In continuation of our Revelation study, we'll begin with a most interesting chapter loaded with imagery and reality! Recall that up to this point, 7 seals have been opened and 7 trumpets have sounded

### Revelation 12

1And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Is this Mary? That's a good guess since she gives birth to the Messiah, but she wasn't gone in the wilderness 3.5 yr. Is it the Church? No, the Church didn't give birth to the Messiah! The lady is clearly Israel (Genesis 37). We also notice the fall of satan. This is also described in Isaiah 14, Luke 10, and Ezekiel 28:12–19. Interestingly, this fall is similar to the tragic story of Benedict Arnold in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Revelation 12

7And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Since we know that satan was on the earth at the time of creation (Genesis 3), and at the time of Job, it is fair to assume that the account of the fall of satan may be prehistoric.

But he also appears in heaven to accuse Job, so the fall may occur during the resurrection or later. Additionally, the serpent is the one who is directly cursed in Genesis 3 ... satan is indirectly cursed.

David Guzik of the blue letter Bible, gives us the four falls of satan.

- 1. From glorified to profane (Ezekiel 28:14-16). Likely before Creation.
- 2. From having access to heaven (*Job* 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, *Zechariah* 3:1) to restriction to the earth (*Revelation* 12). Either at the Resurrection or during the apocalypse.
- 3. From the earth to bondage in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20). Second coming of Christ.
- 4. From the pit to the lake of fire (Revelation 20). After the "millenium".

I think Guzik gives an excellent historical description.



#### Revelation 12

10And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

These verses would seem to point to time period 2 (above) as being during the apocalypse. If it were during the resurrection, the loud voice from heaven would surely have been recorded earlier. Notice also, that believers have overcome him by the blood of the lamb. We have defeated his accusations by being covered by the blood of Christ. And by proclaiming that truth, that victory is actualized through the word of our testimony. Finally, satan will now use all of his energy and effort on the earth. Woe unto the denizens of the earth during his last short terrestrial habitation.

#### Revelation 12

13And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.



This flood may be thought of as a flood of human persecutors (Isaiah 59). There is precious little information on this passage save that Israel will be protected by the earth somehow. Based on the coming passages, it may be that Jerusalem is fortified to the extent that even the beast and his minions are kept out. OR it could be another place. Whatever the case, it is impenetrable for the beast and his army.

The "remnant of her seed" represents the relatively small number of Christians who will now be the target of the anti-Christ. The mark of the

beast will help identify the new targets of vengeance for the dragon.

Here is a tabular recap of what we've studied so far.

Activity\Rvn Trumpet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
angel/demon	Sounds trump	Sounds trump	Sounds trump. Wormwood	Sounds trump; Woe x 3	Sounds trump; opening of pit by Abaddon; scorpion like form	Sounds trump; demons cast out of heaven; 4 Euphrates demons released	Declaration of God's reign on eath; Angel on land and sea; Pour 7 bowls
Anti-Christ/ False Prophet							Mortally wounded, but healed; Rise of kingdom; False Prophet; image alive
satan						Cast out of heaven; tries to kill woman	Empowers the Anti-Christ
unbelievers	suffering	suffering	suffering	suffering	Tormented with stings for 5 months; want to die!	Defiance	Raise army of 200 million; invoke mark of and worship for Anti-Christ
Cherubim							worship
Elders						Enoch and Elijah appear in Jerusalem	worship
Saved Jews	suffering	suffering	suffering	suffering	Safe from stings	Escape (as woman) to Jerusalem	
Earth	Hail, fire, blood. Trees/3 and grass killed	Meteor hits Atlantic killing sea life	Freshwater/3 contaminated following meteor strike	debris cloud over earth/3	Greenery reappears		

And now, the most famous chapter among eschatologists since the 1970's.

### Revelation 13

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



2And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Once again, if we see the sea as a mass of people (as on p 2), then we see that the anti-Christ will arise at the consent/request of, perhaps, the vast majority of the world. Recall that it was the beast/anti-Christ in our first study (chapter 11) that overcame the two witnesses ... to the delight of the world. Perhaps it was then that he received the "fatal" wound.

3And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?5And there was given unto him a mouth speaking



great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Here is a time issue. In the 1970's when first reading about this, the thought of someone, anyone saying blasphemies was basically unheard of. People cussed ... especially young people and northerners. But the thought of blasphemy was foreign. Fast forward 50 yrs. Blasphemy is a regular occurrence. Politicians and sports heroes know so little about the Bible, that blasphemies occur all the time. So the question to ask now is: What is the difference between blasphemy and just plain cussin'?



According to Wikipedia, blasphemy is the open contempt or lack of reverence to a diety ... in this case God. Cussin' is just poor descriptives, or outrageous claims in speech. In 2020, we can begin to see just what blasphemies the beast will utter. More than likely, they will be along the lines of setting himself (or herself) up in the place of God.

Notwithstanding, blasphemy has been practiced from ancient times, and was first introduced by satan.

#### Isaiah 14

12How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! 13For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

It is in this light that we now see the counterfeit actions of the beast and his god. Notice that the beast is "raised from the dead".

Note the "new" religion of apostasy. At this stage the large majority of earthlings stand in open defiance against God and His judgments (much like today). They are ready and willing to follow one of their own in that defiance. And now they are given their wish.

So unlike other eschatologists, I believe there is little to no sneakiness in this. I believe that the beast is willingly and knowingly and happily followed and worshipped. Dr. Jeremiah makes a good point. What do you think would happen if someone like Barack Obama personally opposed and killed the two hated witnesses mentioned earlier, and as a result "died" himself, then after the witnesses were raised to heaven, was also revived? What kind of outpouring of support do you think he would receive?



#### Revelation 13

8And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9If any man have an ear, let him hear. 10He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

I believe that the last two verses refer to folks who try to resist this power physically. There is no victory to be had that way. The beast will rule.

Next we see coming up the beast's great accomplice.

11And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

How this false prophet comes about seems to occur perhaps in the first 3.5 years of the tribulation. I see this as a person who develops a large following in a false religion. It's easy to find false prophets in Christianity, but I believe this one will come from Buddhism or Islam. Assuming a rapture, those remaining on the earth who thought they were saved will, in large part, be gone by the midpoint. Others outside Christianity will hear about Revelation through these individuals, and will have various reactions. But these individuals will likely go through some type of martyrdom for the sake of Christ.

At some point, we know that there will be 144,000 Jewish evangelists (David Jeremiah) perhaps saved by the witness of the aforementioned people.

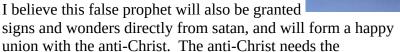
Islam and Buddhism both have an apocalyptic narrative. The Islamic one loosely follows ours and even contains a second coming of Jesus. It is quite possible that many muslims will hear and understand the gospel during this time and turn to Christ by the aforementioned witnesses. Many others will stay away.



On the other hand, Buddhist eschatology speaks of a coming ultimate Buddha (Maitreya) who in his/her last incarnation brings peace and superior knowledge to the earth. I believe this false prophet will be regarded as the Maitreya well before the midpoint, and will laud the coming of the anti-Christ. He/she will be followed with great zeal by the masses of people, east and west who suddenly find the need to follow someone or something greater than themselves ... and who remains on the earth with them through the violent signs of the first 3.5 years.



13And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast;



validation of the false prophet, while the false prophet needs to have an object of worship for his/her followers.

14 (cont) saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Now it's easy to see how this person should come about. Let's "compare and contrast" this unholy trinity to the truth. Notice that satan sets himself to be God. He tried to get Jesus to worship him (Matthew 4, Luke 4) unsuccessfully. Now he has a willing world. His "son" is none other than the anti-Christ who is figuratively raised from the dead. The false prophet follows the role of the Holy Spirit in leading people (forcefully) to the "son". Satan is a master counterfeiter ... a liar from creation.

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

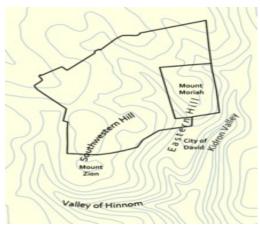
Here's a tip of the hat to Wayner "the Wayner" Massey, who broke the news on the UPC code of 6's. That could be at least part of the answer to figuring this out.



What the number means, or how it is portrayed/displayed is anyone's guess. In the 1972 film "Thief in the Night" (with Larry Norman strumming the haunting song "You've been left behind" in the background), the mark was a binary representation of 6 ... 0110. Pretty good for the time period. I think, however, that a big problem with most of this speculation is that we've been inundated with the idea since that time. This is why I give credence to Massey ... I don't think the code will be explicit in that way, AND we've been dealing with UPCs for a long time already. They're scanned at Sam's ... why not just scan the person as well and the transaction is automatic.

Note also that the mark is a duplication of the mark given to the 144,000 (Revelation 14).





Whatever the case, we must always keep in mind that John's descriptions are not given in specific chronological order, as we shall see in the next chapter.Revelation 14 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

What is this Mount Zion? It is the low rising hill across the Tyropoean valley at the back of the temple on the west side of the old city. It wasn't always that way. But by the late first century, it was located there. It is at a height of about 2500 ft above sea level, and is a local maximum. Quite impressive!

Notice that all can be seen from the Mount of Olives to the east. The Temple is not blocked, the heavenly Temple is not blocked, and the 144,000 and the Lamb are not blocked. Now, how all These got there is a different story. But first there is a performance.

#### Revelation 14

2And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

By "no man", I believe John is saying no man alive on the earth at that time. Because singing this song is seemingly equivalent to being saved. But the song is very special because these have a special salvation. That they were "redeemed from the earth" suggests that these have been supernaturally protected.

Are these the remainder of those who must be added to the group under the throne in chapter 6 and affiliated with the 5<sup>th</sup> seal and having a special salvation? Or are they the 144,000 Jewvangelists sent out in Chapter 7?

The answer is the latter. See Revelation 7: 3, 4. These are especially sealed ... causing the antiChrist to perform his own special seal.

In this section of the vision, John moves forward and discusses the massive number of souls saved during the tribulation as a result of these witnesses. But these individuals are in heaven. The 144,000 "Jewvangelists" have continued to persist on earth, and are now gathered, to the dismay of the antiChrist, on mount Zion.

4These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

They are developers, protectors and hiders of the remnant of the woman's seed spoken of in Chapter 12. Neither of the antiChrist, satan, nor the false prophet can deal with these committed spiritual warriors. Note the similarities between these and the band of David's warriors in ...

### 1 Samuel 21

And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. 5And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. 6So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, ...

I believe a) these are all men, b) they are unmarried, and c) they now proclaim victory in Jesus and serve as a prelude to the warnings to come.

### Revelation 14

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

Now this is an interesting command: to worship and give glory to God. And it's also intriguing that the Gospel is shared with the people of earth. The Gospel is declared in the middle of the tribulation? ... and there is no mention of repentance, forgiveness or faith?

Dr. Henry Morris has commented that the call is to the first elements of belief ... creation, and Christ as Creator. If Christ is not Creator, how can He be Savior? ... or coming King? If creation, and a Creator God cannot be grasped, then neither can salvation. Someone once said, "if you can believe Genesis 1, you'll have no trouble believing the rest of the Bible. "



I believe this to be as much a full disclosure warning/prophecy as anything. It is a call to belief, but its also a statement of things to come, so that those hearing will know that the judgment is from God!



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

What, or who is Babylon? There are a number of theories. Rome (as in the writings of Peter) (Seven hills), the Catholic Church (Spurgeon, Calvin, etc), literally a resurrected Babylon (David Jeremiah), the seat of the world government of the antiChrist, Microsoft (Kenneth Massey), even Jerusalem (Seven hills) is a conjecture. My guess is that it is some sort of consortium between the Catholic Church, Islam, Judaism and the one world government.

9And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence

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

Herein lie the warnings of God to those who would take the mark of the beast. And, again, the cup of wrath is consumed by both the one world government and "Babylon". Worse is the fact that the torment will occur in the presence of Christ and the "holy" angels. Does this mean the sea of glass in chapter 4 is also a sea of damnation?

There is now a dichotomy set ... take the mark of the beast, and you have declared yourself once and for all an apostate member of "Babylon". Belong to God, and you will find rest. This is the dichotomy of Matthew 13.

### Revelation 14

12Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Indeed, those Christians living and dying during the tribulation will be blessed by death, AND their works will follow them! David Jeremiah believes that those saved from the preaching of the 144,000 evangelists will still have eternal reward, despite enduring persecution. Some of these were seen under the altar earlier in chapter 6.

14And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

This is the first reaping ... a rapture like occurrence? In this reaping, Christians are gathered to Christ for safekeeping ... perhaps the same place referred to in chapter 13. Or, perhaps heaven. Then comes the grim reaper!

17And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Blood 4 ft high for about 180 miles out. A circle of radius 180 miles has an area of 32400 mi<sup>2</sup> ... about the size of Jordan. Since this event takes place "without the site". I believe this is describing the bettle of Armagoddon — to be disgussed in

the city", I believe this is describing the battle of Armageddon ... to be discussed in subsequent chapters.

#### Revelation 15

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Okay, now I'm pretty sure we're back to Chapter 3 with the sea of glass/fire.

3They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

4Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.

For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Hymn 117: "King of the Ages, almighty God full of love, ever just and true!

Who shall not fear you and bring You praise, all the nations will come to you!" (Stuart Townend)

5After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 7Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. 8The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

#### Exercise E

- E1. After the Resurrection, who was satan especially wanting to destroy?
  - *a*) the woman Israel
  - b) the Christ
  - c) the Church
  - d) Mary
  - e) Luke
- E2. Which of the following are features of the 144,000?
  - a) Men
  - b) Single
  - c) Women
  - *d*) Semitic
  - e) Hamitic
  - f) Japetic
  - *q*) singers
  - h) swingers

E3. Where are the 144,000 standing when they sing the "new song"?
a) Central Park
b) the Temple Mount
c) Bethel
d) the pool of Siloam
e) Mount Zion
f) in the blood of the nations up to their waists
E4. According to Dr. Wayner Massey, the mark of the beast is foreshadowed by
a) credit cards
b) tatoos
c) UPC codes
d) ASIN codes
e) POVs
E5. According to Kennesh Massey, "Babylon" might be represented by
a) BLM
b) Microsoft
c) Apple
d) The Catholic Church
e) Jerusalem
E6. The song of Moses and the Lamb is very much like our Hymn
a) 233
b) 117
c) 13
d) 56
e) 345
E7. The mark of the beast is ultimately for those bearing it.
a) salvation
b) beautiful
c) healing
d) irritating
e) fatal
E8. The beast comes up out of the(a. sea, b. mountains, c. desert, d. woods), meaning that
he/she/it comes out of the (a. fog, b. fish, c. people, d. birds) of the earth and is universall
(a. rejected, b. reviled, c. unknown, <i>d</i> . hailed) as worthy of worship.
E9. The beast (or member of the beast) miraculously recovers from a fatal wound.
a) heart
b) shoulder
c) paper cut
d) leprosy
e) head

E10. It is plausible that the beast received the "fatal" wound in the encounter with
a) the China virus
b) Billy Graham
c) the two witnesses
d) the Jewvangelists
e) Elon Musk
E11. The "battle" of Armageddon will be abath (a. Roman, b. oil of Olay, c. shaving cream, <i>d</i> .
blood) with blood covering an area around the size of the country of (a. Jordan, b. Russia, c.
China, d. Lichtenstein) up to about ft (a. 10, b. 1, c5, <i>d</i> . 4.5) high. The battle will occur
(a. over 3 months, b. quickly, c. eternally, d. in a dream), in the plain of (a. Megiddo, b. Spain,
c. Romania, d. Kansas).
E12. The angel of Revelation 14:6 carries a gospel in which the hearers must understand God as
before they can understand God as Redeemer.
a) understanding
b) patience
c) Love
d) Creator
e) Lamb
E13. The blasphemy of the beast is realized by his/her/its
a) use of the N word
b) use of the D word
c) reference to tobacco use
d) racial insensitivity
<i>e</i> ) setting himself up in place of God at the Temple
f) calling people midgets
g) degradation of people by their accents
E14. It's plausible that the mark of the beast is instituted as a reaction to the mark of the
a) snake
b) lost
c) 144,000
d) Cain
e) excellent
E15. The false prophet will serve as a ( <i>a.</i> spokesman, b. foil, c. antagonist), and be able to call
down (a. mist, b. rain, <i>c</i> . fire, d. manna) from heaven deceiving many. This is similar to the
magicians of (a. Cyprus, b. Laodicaea, c. Las Vegas, d. Egypt) performing similar miracles to
those done through (a. Paul, <i>b</i> . Moses, c. Joseph, d. Perez) in order to deceive Pharaoh.
Exercise E Answer Key
E1 a; E2 a,b,d,g; E3 e; E4 c; E5 b; E6 b; E7 e; E8 acd; E9 e; E10 c; E11 dadba; E12 d; E13 e; E14 c;
E15 acdb.

Our continuation of our Revelation study, involves another most interesting chapter loaded with imagery! Recall that up to this point, 7 seals have been opened and 7 trumpets have sounded. Now 7 bowls are about to be emptied on the earth. According to David Jeremiah (DJ), the 7 seal judgments had to do with man failing man, the 7 trumpet judgments were Satan versus man, and now ...

### Revelation 16

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



We now come to the second part of the great tribulation in which the beast and his kingdom must now face the wrath of God directly. Heretofore, the world has suffered under the hand of God ... and the rise of the beast (and his false prophet). Now the beast and his world kingdom will be forced to directly encounter the wrath of God.

Revelation 16 2And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous

sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

A new mark is now given to the unholy of the earth ... the mark of Job. "Noisome and Grievous" sores ... translated as horrible in modern English. These are painful sores reminiscent of the sores brought upon the denizens of Egypt in the 12<sup>th</sup> dynasty (Exodus 9). According to DJ, the sores are an outward representation of an inward corruption. How many Americans have no knowledge of the Scripture ... particularly as it pertains to Divine judgment (AIDS)?

#### Revelation 16

3And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 4And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

Now these two vials are killers ecologically. It's not just the oceans that become contaminated, but the inland fresh waters as well. I presume that the two judgments will have some space between them or else everyone would die before the last judgments. OR, it could be that the inventions of man at that time "clean" the water somehow for a time, saving a portion of the population. Again, this is similar to the Egyptians plight during the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7). The turning of water into blood is a curious phenomenon. Does the aqua life die and create the blood, or does the water become blood and kill the creatures? It appears to be the latter.

Blood does not occur naturally outside of living beings. So how does the water turn to blood? Indeed, or a staff become a snake, or how does water become wine ... instantly?

There are various explanations. The most common is that of toxic red algae as told by Henry and Dyke regarding the similar instance in Egypt. Because the Lord does not reverse the miracle and it lasts only a week, AND because the "magicians" of Egypt could duplicate it, AND because the Egyptians dug for fresh water from the banks of the river, it does seem plausible that it could be an algae that contaminates the waters of the earth here ... and this time the contamination is everywhere. It also could've been real blood in Egypt and here too. Whatever, we must be consistent with both passages.

#### Revelation 16

5And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.



Yes, the judgments are righteous. And it is believed that the voice from the altar is that of God, although there are others who may say it. Some

may say, "how can God be so cruel to these people?" The answer is that God is loving … and just. We cannot fathom the justness, just as we cannot fathom God's sovereignty in world events. But we know from Scripture that He is loving (John 3, Joshua 1, Psalm 109), just (Ecclesiastes 3, Proverbs 21, Isaiah 30) and sovereign (James 4, Acts 5,Psalm 115).

#### Revelation 16

8And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. 10And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Here is a common theme ... blashpemy sans repentance. It is the theme of man. We're already seeing it. Here's commentary from the Chicago Sun Times: "... all you have to offer are thoughts and prayers ... just shut up. Maybe try some self-reflection and humility ..."

Instead of turning to God and repenting that we are a) allowing criminal illegal aliens into the country in droves; b) disavowing Christianity in favor of broken psychological methods; c) redefining the family; d) glorifying and sympathizing with criminals; e) concerned more over the welfare of the earth over that of people. No, blasphemy comes in all shapes and sizes. The quicker we are to throw God out of our country, the quicker the judgments will come. Don't wanna repent? ...

#### Revelation 16

12And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto



the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

This gives us insight into apparitions and the like. Additionally, it speaks of thunders and an earthquake. Something like this recently happened and it was terrifying. In this case, again, there is no repentance ... only more rantings ... and continued faith in things that cannot save.

One note here ... it will be interesting when the earth ... which is worshiped by these people ... turns against them. I'm sure there will be plenty of blame on the lack of earth worship by previous generations.

And, now, a most perplexing chapter.

#### Revelation 17

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of the Earth. 6And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

What on earth is going on here? This harlot appears out of nowhere seemingly. Is this the same beast we've been talking about? We're about to get some clues.

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

Dr. Jeremiah gives us some insight on this. So, yes, this is the aforementioned beast; but now one with the anti-Christ who has been killed, was dead, and is now resurrected by the power of satan. But who is the harlot? More clues.

9And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Okay, but what is the harlot? Perhaps the seventh king is another king after 100 AD, and again, the 8th king is the anti-Christ. What we are seeing takes place after the midpoint of the 7 year tribulation. I wonder if we can find the earlier progression of "royalty"?

12And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 14These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Now the 10 kings are those that shall unite in the one world government with the beast after the resurrection of the anti-Christ ... kind of like conference realignment. Apparently by aligning with the anti-Christ, they will be given power over their respective states, nations, regions, etc. ... which, in turn, will become allied with the beast at Armageddon. But what about the harlot?

15And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. 16And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 18And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.



Here's where it gets interesting. Dr. Jeremiah makes a great case for the harlot being the world (or catholic) church. The harlotry comes in because that "church" is laden with cooperation with the world ... whose first "church" was in Babylon under Nimrod, a Hamite.

An African Legends Adventure

By Brother G

### Genesis 10, 11

8And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. ... 8So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence

upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. 9Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

Let's look at the history of the of the church of Babylon. To wit:

- 1. Nimrod had a wife Semiramis who conceived a son (Tammuz) via a sunbeam. Tammuz grew up and was killed by a wild boar, but after 40 days, miraculously came to life. This "mother-child" cult spread to other ancient civilizations as Ishtar/Tammuz (Assyria (S)), Astarte/Baal (Phoenicia (H)), Isis/Horus (Egypt (H)), Aphrodite/Eros (Greece (J)), and Venus/Cupid (Rome (J)).
- 2. Since Semiramis wept for 40 days whist Tammuz was "dead", all of these religions instituted the offering of wafers, and a 40 day period of sorrow/abstinence in early spring.
- 3. At the end of the 40 days, a celebration ensued which spring represented the raising of Tammuz. Part of this involved the exchanging of "Ishtar eggs".
- 4. Semiramus maintained her status in the pantheon and was worshiped as the Queen of Heaven.
- 5. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman empire by Constantine. The title Pontifex Maximus, was then transferred from the pagan college of pontiffs (or senate) to the first pope.
- 6. As for Christmas, we know that March and December make perfect sense for the conception and birth of the Christ. But other traditions like the Christmas greens come from Roman Saturnalia festivals and Egyptian celebrations ... both occurring at the winter solstice. And Christmas ornaments come, again, from Saturnalia and early Germanic celebrations of Odin ... at the same time of year.

It's not a slam dunk, but it sure seems to be that the great whore is tied somehow to the Roman Catholic Church. This is not to say in any form that all Catholics are evil. But the leadership of Pope Francis Bergoglio is pretty shaky, what with having cooperated with the Chinese Communist Party, lent support to Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro, praised Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as an "angel of peace", is a believer in climate change, though supposedly against abortion warned American bishops not to deny Communion to abortion supporters, though supposedly supporting the traditional family has remarked (referencing the LGBT community) "If they accept the Lord and have goodwill, who am I to judge them?"

If any inference can be taken from this, it would be that the Catholic Church seems ripe for a courtship with a secular suitor.

### Revelation 18

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

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

### Notice the similarity with the prophecy in Isaiah.

Isaiah 13

21But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. 22And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.

### If, in fact, it is the Catholic Church, true Christians will be called to come out of it.

#### Revelation

3For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. 7How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. 8Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

9And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

11And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

15The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

17For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

At least three times in the chapter the phrase "one hour" occurs. Is this a nuclear strike?

Is this the same Babylon of Revelation 18. Guzik has posited that this seems to be a coastal, and more secular Babylon. I tend to disagree since the physical Babylon is located between arms of the great Euphrates river. And it's not like John took a 20 year pause between the chapters. Also notice that "I sit a queen, and am no widow" again, referencing the imagery of chapter 17.

20Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 21And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall

Assur Mari Rapiqum? Eshnunna Sippar Malgium? Babylon Kish Nippur Isin 1792 BC Larsa Lagash Babylonia at the time of Hammurabi

that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Indeed it will be a mournful time for the people of earth as they watch the great mis-marriage wrecked. But there is a vengeance in this destruction having to do with the persecution of Christians. The blood of everyone killed on the earth is a little perplexing because we have to affiliate Babylon with persecution. Could a business center do such a thing. Knowing what we know about the apostasy of big business today ... absolutely!

### Revelation 19

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

### Ever heard that before? The celebration is about to begin!

7Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 10And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

David Jeremiah bids us to note that we have different pictures of the Christ ... Warrior, King, I AM, Agent of Creation ... but the One that we as the Church are in love with and wedded to is the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

11And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Now cometh the great Armageddon! What will the be the strategies of the combatants?

Christ and the forces of heaven will conduct an air strike ... with cloaking devices ... but from which part of the sky? Meanwhile the beast and false prophet stage their forces in the plain of Megiddo for command and control. Their forces are so great, that they can detect an attack from any direction, and repel that attack with waves and waves of counterattacks. Their naval forces await in the Mediterranean with air forces all around. There is no concern for the rest of the world ... it lies subdued to the beast. They wait in darkness.

### Revelation 19

20And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Whaaat??? That was quick! Not much of a battle. Time to clean up!

#### Revelation 20

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

What John is seeing here is happening in a higher dimensional (> 3) space. The defeated satan is canned in a "bottomless pit" ... different from the lake of fire. This is a sort of solitary confinement. Why he is loosed after 1000 yrs, and why a second Armageddon is a mystery!

This 1000 year period is what's known as the millennium. It is during this time that the martyrs from under the throne, rule with Christ on the earth in the first resurrection. Who they rule over is unclear. There are various takes on this, but one says it will be non-Christian tribulation survivors. Maybe they are responsible for the regeneration of life on the earth and are assisted by angels. At the end of the millennium they are swayed into rebellion against God again ... and lose again! It is believed that this period is designed to show that man, in spite of living in a world void of satan's influence for the most part, still wickedly opposes truth and ultimately God.

#### Revelation 20

10And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Now here is the great White throne judgment ... a judgment of works. Those who died at sea and land appear. This is indicative of all coming to judgment ... or 3 judgments. The site <a href="www.gotquestions.org">www.gotquestions.org</a> is a good place to parse this out. Dr. Jeremiah makes an important point that this judgment does not take place in earth ... nor in heaven. Who exactly is judged? Some residual questions are ...

### 1. If it is all people, then why do Christians have to be checked in the Book of Life again?

There are some who interpret this as a judgment on only the unsaved. This view eliminates some other concerns ... like how you can be rejoicing in heaven at the beginning of the millennium knowing you will be judged again at the great White Throne. However, the verbiage in v12 does not say this. Plus, the Book of Life is brought in and used, which would indicate that all are judged. Plus, if these people are known to be the unsaved ...

### 2. If it's just unsaved people, then why is the Book of Life used?

It's important to note that books were opened ... plural. It is believed that the other books have to do with the extent of good and bad works. Just as there will be varying rewards in heaven, so will there be various punishments in the lake of fire.

David Jeremiah clarifies The Book of Life as a book of heavenly citizenship. This book would be similar to the books of first century Roman municipalities in which the citizens (having voting rights among other privileges) were listed. In some instances, names were added and/or taken away. Could it be that this is one last chance for the unsaved to repent and get into the Book of Life ... this is called universalism.

### 3. If the unsaved automatically go to hell, then why are they sent to hell again?

Here is a sticky issue that is covered in an earlier TTWMK Bible Study. What, pray, is the difference between Hades, Hell, Sheol, Heaven and Abraham's bosom? There is strong evidence here that the unsaved go to Sheol, as did mostly all the dead (save for Enoch and Elijah that we know of) in the OT.

It's interesting that Hell and Death are cast in the lake of fire prior to this judgment. This informs the notion of the second death. The lake of fire is the final and ultimate punishment of the cursed. So according to this account, the unsaved would go to Sheol (as in C. S. Lewis's *Great Divorce*) and stay until the great White Throne judgment. Whether they have the opportunity to repent and be saved is another story ... again, universalism?

Make no mistake, levels of goodness or badness will be assessed (2 Corinthians 5:10, John 19:11). So this could, again, be the reckoning of the saved and unsaved ... disconcerting as it may be.

#### Revelation 21

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

In interpreting the "new heaven/new earth" concept, I believe these to still be the original earth and heaven refurbished. Why? Here are 7 reasons.

1. The Greek uses *kainos*, which means new in nature or better (Wikipedia). It is the exact same word used in ...

### 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Christians are not replaced with another person, but rather changed in a new and better way.

2. It's all land, but that's similar to the great land mass of creation ... Pangea ... in which water came up as springs in the earth (Genesis). So all land is not a problem. And there's still more.

### **Revelation 21**

4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Again, the statement that the clear group of unbelievers (8 categories) are in hell.

9And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

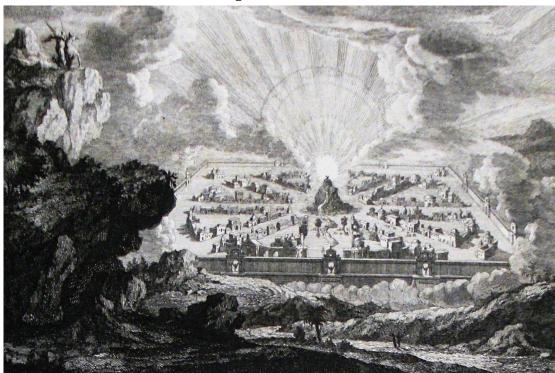
3. There are still four cardinal directions. Note that the Israeli tribal names are on the directional gates and the Apostle's names are on the foundations.

15And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

4. The measurements are those of the current earth. The city, by the way, is about 1500 miles long, wide and high. It is either a cube or a pyramid, and the lateral size is that of an area approximately = the eastern continental USA. Apparently, a person couldn't see from one corner to the next. Also, the top of the city would reach into the earth's exosphere (the ISS is only about 240 miles up). One interesting side note in v 17. The measure of a man is like unto that of an angel.

#### Revelation 21

19And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolyte; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an



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

5. There are stones found currently on earth are utilized in the foundation of the city.

#### 6. Psalm 104:5

Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.

7. The trees of life give different fruit according to the month (Revelation 22) (12 of them).

There is entirely too much reference to the current earth in these passages to believe differently.

22And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Here is where we get into some serious questions.

- 1. Why are there gates if they're never shut? There is evidently coming and going.
- 2. What is meant by the "nations" and "kings" of them that are saved? That they are saved and living on the new earth is not the issue. But that there are nations, and that they are outside the city and are divided is interesting.
- 3. Are the gates there to keep "out" the abominable, liars, and defiled? If so, are they also living on the new earth (see also Revelation 22:15)? Again, the only people allowed in are those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. And the city, which we can assume has people already in it, represents the "Bride", which is assumed to be the Church, but these nations and their leaders apparently live outside the city.
- 4. How did those outside the city get on the new earth to begin with?
- 5. Notice that it also refers to a new heaven. Is the universe wiped away with only the earth left? Or, are there infinitely many planets (new or revamped) that can support life for discovery/rule?
- 6. Is the new Jerusalem a cube or a pyramid?

Thoughts/Answers on the new Heaven/Earth/Jerusalem of Revelation 21

There is the idea of dimensionality and/or size as posited by Kenneth Massey/C. S. Lewis. Those who are in hell are of a lower dimension (or of diminishing size) and can never get in to the Holy City.

The goings and comings of the people of God will be through the gates, and heaven shall be infinitely large with (perhaps) infinitely many planets of habitation. God is infinite. Any limitation of space (dim = 3) with infinite time would result in hell.

I tend to believe in the pyramid schematic. An enormous apartment complex seems a little odd in that a vast majority of inhabitants would conceivably be out of the Son-light. Another workaround is the idea that the foundations are really tall. This would eliminate some of the multi-level idea, and fits with the adornment of precious jewels on the foundations (perhaps a ring around the upper part.

We get the idea that there is no sun nor moon because of the light of God. Does this light cover the northern hemisphere leaving the southern hemisphere in outer darkness? Are the hemispheres separated? One may ask if the lake of fire is in the southern hemisphere, but I tend to think of that as a lower dimensional space perhaps.

### **Revelation 22**

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Again, the description of the New Jerusalem. I also believe this is the same new Jerusalem of Ezekiel. Listen to the descriptive passages there regarding the gates and the Dead Sea. The name of the city: The LORD is there!

#### Ezekiel 47

10And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. 11But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. 12And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

### Ezekiel 48

31And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi. 32And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan.

33And at the south side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun. 34At the west side four thousand and five hundred, with their three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali. 35It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

Notice, again, to our point, the city in Ezekiel references current places including the Dead Sea.

Now it could be that Ezekiel is referring to Jerusalem on the millenial earth. But the imagery is very similar; it is consistent for John to not have a temple; and Ezekiel's New Jerusalem name of The LORD is there! is too much to throw away.

### **Revelation 22**

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

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

8And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. 10And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

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

16I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

#### Amen!

#### Exercise F

F1. After the Resurrection, who was satan especially wanting to destroy?

- *a*) the woman Israel
- b) the Christ
- c) the Church
- d) Mary
- e) Luke

- F2. Which of the following are features of the 144,000?
  - a) Men
  - *b*) Single
  - c) Women