

A VERY BROAD OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION WITH AN INTERPRETATION OF ITS SYMBOLS

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The Book of Revelation is the 66TH book in our Bibles. It contains 22 chapters, 404 verses, and 11,952 words. It is the glorious culmination of God's written Revelation of himself to mankind. It was revealed to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos. Its Holy Ghost given title for the book of Revelation is **"THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST"**. We often hear it referred to as the Apocalypse (Apokalupsis) of the New Testament because part of its title is taken from a transliterated Greek word that means "Revelation". Revelation is the most misunderstood book in the Bible because it is the least studied by Christians. Another reason the book of Revelation is misunderstood is because most Christians have been told by false teachers and lazy preachers that you cannot understand the book of Revelation because of all the confusing symbols. The problem with that false belief is that most of the symbols are interpreted directly in the context of where they are used in the book of Revelation. Many folks deny themselves a blessing by refusing to read the book of Revelation. It promises this:

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

The blessing is promised to those who read it and those hear it. Since God promised a blessing to those who read and hear it, it follows that we should read it. It also follows that we can understand it if we study it and the rest of the Bible enough. The Holy Ghost said this:

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*

You cannot walk into the book of Revelation blindfolded without a thorough knowledge of the rest of the Bible if you expect to receive the full power of its revelation. In Revelation, there are at least 285 references, allusions, or quotations of Old Testament verses. It has as its Old Testament partner the book of Daniel which is often referred to as the Apocalypse of the Old Testament. We will be referring to Daniel frequently in this study.

Because of its many symbols, many heretics have taken that as license and liberty to spiritualize its contents into meaning something that fits their corrupt theology. The arch Roman Catholic heretic, Origenes Adamantius, more commonly known as Origen, made the following statement: "The Scriptures are of little use to those who understand them as they are written". Believe me, multitudes of commentators on the book of Revelation have exploited that heretical mantra to sew maximum confusion in the interpretation of the book of Revelation. Because of the heretical theological bent of many commentators, they use the symbols in Revelation as justification to twist the meaning into something that does not fit doctrinally with the rest of the Bible. The symbols must be interpreted literally unless the context dictates otherwise. Any verse taken out of context is a pretext for false doctrine. Many of Revelation's symbols cannot be completely interpreted without the light of other books outside the book of Revelation. These books as a minimum would include Genesis, Psalms,

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Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and all twelve of the so called (a misnomer to say the least) Minor Prophets (you know, those twelve books that no one can find in their Bibles). Many of those books add clarity to the interpretation of the symbols in Revelation. As you know, the book of Daniel contains much symbolic language also. Before we proceed any further we need to look at the many symbols that appear in the book of Revelation. We have identified 25 different symbols we will look at. The interpretation of some will be obvious. Others will take a review of one or more passages of scriptures outside of the book of Revelation. Let us look at those symbols now.

1. Seven Stars = angels (pastors) of the seven churches (Revelation 1:20)

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. *Revelation 1:20*

2. Seven Golden Candlesticks = seven churches (Revelation 1:20)

²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches. *Revelation 1:20*

3. White stone = a symbol of victory in John's time (Revelation 2:17)

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

4. Seven lamps of fire = the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5)

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

5. Four beasts = cherubim (Revelation 4:6; Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 1:5-14; Ezekiel 10:12, 20)

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

²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree

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of life. *Genesis 3:24*

⁵ Also out of the midst thereof *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. ⁶ And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. ⁷ And their feet *were* straight feet; and the sole of their feet *was* like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. ⁸ And *they had* the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. ⁹ Their wings *were* joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. ¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Thus *were* their faces: and their wings *were* stretched upward; two wings of every one *were* joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. ¹² And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; *and* they turned not when they went. ¹³ As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance *was* like burning coals of fire, *and* like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. ¹⁴ And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. *Ezekiel 1:5-14*

¹² And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, *were* full of eyes round about, *even* the wheels that they four had. *Ezekiel 10:12*

²⁰ This *is* the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they *were* the cherubims. *Ezekiel 10:20*

6. Lion of the tribe of Juda = the Lord Jesus Christ (*Revelation 5:5, Genesis 49:8-10*)

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

⁸ Judah, thou *art he* whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand *shall be* in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. ⁹ Judah *is* a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? ¹⁰ The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*. *Genesis 49:8-10*

7. Four winds = four spirits (*Revelation 7:1, Jeremiah 49:36, Ezekiel 37:9, Daniel 7:2,*

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Daniel 8:8, Daniel 11:4, Zechariah 2:6, Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27). These are spirits that are used as instruments of God judgment.

⁵ And the angel answered and said unto me, These *are* the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth. *Zechariah 6:5*

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

³⁶ And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come. *Jeremiah 49:36*

⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. *Ezekiel 37:9*

² Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. *Daniel 7:2*

⁸ Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. *Daniel 8:8*

⁴ And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those. *Daniel 11:4*

⁶ Ho, ho, *come forth*, and flee from the land of the north, saith the LORD: for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD. *Zechariah 2:6*

³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. *Matthew 24:31*

²⁷ And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. *Mark 13:27*

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8. **Locusts = the northern army of Joel 2:20 (Revelation 9:3, Joel 2:25)** These are hideous creatures that have wings, the faces of men, the long hair of women, and stingers. Their purpose is not to kill, but to torment for 150 days.

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

²⁰ But I will remove far off from you the northern *army*, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things. *Joel 2:20*

²⁵ And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. *Joel 2:25*

9. **Sorceries = Drugs (Revelation 9:21, Revelation 18:23)**

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

²³ And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. *Revelation 18:23*

The word “*sorcery*” in these two passages is based upon the Greek word “*pharmakeia*”. “*Pharmakeia*” is the same Greek word that gets transliterated into our English word “*pharmacy*”. What is being talked about here in *Revelation 9:21* and *Revelation 18:23* is drugs. Almost without exception, drugs are associated with ancient pagan religions.

10. **The two witnesses = the two olive trees = the two candlesticks (Revelation 11:3-4, Zechariah 4:3-14) = the two anointed ones of Zechariah 4**

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

³ And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side* thereof. ⁴ So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me,

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saying, What *are* these, my lord? ⁵ Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁷ Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone *thereof with* shoutings, *crying*, Grace, grace unto it. ⁸ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ⁹ The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. ¹⁰ For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel *with* those seven; they *are* the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. ¹¹ Then answered I, and said unto him, What *are* these two olive trees upon the right *side* of the candlestick and upon the left *side* thereof? ¹² And I answered again, and said unto him, What *be these* two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden *oil* out of themselves? ¹³ And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these *be*? And I said, No, my lord. ¹⁴ Then said he, These *are* the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. *Zechariah 4:3-14*

11. The woman clothed with the sun and the moon with a crown of twelve stars upon her head (Revelation 12:1, Genesis 37:9-11) = the nation of Israel

¹ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: *Revelation 12:1*

⁹ And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. ¹⁰ And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? ¹¹ And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying. *Genesis 37:9-11*

12. The great red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven crowns upon the heads (Revelation 12:3, Revelation 20:2, and 11 more times) = Satan himself

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

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

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13. Horns when representative of men (Revelation 12:3 and seven more times)(Daniel 7:20-24) = political and/or military leaders

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

²⁰ And of the ten horns that *were* in his head, and *of* the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even *of* that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look *was* more stout than his fellows. ²¹ I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ²² Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. ²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. ²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. *Daniel 7:20-24*

14. The Beast = Antichrist (Revelation 13:1, and 32 times more)(Daniel 7:3-26)

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

15. THE MARK OF THE BEAST is mentioned 8 different times in the book of Revelation.
THE MARK OF THE BEAST is not 666. Contrast the Mark Of The Beast in *Revelation 13:16-18* with the mark that was placed upon the innocent in *Ezekiel 9:4-5* and the seal that was placed in the foreheads of the innocent in *Revelation 7:3-4* and *Revelation 9:4*. That Mark Of The Beast

¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six. *Revelation 13:16-18*

³ Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. ⁴ And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. *Revelation 7:3-4*

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

⁴ And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ⁵ And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: *Ezekiel 9:4-5*

16. **666 is the number of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-18)**. One thing we can state for sure is 666 is NOT the mark of the beast. 666 is the number of the beast (*Revelation 13:18*). 6 is the number of man, Man was created on the sixth day. The Beast is the Antichrist. He is a man. *Isaiah 14:16* says of this man, the Assyrian: "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms?"

17. **Voice of many waters = the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 14:2, Revelation 19:6, and Revelation 1:15)**. Read the entirety of *Psalms 29* to get further insight on the voice of the LORD.

¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. *Revelation 1:15*

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

⁶ And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. *Revelation 19:6*

18. **Great whore = MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT = THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS = all false religious systems combined into a one world religion (Revelation 17:1,5,15-16; Revelation 19:2)**. Babylon is the fountainhead of all false religious systems. It is the place of the Tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues.

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: *Revelation 17:1*

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⁵ And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. *Revelation 17:5*

¹⁵ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. *Revelation 17:15-16*

² For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. *Revelation 19:2*

19. **Woman upon the scarlet coloured beast = that great city: six times so called in the book of Revelation. The Woman = Babylon (Revelation 17:3-9, and 18)** (Many even take Babylon to be symbolic. I do not because Babylon has not been destroyed as prophesied in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 and Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51.). Note that the city called “that great city (Babylon)” is to be distinguished from the city “the great city”[Jerusalem (*Revelation 11:8*)].

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵ And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. ⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. *Revelation 17:3-9*

¹⁸ And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. *Revelation 17:18*

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

20. **Abominations = the idolatry that is abominable: the idolatry as one of several things that are an abomination to God. The word “abomination” occurs 176 times in the Bible.**

21. **Waters = peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues** (*Revelation 17:1,15*)

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: *Revelation 17:1*

¹⁵ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. *Revelation 17:15*

22. **The ten horns = tens kings** (*In Revelation 17:12, it is directly stated to be so*) (See also *Revelation 12:3, 13:1, 17:3, 17:7, 17:16, and Daniel 7:24*).

¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. *Revelation 17:12*

²⁴ And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. *Daniel 7:24*

23. **The seven kings = the Seven heads that reign over Seven mountains** (*Revelation 17:9-10*)

⁹ And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. ¹⁰ And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. *Revelation 17:9-10*

24. **The Seven mountains = 7 kingdoms or empires** (*Revelation 17:9*). In a short search for the word “mountain” I found at least 10 cases where the word “mountain” was used to identify a whole nation or political entity. Mountain has been used figuratively to refer to at least the following : of Babylon the destroying mountain in *Jeremiah 51:25*; of Israel 6 times in *Ezekiel 36*; of Samaria in *Amos 6:1*; and of the Lord Jesus Christ twice in *Daniel 2*. The seven mountains in *Revelation 17:9* are not the literal mountains or hills of the city of Rome or any other city for that matter. A consistent interpretation of the symbols in the context will

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not support that conclusion. In *Revelation 17:9*, the seven mountains are not literal mountains, but rather are symbols for kingdoms or empires. *Revelation 17:10* clearly states that five of those kingdoms have fallen, one is, and one is yet to come. The five that were fallen included Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece. The kingdom that “is” at the time of John’s writing was Rome. The seventh kingdom that was to come will be the kingdom of the Antichrist.

25. Another Mighty Angel = the Lord Jesus Christ (*Revelation 10:1, Ezekiel 1:28*)

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

²⁶ And above the firmament that *was* over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *was* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. ²⁷ And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. ²⁸ As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so *was* the appearance of the brightness round about. This *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *it*, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. Ezekiel 1:26-28

As we progress through this study, you may need to refer back to this section on the interpretation of symbols in the book of Revelation.

What follows is a very broad overview of each chapter of Revelation.

Chapter 1 verse 1 makes it plain that the book of Revelation was given to John by the angel that was sent unto him by Jesus Christ. *Revelation 1:1* is the only time that the Holy Ghost is referred to as an angel of Jesus Christ. Most folks that have studied the Bible extensively believe that Revelation was the last book of the Bible written in the canon of scripture giving it a date between 90-96 A.D. In *Revelation 1:19*, we are given the broad purpose of the book of Revelation. It states: “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter” (*Revelation 1:19*). So the book was written to document things that had happened in the past, things that were taking place in the apostle John’s day (the present), and things that were to take place in the future (long range prophecy).

1:1	Revealed to John by the <u>angel</u> of Jesus Christ. Who is that angel?
1:3	Blessing is promised

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1:4	The seven Spirits of God are introduced (again in 3:1, 4:5, 5:6)
1:5	We have the appearance of the KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. The emphasis of verse 5 is upon the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that we were washed in to cleanse us from our sins. See also <i>Revelation 5:9</i> .
1:7	We have the Lord Jesus Christ, the one with the nail pierced hands in what will be a fulfillment of <i>Zechariah 12:10</i> and <i>John 19:37</i> .
1:8	The Alpha and the Omega: the beginning and the end: references to <i>Isaiah 41:4</i> , <i>44:6</i> , <i>48:12</i> . There is but one Almighty and he is God of the Old and the New Testaments. The Alpha and Omega title identifies the Lord Jesus Christ as the LORD of the Old Testament.
1:11	The seven churches of Turkey (in Asia) are revealed: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.
1:13-15	The Ancient of Days revealed in all his glory. This is an appearance of the Ancient of Days from <i>Daniel 7:9</i> and <i>Daniel 10:6</i> .
1:19	The purpose of the book is revealed. This verse forms a rough outline of Revelation.
1:20	The meaning of the symbols of the seven stars and the seven candlesticks revealed.

In chapters 2 and 3 are the letters to the seven churches. In each of these letters, it is the Lord Jesus Christ speaking. There is a specific message to each of the churches. These are actual churches that were in existence during John's lifetime. In each of these passages an angel of the church is called out. Those angels are the pastors of those churches. A major message at the end of each of these letters from the Lord Jesus Christ is, listen up, "he that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches".

Many of the authors that I have read after say that Revelation chapters 2 and 3 formed a prophetic outline of the development of the Church Age. While I agree that it could be a rough outline of the Church Age, I think both chapters are pictures of churches that exist in every year after Acts chapter 2. Throughout the world today we can, and do, find every type of church discussed in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. The question is, which church type are you a member of? In five of the seven churches major problems were identified by the LORD Jesus Christ that should be corrected in any church they are found in. His charge to those churches was REPENT. We should take a real close look at our church, and see where we stand. If we identify any of those problems in our church, they must be removed.

All seven of the churches that are identified in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 were located in what is now the home of that God hating Muslim country of Turkey. Those seven churches do not exist today. If they did, they would be suffering great persecutions, tortures, and murders at the blood soaked hands of the peace loving Muslims. Following World War I, on October 29, 1923, Turkey

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was formed out of some of the remnants of the ungodly, barbaric Ottoman Islamic Empire. The Ottoman Empire has been one of the greatest persecutors and murderers of Christians and Jews in the history of the world. They are a Muslim country that hates Jews and Christians. The current leader of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is consumed with the spirit of Antichrist. He hates Israel and the Jew and proves it yet again by his rhetoric and actions against Israel since the start of the Israeli/ Hamas war that began on October 7, 2023. Erdogan also hates Christians. As a reminder to the serious Bible prophecy student, modern day Turkey and the surrounding Islamic countries are the home of the nations that will attack Israel in the lead up to the battle of Armageddon. Some of those nations are clearly identified in *Ezekiel 38 and 39*. It is this same area of the world that will produce the Antichrist who is referred to in *Isaiah 14:24-32* and *Micah 5:4-7* as the Assyrian. The Assyrian is none other than the antichrist of *2 Thessalonians 2:3-12* and *Revelation 13:1-10*

EPHESUS: The church that left its first love: *Revelation 2:1-7*:

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. *Revelation 2:1-7*

1. Is known for its works, its labour, and its patience (2:2).
2. Tried false apostles and found them to be liars. (2:2).
3. Doctrinally steadfast (2:3).
4. Left first love (2:4). They were doing all the right things, but it was not tempered by the love for the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. They hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans: Nicolaitans literally means above the laity (2:6).
6. Warning: Repent and return to the first works: See *Jeremiah 2:2*:

² Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land *that was* not sown. *Jeremiah 2:2*

7. Promise: those that overcome will eat of the tree of life.

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8. He that hath an ear, let him hear

Ephesus is, the church that left its first love. It was once on fire for the Lord Jesus Christ, but the fire had died down with the passage of time. It was the church that was as any new bride and new groom. They were zealous for one another with a fervent love at the first until the church at Ephesus began to take the Lord Jesus Christ for granted. They had forgotten the heights to which the Lord Jesus Christ had taken them. They had fallen away from the Lord Jesus Christ. He warned them to repent and rekindle the fire that they once had for him. It is not just the church at Ephesus that loses its first love. Most Christians are the same way. We are on fire when we first get saved, but after a few years that love waxes cold because we have not done the things that we need to do to keep in fellowship with the LORD. Next we will look at the church at Smyrna.

SMYRNA: The martyrs church: *Revelation 2:8-11*:

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹ I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. ¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. *Revelation 2:8-11*

1. The first and the last: the resurrected Saviour. (2:8).
2. The poverty stricken and tribulation church ((2:9)
3. The blasphemous liars of the synagogue of Satan who falsely claim to be Jews are condemned (2:9).
4. The imprisoned and martyred church (2:10).
5. No condemnation for this church.
6. No call to repentance for this church.
7. Promise of a crown of life and no threat of the second death.
8. He that hath an ear, let him hear.

Smyrna is the martyr's church. Smyrna is a name that means myrrh. Myrrh is a symbol of death. Smyrna has lived up to its name. There have been many thousands of Christians martyred there. The destruction of Smyrna by the Ottoman Turks resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Christians and Jews. The peace loving Ottoman Turkish Muslims also murdered over 1.2 million Christians in the Armenian massacres. The barbaric Turkish Muslims will play a huge role in the persecutions and beheadings that take place during the Great Tribulation. Note the presence at Smyrna of the persecutors that say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan. Satan is the great persecutor of Jews and Christians. The Jews at Smyrna were of the physical seed of Israel, but were

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not of the spiritual seed of Israel. What we see in *Revelation 2:9* and *Revelation 3:9* is the Lord Jesus Christ applying his teaching and preaching of John 8:31-44 to the Jews that were persecuting the Christians at Smyrna. Not all that say they are Jews are Jews in the eyes of God. The Holy Ghost states the same principle through the apostle Paul in *Romans 9:6-8* and *Galatians 6:15-16*:

⁶ Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷ Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. *Romans 9:6-8*

¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. *Galatians 6:15-16*

The problem of false professors is not unique to the Jews religion. Not all that say they are Christians are Bible believing Christians either. It is unbelieving Christians in church history, including today, that have been, or are becoming, some of the greatest persecutors of Jews and Christians in world history. So there are phony Christians and there are phony Jews. However, thank God there are Israelite Jews and pagan Gentiles that become Christians. When they become Christians, they become the Israel of God. God has torn down the middle wall of partition between the unsaved Jew and the unsaved Gentile through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the blood of his cross. *Ephesians 2:11-22* states:

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; ¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. *Ephesians 2:11-22*

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If you are Christian that has been taught the heresy that the church has replaced Israel, then you need to read and study very carefully Romans chapters 9 through 11 paying particular attention to Romans chapter 11. Romans chapter 11 is both a promise to the Jew and a warning to the Gentile that would cut off the Jew. Paul asked the rhetorical question “Hath God cast away his people?” and then immediately responded “God forbid....God has not cast away his people”. Replacement Theology is one of the greatest heresies in the history of the church and has been the cause of the death of millions of Jews. What a Satanic paradox that Satan has used professing Christians to murder and persecute Jews down through the history of the church! What is worst of all is that Satan used Christians to promote the Jewish Holocaust of the World War II era! Replacement Theology is under the curse of God. Now, back to the book of Revelation. Next we will look at the church at Pergamos.

PERGAMOS: The Carnal Church: *Revelation 2:12-17*:

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³ I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan’s seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*. *Revelation 2:12–17*

1. The Lord Jesus Christ with the sharp sword (2:12). See *Hebrews 4:12-13*:

¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. *Hebrews 4:12-13*

2. Pergamos is the place of Satan’s seat (2:13).
3. Antipas was martyred in Pergamos (2:13).
4. Pergamos held fast to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and had not denied the faith (2:13).
5. Pergamos was condemned for tolerating those holding the doctrine of Balaam who was promoting idolatry, fornication, and intermarriage in Israel in Numbers chapters 22-24.

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6. Pergamos was also condemned for tolerating those holding the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (2:15). Many Bible teachers try to mix the doctrine of Balaam and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. They are not the same. I have read many explanations for the Nicolaitans over the years that I do not agree with. I believe the Nicolaitans were a group of elitists who promoted an unscriptural form of church leadership. The Bible does not teach the religious concept of a clergy and a laity who lord over God's heritage and his people.
7. Warning: Repent or fight against the sword of the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ (2:16).
8. Promise: over comers will eat of the hidden manna and be given a white stone (symbol of victory)(2:17).
9. He that hath an ear, let him hear (2:17)

The church at Pergamos was the compromised church that was located in the city that the Lord Jesus Christ identified as Satan's seat. Pergamos was the city that Satan moved his Babylonian religion and Babylonian mysteries to after the fall of the Babylonian Empire. Pergamos was a huge center of idolatry that had as its chief gods and goddesses Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, and Aesculapius. Some of the church leaders at Pergamos were teaching the doctrine of Balaam that led Israel into idolatry in Numbers chapters 22 through 24. The men in the church at Pergamos were practicing an unscriptural form of church government that established a clergy class to rule over a laity class. It was called the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The Lord Jesus Christ told both the church at Ephesus and the church at Pergamos that he hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Nicolaitan literally means "above the laity". The hatred of the Lord Jesus Christ for the doctrine of the Nicolaitans is an application of the admonishment of the Holy Ghost given to Peter in *1 Peter 5:1-3*:

¹ The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. *1 Peter 5:1-3*

Next we will look at the church at Thyatira.

THYATIRA: The Idolatrous Church: *Revelation 2:18-29*:

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; ¹⁹ I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first. ²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. ²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with

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death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation 2:18–29*

1. The Son of God with eyes as a flame of fire and feet like fine brass (2:18).
2. Thyatira is commended for their works, charity, service, faith, and patience (2:19)
3. Jezebel is presented as the New Testament type of the Old Testament Jezebel in 1 Kings 18, 1 Kings 19, 1 Kings 21, and 2 Kings 9. Jezebel is a false teacher and a false prophet. She is promoting idolatry and fornication. The Lord Jesus Christ condemned the church at Thyatira for allowing Jezebel to teach. *1 Timothy 2:12* says:

¹² But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. *1 Timothy 2:12*

The Lord Jesus Christ said he gave Jezebel space to repent, but that she would not repent. The Lord Jesus Christ also commanded those in the church at Thyatira to repent lest they be cast into great tribulation with Jezebel (2:20-22)

4. Many of the members of this church were immersed in Satan worship (2:24).
5. Verses 26-27 will be a fulfillment of *Psalms 2:9*:

⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. *Psalms 2:9*

6. He that hath an ear, let him hear (2:29)

The church at Thyatira was the church that had a woman exercising unscriptural authority and leading that church into idolatry. It is obvious from the context that she was teaching men and women heresy. That is a direct affront to the Holy Ghost who said in *1 Timothy 2:12*: “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence”. That woman was named Jezebel. She falsely called herself a prophetess. She is a perfect type of the Old Testament Jezebel whose story is told in 1 Kings chapters 18 through 21. Jezebel had 400 prophets that she exercised direct authority over who ate at her table. In that process, she also effectively usurped the throne of Israel that was supposed to be controlled by King Ahab: the king of no backbone: noodle-back Ahab. The result of Ahab's weakness and compromise was total idolatry in Israel. Ahab would

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have withered under Paul's command, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong". When Ahab allowed the throne to be usurped the rightful authority was not sitting upon it. The result is the same in modern day churches that are worshipping a god of their own choosing. They all end up in idolatry. The rightful authority in a scriptural New Testament church is a man. Every qualification for the offices of bishops, pastors, deacons, and elders is given to men only. A woman cannot be the "husband of one wife". Next up, we take a look at the church of Sardis.

SARDIS: The dead church: *Revelation 3:1-6*:

¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation 3:1-6*

1. Sardis is identified as church that is almost completely dead with a false reputation that it is alive (3:1).
2. This church is in much need of revival. They are told to be watchful and to work on the things that are weak (3:2).
3. Sardis is commanded to heed the word of God and repent. They are warned of pending judgment (3:3).
4. The Lord Jesus Christ says that even as wicked and defiled as they are, there are still a few who are clean and worthy to walk with him (3:4)
5. Promise: Those that overcome will be clothed in white. Those that do not will be blotted out of the book of life. I believe this church was full of unsaved church members and that is the source of their deadness. That is also the reason for the very strong warning from the Lord Jesus Christ that those who do not repent will be blotted out of the book of life (3:5).
6. Listen up. He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear.

The church at Sardis claimed to be a lively church, but was spiritually dead. The Lord Jesus Christ warned them that the few believers that remained there were ready to die. That is the state of most churches in America on August 10, 2024. They may be carnally alive, but they are spiritually dead. If you want loud music, sexually revealing dress by men and women, sexual perversion before children, transgender promotion, abortion promotion, weak or no preaching, smoke and mirrors, teenagers and young adults slithering around in mosh pits, and flashing strobe lights welcome to the

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average seeker friendly church that stands for nothing truly Christian and falls for everything Satanic. They have gone past having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof to promoting a completely Satanic religion. In America we have an unrighteous and unholy alliance between a coalition of Sardisian and Laodicean churches. The Sardisian church in a vain attempt to revive itself has on occasion allied itself with Chrislam which is supposed to be a synthesis of Christianity and Islam. All stop! The next stop is Revelation 17 where they bed down with the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. What about the Antichrist? There is death in the pot for the dying church. They have lost the power of God. The Holy Ghost is not within a light year of them. Our next church up for discussion is the church at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA: The church with a door that only the LORD Jesus Christ can open and close: *Revelation 3:7-13*:

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. ¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name. ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation 3:7-13*

1. This is the church of the open door that no man can shut that has the power of God upon it. The key of David of *Isaiah 22:22* has been given to this church (3:7).

²² And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. *Isaiah 22:22*

2. Philadelphia is a strong church that has not denied the Lord Jesus Christ (3:8)
3. Philadelphia is also a church that is under the attack from the liars of the synagogue of Satan who falsely claim to be Jews. It is very instructive that both Smyrna and Philadelphia came under the direct attack of Satan. They are the only two churches that the Lord Jesus Christ said nothing bad about (3:9). There are some Philadelphian churches even in this age of almost total apostasy and heresy.

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4. Philadelphia is the church of THE DELIVERANCE (3:10). She is promised deliverance from the hour of temptation that is to try the whole world during the tribulation for God hath not appointed her to the wrath that is to come (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
5. Philadelphia has been given a crown. They are exhorted to hold fast to the faith (3:11).
6. The over comers are promised a pillar in the temple of God.
7. He that hath an ear, let him hear.

The church at Philadelphia is but one of two churches that the Lord Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about. The other church that the Lord Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about was the church of Smyrna. They both had something else in common. They both were severely persecuted by Jews who falsely claimed to be Jews who were of the synagogue of Satan. The church at Philadelphia has kept God's word and has not compromised doctrine. They have not denied the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have so many in the rotting corpse of compromised Christianity that deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ whose name is that name that is above every name. These heretics do not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. These heretics do not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. They deny the Father and the Son which marks them as antichrist to the core (*1 John 2:18-22, 1 John 4:1-3, and 2 John 7*). *First Timothy 3:16* states:

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. *1 Timothy 3:16*

The church of Philadelphia is the church "that is creating division in the body of Christ" (to use a heretics phrase) based upon them teaching false doctrine. Folks, we are to separate from apostates and heretics that teach and preach false doctrine. It is a commandment of God. We are not to go along to get along. If we do, we become partakers in their evil deeds. We are to call false doctrine and false teachers out and separate from them. The church at Philadelphia is the church that has the men to stand in the gap against the false prophets and teachers of the apostate and heretical MOTHER OF HARLOTS church. The church of Philadelphia has an open door set before her because she has not compromised the word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ seeks such churches and men to glorify him just as God sought men in the Old Testament to glorify him by not compromising his word. Ezekiel 22:23-31 gives the price of compromise by stating the following:

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and*

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to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *morter*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 22:23-31*

The byword today in most Baptist churches is compromise. God hates compromise and the church at Laodicea occupies the number 1 spot in the hall of compromise.

LAODICEA: The regurgitated church: *Revelation 3:14-22*:

Finally, we come to the church of the Laodiceans: the totally compromised church that is neither hot nor cold. She is much increased with worldly goods and wealth, but is totally spiritually bankrupt. She is a miserable wretch that is blinded to the shame of her nakedness and spiritual poverty. Her garments are filthy with the works and goods of this world that are worthless before God. She is so spiritually blind that she has lost all discernment. She does not have a clue how spiritually bankrupt she is before God. She has become so hardened to her sin that she can no longer blush. They cannot harken to the voice of the Lord because they have rejected his word for the thoughts of unbelieving Bible scholars and Bible correcting preachers and teachers. The Old Testament parallel in Israel was *Jeremiah 6:10-19*:

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. ¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with *him that is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned unto others, *with their* fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. ¹³ For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. ¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*. ¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the

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trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. ¹⁸ Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what *is* among them. ¹⁹ Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. *Jeremiah 6:10-19*

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation 3:14-22*

The church at Laodicea is the worldly, carnal church that is neither cold or hot. They are lukewarm. Laodicea is the regurgitated church that Christ has spued out of his mouth. Laodicea will stand for nothing and because of that they fall for every wind of doctrine. They are a naked, spiritually blind, miserable lot that do not have a clue who the Lord Jesus Christ is. That is why he is standing outside of their door knocking. I have seen pictures that present the church of Laodicea as being a door with a knob on only one side. The church of Laodicea either will not stand against sin or openly promotes it. They promote the murder of unborn babies. They promote sodomy by ordaining sodomites to the ministry and by allowing known sodomites to continue as church members. They promote the purely Satanic transgender agenda. They hold drag queen shows for the children in their churches. Are you shocked yet? They openly promote the Devil's music by holding rock concerts with smoke and lights in buildings that they call churches. You cannot worship God with Satan's music. The church of Laodicea openly denies the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church of Laodicea promotes Islam. They derisively mock the Biblical doctrine of repentance by calling those who stand for it Pharisees and legalists. The Laodiceans have a counterfeit God, a counterfeit Christ, a counterfeit Holy Ghost, counterfeit gospels, counterfeit baptisms, counterfeit churches, counterfeit preachers, and counterfeit Bibles. The Laodicean churches have become dens of iniquity inhabited by unclean and evil spirits that promote doctrines of devils. If the Laodicean churches have any saved folk in them, it cannot be proved by the doctrines that they teach and preach and the vile lascivious life styles that they both tolerate and promote. Welcome to the church in general in America! Even in the midst of all the apostasy and heresy of the church of Laodicea our loving Saviour, the

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Lord Jesus Christ, stands at their door knocking pleading for them to let him. If they will but open the door and receive him, he will open their blinded eyes that the light of the glorious gospel would come flooding in. Hallelujah! What a God, what a Saviour, and what a King we have. Bless his name!

In chapters 4 and 5 the apostle John is taken up into heaven and observes a worship service taking place. There are 24 elders clothed in white clothes wearing golden crowns gathered around the throne of God in the midst of the seraphim praising God for his threefold holiness saying holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty; one time for each member of the Godhead. In these two chapters we are given more information on the seven Spirits of God. Who are “the seven Spirits of God”? All of Revelation chapters 4 and 5 is taking place in the presence of the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Chapter 5 answers the question of who is qualified to open the “seven sealed book”. In Revelation 5:9 the 24 elders are praising God for the blood of Jesus that redeemed them

In chapter six the first six of the seven seals are opened. The opening of the first four seals brings forth the “Four Horseman of the Apocalypse”. With the white horse comes the arrival of the Antichrist. With the red horse comes war. With the black horse the famine that accompanies war is brought in. With the pale horse comes Death and Hell at the hands of the grim reaper. With the opening of the fifth seal we see the souls of the tribulation martyrs gathered under the altar seeking the justice that is their due. With the opening of the sixth seal comes a great earthquake that darkens the sun and turns the moon blood red. The opening of the sixth seal signals the arrival of the great day of God’s wrath. Chapter 7 makes up an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal.

In chapter 7 we see the calling, the anointing, and the sealing of 144,000 Jewish evangelists that come from every tribe of Israel except Dan. The work of these evangelists leads to the salvation of multitudes from all nations that cannot be numbered. In verses 9-13 we see a throng of all the nations gathered together to worship the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. They literally constitute an innumerable heavenly host constantly lifting up an anthem of praise unto the Lamb of God. They are praising God because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Hallelujah!

In chapter 8 we see the opening of the 7TH seal that brings silence in heaven. The opening of the 7TH seal inaugurates the preparation for the sounding of the 7 trumpets. In the interval between the opening of the 7TH seal and the sounding of the first trumpet a cataclysm of judgment is ripping the earth’s crust up and creating great disturbances in the atmosphere. Earthquakes are bringing utter destruction. Fires are raging upon the face of the earth. Then the 1ST trumpet sounds and a third of the earths trees and all its grass are destroyed. With the sounding of the 2ND trumpet the boiling seas destroy 1/3 of the life that is in them and 1/3 of the ships. When the 3RD trumpet is sounded 1/3 of the waters are poisoned with wormwood. Men are dying everywhere from poisoning. With the 4TH trumpet we see the darkening of 1/3 of the source of light for the earth probably resulting in extreme global cooling and a drastic drop in temperatures. The 4TH trumpet also heralds the announcement of the three woe trumpets that are to follow.

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Chapter 9 opens with the sounding of the 5TH trumpet and the opening up of the pits of hell. The locusts that come up out of the bottomless pit of hell are hideous creatures. They are the locust army of the book of Joel whose soldiers cannot be wounded or killed. Their mission is to inflict pain for 5 months upon all those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads (9:4). There is much debate as to whether Abaddon/Apollyon is Satan himself. There is no doubt that he is an evil being. With the sounding of the 6TH trumpet four angels are unleashed whose mission is to slay 1/3 of the men on the face of the earth. They head up an army of 200,000,000 horseman in what will be the largest army ever assembled. It is unbelievable the carnage and destruction such a large army could exact. One of the stated purposes of this army is to motivate men to repentance, but they refuse to repent. The sorceries are drugs.

Chapter 10 is an interlude between the sounding of the 6TH trumpet and the 7TH trumpet. In chapter 10 we have the appearance of “another mighty angel” who is the Lord Jesus Christ himself. He gives a book to the apostle John that is a direct reference to the identical book that was given unto the prophet Ezekiel in chapters 2 and 3 of Ezekiel. The charge to John was the same as it was to Ezekiel: that is, preach to the people.

In chapter 11, we have the 3-1/2 year ministry of the two witnesses. They are the two anointed ones of Zechariah 4:14. Their power is much the same as, but much greater than, the power of Elijah. They have the power to stop the rains, pollute the waters, and order plagues. They will preach and prophesy for 42 months before they are murdered by the Antichrist who in apparent open mockery of the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ forces their bodies to lie in the streets of the city of Jerusalem for 3-1/2 days. The people will celebrate their deaths. Can you imagine their shock when the two witnesses are resurrected and raptured up out of their site Come up hither!! As they are caught up, the sonic boom (just kidding) of their rapid departure results in an earthquake that destroys 1/10 of the city and kills 7,000 men. Then the 7TH trumpet sounds causing thundering and lightnings, and another earthquake, and great hail.

Chapter 12 opens with a quick look back to Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37:9-11. The symbology of verse 1 is an obvious reference to Jacob and the twelve patriarchs with the patriarchs being the twelve stars and the woman representing mother Israel. Revelation chapter 12 is primarily about the nation of Israel. Revelation 12 is not about the church and it is not directly about the virgin Mary. In this context, though Mary is not mentioned by name, she is representative of the whole of the nation of Israel because she brought forth the man child that was to be the Messiah in Israel. Revelation 12 is about Satan’s attempt to destroy the nation of Israel. In Revelation 12:3, the great red dragon with seven heads and ten horns is introduced. The ten horns links this prophecy with Daniel chapter 7. The red dragon manifests himself in Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 17. Though a name of Satan himself, the red dragon and his seven heads are symbolic of the great empires that have persecuted and attacked the nation of Israel since her beginning. These empires would include Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, and an empire yet to come. War takes place in heaven between Satan and his angels and Michael the archangel and his angels. Satan loses and is cast out of heaven and seeks to destroy Israel. Chapter 12 closes with the dragon making war with

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Israel. Note the following passages of scripture:

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

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

⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. *Revelation 17:7-9*

The next two paragraphs apply to the three passages of scripture just quoted. One of my first rules in interpreting a symbol is as follows: If in the context of a passage of scripture something is stated that is obviously a symbol, then that symbol must be interpreted literally in the sense of the immediate context in which it occurs. Secondly, the symbol must be interpreted in the context of the entire Bible. What I mean by that is that there are several words in our Bibles that have developed symbolic meanings through their use in scripture that do not meet the literal dictionary definition of that word. Several of those are used in the book of Revelation. Two of those are the words “horn” and “mountain”. The word “horn” is used many times to represent political or military powers. The word “horn” is used of Moab in Jeremiah 48:25; of Israel in Ezekiel 29:21; and of military powers 19 different times in Daniel. In a short search for the word “mountain” I found at least 10 cases where the word “mountain” was used to identify a whole nation or political entity. Mountain has been used figuratively to refer to at least the following : of Babylon in Jeremiah 51:25; of Israel 6 times in Ezekiel 36; of Samaria in Amos 6:1; and of the Lord Jesus Christ twice in Daniel 2. I said all of that to say this.

Many Bible teachers rightfully advocate for a literal interpretation of the scripture. They also rightfully advocate for a literal interpretation of the symbols by comparing scripture with scripture. Many Bible teachers make the mistake of making the obvious symbol into the literal definition of the word that is used to represent. They will mix a literal interpretation with a symbolic interpretation in the immediate context of where two words occur. That will not work because it makes for much inconsistency and lack of understanding in the interpretation of Bible Prophecy. In my humble opinion that is exactly what has happened in Revelation 17:9. The “seven heads” and the “woman” get interpreted symbolically while the “seven mountains” get interpreted literally. The context will not support that interpretation. The “seven mountains” are also symbols. They are not the literal mountains or hills of the city of Rome or any other city for that matter. I have looked at least 50

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different commentaries and books that speak to Revelation 17:9 and their interpretations are as broad as speculation can be. Every one who makes a serious error does so because he mixes methods of interpretation in the same context. There was a reason that I searched so many passages of scripture above to check the symbolic use of the word “mountain”. It has its application in Revelation 17:9. The mountains represent seven kingdoms, or seven empires that either have or will try (tried) to destroy the nation of Israel. Let us move on to Revelation 13.

It is very revealing that the Satanic trinity shows up in Revelation 13. Thirteen is the number of rebellion. Revelation 13 is the revealing of the Devil, the Beast, and the False Prophet. The beast is clearly the Devil incarnate (Revelation 12:3, 9) who has as his puppet the Antichrist. The Antichrist is a brilliant political and military figurehead that heads up a political and financial system under the control of Satan himself. The spiritual leader of this Satanic theocracy is the False Prophet. The False Prophet is the state appointed religious leader that directs worship to both the dragon (Satan) and the beast (Antichrist). We see the Satanic trinity in that Satan is wickedly masquerading as God, the Antichrist is wickedly masquerading as the Lord Jesus Christ, and the False Prophet is wickedly masquerading as the Holy Ghost. In Revelation 13 we see the False Prophet performing many deceiving great wonders and miracles that will have most people believing that the Satanic trinity is God. If you do not believe that is possible, just look at the deluded generation we are living in. We also have the revealing of the “mark of the beast” in this chapter. The “mark of the beast” is not 666: that is the number of the beast’s name. The beast is a man. We look next at Revelation 14.

In Revelation 14 we have the appearance of the Lamb of God on Mount Sion with the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, an angel preaching the everlasting gospel, a declaration of the everlasting torments of hell for those who receive the mark of the beast, and the bloody harvest rooted in God’s wrath that will result in blood flowing to the height of the horse’s bridles. One of the harvest’s sickles is wielded by the Son of man (the God-Man)(Isaiah 63:1). Revelation 14:6-7 is the only place that an angel is said to preach and he is preaching the everlasting gospel. It is not the gospel of salvation that he is preaching. It is a gospel that commands that God be worshipped and states that the hour of God’s judgment has come. Revelation 14:8 proclaims that Babylon is fallen. Next we look at Revelation 15.

Revelation 15 starts the events that trigger the 7 last plagues that we refer to as the 7 vials of God’s wrath directed at unrepentant men

In Revelation 16 we see the outpouring of God’s anger as manifested on the pouring out of the vials of God’s wrath. Vial number 1 results in painful sores all over the bodies of those who received the mark of the beast. The pouring out of Vial number 2 killed every living thing in the seas. Vial number 3 turned all rivers and springs into blood. Vial number 4 caused the sun to scorch men with fire. Vial number 5 brought total darkness to the kingdom of the beast. Vial number 6 opened up the Euphrates river as the gateway to Armageddon. Unclean spirits go slithering forth out of the mouths of the Devil, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet who unleash the spirits of devils to lure the kings of the earth to their destruction at Armageddon. At the pouring out of Vial number 7 more great

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supernatural disasters are triggered causing the greatest earthquake the earth has ever seen. The great city, Jerusalem, is ripped into three parts, the earth is flattened out, and man is running from a hailstorm of huge rocks. Our next topic is Revelation 17.

Revelation 17 sees the destruction of religious Babylon. Revelation 17 uses the words whore, fornication, and harlot to describe the idolatrous worship of the harlots of Babylon. The Bible uses the terms whore, whoredom, harlot, fornication, and adultery to describe the worship of anything other than God. This religious harlot is guilty of the wholesale persecution and murder of God's children. She is the mass murderer of mass murderers: so much so that she is drunken with the blood of the saints. The ten kings here will fight and lose a war with the Lamb who will then use them to destroy the religious harlot. Other than the scarlet colored beast here that we have already discussed we see two more symbols whose identity is revealed in the context. The woman is said to be that great city Babylon. The waters are said to be the peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues.

Revelation 18 is the destruction of commercial Babylon. As a reminder, the great city of Babylon was only of minor significance at the time John wrote the book of Revelation.

In Revelation 19 we have the "Marriage Supper" of the Lamb. There is a fourfold anthem of praise going forth to the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the world. Worthy is the Lamb. This is the consummation of the espousal that the Lord Jesus Christ made to his church over 2,000 years ago. Hallelujah! The Lord Jesus Christ is revealed in all his glory as the KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. He is the eternal WORD OF GOD. He will rule the world with a rod of iron. At the closing of chapter 19, yet another army is destroyed and spoken out of existence by the living WORD. The Beast and the False Prophet are cast into the lake of fire where they will remain for ever and ever. Next, we will briefly discuss Revelation 20.

Revelation chapter 20 is one of the saddest passages of scripture in our Bibles. It shows the results and destiny of a hardened heart that refuses to repent. Its eternal destiny is the fiery pits of hell. Twelve times in the book of Revelation God requests that mankind repent to no avail. This is where they end up at: at the Great White Throne judgment to be cast into hell for an eternity. Satan is bound for a thousand years then released only to lead another rebellion after which he is cast into the lake of fire where the Beast and False Prophet are. Revelation 20 describes a two stage resurrection where the first resurrection is separated from the second resurrection by 1,000 years. There is no general resurrection. The first resurrection is a resurrection unto eternal life in heaven. The second resurrection is a resurrection unto eternal life in hell. Revelation 20 also reveals the method of murder used by THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS and that is beheading. Though it was used for a time in France, beheading has never been the preferred method of religious torture for the Roman Catholics of the Dark Ages and the Inquisitions. Neither has that been true of the Protestants who used the same tactics. They both preferred drowning, burning at the stake, or drawing and quartering. What religion on the face of this earth is obsessed and possessed with beheading? Answer, it is Islam. That practice alone should lead most Bible students to reexamine their theology and their Bible prophecy interpretation. Islam is the preeminent HARLOT OF BABYLON. If you are an

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advocate of absolute religious liberty, then you will be destroyed by Islam. There can be no coexistence with Islam. The consort of the whore of Islam is Satan himself.

Revelation closes with chapters 21 and 22 finding saved folks in the New Jerusalem, the city of God. Chapter 21 opens with a promise of eternal bliss free from tears, sorrow, death, and pain. God has made all things new for his children. He is the beginning and the end; the Alpha and Omega. God issues yet another warning for those who would reject his Son. His message is: you are going to be caught in the throes of the second death in an eternally burning lake of fire if you do not repent and put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no temple in the New Jerusalem for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. Chapter 21 describes the magnificent physical beauty of the New Jerusalem. Revelation 22 describes the spectacularly magnificent spiritual beauty of the city of God, the New Jerusalem. There is no need of artificial light in that city for the Son of righteousness is the light and glory of it. He is the BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR. A final charge is giving to our brother John: "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book". Publish it. Teach it. Preach it. Revel in it for it is the LIVING WORD OF THE LIVING GOD. The book closes with the strongest of warnings to any who would add to or take away from the words of its prophecy. There is a place in hell for those who would tamper with the Word of God.