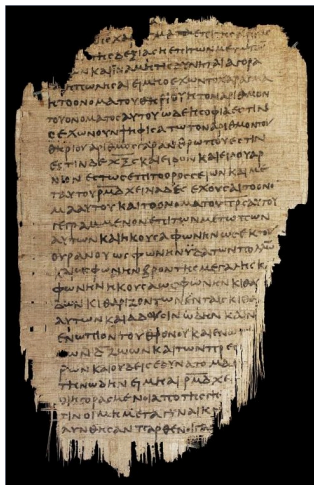


REVELATION

The Lamb Wins

AUTHOR	John, 1:1, 1:4 and 22:8. The early church said John the apostle. About AD 250 Dionysius of Alexandria thought it was a different John; see What Dionysius Wrote.
WRITTEN FROM	The island of Patmos, off the coast of what is now Turkey, where John was sent for preaching about Jesus, 1:9.
DATE WRITTEN	About AD 95, near the end of the emperor Domitian's reign, as Irenaeus says. Some scholars date it about AD 68, under Nero.
WRITTEN TO	Seven real churches in the Roman province of Asia, 1:11, and through them to every church.
WHY HE WROTE	To show suffering believers that Jesus is still in control, that evil will be judged, and that God will make all things new. Hold on.
KEY VERSE	Revelation 17:14. They will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.



REVELATION IN PAPYRUS 47

Papyrus 47, copied about AD 250 in Egypt, the oldest large copy of Revelation. This page holds 13:16 to 14:4. On the ninth line, the number of the beast is written in Greek letters, chi xi stigma, 666. Chester Beatty Library, Dublin. Public domain.

OLDER SCRAPS. Papyrus 98, about AD 150 to 200, though some date it later, has part of chapter 1, written on the back of a used sheet. Papyrus 18 has 1:4 to 7 on the back of a scroll of Exodus. Papyrus 115 gives the number of the beast as 616; see its Field Notes page.

ERASMUS' MISSING PAGE. Revelation is the least copied book of the New Testament. In 1516 Erasmus printed the first Greek New Testament with only one copy of it, and it lacked the last six verses. He translated them back into Greek from the Latin. That is why the King James Version says book of life in 22:19, where the Greek copies say tree of life.

Historical Setting

By the AD 90s the church had been around for sixty years, and Rome was not getting friendlier. Emperors were worshiped as gods; Domitian liked to be called Lord and God. Believers who would not burn incense to Caesar could lose their jobs, their freedom or their lives. John, the last living apostle, was banished to a rocky island. On a Sunday he got a vision, and Jesus told him to write it down. The book is full of symbols drawn from the Old Testament, like a political cartoon with a heavenly message: the beast looks strong, but the Lamb wins.

What Was Going Wrong

EMPEROR WORSHIP. Christians were pushed to worship Caesar and the gods of the city, 2:13 and 13:4.

PERSECUTION. Some were jailed or killed, like Antipas, 2:10 and 2:13.

FALSE TEACHERS. Nicolaitans, Balaam's teaching and a prophetess called Jezebel led people into idol feasts and sexual sin, 2:14 to 15 and 2:20.

LOST LOVE. Ephesus kept the right beliefs but left its first love, 2:4.

DEAD AND LUKEWARM. Sardis had a name for being alive but was dead; Laodicea was rich and lukewarm, 3:1 and 3:15 to 17.

A GREEDY WORLD. Babylon's trade made the merchants rich and the saints bleed, 18:3 and 18:24.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Revelation is not mainly a puzzle about dates. It is a picture book of who is really in charge. On earth the beast seems to win; in heaven the Lamb who was slain sits on the throne. The book pulls back the curtain so suffering believers can see the end of the story: evil judged, tears wiped away, God living with His people. Christians read its details in very different ways, and this Bible shows them all. On the main point they agree: Jesus is coming back, and the Lamb wins.

Revelation at a Glance

CH 1

THE RISEN JESUS

John on Patmos sees Jesus among seven lampstands.

CH 2 to 3

SEVEN LETTERS

Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea.

CH 4 to 5

THE THRONE AND THE LAMB

Heaven's worship; the Lamb takes the scroll.

CH 6 to 8:5

SEVEN SEALS

Four horsemen, martyrs, the 144,000 and a great multitude.

CH 8:6 to 11

SEVEN TRUMPETS

Plagues, the little scroll, the two witnesses.

CH 12 to 14

THE DRAGON AND THE BEASTS

The woman, war in heaven, 666, the Lamb on Mount Zion.

CH 15 to 16

SEVEN BOWLS

The last plagues and Armageddon.

CH 17 to 19

BABYLON FALLS, JESUS RETURNS

The great prostitute, the fall of Babylon, the rider on the white horse.

CH 20

THE THOUSAND YEARS

Satan bound, the last battle, the great white throne.

CH 21 to 22

ALL THINGS NEW

The New Jerusalem, the river and the tree of life, Come, Lord Jesus.

Where Jesus Shows Up

REVELATION 1:5 The faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth.

REVELATION 1:17 TO 18 The First and the Last, the Living One, who holds the keys of death and Hades.

REVELATION 5:5 TO 6 The Lion of the tribe of Judah, who is also the Lamb who was slain.

REVELATION 19:11 TO 16 Faithful and True, the Word of God, King of kings and Lord of lords.

REVELATION 22:16 The Root and Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.

What to Watch for in Revelation

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	1:5, 1:16-17, 2:27, 5:5-6, 5:9, 12:5, 19:11 and 5 more
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	2:17, 3:7, 19:12
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	1:9
PROPHETIC FORESHADOW	6:16, 7:3, 9:4
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY	2:5, 2:10
END TIMES PROPHECIES	1:7, 3:10, 5:10, 6:1-15, 6:17, 7:1-2, 7:4-10 and 29 more
THE HEART	2:23, 17:17, 18:7
MIRACLES	1:12-15, 4:2-3, 4:8, 5:11-12, 10:1-3, 18:1, 19:10 and 2 more
DEMONIC	2:13-14, 2:20, 2:24, 9:20-21, 12:13-17, 13:4, 13:8 and 6 more
NOTABLE	1:3, 2:4, 3:15-16, 3:20, 4:11, 5:8, 8:3-4 and 1 more
JESUS SPEAKING	Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

NOT REVELATIONS

The title is singular: one revelation, from the Greek apokalypsis, an unveiling.

A BLESSING FOR READING

It is the only book of the Bible that opens with a blessing on the one who reads it aloud, 1:3.

OLD TESTAMENT EVERYWHERE

It never quotes the Old Testament with it is written, yet hundreds of its lines echo Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Zechariah and the Psalms.

616

Some of the oldest copies give the beast's number as 616, not 666. See Papyrus 115.

SEVENS

Seven churches, seals, trumpets, bowls, spirits, stars and lampstands. Seven is the number of completeness.

THE END IS THE BEGINNING

The Bible starts with a garden and a tree of life, Genesis 2, and ends with a city, a river and the tree of life, Revelation 22.

What Happened Next?

The western church accepted Revelation early; Justin Martyr and Irenaeus quote it as John's. In the East it was doubted for centuries, and the Eastern Orthodox still do not read it aloud in their worship services. Martin Luther said in 1522 that his spirit could not fit itself to the book, though he spoke more warmly of it later. John Calvin wrote commentaries on almost the whole New Testament but never on Revelation. Through it all the book has given hope to persecuted Christians in every century.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

END TIMES PROPHECIES

MIRACLES

NOTABLE

JESUS SPEAKING

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

John is stuck on the prison island of Patmos when Jesus shows up shining like the sun, with eyes like fire and a voice like a waterfall. John faints. Jesus says do not be afraid, I hold the keys of death, now write this down and send it to seven churches.

PROLOGUE // DANIEL 12:1-13

¹This is the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants what must soon come to pass. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John, ²who testifies to everything he saw. This is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and obey what is written in it, because the time is near.

JOHN GREETES THE SEVEN CHURCHES

⁴John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from Him who is and was and is to come, and from the seven spirits before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood, ⁶who has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

⁷Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him—even those

who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and was and is to come—the Almighty.

JOHN'S VISION ON PATMOS

⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance that are in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and my testimony about Jesus. ¹⁰On the Lord's day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was One like the Son of Man, dressed in a long robe, with a golden sash around His chest. ¹⁴The hair of His head was white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like a blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶He held in His right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword came from His mouth. His face was like the sun shining at its brightest.

■ **REV 1:7 [PROPHECY]** Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 1:7 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DAN 7:13; ZECH 12:10 p. –

■ **REV 1:8 [NOTE] THE ONE ON THE THRONE.** The red words here and in 21:5 to 8 are God speaking from the throne, printed red like Jesus' words. Most read 1:8 as the Father; some read it as Jesus, who also says I am the Alpha and the Omega in 22:13.

■ **REV 1:9 [FULFILLS]** James and John would drink the cup of suffering Jesus would drink ← MT 20:23; MK 10:39 p. –

■ **REV 1:9 [NOTE] PATMOS.** A small rocky island the Romans used for exile. See What Eusebius Wrote.

■ **REV 1:10 [NOTE] SUNDAY?** The Lord's day: most read this as Sunday, the day Jesus rose, Acts 20:7. A few read the day of the Lord, the end times.

■ **REV 1:11 [NOTE] TEXT.** The KJV adds I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last at the start of this verse. The oldest copies do not have it here.

■ **REV 1:12 [MIRACLE]** John sees the risen Christ among the lampstands

■ **REV 1:13 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DAN 7:13; 10:5-6 p. –

■ **REV 1:16 [FULFILLS]** The Servant's mouth would be like a sharp sword ← IS 49:2 · MEDIUM p. –

■ **REV 1:1 [NOTE] THE REVELATION.** One revelation, not Revelations. The Greek apokalypsis means an unveiling, pulling back a curtain. It is the revelation of Jesus Christ: from Him, and about Him.

■ **REV 1:3 [NOTABLE]** Revelation starts with a blessing for anyone who reads it aloud and lives it.

■ **REV 1:4 [NOTE] SEVEN SPIRITS.** Most read this as the Holy Spirit in His fullness, Isaiah 11:2 and Zechariah 4:2 to 10. Others read seven high angels, 8:2.

■ **REV 1:5 [FULFILLS]** He would be the Firstborn ← PS 89:27 · MEDIUM p. –

■ **REV 1:5 [FULFILLS]** His sprinkled blood would cleanse the nations ← IS 52:15 p. –

■ **REV 1:5 [NOTE] TEXT.** The oldest copies say freed us from our sins, iusaniti. Later copies and the KJV say washed us, iousanti. The Greek words differ by one letter.

■ **REV 1:6 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EX 19:6 p. –

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES JESUS SPEAKING

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. But He placed His right hand on me and said, **"Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last,"** ¹⁸ the Living One. I was dead, and behold, now I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of Death and of Hades.

19 Therefore write down the things you have seen, the things that are, and the things that will happen after this. **20** This is the mystery of the seven stars you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

FOUR WAYS TO READ REVELATION

The Big Picture

REVELATION 1:1 · 1:3 · 1:19 · 4:1 · 22:6 · 22:10

WHY IT MATTERS

Before anyone argues about the mark, the rapture or the thousand years, they have already decided one thing: when do the visions happen? In John's day, all through church history, at the end of the world, or all the time? Most fights about Revelation come from that first choice.

WHAT JOHN SAYS

The things that must soon take place, 1:1. The time is near, 1:3 and 22:10. Write what you have seen, what is now, and what will happen after this, 1:19. Every view has to explain those verses.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Justin Martyr, about AD 155, and Irenaeus, about AD 180, read the beast, the thousand years and the new Jerusalem as still in the future, after a time of great trouble. About AD 380 Tyconius, and then Augustine, read much of the book as a picture of the church's battle in every age.

THE MIDDLE AGES AND REFORMATION

Joachim of Fiore, about 1190, read Revelation as a timeline of church history.

Many Reformers did the same and saw the beast or Babylon in the papacy; Martin Luther's preface of 1530 reads it that way.

THE JESUITS ANSWER

Two Jesuit scholars answered the Reformers. Francisco Ribera, 1590, pushed most of the book into the future. Luis de Alcazar, 1614, placed most of it in the first centuries. Their two answers grew into the futurist and preterist views.

MODERN TIMES

In the 1830s John Nelson Darby taught a future seven year tribulation after the church is taken away. The Scofield Reference Bible, 1909, carried it into millions of homes, then Hal Lindsey's *The Late Great Planet Earth*, 1970, and the *Left Behind* novels from 1995. The next page gives every view.

The Case Each Side Makes

REVELATION 1:1 · 1:19 · 4:1 · 11:8 · 17:9 · 19:11

PRETERIST

Most of it happened in the first century: the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70, or Rome's war on the church, with Jesus' return still ahead at the end, 19 to 22. A few say all of it is fulfilled. Best case: soon and near, 1:1 and 22:10, meant something to the first readers, and the great city is where the Lord was crucified, 11:8.

HISTORICIST

Revelation is a map of church history from John's day to the end, with the seals, trumpets and bowls as events in order. Held by many Reformers, Isaac Newton and the early Adventists. Best case: it gives every generation a place in the story.

FUTURIST

From chapter 4 on, most of the book is still future: a final tribulation, a world ruler, the return of Christ and His kingdom. Held by many early fathers in some form and by most evangelicals today. Best case: the events are worldwide and have never happened that way yet, 6:15 to 17 and 16:18.

IDEALIST

The visions are not a calendar but pictures of the war between Christ and Sa-

■ **REV 1:17 [FULFILLS]** The First and the Last ← IS 48:12 · MEDIUM P. 77

■ **REV 1:17 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 44:6; 48:12 P. 77

■ **REV 1:20 [NOTE]** THE ANGELS OF THE CHURCHES. The Greek angelos means messenger. It could be a guardian angel for each church, or a church's leader, or its messenger to John.

JESUS SPEAKING

tan in every age, ending in His victory. Held by many who follow Augustine. Best case: the book calls itself signs, 1:1, and every church in every century can read it as its own story.

MIXING THEM

Many scholars today mix the views: the visions spoke to John's churches, repeat in every age, and point to one final end.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Jesus is Lord over history. Evil will be judged. Believers are called to stay faithful, even unto death. Jesus is coming back, and God will make all things new.

FROM HISTORY

WHAT EUSEBIUS WROTE

John on Patmos

EUSEBIUS, CHURCH HISTORY 3.18 · REVELATION 1:9 · IRENAEUS, AGAINST HERESIES 5.30.3

WHY THIS IS HERE

John was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, 1:9. Patmos is a rocky island of about 13 square miles, and Rome often banished troublemakers to islands. An early church historian tells when.

WHO EUSEBIUS WAS

Bishop of Caesarea; he wrote his Church History in the early 300s from a large library of older Christian books.

WHAT HE WROTE

All of book 3, chapter 18, McGiffert translation, 1890. The quote is from Irenaeus, about AD 180.

CHURCH HISTORY 3.18

It is said that in this persecution the apostle and evangelist John, who was still alive, was condemned to dwell on the island of Patmos in consequence of his testimony to the divine word. Irenaeus, in the fifth book of his work Against Heresies, where he discusses the number of the name of Antichrist which is given in the so-called Apocalypse of John, speaks as follows concerning him:

"If it were necessary for his name to be proclaimed openly at the present time, it would have been declared by him who saw the revelation. For it was seen not long ago, but almost in our own genera-

tion, at the end of the reign of Domitian." To such a degree, indeed, did the teaching of our faith flourish at that time that even those writers who were far from our religion did not hesitate to mention in their histories the persecution and the martyrdoms which took place during it. And they, indeed, accurately indicated the time. For they recorded that in the fifteenth year of Domitian Flavia Domitilla, daughter of a sister of Flavius Clement, who at that time was one of the consuls of Rome, was exiled with many others to the island of Pontia in consequence of testimony borne to Christ.

WHAT IT TELLS US

This persecution means Domitian's, AD 81 to 96; his fifteenth year is AD 95 to 96. Irenaeus heard Polycarp, who knew John, so his date is early. Some scholars prefer a date under Nero, about AD 68. Flavius Clemens, the emperor's cousin, was put to death; Cassius Dio says for atheism and Jewish ways, which many think meant Christianity.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Jesus writes report cards to four churches. Ephesus works hard but lost its first love. Smyrna is poor and persecuted but rich in His eyes. Pergamum lives where Satan has his throne. Thyatira lets a false prophetess called Jezebel lead people into idol feasts. To each one: whoever overcomes wins.

TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS // ACTS 19:8-12; EPHESIANS 1:1-2

1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 I know your deeds, your labor, and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate those who are evil, and you have tested and exposed as liars those who falsely claim to be apostles. **3** Without growing weary, you have persevered and

■ **REV 2:1 [NOTE]** SEVEN CHURCHES. Real cities on a mail route, in the order a messenger would travel. See The Seven Churches pages.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY

DEMONIC

NOTABLE JESUS SPEAKING

endured many things for the sake of My name.

4 But I have this against you: You have abandoned your first love. **5 Therefore, keep in mind how far you have fallen. Repent and perform the deeds you did at first. But if you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**

6 But you have this to your credit: You hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to eat from the tree of life in the Paradise of God.

TO THE CHURCH IN SMYRNA

8 To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of the First and the Last, who died and returned to life.

9 I know your affliction and your poverty—though you are rich! And I am aware of the slander of those who falsely claim to be Jews, but are in fact a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will suffer tribulation for ten days. Be faithful even unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes will not be harmed by the second death.

■ **REV 2:4 [NOTABLE]** A busy church with the right beliefs can still lose its love for Jesus.

■ **REV 2:5 [PROPHECY]** To Ephesus → HISTORY: History of Ephesus · MEDIUM

■ **REV 2:6 [NOTE] NICOLAITANS.** A group whose teaching led to idol feasts and sexual sin, 2:15. Irenaeus says they followed Nicolaus of Antioch, Acts 6:5, but that link is uncertain.

■ **REV 2:7 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← GEN 2:9 p.~

■ **REV 2:9 [NOTE] SYNAGOGUE OF SATAN.** In Smyrna some who said they were Jews were slandering the church, and Jesus says they are not true Jews. Jesus and John were Jews themselves. This was a local fight in the first century, never a license to hate Jewish people.

■ **REV 2:10 [PROPHECY]** To Smyrna → HISTORY: Martyrdom of Polycarp · MEDIUM

■ **REV 2:10 [NOTE] CROWN OF LIFE.** About AD 155 Smyrna's bishop Polycarp was burned alive rather than deny Jesus. See What Polycarp's Church Wrote.

TO THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM

12 To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of the One who holds the sharp, double-edged sword.

13 I know where you live, where the throne of Satan sits, yet you hold fast to My name. You did not deny your faith in Me, even in the days of My faithful witness Antipas, who was killed among you where Satan dwells.

14 But I have a few things against you, because some of you hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block before the Israelites so they would eat food sacrificed to idols and commit sexual immorality. **15 In the same way, some of you also hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.** **16 Therefore repent! Otherwise I will come to you shortly and wage war against them with the sword of My mouth.**

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone inscribed with a new name, known only to the one who receives it.

TO THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA // ACTS 16:11-15

18 To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like a blazing fire and whose feet are like polished bronze.

19 I know your deeds—your love, your faith, your service, your perseverance—and your latest deeds are greater than your first.

20 But I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a

■ **REV 2:13 [DEMONIC]** Pergamum is where Satan's throne sits

■ **REV 2:13 [NOTE] SATAN'S THRONE.** Maybe the great altar of Zeus, the temple to the emperor, or the healing god Asclepius, whose sign was a snake. See The Seven Churches pages.

■ **REV 2:14 [DEMONIC]** Some in Pergamum follow Balaam's teaching to eat food sacrificed to idols

■ **REV 2:17 [FULFILLS]** A jar of manna was kept before Yahweh for later generations ← EX 16:33 · MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 2:17 [NOTE] MANNA AND A WHITE STONE.** Hidden manna recalls the jar of manna kept in the ark, Exodus 16:33. A white stone was used as a vote of not guilty or a ticket to a feast.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES THE HEART DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW JESUS SPEAKING

prophethess. By her teaching she misleads My servants to be sexually immoral and to eat food sacrificed to idols.²¹ Even though I have given her time to repent of her immorality, she is unwilling.

²² Behold, I will cast her onto a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer great tribulation unless they repent of her deeds.²³ Then I will strike her children dead, and all the churches will know that I am the One who searches minds and hearts, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

²⁴ But I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned the so-called deep things of Satan: I will place no further burden upon you²⁵ than to hold fast to what you have until I come.²⁶ And to the one who overcomes and continues in My work until the end, I will give authority over the nations.

²⁷ He will rule them with an iron scepter and shatter them like pottery—just as I have received authority from My Father.²⁸ And I will give him the morning star.

²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

FROM HISTORY

WHAT POLYCARP'S CHURCH WROTE

Faithful unto Death in Smyrna

THE MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP 9 TO 16 · REVELATION 2:8 TO 11

WHY THIS IS HERE

Jesus tells Smyrna: Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life, 2:10. About sixty years later the church at Smyrna watched its old bishop do exactly that, and wrote a letter about it to other churches.

WHO POLYCARP WAS

Polycarp was bishop of Smyrna. Irenaeus says he was taught by the apostles and appointed by them, and that as a boy he heard Polycarp talk about John. He died about AD 155 to 160, at 86 or older.

WHAT THEY WROTE

Here is the whole account of his trial and death, chapters 9 to 16, in the translation by J. B. Lightfoot, *The Apostolic Fathers*, 1891. Words in [square brackets] are Lightfoot's. The genius of Caesar means the emperor's guardian spirit; to swear by it was an act of worship.

THE MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP 9 TO 16

But as Polycarp entered into the stadium, a voice came to him from heaven; 'Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man.' And no one saw the speaker, but those of our people who were present heard the voice. And at length, when he was brought up, there was a great tumult, for they heard that Polycarp had been apprehended. When then he was brought before him, the proconsul enquired whether he were the man. And on his confessing that he was, he tried to persuade him to a denial saying, 'Have respect to thine age,' and other things in accordance therewith, as it is their wont to say; 'Swear by the genius of Cæsar; repent and say, Away with the atheists.' Then Polycarp with solemn countenance looked upon the whole multitude of lawless heathen that were in the stadium, and waved his hand to them; and groaning and looking up to heaven he said, 'Away with the atheists.' But when the magistrate pressed him hard and said, 'Swear the oath, and I will release thee; revile the Christ,' Polycarp said, 'Fourscore and six years have I been His servant, and He hath done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?' But on his persisting again and saying, 'Swear by the genius of Cæsar,' he answered, 'If thou supposest vainly that I will swear by the genius of Cæsar, as thou sayest, and feignest that thou art ignorant who I am, hear thou plainly, I am a Christian. But if thou wouldest learn the doctrine of Christian-

■ REV 2:20 [DEMONIC] Jezebel leads believers to eat food sacrificed to idols

■ REV 2:20 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← 1KI 16:31 p.~

■ REV 2:20 [NOTE] JEZEBEL. Probably a nickname for a real woman, after Ahab's wife who led Israel to Baal, 1 Kings 16:31.

■ REV 2:23 [HEART] Jesus says He searches minds and hearts and repays each one for their deeds.

■ REV 2:23 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← JER 17:10 p.~

■ REV 2:24 [DEMONIC] The so called deep things of Satan taught at Thyatira

■ REV 2:27 [FULFILLS] 'The rod of Your strength out of Zion' ← PS 110:2 p.~

■ REV 2:27 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 2:9 p.~

ity, assign a day and give me a hearing.' The proconsul said; 'Prevail upon the people.' But Polycarp said; 'As for thyself, I should have held thee worthy of discourse; for we have been taught to render, as is meet, to princes and authorities appointed by God such honour as does us no harm; but as for these, I do not hold them worthy, that I should defend myself before them.'

Whereupon the proconsul said; 'I have wild beasts here and I will throw thee to them, except thou repent.' But he said, 'Call for them: for the repentance from better to worse is a change not permitted to us; but it is a noble thing to change from untowardness to righteousness.' Then he said to him again, 'I will cause thee to be consumed by fire, if thou despisest the wild beasts, unless thou repent.' But Polycarp said; 'Thou threatenest that fire which burneth for a season and after a little while is quenched: for thou art ignorant of the fire of the future judgment and eternal punishment, which is reserved for the ungodly. But why delayest thou? Come, do what thou wilt.'

Saying these things and more besides, he was inspired with courage and joy, and his countenance was filled with grace, so that not only did it not drop in dismay at the things which were said to him, but on the contrary the proconsul was astounded and sent his own herald to proclaim three times in the midst of the stadium, 'Polycarp hath confessed himself to be a Christian.' When this was proclaimed by the herald, the whole multitude both of Gentiles and of Jews who dwelt in Smyrna cried out with ungovernable wrath and with a loud shout, 'This is the teacher of Asia, the father of the Christians, the puller down of our gods, who teacheth numbers not to sacrifice nor worship.' Saying these things, they shouted aloud and asked the Asiarch Philip to let a lion loose upon Polycarp. But he said that it was not lawful for him, since he had brought the sports to a close. Then they thought fit to shout out with one accord that Poly-

carp should be burned alive. For it must needs be that the matter of the vision should be fulfilled, which was shown him concerning his pillow, when he saw it on fire while praying, and turning round he said prophetically to the faithful who were with him, 'I must needs be burned alive.'

These things then happened with so great speed, quicker than words could tell, the crowds forthwith collecting from the workshops and baths timber and faggots, and the Jews more especially assisting in this with zeal, as is their wont. But when the pile was made ready, divesting himself of all his upper garments and loosing his girdle, he endeavoured also to take off his shoes, though not in the habit of doing this before, because all the faithful at all times vied eagerly who should soonest touch his flesh. For he had been treated with all honour for his holy life even before his gray hairs came. Forthwith then the instruments that were prepared for the pile were placed about him; and as they were going likewise to nail him to the stake, he said; 'Leave me as I am; for He that hath granted me to endure the fire will grant me also to remain at the pile unmoved, even without the security which ye seek from the nails.'

So they did not nail him, but tied him. Then he, placing his hands behind him and being bound to the stake, like a noble ram out of a great flock for an offering, a burnt sacrifice made ready and acceptable to God, looking up to heaven said; 'O Lord God Almighty, the Father of Thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received the knowledge of Thee, the God of angels and powers and of all creation and of the whole race of the righteous, who live in Thy presence; I bless Thee for that Thou hast granted me this day and hour, that I might receive a portion amongst the number of martyrs in the cup of [Thy] Christ unto resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and of body, in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. May I be received among these in Thy

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presence this day, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, as Thou didst prepare and reveal it beforehand, and hast accomplished it, Thou that art the faithful and true God. For this cause, yea and for all things, I praise Thee, I bless Thee, I glorify Thee, through the eternal and heavenly High-priest, Jesus Christ, Thy beloved Son, through whom with Him and the Holy Spirit be glory both now [and ever] and for the ages to come. Amen.'

When he had offered up the Amen and finished his prayer, the firemen lighted the fire. And, a mighty flame flashing forth, we to whom it was given to see, saw a marvel, yea and we were preserved that we might relate to the rest what happened. The fire, making the appearance of a vault, like the sail of a vessel filled by the wind, made a wall round about the body of the martyr; and it was there in the midst, not like flesh burning, but like [a loaf in the oven or like] gold and silver refined in a furnace. For we perceived such a fragrant smell, as if it were the wafted odour of frankincense or some other precious spice. So at length the lawless men, seeing that his body could not be consumed by the fire, ordered an executioner to go up to him and stab him with a dagger. And when he had done this, there came forth [a dove and] a quantity of blood, so that it extinguished the fire; and all the multitude marvelled that there should be so great a difference between the unbelievers and the elect. In the number of these was this man, the glorious martyr Polycarp, who was found an apostolic and prophetic teacher in our own time, a bishop of the holy Church which is in Smyrna. For every word which he uttered from his mouth was accomplished and will be accomplished.

The Crown of Life

REVELATION 2:8 TO 11 · 1 PETER 4:14 · ROMANS 12:1

THE OLDEST ACCOUNT

This letter is the oldest Christian account of a martyr outside the New Testament, written by eyewitnesses within a year or so of his death.

AWAY WITH THE ATHEISTS

Romans called Christians atheists because they would not worship the gods. Polycarp turned the words around and pointed at the crowd.

EIGHTY SIX YEARS

Fourscore and six means 86. Many take it as the years since he was baptized, so he may have been a Christian from childhood.

SMYRNA'S JEWS

The letter says Jews in Smyrna joined the crowd, like the slander Jesus mentions in 2:9. That was one city's conflict, not a picture of all Jewish people.

WHAT IS HARD TO BELIEVE

The voice from heaven, the fire like a sail and the dove are reported as wonders. Lightfoot and many others think the dove came into the text later by a copying mistake.

WHY IT MATTERS

Smyrna's church was poor and persecuted but faithful, 2:9 to 10. Jesus did not promise them escape. He promised them the crown of life, and they believed Him.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

Three more report cards. Sardis looks alive but is dead. Little Philadelphia has kept His word, so He opens a door no one can shut. Laodicea is rich, proud and lukewarm, and it makes Him sick. Still, He stands at the door and knocks.

TO THE CHURCH IN SARDIS

¹ "To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of the One who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

I know your deeds; you have a reputation for being alive, yet you are dead. ² Wake up and strengthen what remains, which is

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about to die; for I have found your deeds incomplete in the sight of My God. ³ Remember, then, what you have received and heard. Keep it and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know the hour when I will come upon you.

⁴ But you do have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments, and because they are worthy, they will walk with Me in white. ⁵ Like them, he who overcomes will be dressed in white. And I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels.

⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

TO THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

⁷ To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of the One who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.

⁸ I know your deeds. Behold, I have placed before you an open door, which no one can shut. I know that you have only a little strength, yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name. ⁹ As for those who belong to the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews but are liars instead, I will make them come and bow down at your feet, and they will know that I love you.

¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will never again leave it. Upon him I will write the name of My God,

and the name of the city of My God (the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven from My God), and My new name.

¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

TO THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA // COLOSSIANS 2:1-5

¹⁴ To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Originator of God's creation.

¹⁵ I know your deeds; you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were one or the other! ¹⁶ So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to vomit you out of My mouth!

¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have grown wealthy and need nothing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, white garments so that you may be clothed and your shameful nakedness not exposed, and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those I love I rebuke and discipline. Therefore be earnest and repent.

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

■ **REV 3:5 [NOTE] THE BOOK OF LIFE.** See Exodus 32:32 and Daniel 12:1. Christians debate whether a name can be erased; see Can a Believer Fall Away? in Jude, p.~.
■ **REV 3:7 [FULFILLS]** Given all authority ← IS 22:22 p.~.
■ **REV 3:10 [PROPHECY]** To Philadelphia → STILL TO COME - MEDIUM
■ **REV 3:10 [NOTE] THE HOUR OF TRIAL.** See The Rapture and 3:10.

■ **REV 3:14 [NOTE] THE BEGINNING.** The Greek arche can mean first in time or the ruler and source. Colossians 1:15 to 18 shows Christ as the Creator, not a creature.
■ **REV 3:15 [NOTABLE]** Jesus wants a church that is useful to Him, not tepid.
■ **REV 3:20 [NOTABLE]** Jesus knocks at the door of a church that had shut Him out. He wants to come in and eat with us.
■ **REV 3:20 [NOTE] AT THE DOOR.** Often used to invite people to faith, and rightly, but here Jesus is knocking on the door of a church.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE SITES · SATAN'S THRONE IS A GUESS

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

REVELATION 2:1 TO 29 · ACTS 19 · ACTS 16:14



Top left: the Great Theatre of Ephesus, Furkan Akkurt, CC BY SA 4.0. Top right: the Great Altar of Pergamum, rebuilt in the Pergamon Museum, Berlin, Lestat (Jan Mehlich), CC BY SA 3.0. Bottom left: the agora of Smyrna, Didier Laroché, CC BY SA 3.0. Bottom right: ruins of Thyatira, public domain.

EPHESUS

The biggest city of the province and home of the temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders. Paul spent three years here, and the riot of Acts 19 filled this theater, which held about 24,000. Its seats and stage are partly restored. Later its harbor filled with silt and the city faded away, like a lampstand removed, 2:5.

SMYRNA

Today Izmir. The agora shown was rebuilt after an earthquake in AD 178. Smyrna was proud of its loyalty to Rome and its crown of buildings on the hill. Jesus offered a better crown, 2:10, and Polycarp died for it.

PERGAMUM

A capital city with a famous library; parchment, pergamena, is named after it. Its Great Altar of Zeus, about 180 to 160 BC, was dug up by German archaeologists from 1878 and rebuilt in Berlin with its original carved panels. Many think it was Satan's throne, 2:13; others point to the temple of the emperor or to Asclepius, the snake god of healing. No one knows for sure.

THYATIRA

Today Akhisar. A city of trade guilds; Lydia, the seller of purple, came from here, Acts 16:14. Guild feasts honored

the gods with meat offered to idols, the very thing Jezebel was teaching, 2:20. Only a small field of ruins survives in the middle of the modern town.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE SITES · THE WATER IDEA IS AN INTERPRETATION

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

REVELATION 3:1 TO 22 · COLOSSIANS 4:13 TO 16



Left: piers of the Byzantine church of St. John, Philadelphia (Alaşehir), simonjenkins' photos, CC BY SA 2.0. Top right: the temple of Artemis at Sardis, Mark Landon, CC BY 4.0. Bottom right: an aqueduct water tower at Laodicea, crusted with lime, Rjdeadly, CC BY SA 4.0.

SARDIS

Once the capital of rich King Croesus, on a hill everyone thought could not be taken. It fell by surprise at night twice, to Cyrus in 546 BC and to Antiochus III in 214 BC, because no one was watching. Jesus says: wake up, or I will come like a thief, 3:2 to 3. Its huge temple of Artemis was never finished.

PHILADELPHIA

A small city shaken by a great earthquake in AD 17 and by years of after-shocks, so people lived outside in the fields. Jesus promises to make the overcomer a pillar in God's temple who will never go out again, 3:12. The city took a new name to honor the emperor; Jesus promises a new name, 3:12. The pillars shown are from a church built centuries later, probably in the 500s.

LAODICEA

A rich banking city famous for black wool and an eye salve. When an earthquake hit in AD 60, it refused Rome's help and rebuilt itself, Tacitus says. Its water came by aqueduct from springs miles away, and the towers that carried

MIRACLES JESUS SPEAKING

it are crusted with lime. Many think lukewarm means its water was neither hot like the healing springs of nearby Hierapolis nor cold like the water of Colossae: just useless. Jesus tells the rich city it is poor, blind and naked, and offers gold, white clothes and eye salve, 3:17 to 18.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

THE RAPTURE AND 3:10

Kept From the Hour of Trial

REVELATION 3:10 · 4:1 · JOHN 17:15 · 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16 TO 17

WHAT JESUS SAID

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is about to come upon the whole world, 3:10. Christians read this verse very differently.

THE BIG DEBATE

The full history of the rapture views, from the early church to John Nelson Darby, is in the 1 Thessalonians pages, p.-. Here is how each view reads this verse.

PRE TRIBULATION

Keep you from means taken out before the trouble starts. In 4:1 John hears come up here, and the word church does not appear again until 22:16. Best case: the promise is to be kept from the hour itself, not just from harm in it.

MID TRIBULATION AND PRE WRATH

Believers go through the first part of the trouble but are taken before God's wrath is poured out, 6:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9. Best case: it separates persecution from God's wrath.

POST TRIBULATION

Keep you from means keep you safe through it. Jesus prayed the same Greek words in John 17:15: not that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. Best case: the same phrase means protection, and the saints are on earth in 13:7 and 20:4.

A PROMISE TO ONE CHURCH

Many scholars say this was first a promise to Philadelphia about a coming trial in their own day. Best case: it is written to that church by name.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Jesus will come back for His people. Believers are not appointed to God's wrath. Stay faithful and ready, 3:11.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

A door opens in heaven, and John sees a throne with a rainbow around it, twenty four elders and four living creatures who never stop saying holy, holy, holy. Everyone falls down before the Creator.

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

¹After this I looked and saw a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had previously heard speak to me like a trumpet was saying, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."

²At once I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne standing in heaven, with someone seated on it. ³The One seated there looked like jasper and carnelian, and a rainbow that gleamed like an emerald encircled the throne. ⁴Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on these thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white, with golden crowns on their heads.

WORSHIP OF THE CREATOR

⁵From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. Before the throne burned seven torches of fire. These are the seven spirits of God. ⁶And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, as clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, covered with eyes in front and back. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had a face like a man, and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. ⁸And each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered

■ REV 4:2 [MIRACLE] John sees a throne in heaven

■ REV 4:4 [NOTE] TWENTY FOUR ELDERS. Maybe the twelve tribes and twelve apostles, the whole people of God, 21:12 to 14, or a council of angels.

■ REV 4:6 [NOTE] FOUR LIVING CREATURES. They look like the creatures of Ezekiel 1 and the seraphim of Isaiah 6. About AD 180 Irenaeus matched the four faces to the four Gospels.

■ REV 4:7 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EZK 1:10 p.-

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MIRACLES

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

with eyes all around and within. Day and night they never stop saying:

*"Holy, Holy, Holy,
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"*

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the One seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne, and they worship Him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹ "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things; by Your will they exist and were created."

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Nobody is worthy to open the sealed scroll, and John cries. Then an elder says look, the Lion of Judah has won. John looks and sees a Lamb who had been slain. All heaven and earth break out singing Worthy is the Lamb.

THE LAMB TAKES THE SCROLL

¹ Then I saw a scroll in the right hand of the One seated on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"

³ But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look inside it. ⁴ And I began to weep bitterly, because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or look inside it.

⁵ Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed to open the scroll and its seven seals."

■ **REV 4:8 [MIRACLE]** Four living creatures cry holy, holy, holy

■ **REV 4:8 [QUOTES]** Direct ← IS 6:3 p.-

■ **REV 4:11 [NOTABLE]** Heaven praises God first as the Creator.

■ **REV 5:5 [FULFILLS]** Judah is a young lion ← GEN 49:9 p.-

⁶ Then I saw a Lamb who appeared to have been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which represent the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the scroll from the right hand of the One seated on the throne.

⁸ When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp, and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song:

"Worthy are You to take the scroll and open its seals, because You were slain, and by Your blood You purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign upon the earth."

THE LAMB EXALTED

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voices of many angels encircling the throne, and the living creatures and the elders. And their number was myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

■ **REV 5:6 [FULFILLS]** Led as a lamb to the slaughter ← IS 53:7c p.-

■ **REV 5:6 [NOTE]** THE LAMB. John hears Lion, 5:5, and turns to see a Lamb that was slain. Jesus won by dying. Isaiah 53:7.

■ **REV 5:8 [NOTABLE]** The definitive statement that incense in heaven's throne room = the prayers of God's people

■ **REV 5:9 [NOTABLE]** The crowd in heaven looks like the whole world.

■ **REV 5:9 [FULFILLS]** Led as a lamb to the slaughter ← IS 53:7c p.-

■ **REV 5:9 [NOTE]** TEXT. The oldest copies say You purchased for God those from every tribe and made them a kingdom, 5:10. The KJV says redeemed us and made us.

■ **REV 5:10 [PROPHECY]** The redeemed from every nation will reign on the earth → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 5:10 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EX 19:6 p.-

■ **REV 5:11 [MIRACLE]** Countless angels sing Worthy is the Lamb

PROPHETIC FORESHADOW END TIMES PROPHECIES

¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To Him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power
forever and ever!"

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

The Lamb opens six seals. Four horses ride out: conquest, war, famine and death. Martyrs under the altar ask how long. Then the sky rolls up like a scroll, and the powerful of the earth hide in caves, begging the mountains to fall on them.

THE FIRST SEAL: THE WHITE HORSE

¹ Then I watched as the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"

² So I looked and saw a white horse, and its rider held a bow. And he was given a crown, and he rode out to overcome and conquer.

THE SECOND SEAL: WAR

³ And when the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

⁴ Then another horse went forth. It was bright red, and its rider was granted permission to take away peace from the earth and to make men slay one another. And he was given a great sword.

THE THIRD SEAL: FAMINE

⁵ And when the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!"

Then I looked and saw a black horse, and its rider held in his hand a pair of scales. ⁶ And I heard what sounded like a voice from among the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and

three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine."

THE FOURTH SEAL: DEATH

⁷ And when the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

⁸ Then I looked and saw a pale green horse. Its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed close behind. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword, by famine, by plague, and by the beasts of the earth.

THE FIFTH SEAL: THE MARTYRS

⁹ And when the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they had upheld. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge those who dwell upon the earth and avenge our blood?"

¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe and told to rest a little while longer until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers, were killed, just as they had been killed.

THE SIXTH SEAL: TERROR

¹² And I watched as the Lamb opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black like sackcloth of goat hair, and the whole moon turned blood red, ¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs dropping from a tree shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴ The sky receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth, the nobles, the commanders, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and free man hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. ¹⁶ And they said to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. ¹⁷ For the

■ **REV 6:1 [PROPHECY]** Seal 1 → STILL TO COME
■ **REV 6:2 [NOTE]** THE WHITE HORSE. Some see Christ, as in 19:11. Others see a false conqueror who copies Him. The other three horses bring war, famine and death.
■ **REV 6:3 [PROPHECY]** Seal 2 → STILL TO COME
■ **REV 6:5 [PROPHECY]** Seal 3 → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 6:6 [NOTE]** A DAY'S WAGE. A denarius was a day's pay, Matthew 20:2. Paying it for one quart of wheat means famine prices.
■ **REV 6:7 [PROPHECY]** Seal 4 → STILL TO COME
■ **REV 6:9 [PROPHECY]** Seal 5 → STILL TO COME
■ **REV 6:12 [PROPHECY]** Seal 6 → STILL TO COME
■ **REV 6:14 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 34:4 p.~

PROPHETIC FORESHADOW END TIMES PROPHECIES

great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to withstand it?"

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Four angels hold back the winds while 144,000 from the tribes of Israel get God's seal. Then John sees a crowd too big to count from every nation, in white robes, waving palm branches. God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

144,000 SEALED

¹After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back its four winds so that no wind would blow on land or sea or on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, with the seal of the living God. And he called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³"Do not harm the land or sea or trees until we have placed a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."

⁴And I heard the number of those who were sealed, 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel:

⁵From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,
from the tribe of Gad 12,000,

⁶from the tribe of Asher 12,000,
from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,
from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,

⁷from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,
from the tribe of Levi 12,000,
from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,

⁸from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,
from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,
and from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

■ **REV 6:16 [FULFILLS]** People would cry to the mountains, Cover us, and to the hills, Fall on us ← HOS 10:8 · MEDIUM P.-

■ **REV 7:1 [PROPHECY]** 144,000 sealed from the 12 tribes of Israel (12,000 from each tribe) → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 7:3 [FULFILLS]** God's faithful marked on the forehead before judgment fell ← EZK 9:4 · MEDIUM P.-

■ **REV 7:4 [NOTE]** 144,000. See Who Are the 144,000?

■ **REV 7:5 [NOTE]** THE TRIBES. Dan and Ephraim are missing, and Joseph and Levi are added. Irenaeus thought Dan was left out because the Antichrist would come from it; see What Irenaeus Wrote.

PRAISE FROM THE GREAT MULTITUDE

⁹After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. And they fell facedown before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me: "These in white robes," he asked, "who are they, and where have they come from?"

¹⁴"Sir," I answered, "you know."

So he replied, "These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason,

they are before the throne of God
and serve Him day and night in His temple;

and the One seated on the throne
will spread His tabernacle over them.

¹⁶'Never again will they hunger,
and never will they thirst;

nor will the sun beat down upon them,
nor any scorching heat.'

¹⁷For the Lamb in the center of the throne
will be their shepherd.

'He will lead them to springs of living water,'

and 'God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

■ **REV 7:9 [PROPHECY]** A great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne... these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 7:14 [PROPHECY]** Those who come out of the great tribulation will never hunger again and God will wipe away every tear → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 7:16 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 49:10; 25:8 P.-

END TIMES PROPHECIES | NOTABLE

DEBATED | THE BIG QUESTION

WHO ARE THE 144,000?

Sealed From Every Tribe

REVELATION 7:1 TO 17 · 14:1 TO 5 · EZEKIEL 9:4 · ROMANS 2:28 TO 29 · GALATIANS 6:16

WHAT JOHN SAW

God's servants are sealed on their foreheads, 12,000 from each of twelve tribes of Israel, 7:4 to 8. Then John looks and sees a great multitude no one could count from every nation, 7:9. In 14:1 to 5 the 144,000 stand with the Lamb on Mount Zion, blameless and following Him wherever He goes.

A STRANGE LIST

Dan and Ephraim are missing, and Levi and Joseph are listed. Irenaeus, about AD 180, thought Dan was left out because the Antichrist would come from it. Judah, Jesus' tribe, comes first.

JEWISH BELIEVERS

Real people from the tribes of Israel who turn to Christ in the last days and are protected, Romans 11:26. Held by most dispensational teachers. Best case: John names each tribe and counts them, then describes a different, uncountable crowd from all nations.

THE WHOLE CHURCH

A picture of all God's people, Jew and Gentile, as the true Israel: 12 times 12 times 1,000, complete. John hears a number and then sees a crowd, just as he hears Lion in 5:5 and sees a Lamb in 5:6. Best case: Galatians 6:16 and Romans 2:28 to 29.

THE MARTYRS

A special group of faithful witnesses, the firstfruits, 14:4, often linked with those who die for Christ.

OTHER GROUPS

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that only 144,000 anointed believers go to heaven while others live on earth. Many early Seventh day Adventists linked them to the faithful alive at Christ's return. Most churches say the book does not limit heaven to that number, since the multitude in 7:9 cannot be counted.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God knows and protects His own. He keeps His promises to Israel. And

heaven will be full of people from every nation, tribe, people and tongue.

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

The seventh seal brings silence in heaven for half an hour. An angel offers incense with the prayers of the saints. Then four trumpets: hail and fire, a burning mountain in the sea, a falling star called Wormwood, and a third of the sky goes dark.

THE SEVENTH SEAL

¹When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets.

³Then another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, rose up before God from the hand of the angel.

⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS

⁶And the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

⁷Then the first angel sounded his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, along with a third of the trees and all the green grass.

⁸Then the second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned to blood, ⁹a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

REV 8:1 [PROPHECY] Seal 7 → STILL TO COME

REV 8:3 [NOTABLE] The angel offers incense WITH the prayers of the saints; smoke ascends before God; imagery of prayer-empowered heavenly action

REV 8:7 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 1 → STILL TO COME

REV 8:8 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 2 → STILL TO COME

PROPHETIC FORESHADOW END TIMES PROPHECIES

¹⁰ Then the third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star burning like a torch fell from heaven and landed on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter like wormwood oil, and many people died from the bitter waters.

¹² Then the fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun and moon and stars were struck. A third of the stars were darkened, a third of the day was without light, and a third of the night as well.

¹³ And as I observed, I heard an eagle flying overhead, calling in a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the remaining three angels!"

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

Trumpet five opens the bottomless pit, and locusts with human faces and scorpion tails torment people for five months. Trumpet six releases a giant army from the Euphrates. Even after all that, people will not stop worshiping demons and idols.

THE FIFTH TRUMPET

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth, and it was given the key to the pit of the Abyss. ² The star opened the pit of the Abyss, and smoke rose out of it like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit.

³ And out of the smoke, locusts descended on the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ The locusts

were not given power to kill them, but only to torment them for five months, and their torment was like the stinging of a scorpion. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will escape them.

⁷ And the locusts looked like horses prepared for battle, with something like crowns of gold on their heads; and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like that of women, and teeth like those of lions. ⁹ They also had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails with stingers like scorpions, which had the power to injure people for five months. ¹¹ They were ruled by a king, the angel of the Abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek it is Apollyon.

¹² The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still to follow.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel with the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

¹⁵ So the four angels who had been prepared for this hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ And the number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number.

¹⁷ Now the horses and riders in my vision looked like this: The riders had breastplates the colors of fire, sapphire, and sulfur. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths proceeded fire, smoke, and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur that proceeded from their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; indeed, their tails were

■ REV 8:10 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 3 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 8:11 [NOTE] WORMWOOD. A bitter plant, Jeremiah 9:15. The Ukrainian word chornobyl names a cousin of wormwood, so some linked this verse to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

■ REV 8:12 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 4 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 9:1 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 5 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 9:4 [FULFILLS] God's faithful marked on the forehead before judgment fell ← EZK 9:4 · MEDIUM p.~

■ REV 9:11 [NOTE] ABADDON AND APOLLYON. Hebrew and Greek for Destruction and Destroyer, Job 26:6.

■ REV 9:13 [PROPHECY] Trumpet 6 → STILL TO COME

END TIMES PROPHECIES MIRACLES DEMONIC

like snakes, having heads with which to inflict harm.

²⁰ Now the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Furthermore, they did not repent of their murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

A huge angel stands with one foot on the sea and one on the land and shouts like a lion. John is told to eat a little scroll. It tastes sweet as honey, then turns his stomach sour.

THE ANGEL AND THE SMALL SCROLL // EZEKIEL 3:1–15

¹ Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head. His face was like the sun, and his legs were like pillars of fire. ² He held in his hand a small scroll, which lay open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. ³ Then he cried out in a loud voice like the roar of a lion. And when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded their voices.

⁴ When the seven thunders had spoken, I was about to put it in writing. But I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down."

⁵ Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven. ⁶ And he swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and everything in it, the earth and everything in it, and the sea and every-

thing in it: "There will be no more delay! ⁷ But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he begins to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, just as He proclaimed to His servants the prophets."

⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the small scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel standing on the sea and on the land."

⁹ And I went to the angel and said, "Give me the small scroll."

"Take it and eat it," he said. "It will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey."

¹⁰ So I took the small scroll from the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach turned bitter.

¹¹ And they told me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Two witnesses preach for 1,260 days with power to stop the rain. The beast kills them, and the world throws a party over their bodies. After three and a half days God raises them up. The seventh trumpet sounds: the kingdom of the world now belongs to our Lord and His Christ.

THE TWO WITNESSES

¹ Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers there. ² But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months. ³ And I will empower my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sack-cloth."

■ REV 10:9 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EZK 2:8-3:3 p.-

■ REV 11:1 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EZK 40:3; ZECH 2:1-2 p.-

■ REV 11:2 [PROPHECY] The nations will trample the holy city for 42 months → STILL TO COME - MEDIUM

■ REV 11:3 [PROPHECY] Two witnesses will prophesy 1,260 days and then the beast will kill them → STILL TO COME

■ REV 9:20 [DEMONIC] Survivors keep worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, and stone

■ REV 9:21 [DEMONIC] Sorcerers, idolaters, and liars — outside the holy city

■ REV 9:21 [NOTE] SORCERIES. The Greek *pharmakeia* meant potions and drugs used in magic and witchcraft. Galatians 5:20 lists it with idolatry.

■ REV 10:1 [MIRACLE] A mighty angel robed in a cloud, one foot on the sea and one on the land

■ REV 10:5 [PROPHECY] The mystery of God shall be finished when the seventh angel begins to sound → STILL TO COME

■ REV 10:5 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← DAN 12:7 p.-

END TIMES PROPHECIES

⁴ These witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ If anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouths and devours their enemies. In this way, anyone who wants to harm them must be killed. ⁶ These witnesses have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall during the days of their prophecy, and power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

THE WITNESSES KILLED AND RAISED

⁷ When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will wage war with them, and will overpower and kill them. ⁸ Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city—figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where their Lord was also crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days all peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will view their bodies and will not permit them to be laid in a tomb. ¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send one another gifts, because these two prophets had tormented them.

¹¹ But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered the two witnesses, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell upon those who saw them. ¹² And the witnesses heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched them.

¹³ And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand were killed in the quake,

and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming shortly.

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and loud voices called out in heaven:

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.”

¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

“We give thanks to You, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸ The nations were enraged, and Your wrath has come.

The time has come to judge the dead and to reward Your servants the prophets,

as well as the saints and those who fear Your name, both small and great—and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

¹⁹ Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple. And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hail-storm.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

A woman clothed with the sun gives birth to a son who will rule the nations. A red dragon tries to eat the baby, but the child is caught up to God. Michael throws the dragon out of heaven, and the furious dragon goes after the woman's other children.

■ **REV 11:3 [NOTE]** TWO WITNESSES. Their signs match Moses and Elijah, 11:6. Some early writers named Enoch and Elijah, who never died. Others read them as the church's witness.

■ **REV 11:4 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← ZECH 4:3, 11-14 p.–

■ **REV 11:6 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← 1KI 17:1; EX 7:19-20 p.–

■ **REV 11:7 [PROPHECY]** Two witnesses will prophesy 1,260 days and then the beast will kill them → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 11:8 [NOTE]** THE GREAT CITY. Where their Lord was crucified, so Jerusalem, here called Sodom and Egypt.

■ **REV 11:11 [PROPHECY]** After three and a half days the two witnesses will rise and go up to heaven → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 11:11 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 37:5, 10 p.–

■ **REV 11:15 [PROPHECY]** Trumpet 7 → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 11:17 [NOTE]** TEXT. The KJV adds and art to come. The oldest copies leave it out, because by now He has come.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | END TIMES PROPHECIES | DEMONIC

THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON

¹And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and crying out in the pain and agony of giving birth.

³Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon with seven heads, ten horns, and seven royal crowns on his heads. ⁴His tail swept a third of the stars from the sky, hurling them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, ready to devour her child as soon as she gave birth.

⁵And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was caught up to God and to His throne. ⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place for her to be nourished for 1,260 days.

THE WAR IN HEAVEN

⁷Then a war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸But the dragon was not strong enough, and no longer was any place found in heaven for him and his angels. ⁹And the great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

¹⁰And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying:

"Now have come the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God,
and the authority of His Christ.
For the accuser of our brothers has been
thrown down—
he who accuses them day and night before our God.
¹¹They have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony.
And they did not love their lives
so as to shy away from death.
¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens,
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea;
with great fury the devil has come down to you,
knowing he has only a short time."

THE WOMAN PERSECUTED

¹³And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle to fly from the presence of the serpent to her place in the wilderness, where she was nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.

¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river to overtake the woman and sweep her away in the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman and opened its mouth to swallow up the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged at the woman and went to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea.

■ REV 12:1 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← GEN 37:9 p.~

■ REV 12:1 [NOTE] THE WOMAN. Most read her as God's people, Israel and the church, who brought forth the Messiah. Catholics and Orthodox also see Mary.

■ REV 12:5 [FULFILLS] 'The rod of Your strength out of Zion' ← PS 110:2 p.~

■ REV 12:5 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← PS 2:9 p.~

■ REV 12:6 [PROPHECY] The woman will be protected in the wilderness for 1,260 days → STILL TO COME · MEDIUM

■ REV 12:7 [PROPHECY] War broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail... the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old → STILL TO COME · MEDIUM

■ REV 12:7 [MIRACLE] War in heaven — Michael and his angels vs the dragon

■ REV 12:9 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← GEN 3:1 p.~

■ REV 12:9 [NOTE] THE ANCIENT SERPENT. The devil is the snake of Genesis 3, finally named and thrown down.

■ REV 12:13 [DEMONIC] The dragon hunts the woman and makes war on her children

END TIMES PROPHECIES DEMONIC

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

A beast rises from the sea, and the whole world worships it. A second beast from the earth does fake miracles and makes everyone take a mark on the right hand or forehead to buy or sell. Its number is 666.

THE BEAST FROM THE SEA // DANIEL 7:1-8

¹Then I saw a beast with ten horns and seven heads rising out of the sea. There were ten royal crowns on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ²The beast I saw was like a leopard, with the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

³One of the heads of the beast appeared to have been mortally wounded. But the mortal wound was healed, and the whole world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴They worshiped the dragon who had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can wage war against it?"

⁵The beast was given a mouth to speak arrogant and blasphemous words, and authority to act for 42 months. ⁶And the beast opened its mouth to speak blasphemies against God and to slander His name and His tabernacle—those who dwell in heaven.

⁷Then the beast was permitted to wage war against the saints and to conquer them, and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. ⁸And all who dwell on the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb who was slain.

⁹He who has an ear, let him hear:

■ **REV 13:1 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DAN 7:3-7 p.-

■ **REV 13:1 [NOTE]** THE BEAST. Its parts come from Daniel 7's four beasts. Many see Rome; many see a final world ruler; many see both.

■ **REV 13:4 [DEMONIC]** The world worships the dragon and the beast

■ **REV 13:5 [PROPHECY]** The beast will speak blasphemies, rule for 42 months, and make war on the saints → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 13:8 [DEMONIC]** Everyone not in the Book of Life worships the beast

¹⁰"If anyone is destined for captivity, into captivity he will go; if anyone is to die by the sword, by the sword he must be killed."

Here is a call for the perseverance and faith of the saints.

THE BEAST FROM THE EARTH

¹¹Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. This beast had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon. ¹²And this beast exercised all the authority of the first beast and caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.

¹³And the second beast performed great signs, even causing fire from heaven to come down to earth in the presence of the people. ¹⁴Because of the signs it was given to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived those who dwell on the earth, telling them to make an image to the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet had lived. ¹⁵The second beast was permitted to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship it to be killed.

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

¹⁶And the second beast required all people, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark—the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸Here is a call for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and that number is 666.

■ **REV 13:12 [DEMONIC]** The second beast makes an image of the beast that speaks

■ **REV 13:16 [PROPHECY]** The mark of the beast → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 13:18 [NOTE]** 666. See The Number of the Beast and What Irenaeus Wrote. TEXT. Papyrus 115 and Codex Ephraemi read 616.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION**THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST***666, or 616?*

REVELATION 13:16 TO 18 · 14:1 · 15:2 · DEUTERONOMY 6:8

WHAT JOHN SAID

Let the one who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666, 13:18. No one can buy or sell without the mark on the right hand or forehead, 13:17.

NUMBERS AS LETTERS

Greek and Hebrew used letters as numbers, so every name had a number. People played with this. A wall in Pompeii says: I love her whose number is 545.

NERO CAESAR

Written in Hebrew letters, Nero Caesar adds up to 666. Spelled the Latin way, without the last n, it adds up to 616. That may explain why some old copies, like Papyrus 115, say 616. Nero burned Christians alive in AD 64, and many believed he would come back, like a beast that was and is not, 17:8.

IRENÆUS

About AD 180 Irenæus knew the 616 copies and called them a copying mistake. He listed names that make 666, like Lateinos, a Roman, and Teitan, but refused to choose. See What Irenæus Wrote.

A FUTURE RULER

Many say it is the name of a final world ruler, still future. Over the years people have named popes, Napoleon, Hitler and others, and every guess has passed away.

THE NUMBER OF MAN

Some read it as a symbol: six falls short of seven, God's perfect number, three times over. Man trying to be God and failing.

THE MARK

God's people are sealed on their foreheads with His name, 7:3 and 14:1, like Israel binding God's word on hand and forehead, Deuteronomy 6:8. The beast copies God. Many read the mark as loyalty shown in what you think and do; others expect a literal mark. Barcodes,

chips and vaccines have all been called the mark; none has fit.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Do not set dates or name names. Worship God alone, even when it costs you your living, and trust the Lamb.

FROM HISTORY

WHAT IRENÆUS WROTE*The Number of the Name*

IRENÆUS, AGAINST HERESIES 5.30 · REVELATION 13:18

WHO IRENÆUS WAS

Bishop of Lyons in Gaul, about AD 180. As a boy he listened to Polycarp, who had known John. He wrote Against Heresies in five books; this chapter is the end of the fifth.

WHAT HE WROTE

Here is the whole of book 5, chapter 30, in the Ante Nicene Fathers translation, 1885. Words in [square brackets] were added by the translators. Decads means tens.

AGAINST HERESIES 5.30

Such, then, being the state of the case, and this number being found in all the most approved and ancient copies [of the Apocalypse], and those men who saw John face to face bearing their testimony [to it]; while reason also leads us to conclude that the number of the name of the beast, [if reckoned] according to the Greek mode of calculation by the [value of] the letters contained in it, will amount to six hundred and sixty and six; that is, the number of tens shall be equal to that of the hundreds, and the number of hundreds equal to that of the units (for that number which [expresses] the digit six being adhered to throughout, indicates the recapitulations of that apostasy, taken in its full extent, which occurred at the beginning, during the intermediate periods, and which shall take place at the end),—I do not know how it is that some have erred following the ordinary mode of speech, and have vitiated the middle number in the name, deducting the amount of fifty from it, so that instead of six decads they will have it that there is but one. [I am inclined to think that this occurred through the fault

of the copyists, as is wont to happen, since numbers also are expressed by letters; so that the Greek letter which expresses the number sixty was easily expanded into the letter Iota of the Greeks.] Others then received this reading without examination; some in their simplicity, and upon their own responsibility, making use of this number expressing one decad; while some, in their inexperience, have ventured to seek out a name which should contain the erroneous and spurious number. Now, as regards those who have done this in simplicity, and without evil intent, we are at liberty to assume that pardon will be granted them by God. But as for those who, for the sake of vainglory, lay it down for certain that names containing the spurious number are to be accepted, and affirm that this name, hit upon by themselves, is that of him who is to come; such persons shall not come forth without loss, because they have led into error both themselves and those who confided in them. Now, in the first place, it is loss to wander from the truth, and to imagine that as being the case which is not; then again, as there shall be no light punishment [inflicted] upon him who either adds or subtracts anything from the Scripture, under that such a person must necessarily fall. Moreover, another danger, by no means trifling, shall overtake those who falsely presume that they know the name of Antichrist. For if these men assume one [number], when this [Antichrist] shall come having another, they will be easily led away by him, as supposing him not to be the expected one, who must be guarded against. These men, therefore, ought to learn [what really is the state of the case], and go back to the true number of the name, that they be not reckoned among false prophets. But, knowing the sure number declared by Scripture, that is, six hundred sixty and six, let them await, in the first place, the division of the kingdom into ten; then, in the next place, when these kings are reigning, and beginning to set their affairs in order, and advance

their kingdom, [let them learn] to acknowledge that he who shall come claiming the kingdom for himself, and shall terrify those men of whom we have been speaking, having a name containing the aforesaid number, is truly the abomination of desolation. This, too, the apostle affirms: "When they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction shall come upon them." And Jeremiah does not merely point out his sudden coming, but he even indicates the tribe from which he shall come, where he says, "We shall hear the voice of his swift horses from Dan; the whole earth shall be moved by the voice of the neighing of his galloping horses: he shall also come and devour the earth, and the fulness thereof, the city also, and they that dwell therein." This, too, is the reason that this tribe is not reckoned in the Apocalypse along with those which are saved. It is therefore more certain, and less hazardous, to await the fulfilment of the prophecy, than to be making surmises, and casting about for any names that may present themselves, inasmuch as many names can be found possessing the number mentioned; and the same question will, after all, remain unsolved. For if there are many names found possessing this number, it will be asked which among them shall the coming man bear. It is not through a want of names containing the number of that name that I say this, but on account of the fear of God, and zeal for the truth: for the name Evanthis (ΕΥΑΝΘΑΣ) contains the required number, but I make no allegation regarding it. Then also Lateinos (ΛΑΤΕΙΝΟΣ) has the number six hundred and sixty-six; and it is a very probable [solution], this being the name of the last kingdom [of the four seen by Daniel]. For the Latins are they who at present bear rule: I will not, however, make any boast over this [coincidence]. Teitan too, (ΤΕΙΤΑΝ, the first syllable being written with the two Greek vowels ε and ι, among all the names which are found among us, is rather worthy of credit. For it has in itself the predicted

number, and is composed of six letters, each syllable containing three letters; and [the word itself] is ancient, and removed from ordinary use; for among our kings we find none bearing this name Titan, nor have any of the idols which are worshipped in public among the Greeks and barbarians this appellation. Among many persons, too, this name is accounted divine, so that even the sun is termed "Titan" by those who do now possess [the rule]. This word, too, contains a certain outward appearance of vengeance, and of one inflicting merited punishment because he (Antichrist) pretends that he vindicates the oppressed. And besides this, it is an ancient name, one worthy of credit, of royal dignity, and still further, a name belonging to a tyrant. Inasmuch, then, as this name "Titan" has so much to recommend it, there is a strong degree of probability, that from among the many [names suggested], we infer, that perchance he who is to come shall be called "Titan." We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of Antichrist; for if it were necessary that his name should be distinctly revealed in this present time, it would have been announced by him who beheld the apocalyptic vision. For that was seen no very long time since, but almost in our day, towards the end of Domitian's reign. But he indicates the number of the name now, that when this man comes we may avoid him, being aware who he is: the name, however, is suppressed, because it is not worthy of being proclaimed by the Holy Spirit. For if it had been declared by Him, he (Antichrist) might perhaps continue for a long period. But now as "he was, and is not, and shall ascend out of the abyss, and goes into perdition," as one who has no existence; so neither has his name been declared, for the name of that which does not exist is not proclaimed. But when this Antichrist shall have devastated all things in this world, he will reign for three years and six months, and sit in the temple at Jerusalem; and then the Lord will come

from heaven in the clouds, in the glory of the Father, sending this man and those who follow him into the lake of fire; but bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom, that is, the rest, the hallowed seventh day; and restoring to Abraham the promised inheritance, in which kingdom the Lord declared, that "many coming from the east and from the west should sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

A Witness One Lifetime From John

REVELATION 13:18 · 7:5 TO 8 · 1 THESSALONIANS 5:3 · JEREMIAH 8:16

616 WAS ALREADY THERE

Only about ninety years after John wrote, some copies already said 616. Irenaeus trusted the oldest copies and the men who saw John face to face, and they said 666.

NO NAME

He gives three names that add up to 666 but will not pick one. His advice: wait and see, and do not guess.

THE DATE

His line that the vision was seen near the end of Domitian's reign is the main reason most scholars date Revelation about AD 95. Eusebius quotes it; see What Eusebius Wrote.

A THOUSAND YEARS

His last section shows he expected a real reign of Christ on earth after the Antichrist, the times of the kingdom, the rest, the hallowed seventh day. See The Millennium pages.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

The Lamb stands on Mount Zion with the 144,000. Three angels fly overhead with the gospel, the fall of Babylon and a warning against the mark. Then the earth is harvested like grain and grapes.

THE LAMB AND THE 144,000

¹ Then I looked and saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of many

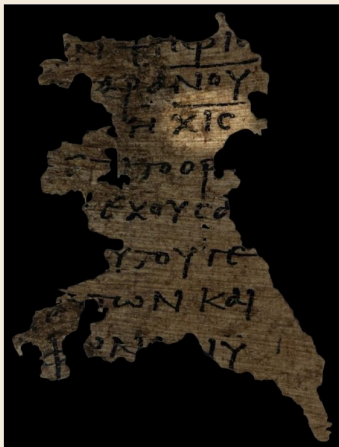
■ REV 14:1 [NOTE] THE 144,000 AGAIN. See Who Are the 144,000?

END TIMES PROPHECIES

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

PAPYRUS 115

REVELATION 13:18 · P.OXY. 4499



Papyrus 115, P.Oxy. 4499, detail with Revelation 13:18, late 200s AD. Sackler Library, Oxford. Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

WHAT IT IS

Twenty six scraps of a papyrus book of Revelation, found at Oxyrhynchus, Egypt, and published in 1999. This piece holds the end of 13:18.

HOW OLD IT IS

About AD 225 to 275, one of the oldest copies of Revelation.

WHAT IT SAYS

On the third line are three Greek letters with a line over them: chi, iota, sigma. A line over letters meant they were a number: 600, 10 and 6. So this copy says the number of the beast is 616.

WHY IT MATTERS

In 2005 new photographs made the faded letters easy to read, and the news spread around the world. It proves the 616 copies Irenaeus complained about were real. Codex Ephraemi, from the 400s, also has 616.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Most copies, including Papyrus 47 on the title page of this book, say 666, and most scholars think 666 is original.

waters and the loud rumbling of thunder. And the sound I heard was like harpists strumming their harps.

³And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. And no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they are virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been redeemed from among men as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵And no lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

THE THREE ANGELS AND BABYLON'S FALL

⁶Then I saw another angel flying overhead, with the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. ⁷

And he said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of

His judgment has come. Worship the One who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and the springs of waters.”

⁸Then a second angel followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, who has made all the nations drink the wine of the passion of her immorality.”

⁹And a third angel followed them, calling out in a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰he too will drink the wine of God’s anger, poured undiluted into the cup of His wrath. And he will be tormented in fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment rises forever and ever. Day and night there is no rest for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

■ REV 14:8 [PROPHECY] Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city (announcement) → STILL TO COME

■ REV 14:8 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 21:9 p.~

■ REV 14:9 [PROPHECY] Anyone who worships the beast and receives his mark shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God → STILL TO COME

■ REV 14:9 [DEMONIC] Anyone who worships the beast and its image will drink God’s wrath

■ REV 14:5 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← ZEPH 3:13 p.~

■ REV 14:6 [PROPHECY] Angel flying in mid-heaven with the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth → STILL TO COME

DEMONIC

¹² Here is a call for the perseverance of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven telling me to write, “Blessed are the dead—those who die in the Lord from this moment on.”

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them.”

THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH

¹⁴ And I looked and saw a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was One like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple, crying out in a loud voice to the One seated on the cloud, “Swing Your sickle and reap, because the time has come to harvest, for the crop of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ So the One seated on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel, with authority over the fire, came from the altar and called out in a loud voice to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the vine of the earth, because its grapes are ripe.”

¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the grapes of the earth, and he threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and the blood that flowed from it rose as high as the bridles of the horses for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Those who beat the beast stand by a sea of glass and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb. Seven angels come out of the temple holding seven bowls full of God’s wrath.

■ **REV 14:14 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DAN 7:13 p.~

■ **REV 14:19 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← JOEL 3:13; IS 63:3 p.~

■ **REV 14:20 [NOTE]** 1,600 STADIA. About 180 miles, close to the length of the land of Israel.

THE SONG OF MOSES AND THE LAMB //

DEUTERONOMY 32:1–47

¹ Then I saw another great and marvelous sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven final plagues, with which the wrath of God is completed.

² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, beside which stood those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. They were holding harps from God, ³ and they sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and wonderful are Your works,
O Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways,

O King of the nations!

⁴ Who will not fear You, O Lord,
and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship before
You,

for Your righteous acts have been re-
vealed.”

PREPARATION FOR JUDGMENT

⁵ After this I looked, and the temple—the tabernacle of the Testimony—was opened in heaven. ⁶ And out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues, dressed in clean and bright linen and girded with golden sashes around their chests.

⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. ⁸ 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.

■ **REV 15:2 [DEMONIC]** Victors over the beast and its image stand by the sea

■ **REV 15:3 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EX 15:1; PS 86:9; JER 10:7 p.~

■ **REV 15:3 [NOTE]** THE SONG OF MOSES. Like Israel singing after crossing the sea, Exodus 15.

■ **REV 15:8 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← 1KI 8:10–11; IS 6:4; 2CH 5:13–14; 7:1–2 p.~

END TIMES PROPHECIES | JESUS SPEAKING

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Seven bowls pour out: sores, seas and rivers of blood, a scorching sun, darkness, the Euphrates dried up, and the biggest earthquake ever. Demon frogs gather the kings to a place called Armageddon.

THE FIRST SIX BOWLS OF WRATH

¹Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath."

²So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and loathsome, malignant sores broke out on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

³And the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it turned to blood like that of the dead, and every living thing in the sea died.

⁴And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they turned to blood. ⁵And I heard the angel of the waters say:

"Righteous are You, O Holy One, who is and was, because You have brought these judgments.

⁶For they have spilled the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink, as they deserve."

⁷And I heard the altar reply:

"Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments."

⁸Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was given power to scorch the people with fire. ⁹And the people were scorched by intense heat, and they cursed the name of God, who

had authority over these plagues. Yet they did not repent and give Him glory.

¹⁰And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness, and men began to gnaw their tongues in anguish ¹¹and curse the God of heaven for their pains and sores. Yet they did not repent of their deeds.

¹²And the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the East.

¹³And I saw three unclean spirits that looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. ¹⁴These are demonic spirits that perform signs and go out to all the kings of the earth, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

¹⁵"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who remains awake and clothed, so that he will not go naked and let his shame be exposed."

¹⁶And they assembled the kings in the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

THE SEVENTH BOWL OF WRATH

¹⁷Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came from the throne in the temple, saying, "It is done!"

¹⁸And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake the likes of which had not occurred since men were upon the earth—so mighty was the great quake. ¹⁹The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. And God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath.

■ REV 16:2 [PROPHECY] Bowl 1 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:2 [DEMONIC] Sores strike those who worshiped the beast's image

■ REV 16:3 [PROPHECY] Bowl 2 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:4 [PROPHECY] Bowl 3 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:5 [NOTE] TEXT. The oldest copies say who is and who was, the Holy One. The KJV says and shalt be, from a guess by Theodore Beza in 1598 that no Greek copy supports.

■ REV 16:8 [PROPHECY] Bowl 4 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:10 [PROPHECY] Bowl 5 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:12 [PROPHECY] Bowl 6 → STILL TO COME

■ REV 16:13 [DEMONIC] Three unclean spirits like frogs from the dragon, beast, and false prophet

■ REV 16:16 [NOTE] ARMAGEDDON. Hebrew for Mount Megiddo. See Megiddo.

■ REV 16:17 [PROPHECY] Bowl 7 → STILL TO COME

END TIMES PROPHECIES · DEMONIC

²⁰ Then every island fled, and no mountain could be found. ²¹ And great hailstones weighing almost a hundred pounds each rained down on them from above. And men cursed God for the plague of hail, because it was so horrendous.

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE SITE · WHAT JOHN MEANT IS DEBATED

MEGIDDO

REVELATION 16:16 · JUDGES 5:19 · 1 KINGS 9:15 · 2 KINGS 23:29 · ZECHARIAH 12:11



Tel Megiddo: the round Canaanite altar and temples from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age, Carole Raddato, CC BY SA 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

Armageddon is Hebrew Har Megiddo, the mountain of Megiddo. Megiddo is a real mound, a tel, built up from about twenty cities stacked one on top of the other, guarding a pass into the wide Jezreel Valley in northern Israel.

HOW OLD IT IS

People lived here for over 5,000 years. The round stone altar shown was built in the Early Bronze Age, about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago.

A FAMOUS BATTLEFIELD

Pharaoh Thutmose III won a great battle here about 1457 BC, and wrote it on his temple walls. Deborah and Barak fought the kings of Canaan by the waters of Megiddo, Judges 5:19. Solomon rebuilt it, 1 Kings 9:15. King Josiah was killed here, 2 Kings 23:29. In 1918 the British general Allenby fought here too.

WHAT JOHN MEANT

Some expect a literal last battle in this valley. Others note there is no mountain at Megiddo, only a mound, and read it as a picture of the final showdown be-

tween God and the nations, wherever it happens.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The ruins show Megiddo was a real place of battles, not when or how the last battle will happen. And in the end there is no real fight: the rider on the white horse wins with a word, 19:21.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

An angel shows John a woman named Babylon the Great, dressed in purple and gold, riding a scarlet beast and drunk on the blood of the saints. The beast and ten kings end up turning on her.

THE WOMAN ON THE BEAST

¹ Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. ² The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and those who dwell on the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her immorality."

³ And the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, where I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ And on her forehead a mysterious name was written:

BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED

⁶ I could see that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and witnesses for Jesus. And I was utterly amazed at the sight of her.

■ REV 17:1 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← JER 51:7, 13 p.~

■ REV 17:3 [DEMONIC] Babylon, mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth

■ REV 17:5 [NOTE] BABYLON THE GREAT. See Who Is Babylon?

END TIMES PROPHECIES THE HEART MIRACLES

⁷ "Why are you so amazed?" said the angel. "I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

⁸ The beast that you saw—it was, and now is no more, but is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. And those who dwell on the earth whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world will marvel when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet will be.

⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. But when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.

¹¹ The beast that was, and now is not, is an eighth king, who belongs to the other seven and is going into destruction. ¹² The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but will receive one hour of authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ These kings have one purpose: to yield their power and authority to the beast.

THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB

¹⁴ They will make war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will triumph over them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and He will be accompanied by His called and chosen and faithful ones."

¹⁵ Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute was seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns and the beast that you saw will hate the prostitute. They will leave her desolate and naked, and they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His purpose by uniting to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the

woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

Babylon falls in one hour. Kings, merchants and sailors stand far off and cry over all the money they lost. An angel throws a giant millstone into the sea: that is how Babylon will go down.

BABYLON IS FALLEN // ISAIAH 21:1-10

¹ After this I saw another angel descending from heaven with great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory. ² And he cried out in a mighty voice:

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a lair for demons and a haunt for every unclean spirit, every unclean bird, and every detestable beast.

³ All the nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her immorality. The kings of the earth were immoral with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from the extravagance of her luxury."

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

"Come out of her, My people, so that you will not share in her sins or contract any of her plagues.

⁵ For her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

⁶ Give back to her as she has done to others;

pay her back double for what she has done;

mix her a double portion in her own cup.

⁷ As much as she has glorified herself and lived in luxury, give her the same measure of torment and grief.

In her heart she says, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow and will never see grief.'

■ **REV 17:9 [NOTE]** SEVEN HILLS. Rome was famous as the city on seven hills.

■ **REV 17:14 [PROPHECY]** The beast and ten kings will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 17:17 [HEART]** God put it into the hearts of the ten kings to carry out His purpose.

■ **REV 18:1 [MIRACLE]** An angel with great authority lights up the earth with his glory

■ **REV 18:2 [PROPHECY]** Babylon the great will fall and be burned in one day → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 18:2 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 21:9 p.-

■ **REV 18:4 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← JER 51:45; IS 52:11 p.-

END TIMES PROPHECIES DEMONIC

⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—
death and grief and famine—
and she will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges
her.”

LAMENT OVER BABYLON

⁹ Then the kings of the earth who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her will weep and wail at the sight of the smoke rising from the fire that consumes her. ¹⁰ In fear of her torment, they will stand at a distance and cry out:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
the mighty city of Babylon!
For in a single hour
your judgment has come.”

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because there is no one left to buy their cargo— ¹² cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; of fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; of all kinds of citron wood and every article of ivory, precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ of cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; of wine, olive oil, fine flour, and wheat; of cattle, sheep, horses, and carriages; of bodies and souls of slaves. ¹⁴ And they will say:

“The fruit of your soul’s desire
has departed from you;
all your luxury and splendor have vanished,
never to be seen again.”

¹⁵ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand at a distance, in fear of her torment. They will weep and mourn, ¹⁶ saying:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

¹⁷ For in a single hour

such fabulous wealth has been destroyed!”

Every shipmaster, passenger, and sailor, and all who make their living from the sea, will stand at a distance ¹⁸ and cry out at the sight of the smoke rising from the fire that consumes her. “What city was ever like this great city?” they will exclaim.

¹⁹ Then they will throw dust on their heads as they weep and mourn and cry out:

“Woe, woe to the great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
were enriched by her wealth!
For in a single hour
she has been destroyed.”

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
because God has pronounced for you
His judgment against her.

THE DOOM OF BABYLON

²¹ Then a mighty angel picked up a stone the size of a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying:

“With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be cast down,
never to be seen again.

²² And the sound of harpists and musicians,
of flute players and trumpeters,
will never ring out in you again.
Nor will any craftsmen of any trade
be found in you again,
nor the sound of a millstone
be heard in you again.

²³ The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again,
and the voices of a bride and bridegroom
will never call out in you again.
For your merchants were the great ones
of the earth,
because all the nations were deceived
by your sorcery.”

■ **REV 18:7 [HEART]** Babylon says in her heart, I sit as queen; I will never see grief.

■ **REV 18:8 [PROPHECY]** Babylon the great will fall and be burned in one day → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 18:9 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 26:16-17; 27:28-36 p.---

■ **REV 18:13 [NOTE]** SLAVES AND HUMAN SOULS. The last item on Babylon’s shopping list is people.

■ **REV 18:21 [PROPHECY]** Babylon will be thrown down like a millstone into the sea, never to be seen again → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 18:21 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← JER 51:63-64 p.---

■ **REV 18:23 [DEMONIC]** Sorcerers, idolaters, and liars — outside the holy city

END TIMES PROPHECIES

²⁴ And there was found in her the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who had been slain on the earth.

19

CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

Heaven shouts Hallelujah, and the wedding of the Lamb is announced. Then heaven opens, and Jesus rides out on a white horse, called Faithful and True and the Word of God. The beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire.

REJOICING IN HEAVEN

¹After this I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude in heaven, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God!

²For His judgments are true and just. He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality.

He has avenged the blood of His servants that was poured out by her hand."

³And a second time they called out:

"Hallelujah!

Her smoke rises forever and ever."

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne, saying:

"Amen, Hallelujah!"

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHO IS BABYLON?

The Great Prostitute

REVELATION 14:8 · 17:1 TO 18 · 18:1 TO 24 · 1 PETER 5:13 · JEREMIAH 51

WHAT JOHN SAW

A woman named Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes, dressed in purple and gold, drunk with the blood of the saints, sitting on a beast with seven heads, 17:1 to 6. The seven heads are seven hills, 17:9, and she is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth, 17:18. She falls in one hour, 18:10.

THE OLD BABYLON

Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 586 BC. Jeremiah 50 to 51 announced its fall. For Jews and Christians

Babylon became a code name for any proud empire. Peter calls Rome Babylon, 1 Peter 5:13.

ROME

The city on seven hills that ruled the kings of the earth, grew rich on trade, 18:11 to 13, and killed Christians. Held by the early church and most scholars.

JERUSALEM

Some preterists say the great city is Jerusalem, where their Lord was crucified, 11:8, judged in AD 70.

PAPAL ROME

Many Reformers saw Babylon in the church of Rome, and the Westminster Confession, 1646, called the pope the antichrist. Most Protestants today no longer teach this.

A FUTURE CITY

Some futurists expect a rebuilt city of Babylon in Iraq or another world capital in the last days.

THE WORLD SYSTEM

Others see every society built on pride, greed, power and false worship, in every age, until the end.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Come out of her, My people, 18:4. Do not love the world's riches more than God. Every proud empire falls; only God's city lasts.

⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God,
all you who serve Him,
and those who fear Him,
small and great alike!"

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

⁶ And I heard a sound like the roar of a great multitude, like the rushing of many waters, and like a mighty rumbling of thunder, crying out:

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad
and give Him the glory.

For the marriage of the Lamb has come,

REV 19:6 [PROPHECY] The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready... blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb
→ STILL TO COME

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

END TIMES PROPHECIES

MIRACLES

and His bride has made herself ready.

⁸ She was given clothing of fine linen, bright and pure."

For the fine linen she wears is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then the angel told me to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

¹⁰ So I fell at his feet to worship him. But he told me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who rely on the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

THE RIDER ON THE WHITE HORSE

¹¹ Then I saw heaven standing open, and there before me was a white horse. And its rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges and wages war.

¹² He has eyes like blazing fire, and many royal crowns on His head. He has a name written on Him that only He Himself knows. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is The Word of God.

¹⁴ The armies of heaven, dressed in fine linen, white and pure, follow Him on white horses. ¹⁵ And from His mouth proceeds a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶

■ **REV 19:7 [NOTE] THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB.** The church as the bride, Ephesians 5:25 to 27.

■ **REV 19:10 [MIRACLE]** John falls at the angel's feet and is told to worship God

■ **REV 19:10 [NOTABLE]** True prophecy always points to Jesus.

■ **REV 19:11 [PROPHECY]** I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 19:11 [FULFILLS]** A king would reign in righteousness ← IS 32:1 • MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 19:12 [FULFILLS]** Crown of pure gold set on His head ← PS 21:3 • MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 19:13 [FULFILLS]** He ties his donkey's colt to the vine and washes his robes in wine ← GEN 49:11 • MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 19:13 [NOTE] A ROBE DIPPED IN BLOOD.** Isaiah 63:1 to 3. Some read His enemies' blood; others His own.

■ **REV 19:15 [PROPHECY]** I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 19:15 [FULFILLS]** The Servant's mouth would be like a sharp sword ← IS 49:2 • MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 19:15 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← PS 2:9; IS 11:4; 63:3 p.~

And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

DEFEAT OF THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice to all the birds flying overhead, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and commanders and mighty men, of horses and riders, of everyone slave and free, small and great."

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies assembled to wage war against the One seated on the horse, and against His army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured along with the false prophet, who on its behalf had performed signs deceiving those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. Both the beast and the false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the One seated on the horse.

And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

20

CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

An angel ties up Satan for a thousand years, and the faithful reign with Christ. Then Satan is let loose, loses one last battle, and is thrown into the lake of fire. The dead stand before a great white throne, and the books are opened.

SATAN BOUND

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss, holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a

■ **REV 19:16 [FULFILLS]** The crown would be removed and stay in ruins until He comes to whom it belongs ← EZK 21:26-27 • MEDIUM p.~

■ **REV 19:17 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 39:17-20 p.~

■ **REV 19:19 [PROPHECY]** The beast and false prophet will be captured and thrown into the lake of fire → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 19:20 [DEMONIC]** The beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire

■ **REV 20:1 [PROPHECY]** An angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon... and bound him for a thousand years → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 20:1 [MIRACLE]** Angel binds Satan for 1,000 years

END TIMES PROPHECIES

thousand years.³ And he threw him into the Abyss, shut it, and sealed it over him, so that he could not deceive the nations until the thousand years were complete. After that, he must be released for a brief period of time.

⁴ Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection.⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

SATAN CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

⁷ When the thousand years are complete, Satan will be released from his prison,⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to assemble them for battle. Their number is like the sand of the seashore.

⁹ And they marched across the broad expanse of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.¹⁰ And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, into which the beast and the false prophet had already been thrown. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

■ **REV 20:2 [NOTE]** A THOUSAND YEARS. See The Millennium pages.

■ **REV 20:4 [DEMONIC]** Martyrs who refused the beast's image reign with Christ

■ **REV 20:7 [PROPHECY]** When the 1,000 years have expired, Satan will be released; he will go out to deceive the nations → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 20:8 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 38:2 p.~

■ **REV 20:8 [NOTE]** GOG AND MAGOG. From Ezekiel 38 to 39. Here they stand for all the nations that rebel.

■ **REV 20:9 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← 2KI 1:10; EZK 38:22; 39:6 p.~

JUDGMENT BEFORE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them.¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne.

And books were opened, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books.¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds.

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.¹⁵ And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

THE MILLENNIUM

A Thousand Years

REVELATION 20:1 TO 10 • ISAIAH 65:17 TO 25 • 1

CORINTHIANS 15:23 TO 25

WHAT JOHN SAID

An angel binds Satan for a thousand years. Those who were beheaded for Jesus and did not worship the beast came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years, 20:4. This is the first resurrection. Then Satan is released, deceives the nations one last time, and is thrown into the lake of fire. The Latin word millennium means a thousand years.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Papias, Justin Martyr about AD 155, Irenaeus about 180 and Tertullian expected Christ to reign on earth a thousand years after His return. Justin said that was what right minded Christians believed, but admitted many true Christians thought otherwise.

A CHANGE

Origen and Dionysius of Alexandria in

■ **REV 20:11 [PROPHECY]** I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... the dead were judged according to their works... anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 20:14 [NOTE]** THE SECOND DEATH. See Is Hell Forever?

the 200s pushed back against the earthly kingdom. About AD 380 Tyconius, and then Augustine in *City of God* book 20, taught that the thousand years is now, the time of the church, with Satan bound so the gospel can spread. That became the main view in the Catholic and Orthodox churches and among Lutheran and Reformed Protestants.

A HOPEFUL VIEW

In the 1700s Daniel Whitby and Jonathan Edwards taught that the gospel would win the world first, bringing a long golden age before Christ returns. It ran strong through the revivals and missions of the 1800s.

A RETURN TO THE FUTURE

In the 1800s many returned to the early church's future kingdom, and John Nelson Darby's dispensational teaching made it popular among evangelicals, with a special place for Israel. The next page gives every view.

The Case Each Side Makes

REVELATION 20:1 TO 10 · MATTHEW 12:29 · JOHN 5:25 TO 29 · PSALM 110:1

PREMILLENNIAL

Christ returns before the thousand years and reigns on earth, then the final judgment. Historic premillennialists hold the early church's view; dispensational premillennialists add a rapture and a special future for Israel. Best case: chapter 20 follows Christ's return in chapter 19, and came to life in 20:4 sounds like a bodily resurrection.

AMILLENNIAL

No future earthly kingdom: the thousand years is a symbol for the whole time between Christ's first and second coming. Satan is bound now, Matthew 12:29, and the saints reign with Christ in heaven. Best case: Revelation is full of symbols, and the rest of the New Testament speaks of one return, one resurrection and one judgment, John 5:28 to 29.

POSTMILLENNIAL

The gospel will spread until most of the world is Christian, a long golden age, and then Christ returns. Best case: the mustard seed and the leaven, Matthew

13:31 to 33, and the great commission backed by all authority, Matthew 28:18 to 20.

WHO HOLDS THEM

Most early writers who mention it were premillennial. Most churches through history have been amillennial. Many American evangelicals are premillennial. The Catholic Catechism, 676, rejects any earthly kingdom before the end.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Jesus reigns now at God's right hand, Psalm 110:1. He will return in person. Satan is defeated and will be thrown into the lake of fire. The dead will be raised and judged. And God will make all things new.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

IS HELL FOREVER?

The Lake of Fire

REVELATION 14:10 TO 11 · 20:10 TO 15 · 21:8 · MATTHEW 25:46 · MARK 9:48

WHAT JOHN SAID

The smoke of their torment rises forever and ever, 14:11. The devil, the beast and the false prophet will be tormented day and night forever and ever, 20:10. Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire; this is the second death, 20:14. Anyone not found in the book of life is thrown in too, 20:15.

WORDS FOR HELL

Hades or Sheol is the place of the dead. Gehenna, the valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem, was where children had once been burned to Molech, Jeremiah 7:31; Jesus used it for final judgment, Mark 9:43 to 48. Revelation calls the end the lake of fire and the second death.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Most early writers taught endless punishment. Origen, in the 200s, hoped that in the end all, maybe even the devil, would be restored, and Gregory of Nyssa hoped so too. A council at Constantinople in AD 553 condemned Origen's teaching. Arnobius, about AD 300, thought the wicked would finally be destroyed.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES | END TIMES PROPHECIES | JESUS SPEAKING

AUGUSTINE TO TODAY

Augustine, City of God book 21, taught that hell is endless and conscious, and almost every church followed: Catholic, Orthodox and the Reformers.

MODERN DEBATE

In the 1800s and 1900s some evangelicals argued that the lost will be destroyed, not tormented forever: Edward Fudge, *The Fire That Consumes*, 1982, and John Stott, who said in 1988 that he held it tentatively. Seventh day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses also teach it. Some, like Rob Bell in *Love Wins*, 2011, revived the hope that all will be saved. The next page gives every view.

The Case Each Side Makes

MATTHEW 10:28 · MATTHEW 25:46 · 2 THESSALONIANS 1:9 · COLOSSIANS 1:20 · 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22

ENDLESS CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT

The lost suffer forever, aware of it, cut off from God's goodness. Held by most churches through history. Best case: Jesus puts eternal punishment right next to eternal life, Matthew 25:46, and Revelation says forever and ever, 14:11 and 20:10.

CONDITIONAL IMMORTALITY

Only God has immortality, and He gives eternal life to the saved; the lost are finally destroyed, body and soul, Matthew 10:28. The fire is eternal in its result, not in torment. Best case: the Bible's words are death, destruction and perish, John 3:16, and the lake of fire is called the second death, 20:14.

HOPE FOR ALL

In the end God will win back every person. Best case: as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive, 1 Corinthians 15:22; God will reconcile all things, Colossians 1:20; the city's gates are never shut, 21:25. Most churches reject it because of 14:11, 20:10 and Matthew 25:46.

PURGATORY IS DIFFERENT

Catholic teaching on purgatory is about believers being made clean before heaven, not about the lost escaping hell.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Judgment is real, and it is fair: each is judged by what he has done, 20:12. Hell

is not God's wish for anyone, 2 Peter 3:9. Jesus took God's judgment on Himself so we would not have to. And the warning is meant to send us to Him now.

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

A new heaven and a new earth. The New Jerusalem comes down like a bride, God lives with His people, and there is no more death, crying or pain. The city has gates of pearl, a street of gold and no need of the sun.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH // ISAIAH 65:17-25

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying:

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man,

and He will dwell with them.

They will be His people,

and God Himself will be with them as their God.

⁴'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,'

and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And the One seated on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶And He told me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the

■ REV 21:1 [PROPHECY] I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... behold, the tabernacle of God is with men → STILL TO COME

■ REV 21:1 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 65:17; 66:22 p.-

■ REV 21:1 [NOTE] NO MORE SEA. In the Bible the sea often pictures chaos and danger, and the beast rose from it, 13:1.

■ REV 21:3 [FULFILLS] God would walk among His people and be their God ← LEV 26:12 p.-

■ REV 21:3 [FULFILLS] My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God and they My people ← EZK 37:27 · MEDIUM p.-

■ REV 21:4 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 25:8; 35:10 p.-

END TIMES PROPHECIES MIRACLES DEMONIC JESUS SPEAKING

Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ The one who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son.

⁸ But to the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death."

THE NEW JERUSALEM

⁹ Then one of the seven angels with the seven bowls full of the seven final plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the holy city of Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ shining with the glory of God. Its radiance was like a most precious jewel, like a jasper, as clear as crystal. ¹² The city had a great and high wall with twelve gates inscribed with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, and twelve angels at the gates. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south, and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations bearing the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, with its width the same as its length. And he measured the city with the rod, and all its dimensions were equal—12,000 stadia in length and width and height. ¹⁷ And he measured its wall to be 144 cubits, by the human measure the angel was using.

¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city itself of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were adorned with every kind of precious stone:

The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, with each gate consisting of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

²² But I saw no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ By its light the nations will walk, and into it the kings of the earth will bring their glory. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut at the end of the day, because there will be no night there.

²⁶ And into the city will be brought the glory and honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices an abomination or a lie, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

A river of life flows from the throne, and the tree of life is back. No more curse. Jesus says three times, I am coming soon. The Spirit and the bride say come. And John answers for all of us: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

■ REV 21:8 [DEMONIC] Sorcerers, idolaters, and liars — outside the holy city

■ REV 21:9 [MIRACLE] One of the seven angels shows John the bride, the wife of the Lamb

■ REV 21:10 [PROPHECY] The New Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God... the city was pure gold, like clear glass... the Lamb is its light → STILL TO COME

■ REV 21:12 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← EZK 48:31–34 p.~

■ REV 21:16 [NOTE] 12,000 STADIA. About 1,400 miles each way, a perfect cube, like the Most Holy Place, 1 Kings 6:20.

■ REV 21:18 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 54:11–12 p.~

■ REV 21:23 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 60:19 p.~

■ REV 21:25 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← IS 60:11 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES END TIMES PROPHECIES MIRACLES DEMONIC NOTABLE JESUS SPEAKING

THE RIVER OF LIFE

¹Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the main street of the city. On either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for each month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be within the city, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night in the city, and they will have no need for the light of a lamp or of the sun. For the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever.

JESUS IS COMING

⁶Then the angel said to me, "These words are faithful and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must soon take place."

⁷"Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of prophecy in this book."

⁸And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown me these things. ⁹But he said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

¹⁰Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of prophecy in this book, because the time is near. ¹¹Let the unrighteous continue to be unrighteous, and the vile continue to be vile; let the righteous con-

tinue to practice righteousness, and the holy continue to be holy."

¹²"Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by its gates.

¹⁵But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let the one who hears say, "Come!" And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely.

NOTHING MAY BE ADDED OR REMOVED

¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹And if

■ **REV 22:12 [PROPHECY]** Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me... Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 22:13 [FULFILLS]** The First and the Last ← IS 48:12 . MEDIUM p.-

■ **REV 22:13 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 44:6; 48:12 p.-

■ **REV 22:14 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← GEN 2:9; 3:22-24 p.-

■ **REV 22:14 [NOTE]** TEXT. The oldest copies say wash their robes. Later copies and the KJV say do His commandments. The Greek words look alike.

■ **REV 22:15 [DEMONIC]** Sorcerers, idolaters, and liars — outside the holy city

■ **REV 22:16 [FULFILLS]** Balaam's prophecy: a Star and Scepter to come out of Jacob ← NUM 24:17 p.-

■ **REV 22:16 [FULFILLS]** David's house and throne established forever ← 2SA 7:16 p.-

■ **REV 22:16 [NOTE]** ROOT AND OFFSPRING. Jesus is before David, his root, and after him, his son. Isaiah 11:1 and 11:10.

■ **REV 22:17 [NOTABLE]** The Bible ends with an open invitation.

■ **REV 22:18 [NOTABLE]** John warns against changing the words of this book of prophecy. Many also apply it to the whole Bible.

■ **REV 22:18 [NOTE]** THIS BOOK. In two verses John says this book four times. He is guarding the words of Revelation. Moses gave the same warning, Deuteronomy 4:2, and God still sent many prophets and books after him. Some cessationists, who believe gifts like prophecy ended with the apostles, use this verse to say God no longer speaks to us directly. But it is about changing the words of this book, not about whether God still speaks. When John wrote, the New Testament had not been gathered into one book; Codex Sinaiticus even puts two more books after Revelation. Cessationists answer that

■ **REV 22:1 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 47:1; ZECH 14:8 p.-

■ **REV 22:2 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← EZK 47:12 p.-

■ **REV 22:2 [NOTE]** LEAVES FOR HEALING. From Ezekiel 47:12. The curse of Genesis 3 is undone, 22:3.

■ **REV 22:3 [PROPHECY]** In the new city there will be no curse, God's people will see His face and reign forever → STILL TO COME

■ **REV 22:5 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← DAN 7:18, 27 p.-

■ **REV 22:8 [MIRACLE]** John falls at an angel's feet and is told to worship God

END TIMES PROPHECIES JESUS SPEAKING

anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and the holy city, which are described in this book.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.
Amen.

FROM HISTORY

WHAT DIONYSIUS WROTE

Who Wrote Revelation?

EUSEBIUS, CHURCH HISTORY 7.25 · REVELATION 1:1 · 1:4 · 1:9 · 22:8

WHY THIS IS HERE

Revelation names its writer only as John. Most of the early church said John the apostle. One bishop looked closely at the Greek and disagreed, and his words survive.

WHO DIONYSIUS WAS

Dionysius was bishop of Alexandria in Egypt from about AD 248 to 264, a student of Origen. Some Christians near him were teaching an earthly thousand year kingdom of feasting from Revelation, and he wrote two books On Promises to answer them.

WHAT HE WROTE

Eusebius copied his comments on Revelation into his Church History. Here is the whole of book 7, chapter 25, McGiffert translation, 1890. Quote marks hold Dionysius's own words; where Eusebius sums up, there are none.

CHURCH HISTORY 7.25

Afterward he speaks in this manner of the Apocalypse of John.

For they say that it is not the work of John, nor is it a revelation, because it is covered thickly and densely by a vail of

obscurity. And they affirm that none of the apostles, and none of the saints, nor any one in the Church is its author, but that Cerinthus, who founded the sect which was called after him the Cerinthian, desiring reputable authority for his fiction, prefixed the name. For the doctrine which he taught was this: that the kingdom of Christ will be an earthly one. And as he was himself devoted to the pleasures of the body and altogether sensual in his nature, he dreamed that that kingdom would consist in those things which he desired, namely, in the delights of the belly and of sexual passion; that is to say, in eating and drinking and marrying, and in festivals and sacrifices and the slaying of victims, under the guise of which he thought he could indulge his appetites with a better grace.

"But I could not venture to reject the book, as many brethren hold it in high esteem. But I suppose that it is beyond my comprehension, and that there is a certain concealed and more wonderful meaning in every part. For if I do not understand I suspect that a deeper sense lies beneath the words.

I do not measure and judge them by my own reason, but leaving the more to faith I regard them as too high for me to grasp. And I do not reject what I cannot comprehend, but rather wonder because I do not understand it."

After this he examines the entire Book of Revelation, and having proved that it is impossible to understand it according to the literal sense, proceeds as follows: Therefore that he was called John, and that this book is the work of one John, I do not deny. And I agree also that it is the work of a holy and inspired man. But I cannot readily admit that he was the apostle, the son of Zebedee, the brother of James, by whom the Gospel of John and the Catholic Epistle were written. For I judge from the character of both, and the forms of expression, and the entire execution of the book, that it is not his. For the evangelist nowhere gives his name, or proclaims himself, either in the

their case rests mainly on other verses, like Ephesians 2:20 and Hebrews 1:1 to 2. All sides agree no one may add to Scripture, and anything said to be from God must be tested by it, 1 Thessalonians 5:20 to 21.

- **REV 22:19 [NOTE] TEXT.** The KJV says book of life; the Greek copies say tree of life. Erasmus's only Greek copy of Revelation in 1516 was missing the last verses, so he translated them back from Latin.
- **REV 22:20 [PROPHECY]** Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me... Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! → STILL TO COME
- **REV 22:20 [NOTE] MARANATHA.** Come, Lord Jesus. The early church prayed it in Aramaic, Maranatha, 1 Corinthians 16:22.

Gospel or Epistle."

Farther on he adds:

Then he writes also an epistle: 'John to the seven churches which are in Asia, grace be with you, and peace.' But the evangelist did not prefix his name even to the Catholic Epistle; but without introduction he begins with the mystery of the divine revelation itself: 'That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes.' For because of such a revelation the Lord also blessed Peter, saying, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my heavenly Father.' But neither in the reputed second or third epistle of John, though they are very short, does the name John appear; but there is written the anonymous phrase, 'the elder.' But this author did not consider it sufficient to give his name once and to proceed with his work; but he takes it up again: 'I, John, who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and in the patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.' And toward the close he speaks thus: 'Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book, and I, John, who saw and heard these things.'

"But that he who wrote these things was called John must be believed, as he says it; but who he was does not appear. For he did not say, as often in the Gospel, that he was the beloved disciple of the Lord, or the one who lay on his breast, or the brother of James, or the eyewitness and hearer of the Lord. For he would have spoken of these things if he had wished to show himself plainly. But he says none of them; but speaks of himself as our brother and companion, and a witness of Jesus, and blessed because he had seen and heard the revelations.

But I am of the opinion that there were many with the same name as the apostle John, who, on account of their love for

him, and because they admired and emulated him, and desired to be loved by the Lord as he was, took to themselves the same surname, as many of the children of the faithful are called Paul or Peter.

For example, there is also another John, surnamed Mark, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, whom Barnabas and Paul took with them; of whom also it is said, 'And they had also John as their attendant.' But that it is he who wrote this, I would not say. For it not written that he went with them into Asia, but, 'Now when Paul and his company set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.'

But I think that he was some other one of those in Asia; as they say that there are two monuments in Ephesus, each bearing the name of John.

"And from the ideas, and from the words and their arrangement, it may be reasonably conjectured that this one is different from that one. For the Gospel and Epistle agree with each other and begin in the same manner. The one says, 'In the beginning was the Word'; the other, 'That which was from the beginning.' The one: 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father'; the other says the same things slightly altered: 'Which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes; which we have looked upon and our hands have handled of the Word of life,—and the life was manifested.'

For he introduces these things at the beginning, maintaining them, as is evident from what follows, in opposition to those who said that the Lord had not come in the flesh. Wherefore also he carefully adds, 'And we have seen and bear witness, and declare unto you the eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested unto us. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you also.'

He holds to this and does not digress from his subject, but discusses every-

thing under the same heads and names some of which we will briefly mention. Any one who examines carefully will find the phrases, 'the life,' 'the light,' 'turning from darkness,' frequently occurring in both; also continually, 'truth,' 'grace,' 'joy,' 'the flesh and blood of the Lord,' 'the judgment,' 'the forgiveness of sins,' 'the love of God toward us,' the 'commandment that we love one another,' that we should 'keep all the commandments'; the 'conviction of the world, of the Devil, of Anti-Christ,' the 'promise of the Holy Spirit,' the 'adoption of God,' the 'faith continually required of us,' 'the Father and the Son,' occur everywhere. In fact, it is plainly to be seen that one and the same character marks the Gospel and the Epistle throughout. But the Apocalypse is different from these writings and foreign to them; not touching, nor in the least bordering upon them; almost, so to speak, without even a syllable in common with them. Nay more, the Epistle—for I pass by the Gospel—does not mention nor does it contain any intimation of the Apocalypse, nor does the Apocalypse of the Epistle. But Paul, in his epistles, gives some indication of his revelations, though he has not written them out by themselves.

"Moreover, it can also be shown that the diction of the Gospel and Epistle differs from that of the Apocalypse. For they were written not only without error as regards the Greek language, but also with elegance in their expression, in their reasonings, and in their entire structure. They are far indeed from betraying any barbarism or solecism, or any vulgarity whatever. For the writer had, as it seems, both the requisites of discourse,—that is, the gift of knowledge and the gift of expression,—as the Lord had bestowed them both upon him. I do not deny that the other writer saw a revelation and received knowledge and prophecy. I perceive, however, that his dialect and language are not accurate Greek, but that he uses barbarous idioms, and, in some places, solecisms.

It is unnecessary to point these out here, for I would not have any one think that I have said these things in a spirit of ridicule, for I have said what I have only with the purpose of showing clearly the difference between the writings."

One John or Two?

REVELATION 1:1 · 1:9 · 22:8 · JOHN 21:24 · 2 JOHN 1:1

HIS ARGUMENT

The Gospel and 1 John never give the writer's name; Revelation names John again and again. The Gospel and letter share words like life, light and truth; Revelation sounds different. And the Gospel's Greek is smooth, while Revelation's breaks grammar rules. So, he says, a different John.

HE STILL HONORED IT

He would not throw out the book. He said its writer was a holy and inspired man who truly saw a revelation, and that it holds a meaning too deep for him.

TWO TOMBS

He mentions two tombs of John in Ephesus. Papias also seems to name two Johns, the apostle and John the Elder; see What Papias Wrote in 2 John, p.~.

THE OTHER SIDE

Justin Martyr, about AD 155, and Irenaeus said the apostle wrote it. Many scholars say the rough Greek fits a man writing in a hurry, in exile, without a helper, while thinking in Hebrew. And Revelation shares big ideas with John's Gospel: Jesus as the Word, 19:13 and John 1:1; the Lamb, 5:6 and John 1:29; living water, 22:17 and John 7:37 to 38; the pierced one, 1:7 and John 19:37.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

The writer was a well known leader named John, in exile on Patmos, writing to churches he knew. And the church received his book as Scripture.