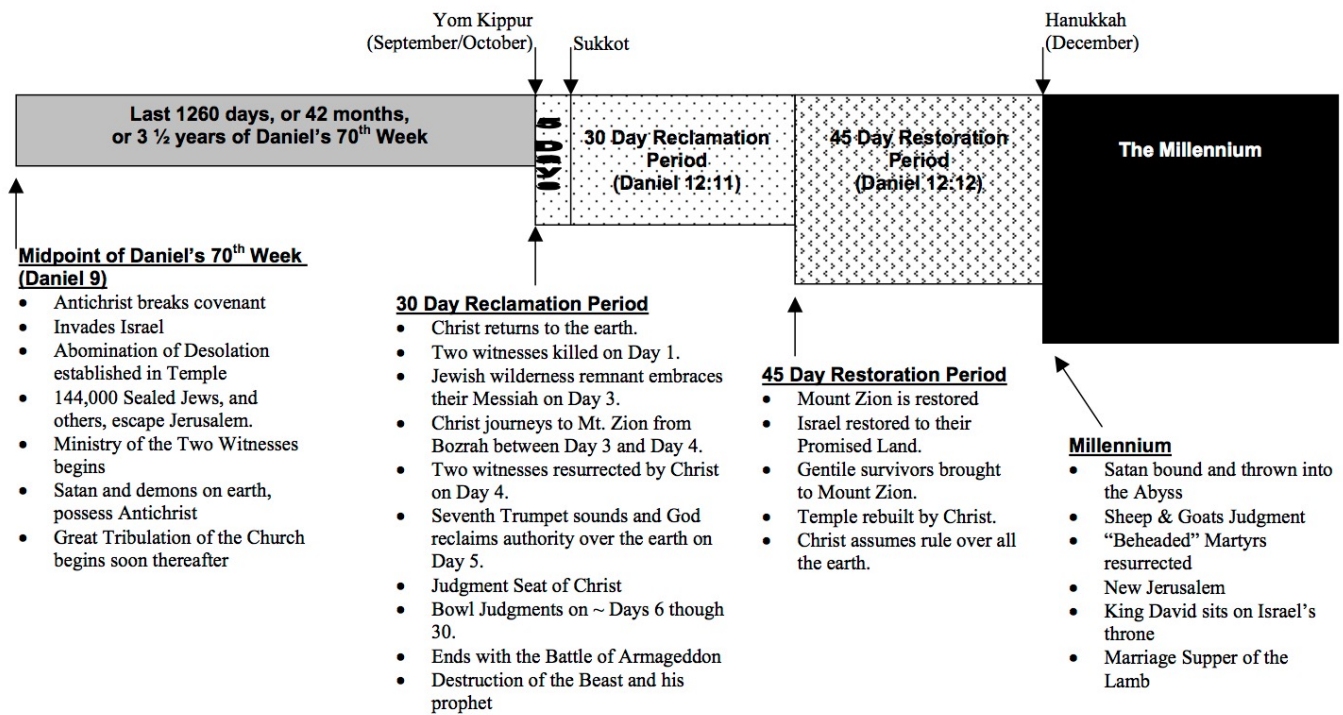
- A banquet that celebrates Christ being re-united with His disciples when His Kingdom is established on earth. (Matthew 26:29)



- Includes glorified saints of all nations and takes place after the restoration and redemption of the remnant of Israel by Christ. (Isaiah 25:6-10; 27:1-3)
- Will be a lavish feast with choice food and drink and great joy. (Isaiah 25:6)
- Is celebrated when Satan is defeated and imprisoned (Isaiah 26:21)
- Represents a wedding feast, when the Bridegroom and Bride are finally united. (Matthew 22)
- Is celebrated on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem of Judah, at the onset of the Millennium. (Isaiah 26:1)
- There will be no more sorrow or death on Mount Zion (Isaiah 25:8)

The Final Days of Revelation

Adapted from *The Sign*, by Robert Van Kampen, Crossway Books, 1999.
Rich Jacobs, M.D.



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

WEEK FIVE: Judgment of Antichrist, Nations, Millennium, God, GWJT

Revelation 20 - 22 This week, we will cover the following material

- Judgment and Punishment of Antichrist, the False Prophet, and Satan
- Judgment of the Nations
- The Millennial Reign of Christ and His Saints
- The Restored Temple and the Priestly Role of Israel
- Satan's Parole and Gog
- The Great White Judgment Throne
- The New Creation and the New Jerusalem



Judgment of Antichrist, False Prophet, and Satan

*And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. **Revelation 19:20***

*And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. **Revelation 20:2, 4***

Judgment of the Nations

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. . . Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4, 6

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats . . . and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left . . . Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels . . . Matthew 25:31-34, 41

Understanding the Judgment of the Nations

- Called the "Sheep and Goats Judgment"
- Judges the surviving nations of the Trumpets and Bowls Plagues
- The resurrected & raptured saints help Christ complete this judgment of the nations (1 **Corinthians 6:2**)
- Sheep Nations did not collaborate with Antichrist and the Beast Kingdom to destroy Israel and the Church during the Great Tribulation. Indeed, they helped and were kind to the persecuted martyrs.
- Goat Nations actively helped Antichrist persecute the saints during the Great Tribulation, or they passively allowed his wicked campaign to take place
- The Sheep Nations are allowed to continue as members of Christ's Millennial Kingdom. The citizens of the Sheep Nations are mortal and have not yet been resurrected or raptured, it seems
- The Goat Nations are consigned to eternal perdition, sharing the fate of Antichrist and the



The Millennial Reign of Christ and His Saints

Christ as King -

a. There will be a literal earthly reign of Christ from Jerusalem in Israel.

*Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion **and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.** Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.'* **Zechariah 8:3**

*And **the LORD will be king over all the earth;** in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.* **Zechariah 14:9**

b. Law and Righteousness restored and enforced by Christ's earthly rule

And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron . . . Revelation 12:5 (Also, see Psalm 2:9; Romans 15:12; Revelation 2:27; 19:15)

c. The earthly reign of Christ will also be one of unprecedented peace and prosperity in the world.

And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. Micah 4:3

d. The Lord Himself will establish international laws. For example, divine feasts and holidays enacted for the nations.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

*Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. **Zechariah 14:16-19***

Saints are Earthly Rulers with Christ-

a. Will be earthly rulers and judge with Christ during the Millennium

*But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come. **Daniel 7:18***

*. . . they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **Revelation 20:4***

*He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **Revelation 3:21***

b. Active in judgment and justice (and in grace)

*Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? **1 Corinthians 6:2, 3***

c. Regarded to be nobility by the nations

*As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight. **Psalms 16:3***

• “**majestic ones**” comes from the Hebrew word “**addir**” (אֲדִיר), which BDB says means “kings of nations, noble ones, chieftains”.

d. Will have a priestly role while ruling and judging, helping the nations find God in Christ

*. . . you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:9***

*You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” **Revelation 5:9, 10***

The Priestly Role of Israel and the Temple

a. All of the remnant of Israel will be saved and will be united with the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It seems likely that Israel’s repentance and acceptance of Christ opens the door to the Millennium. Israel will be counted among the saints.

I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. **Zechariah 12:10**

. . . that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved . . . **Romans 11:25, 26**

Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, that we may live before Him. So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth. **Hosea 6:1-3**

b. The remnant of Israel will be restored to their land, their sins will be removed, and they will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. . . I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel." declares the Lord GOD. **Ezekiel 39:25, 26, 29**

c. The Lord Jesus Christ will live among the restored remnant of Israel in the rebuilt Temple, in Jerusalem.

He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever. **Ezekiel 43:7**

d. Resurrected King David reigns over the nation of Israel, as Christ reigns over all the nations of the earth.

Then I will set over them one shepherd, My servant David, and he will feed them; he will feed them himself and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David will be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken. **Ezekiel 34:23, 24**

My servant David will be king over them . . . **Ezekiel 37:24**

Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days. **Hosea 3:5**

e. Ministry before the Lord. Ezekiel 40-43, describes a Temple like none other in history. This is the Millennium Temple, the place where Israel serves as priests before the Lord. The priesthood that Ezekiel describes brings sacrifices, not as atonement for sin, but as a memorial to the wages of sin and the sacrifice of Christ. The Temple is rebuilt by Christ after the Bowls of Wrath and before the beginning of His Millennial Reign.

He said to me, "This is the chamber which faces toward the south, intended for the

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

priests who keep charge of the temple; but the chamber which faces toward the north is for the priests who keep charge of the altar. These are the sons of Zadok, who from the sons of Levi come near to the LORD to minister to Him.” Ezekiel 40:45, 46

f. Israel will teach the “sheep citizens” of the Millennium about the Lord. For this reason, Jews will be highly valued in the Millennial world.

Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Micah 4:2

Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, “Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go.” So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.’ “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”” Zechariah 8:20-23

Satan’s Parole, Wickedness Renewed, and Gog - the Final Antichrist

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. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7-10

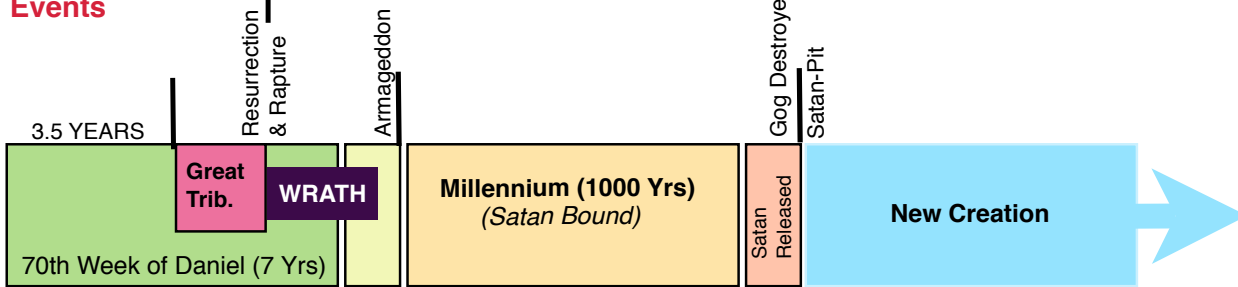
Sin’s Final Appearance

- Satan is released from the pit and deceives the nations through another Antichrist-type person named Gog (rhymes with “Vogue”). God assembles a huge army to attack Jerusalem, but the Lord destroys the army. Satan is condemned to the Lake of Fire forever.
- Gog comes from a land called Magog (which means “the land of Gog”. Gog is the “chief prince” of Meshech and Tubal. (*Ezekiel 37:27-38; 38:14-39:8*)
- Tubal, Meshech, and Magog are listed as sons of Japheth, all of whom live in the lands to the north of present day Israel. (*Genesis 10:2*)
- Satan is released to provide the final proof of God’s wisdom and grace, thus securing all that must be done to conduct the Great White Judgment Throne and the New Creation.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Post-70th Week Events



The Great White Judgment Throne

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. **Revelation 20:11-15***



Great White Judgment Throne

- Immediately follows the resurrection of the wicked - the "second resurrection"
- A judgment for sins not covered by the blood of Christ and God's grace through faith
- The Final Judgment that puts an end to evil and death forever
- Sets the stage for the New Creation, where God's peace and love endure

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

WEEK SIX: Reference & Review

WEEK ONE

Overview:

This handout outlines my understanding of *Revelation* and is intended to be used with your Bible as a study guide. I summarize what I regard to be the main points for each chapter. Key scripture verses are marked with a key graphic (). I recommend that you first read the overview of each chapter before you read the actual chapter in *Revelation*. This outline of *Revelation* is based on several concepts.

1. *Revelation* prophetically speaks to the future time (REV 1:1) of Christ's return, rather than a historical, or "preterist", viewpoint. After Christ gives advice to the Church, *Revelation* begins its narrative near, or at the beginning of, the "'70th Week of Daniel'" (**DAN 9:24-27**).
2. *Revelation* is mainly a chronological timeline of the events that will lead up to the time of Christ's return.
3. Saints experience persecution for their faith; it will be no different for the end-times Christians. Believers will not be raptured before the "'Great Tribulation'", although the rapture, immediately preceded by the resurrection, prevents Antichrist's total annihilation of the elect (**MAT 24:21, 22; 2 THES 2:1-4**).
4. The deliverance of the Church opens the door for God's judgment of the wicked (**ROM 5:9; 1THES 1:10; 5:9**). It also leaves a faithful, but as yet, non-christian, remnant of Israel in the world yet to be saved, which takes place at the close of the "70th Week of Daniel".
5. Antichrist will be defeated by the physical return of Christ to the earth with all His holy ones (*i.e.* angels and departed saints) immediately after the remnant of Israel repents and accepts Christ as her Messiah.
6. There will be a literal earthly Millennial reign of Christ when the saints will rule and reign with Him.
7. At the end of the Millennium, there will be a resurrection of the wicked dead, the Great White Judgment Throne, and defeat of the final enemy -- death.
8. Finally, the Eternal Kingdom of God is established in the New Creation, which has been God's purpose of all time and creation from the very beginning.

Revelation, Chapter 1: Introduction and Purpose - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ ("revelation"), the Establishment of His Earthly Kingdom, & the Judgment of the World

- ☞ **REV 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. , ,
- ☞ **REV 1:6, 7** and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

Revelation, Chapter 2: Christ's Instruction & Preparation of His Church

- To the church that left its first love (like Ephesus – **REV 2:1-6**)
- ☞ **REV 2:7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.
- To the poor but faithful church (like Smyrna – **REV 2:8-10**)
- ☞ **REV 2:11** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.
- To the persecuted church that tolerates some compromise (like Pergamum – **REV 2:12-16**)
- ☞ **REV 2:17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- To the church that tolerates immorality (like Thyatira – [REV 2:18-24](#))
🔑 [REV 2:25-29](#) Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter;
he will dash them to pieces like pottery’—
just as I have received authority from my Father.
I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation, Chapter 3: Christ’s Instruction & Preparation of the Church

- To the dead church (like Sardis – [REV 3:1-4](#))
🔑 [REV 3:5](#) He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.
- To the patient, obedient church (like Philadelphia – [REV 3:6-11](#))
🔑 [REV 3:12](#) Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.
- To the lukewarm church (like Laodicea – [REV 3:13-20](#))
🔑 [REV 3:21](#) To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

WEEK TWO

Revelation, Chapter 4: John’s Invitation into God’s Presence to Receive the Prophecy

- 🔑 [Rev 4:1](#) After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Revelation, Chapter 5: The Scroll of God’s Judgment & Wrath

- 🔑 [REV 5:1](#) Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Note: A sealed scroll was often a legal document, like a will or judicial verdict. The instructions on the scroll could not be executed an authorized person breaks the seal(s). The scroll seen by John contains God’s “Trumpet Judgments” against Antichrist and the wicked and only Christ has the authority to break the seals. Each broken seal sets into motion events that brings the world closer to these judgments.

Revelation, Chapter 6: Breaking the First Six Seals

- First Seal ([REV 6:1, 2](#)) – A Conqueror arises who appears to be good. He is Antichrist and the “70th Week of Daniel” ([DAN 9:24-27](#)) is near or starting.
- Second Seal ([REV 6:3, 4](#)) – War begins.
- Third Seal ([REV 6:5, 6](#)) – Food shortages, although oil supplies continue.
- Fourth Seal ([REV 6:7, 8](#)) – Antichrist obtains authority over a quarter of the earth, inflicting famine, disease, and social disorder.
- Fifth Seal ([REV 6:9-11](#)) – Antichrist begins the “Great Tribulation”. The “Abomination of Desolation” has taken place and we are now past the midpoint of the “70th Week of Daniel”.
- Sixth Seal ([REV 7:12-17](#)) – The resurrection and rapture of the saints by Christ and His angels delivers the Church from “Great Tribulation”, setting the stage for God’s Judgment. The Scroll has but one more seal to break before it can be opened and read.

Revelation, Chapter 7: Preparation for God’s Judgment & Wrath

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- God seals the remnant of Israel, represented by the heads of households from each of the twelve tribes, to protect them from the coming wrath and judgment. (**REV 7:1-8**)
- The resurrected and raptured Church is revealed, now in Heaven. (**REV 7:9-17**)
- 🔑 **REV 7:13, 14** Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the “Great Tribulation”; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

WEEK THREE

Revelation, Chapter 8: First Four “Trumpet Judgments”

- The prayers of the saint seek God’s justice for a wicked world (ruled by Antichrist) --**REV 8:1-6**.
- First Trumpet Judgment – hail, mixed with fire, burning up 1/3rd of the earth – **REV 8:7**.
- Second Trumpet Judgment – blazing “mountain” smites 1/3rd of the sea – **REV 8:8, 9**.
- Third Trumpet Judgment – “Wormwood” (possibly an angel) poisons 1/3rd of the freshwater – **REV 8:9-11**.
- Fourth Trumpet Judgment – darkness on 1/3rd of the earth – **REV 8:12**

Revelation, Chapter 9: Fifth & Sixth “Trumpet Judgments”

- Fifth Trumpet Judgment: Locust–scorpion demons that torment men for five (5) months (**REV 9:1-12**).
- 🔑 **Rev 9:5, 6** They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Note: Each month in the Hebrew calendar is commenced with blowing a trumpet, causing some scholars to speculate each trumpet plague in *Revelation* lasts one month. The fifth trumpet plague, however, seems to be the exception, as *Revelation* says it lasts for five months. If this is so, all seven “Trumpet Plagues” take about one year to be completed. Since the “Trumpet Plagues” occur in the last 3^{1/2} years of the 70th Week, and since the “Great Tribulation” immediately precedes these judgments, one may infer the “Great Tribulation” could last about 2^{1/2} years.

- Sixth Trumpet Judgment: Demonic army bringing more torment to wicked men (**REV 9:13-21**)

Note: After the Sixth Trumpet, the Lord prepares for events that will immediately follow the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet. These events will take place immediately after the “70th Week of Daniel”.

Revelation, Chapter 10: The Small Scroll of Judgments

- The Mighty Angel announces the coming Kingdom and presents the Small Scroll, which pertains the “Bowl Judgments” and events that are about to come, immediately after the “70th Week of Daniel”.
- 🔑 **REV 10:7** But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

Revelation, Chapter 11: Details of the Events of the Last 3^{1/2} Years of the 70th Week.

- The rebuilt Jewish Temple, in Jerusalem, is revealed. (**REV 11:1**)
- Gentile domination of Jerusalem and the Temple for the last 42 months (3^{1/2} years) of the 70th Week is revealed. (**REV 11:2**)

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- Two prophetic witnesses against Antichrist minister in Jerusalem, Antichrist's capital city for 1260 days (3^{1/2} years). One witness is known to be Elijah (**MAL 4:5**), while the second witness is thought to be Moses (see **MAT 17**). Although they openly oppose Antichrist, he is unable to kill them because they are divinely protected. These two witnesses invoke the "Trumpet Plagues" on Antichrist and a wicked world. (**REV 11:3-6**)
- At the end of the 70th Week, Antichrist kills the two witnesses, causing the world to celebrate because they believe the plagues now will end. The bodies of the two witnesses lie in the streets, unburied, for 3^{1/2} days. (**REV 11:7-10**)
- After the 3^{1/2} days, the two witnesses are resurrected, associated with a great earthquake in Israel. (**REV 11:11-14**)

Note: From other scripture, I believe the remnant of Israel has been hiding from Antichrist in Azel – an unknown location (**ZECHARIAH 14:5**) – during the last 3^{1/2} years of the "70th Week of Daniel" (**REVELATION 12:6**). From their hiding place, it makes sense that they would cheer on the two witnesses who openly oppose Antichrist, hoping that Moses and Elijah will yet deliver them from him. It also seems reasonable to conjecture that when the two witnesses are killed (**REVELATION 11:7, 8**), Israel would desperately seek God and search the scriptures for hope and help. I believe that after three (3) days of fasting and searching, Israel realizes they crucified their Messiah and repents (**ZECHARIAH 12:10**). Christ appears to them and all the remnant of Israel is saved (**HOSEA 6:1-3; ROMANS 11:25-27**). Perhaps the salvation of Israel takes place during the 3^{1/2} days when the two witnesses remain unburied in Jerusalem. If this is so, the redemption of Israel also leads to the resurrection of the two witnesses, just as it also closes the Age of the Gentiles (**LUKE 21:24**).

- The Seventh Trumpet sounds, ending the "70th Week" and announcing the Kingdom of Christ on Earth (**REV 11:15-18**)
- 🔑 **REV 11:15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."
- God's heavenly Temple reveals the Ark of the Covenant, announcing the redemption of Israel and heralded by a comic display of awe. (**REV 11:19**)

Revelation, Chapters 12 through 14: Parenthetical Chapters that Explain the Cosmic Conflict

Revelation 12 introduces the first of three highly symbolic chapters intended to sum up the end-times cosmic conflict between God and Satan. This chapter begins by telling us that we are dealing with a sign (Greek: "sameion", σημεῖον), or symbol.

- The symbolism in Chapter 12 may be understood in this way.
 - The woman symbolizes Israel. Compare Joseph's dream with the sun, moon, and stars in **GEN 37:9** to the description of this woman in **REV 12:1**.
 - The woman's child (**REV 12:2-5**), a son who will rule the nations with an iron scepter, is Jesus Christ. (Compare these verses to **REV 19:15**.)
 - The red dragon is Satan (**REV 12:3**), which is plainly stated in **REV 12:9**.
- 🔑 **REV 12:9** The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.
 - From the key verse, shown above, we see that the third of the stars swept from sky to earth by the dragon's tail, represent his demons, or "fallen angels", and are different from the stars associated with the woman.
 - The woman flees into the desert for 1260 days represents Israel fleeing from Satan during the last 3^{1/2} years of the "70th Week of Daniel" (**REV 12:6**). The dragon (Satan – also symbolized by "Leviathan" in the Bible) tried to destroy the remnant of Israel, but they are divinely protected during this time.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- 🔑 **REV 12:13, 14** When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.
- When Satan can't destroy the remnant of Israel, he begins his persecution of the Church, who are the ones who "hold to the testimony of Jesus", resulting in the "Great Tribulation" and the martyrdom of many saints (**REV 12:17**).

Revelation 13 is also highly symbolic, revealing more about Antichrist and his empire.

- The sea (**REV 13:1**) represents the world of international politics. (See **REV 17:15; DAN 7:2**)
- The beast that has 10 horns and 7 heads with 10 crowns represents the final antichrist kingdom (**REV 13:1-3**). Sometimes, it represents Antichrist, himself. Consider the following evidence.
 - The beast resembles the dragon, but is not the dragon (compare **REV 13:1** to **REV 12:3**).
 - The beast resembles an amalgam of the gentile "beast" empires revealed in **DAN 7**. Assuming the symbolism is consistent, the Antichrist's empire, or confederation, will include elements of the Persian, Greek, and Babylonian Empires. All of these empires have sought Israel's destruction at some time and in some way. (See comments under **Rev 17**.)
 - The persuasive power of the beast kingdom will cause it to influence and dominate the entire world (**REV 13:7**).
 - The second beast is often called a false religion or false prophet. It is like a lamb, pretending to be gentle, but with horns, having the ability to inflict harm. The dragon, Satan, speaks through this beast, compelling all men to worship Antichrist and Satan. (**REV 13:11-15**)
 - Persecution from Antichrist is enforced by restricting buying and selling to those who worship him. The number of his name is six hundred sixty-six (Greek: "hexakosioi hexakonta hex", ἑξακόσιοι ἑξήκοντα ἕξ). The subject of much speculation, 666 remains a mystery. (**REV 13:16-18**)

Revelation 14, symbolically sums up the outcome of the conflict between Christ and Satan.

- The remnant of Israel is now seen to be reconciled with their Messiah and in His physical presence. (**REV 14:1-5**)
- With the founding of the earthly Messianic kingdom comes a proclamation of grace to the survivors of "Trumpet Judgments". Along with an offer of amnesty comes a warning to people who refuse God's grace and support Antichrist. (**REV 14:6-12**)
- Having warned the world, God now begins a harvest of judgment during the days immediately following the 70TH Week. This harvest is often called the "grapes of wrath", as the judgment results in terrible bloodshed in the final, cataclysmic battle. (**REV 14:13-20**)

WEEK FOUR

Revelation, Chapter 15 - Preparation for the Final Wrath of God

This chapter shows all the saints – both Jew and gentile – gathered with the angelic host before God, who is enraged at wickedness. The command to bring the final plagues of wrath – the "Bowl Judgments" – is about to be given.

- 🔑 **REV 15:7, 8** Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation, Chapter 16 - The Seven "Bowl Judgments"

God inflicts Antichrist and his kingdom with the Seven "Bowl Judgments", or Plagues, during the month, or so, following the "70th Week of Daniel". These plagues cause great desolation on the earth, completing the "Abomination of Desolation".

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

🔑 **Rev 16:1** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

- First Bowl – ugly, painful sores (**REV 16:2**)
- Second Bowl – sea turns to blood and all sea creatures die (**REV 16:3**)
- Third Bowl – all fresh water turns to blood. The “blood judgments” inflict on Antichrist the blood he sought through the martyrdom of the saints. (**REV 16:4-7**)
- Fourth Bowl – scorching heat from the sun. (**REV 16:8, 9**)
- Fifth Bowl – painful darkness (**REV 16:10, 11**)
- Sixth Bowl – deceptive demons that gather the nations of Antichrist’s empire for final battle at Armageddon. (**REV 16:12-16**)
- Seventh Bowl – Final destruction of Antichrist’s capital, “the great city”, and kingdom, 100 pound hail stones, and the final desolation of a wicked world. (**REV 16:17-21**)

Note: *Revelation* uses symbolic language to identify Antichrist’s capital city. This city is called the “Babylon the Great” (**REV 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21**). Many people have speculated about the identity of this city, with some popular eschatologists claiming ancient Babylon, in Iraq, will be rebuilt and others claiming the city is Rome. Scripture also calls Babylon the Great the “Harlot of Babylon” and the “great city”. With these additional clues, there should be no doubt that Babylon the Great is Jerusalem, which is why John was so astonished (**REV 17:6**) when he saw her identity. **REV 11:8** says “the great city” is “where also their Lord was crucified” – clearly a reference to Jerusalem, where Jesus went to the cross. Notice that **REV 11:8** also symbolically calls Jerusalem “Sodom and Egypt”, showing its wickedness and that it will become the subject of both judgment and plagues. Also, Jerusalem, “the faithful city”, is said to have become a “harlot” in **ISA 1:21** and **NAH 3:4**. Finally, that Jerusalem has become the capital of murdering the prophets and the saints was affirmed by Christ Himself, as recorded in **MAT 23:37** and **LUKE 13:34**.

Revelation, Chapter 17 - More Details About Antichrist’s Empire

This is another symbolic chapter, it within it, we find the keys to some understanding of the symbolism used in *Revelation*.

- The meaning of some of the prophetic symbols are as follows.
 - The “many waters” (Greek: “epi hidraton pollon”, ἐπὶ ὑδάτων πολλῶν) is reminiscent of the sea out of which the Beast emerges, thus representing international politics. (**REV 17:1**)
 - The woman is the Harlot of Babylon, as was already mentioned, representing Antichrist’s empire and capital city, Jerusalem. She is portrayed as a prostitute with whom the nations have relations. (**REV 17:1-6**)
 - The woman’s scarlet color represents sin and the spilled blood of the saints. (**REV 17:4-6**)
 - The Beast is the Antichrist empire, as explained earlier. It is not simply Rome (though Rome may be part of the Beast), because **Rev 17:8** says the Beast didn’t exist when John received the *Revelation*, in about 95 A.D. This Beast existed earlier, though, and it will arise again in the final days, according to this chapter. Since the Beast is a mongrel of the animals that representing the empires (see **DAN 7**), many believe Antichrist’s empire will incorporate portions of these former empires.
 - The seven heads on the Beast represent seven kingdoms (symbolized by mountains – see **DAN 2:45**), headed by seven kings, which are part of the historical effort to destroy God’s people. Five of these kingdoms had already existed by the time of John’s life. Some speculate these kingdoms have been used by Satan to try to destroy Israel. If this is so, perhaps these kingdoms would include Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persian, and Greece. At the time of John’s *Revelation*, one kingdom (“head”, or “mountain”) “is”, meaning it existed in 95 A.D. -- undoubtedly, Rome. (**REV 17:9-11**) The final kingdom is yet to come, and will be the short-lived empire of Antichrist.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

- The ten horns are ten rulers who will make up leaders in Antichrist's kingdom (REV 17:12). These rulers correspond to the ten toes of Daniel's vision (DAN 2:33:41-44).
- The ten rulers give their power to Antichrist and they collectively begin the "Great Tribulation" of the Church and of the remnant of Israel. All this is demonically empowered. (REV 17:13-18)

Rev 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Revelation, Chapter 18 - *More On the Condemnation of the Harlot of Babylon*

- Antichrist's kingdom will emphasize fleshly pursuits, commercial trade, and money. The nations of the world will be seduced by her wealth and commerce. (REV 18:1-19)
- This Great Harlot is judged and destroyed by God because of its martyrdom of the saints.
- 🔑 Rev 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.

Revelation, Chapter 19 - *Celebration of the Saints & Wedding Supper of the Lamb*

- The celebration of the saints as a result of their deliverance and the triumph of God's righteousness over evil (REV 19:1-6)
- Preparation of the Bride of Christ for the wedding. (REV 19:7-10)
- Revelation of Christ as the Captain of the Host, now coming to claim the earth as His kingdom, as it is in Heaven (REV 19:11-16)
- Destruction of Antichrist and his army by Jesus and His army. (REV 19:17-21)
- 🔑 Rev 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

WEEK FIVE

Revelation, Chapter 20 - *Imprisonment & Release of Satan, Gog, the Great White Judgment Throne*

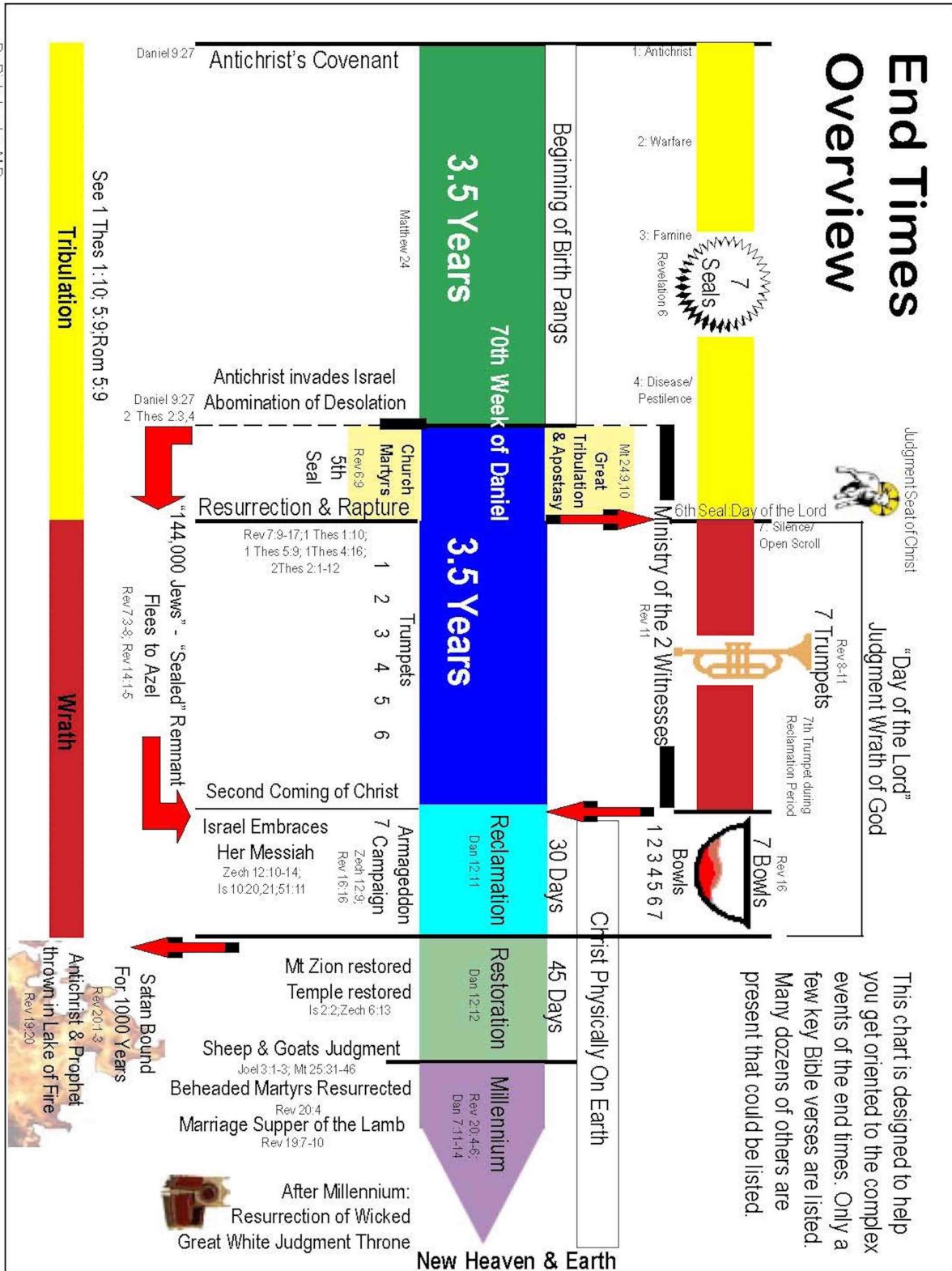
- Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss for 1000 years. (REV 20:1-3)
- The saint rule and reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years. The Judgment of the Nations (MAT 25:31-46) occurs at the beginning of this Millennium. (REV 20:4-6)
- At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be released and returns to his wickedness.
 - Satan deceives the nations, which revolt against the Kingdom of Christ, led by a man named "Gog". (Rev 20:7, 8)
 - Gog's army lays siege to Jerusalem, but it is divinely destroyed (Rev 20:9)
 - Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire forever (REV 20:10)
- The Great White Judgment Throne condemns the wicked who are thrown in the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Resurrection. (REV 20:11-15)
- 🔑 Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Revelation, Chapter 21 & 22 - *The New Creation and the Glorified Bride of Christ*

- The New Jerusalem is revealed to be beautiful and glorious. It is also called the Bride of Christ, so the language is very symbolic and mysterious.
- God is the light of the New Creation; there is no sun or moon.
- There will be no more sin, death, or darkness.
- 🔑 Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.
- 🔑 Rev 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.



UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

“HOMEWORK” - Exercises In Interpreting

This lesson we will use a self-directed study to learn how to interpret the Bible symbolism in **Revelation**, or in any other book of the Bible. We will use the symbolic figure of the Harlot of Babylon, or Babylon the Great to see how this is done.

A few general principles are worth noting now.

1. First determine if the scriptural language in the text is meant to be symbolic, spiritual, or literal. Spiritual language allows us to peer into the supernatural world, such as when Isaiah first encounters one of the seraphim in **Isaiah 6**. It can sometimes be confused with symbolic language. The context of the verse helps sort this out.
2. When symbolic language is found, a word search using a good concordance will often lead to Bible verse that plainly states what the symbol means.
3. Symbols communicate a wealth of information in the same way that a picture is worth a thousand words. Spend some time sorting out what the symbol itself is trying to communicate. How does it make you feel?
4. When interpreting prophetic scripture, a firm grasp of all of God’s Word is critical. A solid knowledge of Bible history is very helpful, too.
5. Never interpret scripture by current events; rather, interpret current events by the wisdom found in God’s Word!

Directions: Try to spend the allocated time with each of the three (3) sections. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding before you start. Carefully read the Scripture verses, then try to answer the Questions below each section. What conclusions did you reach from reading the section? Now, compare your conclusions with the Comments, listed below the Questions. Do you agree or disagree, and why or why not?

Symbol: Babylon the Great

Section One: (20 minutes) Read the scripture verses and discuss the questions. Then read the comments paragraph after discussing the questions.

And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.” . . . And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. . . The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.
Revelation 14:8; 17:3-6

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

Questions:

1. What is your overall impression of this woman called Babylon the Great? Is she a good woman or an evil one? Explain.
2. What does how this woman is dressed tell you about her?
3. What does her name, "Babylon the Great" tell you about her?
4. What does the gold cup in her hand tell you about her activities?
5. What made this woman drunk? Does that tell you anything about what is in her gold cup?
6. What did this woman make the nations do? What does this tell you about the relationship between the nations and Christians? Explain.
7. This woman is not only a harlot, but she is the mother of harlots. Does this tell you anything about her purity and morals? Explain

Comments:

Babylon the Great is portrayed as an evil woman. Revelation says she is a "harlot", meaning, in Biblical times, that she is not faithful to any one husband. She rides on a scarlet Beast, which symbolizes the final gentile empire to control Jerusalem and to seek the destruction of Israel. She is wearing purple to symbolize her royal standing - she is a ruler, having an important role in the Beast Kingdom of Antichrist. She is also wearing scarlet, the color of sin and the color of blood. Notice that she is holding a gold cup full of abominations and unclean things, meaning that she is unclean, inside and out. She is also drunk with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. Perhaps the gold cup she holds is full of the blood of Christians she has murdered. Recall that many Christians will be martyred during the Great Tribulation, which takes place when the 5th Seal on the Scroll is broken. Notice that the nations of the earth have drunk from her cup as well. This implies that they participated in her wickedness and persecuted and killed Christians also. These nations will be judged by Christ to be Goat Nations. The woman is wearing gold, and precious stones, and pearls; she is very wealthy. Perhaps as a harlot, her wealth has been obtained from her affairs with her "clients" - the nations of the world? The fact that Babylon the Great is associated with a beast that is full of blasphemous names shows that she hates God and speaks ill of Him. Also, not only is she a harlot, but she is the mother of harlots, implying the worst kind of unfaithfulness. Babylon will be a global center of idolatry, which is the ultimate form of unfaithfulness to God. And she promotes global idolatry herself!

Section Two: (20 minutes) Read the scripture verses and discuss the questions. Then read the comments paragraph after discussing the questions.

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Revelation 16:19

The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:18

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

*And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in done hour your judgment has come. **Revelation 18:9-10***

*'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?' And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in bone hour she has been laid waste!' **Revelation 18:16-19***

*Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. **Revelation 18:21***

Discussion Questions:

1. From the verses you just read, what does Babylon the Great symbolize? Select one of the following; (a) an evil queen, (b) a magic potion or poison, (c) the great city, (d) a famous baseball player.
2. What was the fate of Babylon the Great? Why do you think this happened to "her"?
3. How did the Kings of the Earth react to the fate of Babylon the Great? Why do you think they reacted that way?
4. From these verses, and from the passages in Section One, what do you think God thinks about Babylon the Great?

Comments:

Most Bible scholars now conclude that Babylon the Great symbolizes a city, which Revelation calls "the great city", to illustrate its importance in the final Beast empire. Since "the great city" rides on the Scarlet Beast and it has the power to force the Kings of the earth to participate in its wickedness, it is reasonable to theorize that it may be the capital city of Antichrist's empire. "The great city" is destroyed by God as part of His wrath judgments, which are revealed in the Trumpets and Bowls in **Revelation**. Although the kings of the earth were forced to participate in her wickedness, they grieve when the wealth and privileges they received from "the great city" is lost when the city is destroyed.

There has been much speculation about which city is "the great city", Babylon the Great. One theory asserts that "the great city" really is Babylon, rebuilt in the end times to become the capital of Antichrist's kingdom. This approach to interpreting the Bible assumes that a symbol can also be taken literally. Another theory assumes that because Rome was the capital city of a Beast Empire that destroyed Jerusalem,

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

dominated the world, and martyred Christians, it will arise again to become Babylon the Great. Knowing that it is better to allow the Bible to interpret itself, is there a scripture verse that will tell us what is “the great city”?

Section Three: (10 minutes) Read the scripture verses and discuss the questions. Then read the comments paragraph after discussing the questions.

*When they (the two prophets) have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. **Revelation 11:7, 8***

Discussion Questions:

1. Notice that “the great city” is also mystically called “Sodom and Egypt”? Why do you think “the great city” is mystically called these names? What do Sodom and Egypt have in common with one another from God’s point of view?
2. When Antichrist finally kills the two godly witnesses who were responsible for the Trumpets Plagues in his kingdom, these verses say their dead bodies were allowed to lie in the streets of “the great city”. Notice “the great city” also is where “their Lord was crucified”! What was the city where Christ was crucified? From this information, what is “the great city”? What does Babylon the Great symbolize, then?
3. What do Sodom, Egypt, and Babylon all have in common?

Comments:

Using scripture to interpret scripture, a strong case can be made for Babylon the Great to be Jerusalem! If Jerusalem is the place where the end times Jewish Temple is rebuilt — all Jewish temples have been on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem — then Antichrist will be in Jerusalem when he occupies the Temple and claims to be God (see **2 Thessalonians 2**). Jerusalem, which should be God’s city, becomes a harlot because it becomes the world capital of wicked idolatry. When godly Jews and faithful Christians refuse to worship Antichrist, they come under great persecution and martyrdom. Apparently, many nations of the world are complicit in this persecution of the saints. In exchange for their loyalty, nations that collaborate with Antichrist will benefit from the wealth and power of his Satanic kingdom.

If Jerusalem is the Harlot of Babylon, the testimony of other parts of the Bible should be consistent with this. Consider the following.

1. When John saw that Babylon the Great was Jerusalem, he “wondered greatly” — in other words, he was astonished. (**Revelation 17:6**). It is unlikely that John would have wondered greatly if he learned that Rome or Babylon was the harlot, since these were pagan cities of idolatry. Jerusalem, on the other hand, was considered to be a holy city to the Jews, the place of God’s Temple. To discover that Jerusalem was the harlot would have surprised most Jews, including the Apostle John.

UNDERSTANDING REVELATION (in 6 weeks!)

By Rich Jacobs, M.D.

2. Recall that Babylon the Great was drunk with blood of the “blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus” (**Revelation 17:6**). This is the very thing Jesus had to say about Jerusalem! (**Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:24**)
3. Isaiah prophesied that Jerusalem would become a harlot who is also a murderer,

*See how the faithful **city** (Jerusalem, see **Isaiah 1:1**, for this context) has become a **harlot!** She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her but now, **murderers**. (**Isaiah 1:21**)*

4. Isaiah also states that Jerusalem will be the place where the “strong man lives”, who will bring about both his destruction and the desolation of Jerusalem. (**Isaiah 1:31**)
5. Ezekiel prophesied that Jerusalem would become a harlot that would cause it to be destroyed by great plagues sent against it. (**Ezekiel 14:21**).
6. Jeremiah also calls Jerusalem a “great city” that was a fornicating princess (i.e. - a royal harlot), destined for destruction. (**Jeremiah 22:8; Lamentations 1:1, 2**).

From this analysis, it appears to be reasonable to conclude that Babylon the Great symbolizes the great city, Jerusalem.