


# THE APOCALYPSE OF JESUS CHRIST

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## DEDICATION

***I dedicate this wordbook to the Christ who desired, died and waited for His Bride of which we are thrilled to be part- and to my own God given spouse Mina(nee Parker) whose life devotion to our Lord Jesus is a daily reminder of that love-thirst that is stronger than death.***

In the spring of 1999 Mina and I spent some days on the Isle of Patmos listening to the delightful lectures of Thanos Karbonis (until his passing in 2009 leader of the *Greek Evangelical Church* in Athens) on the first section of the Apocalypse. Thanos' lecture theme was "Christ's progressive victory" and his exhortation was *μην αποτι τον κυριον λειπε* "Never let go of the LORD" matching what the hymn writer's sentiment "Never lose sight of Jesus!"

## CHAPTER 1

*This chapter gives the Patmos vision of the Christ of Glory. Traceable references from thirteen OT books contribute to this outstanding word portrait of the glory of Christ our Lord. The book is an unveiling of who Christ is and of His concern with the "called out ones" (the church) and how His kingdom is sustained in the church era and prevails as the secular order crumbles and He comes to reign for a millennium. A plethora of scriptural prophecies find their ultimate fulfilment in end time events and the return of Christ. At the head of this most significant document with its high order relevance for the future is a full-blown portrait of Christ Jesus as He now is.*

**Background** The *time of the vision* juxtaposes two slots for the exegete's contemplation. The first is the vicious three year long persecution under Nero in 64-67 triggered by Nero's fulminations to disguise his burning of Rome and blame it on the Christians. The second is the two year persecution by Domitian AD 95-6 ended after the emperor relented after interviewing the sons of Jude, the brother of our Lord. These upright farmers of Galilee convinced him Christ's kingdom was not of this world. A cave in Patmos(*a volcanic island*) became the rustic home of the apostle. The island retains a baptistery near Scala where John is reputed to have baptised disciples. You can still visit the cave at Hora today. Thanos Karbonis opined that the apocalyptic "angel" was **Gabriel** notable for His visitations at the incarnation. John terms himself a "slave" δούλος -this was his lowly role in the Patmos lead mine. Christopaulos, also a lead miner, the second island father – **14 centuries later** gave all his lands to Constantine and was given the 34,000 square metre island of Patmos instead. He made it a monastic place like Iona which tradition lives on today.

While a single 6<sup>th</sup> C MSS of Mark has been preserved there are actually **forty-four 8<sup>th</sup> century micrographia of John**. When John writes "Things that must soon come to pass" [*εν ταχει*] he means "*at running pace*". God is on the move – He does not loiter. The angel that shall blow the trumpet – if we take the Greek Church's view – appeared *as the first century closed*-in other words they attach the vision to the Domitian era. John witnessed both to Christ's word to the church (*Ch1-3 and 4, 16, 22*) and what he saw (*1-22*). The Lord's beloved disciple and

strengthening angel combine to give us the Apocalypse. The blessing of this book has three conditions – “to read and understand”; “to hear and obey” and to “grasp and hold as truth” (v3.) what is written. (*John considers his text Kethibh or inviolable in accord with direct revelation and Jewish tradition – hence the warning of Chapter 22.18-19*).

The extraordinary Greeting John writes to “the churches in Asia” has to be appreciated in the light of one whose later life was committed to Ephesus. “Asia” means “rich soil” or “mud”. The idiom is good – for its great swelling rivers deliver rich alluvial soil – and as I have personally witnessed in a 2000 mile drive through coastal and inland Turkey. Fertility abounds not least in the plains between Lystra and the Tauros range. At another and higher level in N.T. times this area was as spiritually fertile as Britain or America when revival fires burned. Asia Minor was the *land of 1000 churches*– bridging the route of the gospel to Europe and the world north, south, east and west.

John would appear to have written the vision when he returned to Ephesus-at that time the main centre of the church terrestrial (cf.v.9). John came home with a message to thrill the seven churches of his apostolate. Sadly when we visited in April-May of 1999 the candlesticks had been removed and with the exception of *Ephes* where a small bible school lives on the sad minus in the area is Christian witness.

## CHAPTER 1

### SEGMENT 1 1.1-3.22

#### META TAUTA NO.1

(1) *εν ταχει* **QUICKLY**v.1 “The Apocalypse(unveiling) of Jesus Christ that ‘The God’ gave him to display with the right hand to his servants, things essential to occur quickly (*εν ταχει* –at a swift running pace – John was reputed as a runner). He also gave signal commissioning His angel-commander to His servant John, who witnessed the word of “The God” and the witness of Jesus Christ – whatsoever things he saw. Blessed is the one that reads and knows and those that hear and obey the words of the prophecy and guard the things that have been written in it. For a (*grave*) season is near. John to the seven churches in Asia: grace and peace be with you from the one who is and was and is coming or desires to come – also from the seven spirits that are in close to His throne – also from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead (of the nether world) and the supreme authority of the kings of the earth. To the one that loved us once for all and washed us once for all from our sins in His blood and created and inspired us to be kings and priests to ‘the God’ and His father.”

(2) *δοξα και κρατος* **v6 THE GLORY & bodily strength SOVEREIGNTY/VICTORY belongs to Him into the ages of ages or for ever.”** (Apoc.1 1-6)

Like Paul, John adopts the phrase “grace and peace”(v.4) as the blessing of God “who was and is and is to come”; the blessing of the seven – fold Spirit of God – *Isaiah 11.2* and the blessing of Christ risen, our great high-priest – heir of all things enjoyed in Glory and first above kings of the earth (v.5) (*Athens had 9 Archons – the first of which was above the king*) Nero, who slew Peter & Paul, was gone. Later Domitian also fell– Christ remained above the vicissitudes. John as an aged Christian pays beautiful homage to the cross. Jesus loved us once for all and washed us once for all in His blood (v.5) and has made us forever a kingly priesthood (*the Alexandrian Text with its “kings and priests” is not followed by modern translators – who substitute “a kingdom of priests”*). I have used the phrase from *1Peter2.9 – as rule and prayer seem intertwined in our eternal future*) to God His Father. To Him belong Glory and the power to hold firm into all ages. **This all John affirms with a robust “Amen!”(v.6)**

The writings of *Daniel (7.13)* and *Zechariah (12 10-12)* are cited immediately following early verses in v.7 concerning the visibility of Christ at His advent and glorious return.

(3) ἰδου **Behold v.7** reflects the Hebrew for surprise (*hnh*) what a surprise the rapture will be!

(4) μετα των νεφालων **WITH CLOUDS v7** The joy of Christ's coming with clouds to be known of His saints and His advent to Olivet are both drawn together at the outset as equally sealed in his desire for (a) His church and (b) for Israel. [*"clouds"* νεφελος has *"the fleecy clouds"* of spring and the *"thunder clouds of armies"*] and He wants [*ερχομαι* *"comes"* or *"desires to come"*] to be recognised universally and He want the repentance of all Israel. To this John adds a robust "Yea, Amen

**THE FIRST SOUND** of the Apocalypse v.8 is the voice of the "I am" whose glory shines from Gospel and Apocalypse. This mighty description links *Exodus 3.14* & *Isaiah 6.1* & *41.4*. It is the victory message of revelation – cf. *1.4*, *4.8*, *11.17*, *16.5*, *21.6*, *22.13*.

(5) το αλφα και το Ω **ALPHA & OMEGA v.8** John adds the famous "Alpha and Omega" statement of Christ. *Just about this time the letter OMEGA was being officially written differently – instead of being a "bigger O (Ω)" it was made a "double oo (ω)". As the world considered the last letter of the Greek alphabet God revealed His last scriptural word.* John speaks of the "I am" in a manner that extols his "victory".

(6) παντοκρατωρ **PANTOCRATOR v.8** is used often in the text of the Apocalypse – distilling the emphasis of **victory**. He has emphasised that Jesus is not coming to a scene of defeat world wide but to register his victory. The victory scene is not yet complete. You will note in *Matthew 24.14* the same Greek word *τελος* indicative of the victory besides the completion of the message. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be heralded in the whole inhabited world for a witness to all the nations; and then the end purpose and **victory** will come. [*ηξει* (here *ερχομενος*) a verb with only "future tense in classical use-chosen to show a future coming" – a word often associated with the arrival of mature old age– or the army that marched from Rome]

The glorious visionary meeting with Christ in fulfilment of *John 21.23 vv 9-16*

(7) εγενομην **I WAS v9** John *had been* in Patmos where the Lord met him and the visions that he later writes down were first received. Thanos Karbonis sagely commented in giving the general framework of the book that Christ's victory is "progressive" and in this it resembles Exodus – where plagues release the grip of world power slowly and surely. He also commented that "**I was living**" is equivalent to "**I was**" or "**used to be**" in *past time* in the limited circle of (the bare inhospitable volcanic) Patmos. There Christ the victor met him as a martyr in Rome's gulag.

(8) κυριακη **LORD'S DAY v10** very significantly as Thanos emphasised it is the prophetic "Day of the Lord – "a day of darkness and not light" a day of terror and suffering and His glorious appearing – cf. *Joel 2* –especially "and afterward" (2.28) – Joel's Hebrew is *AHARE CEN* "After these things" – Joel predicts trouble and Messianic blessing which the 21<sup>st</sup> century church must surely write back into its theology. Peter's Pentecost sermon was Joel-centered. Christ must have been laying emphasis on Joel whose prophesy relates to the last times.

(9) εκκλησια επτα **SEVEN CHURCHES v10** The seven church locations or "lamp-stands" were Ephesus, Smyrna [*Strabo believed the city was named after an Amazon called Smyrna and means "myrrh or anointing oil, incense or drug"*], Pergamun-"citadel" and its inhabitants

(Strabo)“burgers”, Thyatira – otherwise “Euhippos” or “good horse”, Sardis – “red ruby” of love, Philadelphia – “brotherly love”, Laodicea – “victory to the people”.

**(10) επεστρεφω I TURNED TO SEE v12** (*the person*) “the voice of whom” or “whose voice” was speaking. The word for speech here is “chatting” so though the voice came from far away as trumpet calls carry it was close and intimate. It was also one that *thrilled* – which is within the descriptive range of the verb “to see”-even a “peep” at our wonderful Lord would rejoice the heart [*Βλεπω*].

**(11) ομοιος THE LIKENESS v11** “a likeness to a son of man”<sup>13</sup> John does not use ομοουσιος “the same essence” for in vital essentials Christ’s body has changed. It would seem to be bloodless and have kinetic atomic powers-more powerful & glorious. It is not ομοιος γνετων “the same as ever” but it is “a match” and as Luke said in Acts 1.10 ουτος “the same” person will return. He saw one who had all the future of man’s glory in his beautiful person the first sight of the Apocalypse. He had a kingly robe-coming from the breast and not the waist – known as an “Uphaz (*Indian*) belt”. He was girded with Gold – kingly and godly sign. He stood in the midst of the lamp-stands – all shone light upon Him and were Christ-centred in their ministry as the church must ever be.

**(12) λευκος WHITE v14** His head and hairs were white. We complain when our hair is white. Both His head and hair were “fair” as in youth –beautiful and of limpid radiance and brilliant so we are not to err altogether on the *cotton wool* and *fallen snow* idioms though they bring input too. His eyes as “a flame”[ *LAPID Daniel 7.9 & 10.6 signifying “a man highly esteemed”*]. This bears close comparison with Daniel’s ANTIQ YOMIN “Ancient of Days” whose hair was as AMAR(Heb) “Wool”. This is our enthroned Lord- the One who had resumed the seat of glory – described exactly as Daniel beheld Him four centuries ago before his incarnation.

**(13) εν καμινος πεπυρωμενος ( FEET)AS BRONZE BURNING IN A FURNACE v15** “eyes as a flame of fire” “feet of polished bronze” beautiful and strong – and notice this – both before and after suffering(Daniel 10.6. His voice as that of great waters *QOL HAMON* (*Hebrew*) “turbulent waters” or as a delightful alternative “singers”(tuneful) or “commotion of the bowels (*merciful*) The Greek *φωνη* means “loud and clear” whether it be a “battle cry” or the song of the “sweet nightingale”.

**(14) εχων HOLDING v16** He held the 7 stars in His right hand and from His mouth came a double edged sword and His face was as the sun shining in its strength. Here is the might of Christ to keep his servants, the irresistible might of His word (*compared to the Thracian sword*) and the power of His presence. In *Job 9.9* and *Amos 5.8* the Pleiades feature as from the hand of their maker – the one who works miracles and can pass unseen. In old time Taurus was connected with the flood and the Pleiades with the Ark of Noah. So Christ saves the seven churches as He saved the seven souls of ancient time.

**(15) κλεις THE KEYS v18** Our Lord holds the keys of death and hell. He has power over both. He placed on John the hand that held the stars and kept the saints saying “Fear not, I am the first and last, and the living one, and *I became dead(a corpse)*, and behold I am living on into *the ages of ages*, I am confident, and I have the keys of Hades and of death. The ALPHA & OMEGA take us to *Isaiah 44.6-8* and *Isaiah 48 6-12*. In the first Christ is the one who pours waters on the thirsty of Jeshurun – the beloved parched land of the Dead Sea – He is the one who calls His “witnesses” – the one who alone can “foretell what is to come”. In *Chapter 48* He

is the “I am” who laid the foundations of the earth and who is the “Son” of v16 sent by the Sovereign Lord and accompanied by the Spirit – in both chapters He is the REDEEMER.

**(16) μετὰ ταῦτα AFTER THESE THINGS v19** Write the vision including things seen in current time and things after these –all for the benefit of the church through the ages. **“After these”** [*μετὰ ταῦτα* with Aramaic equivalence nkrtb /nylh /OdH rtb – *John’s phrase received from Jesus for “immediately subsequent”-which demands that the events of 4.1 -21.21 are in sequence and equally demand that the churches represent eras stretching till the rapture because the events of 4.1 following are tribulation events occurring in a time which our Lord said would have no equivalent before or after.*] – **AN AUTHORITATIVE MARKER PARTICLE**

**ORIGINATING WITH HOMER** and effectively used by John to order and distinguish the gracious and judicial events and of the gospel and the Apocalypse respectively cf. Jn.2.12, 3.22, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 19.28, 21.1 **Rev.4.1, 7.1, 7.9, 9.12(Aramaic 13), 15.5, 18.1, 19.1.**

In respect of the churches over which Christ is ever vigilant the instant presence of the Lord guarantees their earthly progress and in respect of the world events ahead the prophetic future is destined and sure. The “Amen” of v.18 has not a shred of doubt that His will is going to prevail. This is especially to be affirmed for the leaders of the churches then shining as stars and the significance of “stars” is that in the unfolding truth of this book in Chapters 1-4 as in 5-18 that display of the divine purpose is profoundly certain as the veil unfolds in the life of the church and the history of the world during the far-flung events anent the Lord’s return. The stars are in His power – and it is their duty to hold the torch of biblical and prophetic light aloft.

## CHAPTER 2

### Messages to churches in Asia Minor

*The messages have a contemporary, composite and chronological relevance. They had direct 1<sup>st</sup> century relevance – there is something applicable to every church in every age in each message, and the panorama of the Church till Christ returns is embedded in Chapters 1-4. Ephesus is the apostolic, Smyrna the martyr church, Pergamos the compromising church, Thyatira the corrupt church, Sardis the dead church, Philadelphia the faithful church, Laodicea the apostate church.*

*It is estimated there were nigh on 500 churches in the area in Paul’s time-vastly more numerous than the seven listed here. On the occasion of our visit in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the region was still called “land of a thousand churches” in Turkish!*

**(17) κοίω HARVEST FRUIT v2** The apostolic church

*Ephesus was a city of 300,000 with a theatre seating 24,500 people.*

Write to the messenger of the Ephesian church. These things are spoken by the one who holds the seven stars – that is, the “sweet influence on growth and skill of the sower - ploughman” represented by the Pleiades”. In this constellation (*Ursa Major*) the two outer stars travel a different way from the rest – like the churches of Pergamos and Laodicea. Jesus walks amid the golden lamps trimming the wicks & pouring in oil. The energy we expend, the muscling into demanding work, the patience shown – are noted in heaven. The church did not carry the baggage of false apostles. The church dis-fellowhipped those masquerading apostles. He commended the “fruit” [*κοίω*] of service in the harvest-field for His name – unwearied though spent – “faint yet pursuing” (Judges 8.4). The Lord’s gracious way is first to commend and affirm. The church however had to address an acute failure- the loss of its first love. Here is a telling illustration of how love dies.

*“Their wedding picture mocked them from the table. Such a barrier was between them that neither battering ram of words or artilleries of touch could break it down. Somewhere between oldest daughter’s first tooth and youngest daughter’s graduation they lost one another. Sometimes she cried at night. He climbed into a tomb called the office. She took a course in*

*modern art. Slowly the wall between them rose. For when love dies it is neither in a moment of angry battle nor when fiery bodies lose their heat. No, it lies panting, exhausted, expiring at the foot of a wall it cannot scale”.*

(18) ἀφίημι την αγαπην **YOU HAVE LEFT** v 6 You have let go [ *“to let fall from one’s grasp”, “to divorce”, to allow to sail away”*] Jesus rebuke calls for “Remembering when you shone brightly for Jesus. The Lord adds, “Repent”. William Barclay speaks of repentance as a man “cracking the whip” to bring his life back into line. In bygone years Duffy’s circus came to town in lovely Newcastle by the Mournes. Elephants weighing 5 tons and more gave instant obedience yielding ready discipline.

(19) κινεσω **I WILL MOVE** v 5 “**I hold this against you; you have left your first love”** Christ warned that if the church took no heed He would come “quickly” as in an earthquake and move the Ephesian candle. **In 262AD** the Goths came as a whirlwind and laid Ephesus in ruins. **This church represents Christianity cooling in affection for Christ into the second century.**

(20) νικολαιτων **NICOLAITANS** v6 The first ever commentator on *Revelation* –Victorinus of Pettau (Leon Morris has a note to this effect in the IVP series) thought they took **a liberal view of fornication** – restoring those who eaten in feasts where *idols were honoured* after 8 days. In 2 Peter 2.15 we read of those who “strayed”: Nicolas of Antioch –the 7<sup>th</sup> deacon who became apostate and taught that *one must indulge in sin to understand it*. He & his followers believed such sins did not touch the spirit. Jesus promises He personally will share at the “tree of life” in paradise with those who live victorious over the world the flesh & Satan. Balaam *Redeivivus* is back with sexual laxity today. In Ephesus there was a secret tunnel to the brothel.

(21) θλιψις... αδικηθητη **TRIBULATION ...NOT BE HURT** v9&v11 **Smyrna** is the church of persecutions – this being the understanding of the 10 days. Smyrna is the third largest city in Turkey today and is older than either Rome or Athens. **This church represents Christianity through the period till 313 A.D.** This church is unsullied. Smyrna itself died and was revived by Alexander the Great.

A later angel or leader of Smyrna was Polycarp (115-156A.D.). He made his famous statement at 86 when he was martyred, namely *“Eighty and six years I have served Him and He has done me no ill, how then can I blaspheme my king who hath served me?”* After the death of 11 other Christians the proconsul tried to spare him saying “the games are over” but he yielded to the hateful baying of persecutors, “This is the teacher of Asia, the destroyer of our gods; the father of the Christians”.

To this church the Lord says, “I am the first and the last, the one who became a corpse and is alive for ever, I know your energies, your tribulation, your great poverty (*but you are very rich*) and the blasphemy of so-called Jews – who became informers against the Christians and earned the title “synagogue of Satan” from Christ.

Smyrna had five ornate temples to Cybele, Zeus, Apollo, Aesclepius and Aphrodite.

Fear not the things you are about to suffer. Look the accuser is ready to throw some in prison to test you, and you will have tribulation 10 days. Be faithful to death – I will give you the crown of life. Citizens were required on pain of death to sprinkle incense on the fire that burned before the statue of Tiberius.

#### **FOOTNOTE ON THE TEN PERSECUTIONS**

Nero 64-68 Paul beheaded; Domitian 95-96 John Exiled ; Trajan 104-117 Ignatius burned at the stake; Hadrian 117-138 Clement of Rome executed; Marcus Aurelius 161-180 Polycarp martyred; Severus 200-211 Empire wide martyrs; Maximinius 235-7 Christian leaders killed;

Decius 250-253 A Severe persecution; Valerian 257-260 Bishops Pion and Camprian martyred; Diocletian 303-313 Attempt to extermination of Christians.  
He who overcomes will not be indicted by God by the change of the second death.

(22) **πεφος λευκην WHITE STONE v17.** Obedience offers three benefits (1) The “hidden manna” like the afikomen of the Passover is Christ absent in Glory. (2) The “white stone” is a **gift to victors** at the games – it had their name on. The **πεφος** was also a **ticket** opening the public feasts to the victor. A third meaning is the split stone each half in the possession of long-time friends and given to their heirs in continued alliance of heart. The heavenly bridal feast is in view. (3) The “new name” stands for new character.

**Pergamos** was amongst the first to yield to Rome and here the persecution of those who did not hold with Caesar as Master of the world was most cruel. The library held 200,000 scrolls. When Alexandria withheld papyrus the city developed **Pergamini parchment**. Pergamos is famed for the Aesclepius’ temple erected to the god of healing with the world renowned symbolic entwined serpent on a staff as its insignia (cf NHS logo). In 29BC Pergamum built the first temple in Asia Minor to Augustus as god. Here emperor worship was initiated. This city by 560B.C was ruled by Croesus of Lydia. Persia defeated him & divided Anatolia into Ionia, Hellespont, Cilicia & Lydia. Alexander defeated Darius 2<sup>nd</sup> and his empire subsequently fell to four generals ruling Greece, Turkey, Syria & Egypt.

**The Lord refers here to “the throne of Satan”** which links with the altar of Zeus. In 1871 a German engineer found fragments from the altar and afterwards recovered many more. It has been reconstructed in Berlin. Satan worship began in Babel under Nimrod & Semerimus, spreading to Phoenicia as Ashteroth & Tammuz, to Egypt as Isis & Horus, Greece ad Aphrodite & Eros – Rome as Venus & Cupid. The original Tammuz was slain by a boar and rumoured to have risen. The Feast of Ishtar had coloured eggs eaten as a symbol of the resurrection of Tammuz & cakes marked with “T” – uncomfortable facts. Abraham left Ur and this devil worship – but in *1 Kings 16.30* Jezebel restored it. The Caesars adopted altar-throne of Zeus (*god of this world*) and titled themselves “high priests” of this cultus originating in Babel. The altar was located in Germany during the slaughter of 6million Jews and went to Moscow during the cold war. **It is in Berlin today.** *The Turkish nation is currently claiming it back as theirs!*

**The Lord honours the martyred Antipas** (“*a man against the world*”) who for His name was roasted in a brazen bull and would not deny the faith.

**The Lord rebukes the introduction of Fornication.** Balaam advised Balak that where a curse failed the devise of introducing idolatry through marriage would succeed (*Numbers 25 1-9*). The second rebuke is on following Nicolas of Antioch – the reprobate deacon (*cf. Acts 6.5*) who accepted that man as inherently good – only evil as to his material part – which did not influence the spiritual. The result was syncretism – visiting pagan temples since meats could not affect the soul and cultural merging of pagans and Christians. The sword reminds us of the angel with the sword who opposed Balaam. **The era mirrored in this prophesy is that of the early medieval church laden with sins and enhanced only by the earliest whisperings of reform,**

(23) **αστερα πρωινον MORNING STAR v28** I recall as a *young reader* receiving a star & certificate from the *Christian Herald* magazine. The “star” (*cf. Daniel 12.3*) speaks of Christ and His sovereignty; His victory (*Rev. 22.16*) and the daybreak of eternity – neither you nor I must prejudice this by worldly or Luciferian interests. All of my life I have found it a mighty safeguard against Thyatira’s failure to set my heart on **the appearing of Jesus** (*2 Timothy 4.8*). This transfixing expectation I have found an antidote to dalliance with *the world* in its intriguing and mysterious forms.

**Thyatira** Some MSS read “*Your Jezebel*” – as if she was the wife of a church leader in Thyatira – the home town of faithful Lydia – *cf. Acts 16.14*. As a trader it was compulsory to be

a member of the trade guild and worshipper of Apollo. The town had been called “Semiramis” and “Euhippia” It was renamed by Seleucus I -one of Alexander’s generals. Apollo the warrior mounted and holding the battle axe was the city deity. Among the products of the city were linen, woollen clothing, leather, pottery, copper and brass. Thyatira was a loving but undisciplined church. During our visit we heard of 2/3 believers in Akhisar – modern Thyatira. The Spirit begins with the flaming eyes of Jesus – and His feet like shining “bronze” Bronze was used in weaponry. Jesus is presented as conqueror beyond the Sun-god. A church of deeds; of love; of faith; of service; of perseverance –**companion to the Reformation era church.**

## CHAPTER 3

### (24)μη εξαλειπω NOT UTTERLY WIDE OUT v5

**Sardis** was the city of Aesop and of Croesus, who is credited with inventing coin minting. He used plentiful local gold. The city was built at Mt. Tmolus – which much like the prow of a ship housed the earliest settlers. Later the valley below was settled. The Lydian people link to “Lud” of *Ezekiel 27.10*. Croesus or Midas was attacked by Persia and **Sardis was defeated because a soldier as he walked from the fort to the lower city dropped his helmet over the wall and gave away the route that connected the fort to the lower city as he retrieved the helmet in full view of a Persian.** That night he and a gallant Persian band followed the secret route and Sardis fell through complacency; these tactics also led Antiochus Epiphanes to the citadel in 214B.C. Hence the Lord’s warning, “**If you do not watch I will come as a thief** and you will not know the hour” (v.3). Significantly the Lord speaks as giver of the Spirit’s benefits and as guide to His church. “Sardis” from the Greek means “red”. The sardius was the first jewel in the Jewish high priest’s breastplate – and was associated with “love”. The Lord said “Sardis – you are dead”. **The church mirrors the deadness of ritual in the church and the rebuke takes account of the lack of prophecy** so the “unknown hour” statement constitutes a warning to the nominal and traditional but moribund church of every age that sits lightly by biblical truth. Even in Sardis there are notable people who have not “soiled their garments”

**whose names will remain in the book of life** (cf. *Rev.13.8, 17.8, 20.12 & 15, 21.27, 22.19*) which is in heaven. cf. *Daniel 12.1* and *Luke 10.20* with Hebrews 12.23 The vigilant victor will be registered in God’s book and confessed before the Father and the angels.

**There is a good story about Croesus** – who was told by the philosopher Solon in answer to his question, “Who is the happiest of men?” – “Tellus of Athens”. Solon continued, “You are the wonderfully rich Lord of many nations but **until I hear that you have closed your life happily** I cannot answer you”. How did Croesus end his days? Well, Cyrus attacked and almost burned him with the rubbish of Sardis – and he was saved by calling out “Solon Solon Solon”. The oracle responded to his unhappy state by saying “Croesus is suffering for **others’** sins.” Others failed in their vigilance. Let us then learn not to fail others and not to fail Christ.

(25) αληθινος THE GENUINE ONE v7 Christ describes Himself as “the holy one”; “the genuine one”/ *αληθινος*], the keeper of the key of David i.e. Messianic hope; the one who opens; the one who shuts.

**Philadelphia** (modern *Alashehir*) lies in a fertile valley watered by the river Cogamus. The kings of Pergamum built it as a communication centre for cities in the Lycus valley. It was named by king Eumenes in honour of his brother Attalus – he had his head on one side of his coins – his brother’s on the other.

Philadelphia is the centre of a volcanic region – not far from the Turkish *Olympus* on the slopes of which Mina and I drank a welcome cup of tea brewed over burning gas spewing out of the slopes of that mountain.



(1) BEHOLD A DOOR OPEN. He is aware of their energised work. Every church has WORK of a sort to show. The Lord gave them an “open door” as a mission church-reaching all who passed west or east – to and from the Lycus valley cities.

(2) BEHOLD JEWS CONVERTED Their power to multiply was “very small”

(26) **μικρος VERY SMALL 9b** So small yet they guarded God’s word and did not deny Christ, kept the word of longsuffering and God will guard them in the hour of trial, coming on the whole world, to try once for all the earth’s inhabitants. *(This future trial is a harbinger of trial announced here may well reflect the holocaust of our day – following the new beginning of evangelization of the Jews initiated by a fact finding free church embassy to Israel and Budapest in 1839).*

(3) BEHOLD I COME QUICKLY The warning of the Lord’s act of taking away the lamp stand is a figure of His return for the church. *(Notice the 19 mentions of the church in Revelation 1-3 after which it is nowhere seen)* The Victor’s crown – the conqueror’s crown is in mind. Christ promises to make victors “pillars in the temple of God”. Trajan’s priests each placed a pillar in His temple with their name on it. In heaven permanent temple He promises to write God’s name on us, to write the New Jerusalem on us and to write His own name on us-a triple possession pledge.

(27) **ταλαιπορος WEAK AND FRACTURED V17** [*weak– where a callus forms joining the broken ends of the bone.*]

**Laodicea** was known earlier as Dios-polis (city of Zeus) – it was named after Laodice – the wife of its *re-builder* Antiochus. The name means “Justice of the people”. It recovered after the Mithridatic War and again re-emerged by its own effort after the earthquake of AD 60. Banking and black wool dealt it a good hand. Its medical school produced collyrium for the ophthalmic industry. *It is notable that Dr. Aune in comments in loco does not take us beyond 62AD and Dean Alford opines that the ‘terminus a quo’ of the book is 68-70A.D. contemporaneous with the Fall of Jerusalem.*

The water supply of Laodicea ran in surface channels a few miles from nearby Hierapolis. During our 1999 spring visit to Pammukale in Turkey our host diverted water from the higher source of the hot water a few kilometres distant to fill her small swimming pool after Friday prayers – providing a delightfully warm dip. At the rear of the caravanserai ran another stream of cold water. En route to Laodicea the first lost its heat and the second warmed up. Laodicea’s waters were ill tasting and emetic.

The Lord said – you are neither cold nor hot” adding “I am ready to vomit you out”.

They said, ‘I am wealthy and have immense riches and no need”

The Lord said “You don’t realise that you are wretched [*ταλαιπορος – where a callus forms joining the fractured ends of a broken bone.*] Laodicea boasted amid devastation that it could restructure without external help after earthquake.

The church is limping- “it would bring tears to the eye” – it is incurable-in beggary but will not beg—with misty sight but protests that it sees well- like a person with only an undergarment against winter’s cold –it is in denial **The picture here is of the modern church – good membership; generous giving; ornate premises, broken, pitiable, without vision and for numerous reasons naked before God.** There was, Strabo tells us, a fine market just out of town. The Lord has just what they need. He wants them to get “alongside Him” [*παρα*] verse 18. A closer walk with God would solve all their problems. For their poverty the untainted gold of character; for their short-sightedness the Lord offered the anointing of the Spirit for their spiritual nakedness not raven black woollens but the white garments of His righteousness.

**Behold I have stood at the door and I am still knocking.** If anyone hears let him open and I will come in and have a mutually intimate time of refreshment and fellowship. This brings to mind Holman Hunt’s famous picture –a call to today’s church in Britain from the Great

university of Oxford and the great Cathedral of St Paul's. God is calling for "someone" to stand in the gap!

Campbell Morgan sagely pointed out that "someone in Laodicea had to make the difference; **someone had to see the need**" someone had to quest what Christ offered. After all it only took a few lepers to save Samaria. Despite the energetic praying hardly anyone would instigate a move from the core worldliness of the time to good and holy living. There is about Laodicea a hardness and a dragging of the feet in things spiritual. **There is a good story of a little girl** once surprised her class replying to the question, "What are the characteristics of salt?" Her answer was "It causes thirst!" and "It melts ice"!

## PRELIMINARY TO SEGMENT 2

### FIVE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE HALCYON DAYS OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT

*Apocalypse 4.1-18.24 falls naturally into 5 sections. The "after this" literary device John uses both in the gospel & Apocalypse for the ministry of Jesus over three and a half years and again in the Apocalypse where the climax of Tribulation covers a similar time span. John's overall historical canvas is precisely the "70th week" of Daniel 12.*

### JOHN'S LITERARY DEVICE

Liddell and Scott gives three adaptations: (1) "into the middle of"(MOTION) (2) "looking for"(QUEST) (3) "next"(SEQUENCE or SUCCESSION)

*John then uses the combination in the gospel (John 2.12, 3.22, 5.1, 6.2, 7.1, 19.38, 21.1) and in the Apocalypse (4.1, 7.1, 7.9, 9.13, 15.5, 18.1, 19.1). Certainly the double use is significant-contrasting a time of grace with a time of judgment. The specifics of The Great Tribulation thus becomes clear and unmistakable.*

## CHAPTER 4

### SEGMENT 2 4.1-6.17 *μετα ταυτα*

*PARENTHESIS (1) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW*

### EXPLORATION OF THE "REALM OF PERFECTION" WHERE CHURCH WILL DWELL AFTER THE RAPTURE

After Chapter 3 we have **no further mention** of the church on earth although we get glorious glimpses of the church celestial represented by the elders; saints in stoles and glimpses of saints at the altar interceding for an end to earth's persecution. The realm of perfection contrasts with the tribulation of conflict as 12 parentheses detailing heavenly events bare testimony.

### (28) *γεμοντα* FULL (of eyes) *vs*

*The living creatures show what is in store-fuller knowledge!*

In the space of the throne and circling round the throne there are 24 elders and 7 lamps representing the church. **Four living creatures** full of eyes moving inwards observant of the heart of the PANTOCRATOR and outwards observing the reaches beyond. Few in all history save Ezekiel have been admitted to view this order of being. John describes beings with immense knowledge who live within the mystery of God and have fabulous knowledge of heaven and earth. Each "living creatures" has four faces. Ezekiel saw the human face directed at him-and the Ox and the Lion (speaking of the future rule of Christ). He also testified to the eagle or heavenly rule of Christ. The four gospels and the creatures all reflect God's own nature.

### (27) *παντοκρατωρ* VICTORIOUS CREATOR (who perfects) *vs*

John is observing the development of a new stage of history from heaven. These living ones reflect God's activity sympathetically and in worship displaying absolute harmony as they bow

at the throne. They know no “day and night” rest or pause but cry as the seraphim of Isaiah6 “Holy, Holy, Holy”.

***The living creatures introduce us not to the one who forgives to seventy times seven but to Jesus who perfects us that we may never sin***

The living creatures lead worship of the “**Pantocrator**”—a word in its original Sanscrit is more illuminating than its Greek derivative. It does not simply mean “God’s sovereignty” but God as “Perfector” of all about Him. The two most humbling mysteries of God - His “eternal being” and “His power to perfect sinners” —draw true worship. Christ’s work was never meant to be forgiveness and eternal fault lines.

The cardinal feature of worship recognizes Christ is our “Perfector” whose thoroughness and care into eternity will ever enthrall us. The living creatures give an amazing lead.

“Glory” **δοξαν** (all our expectation fulfilled through Him and in us) “Honour” **τιμην** (the price He paid and the costly persecution of believers led here) and “blessing” **ευχαριστια** (the gratitude we ever have for His body & blood given for us). The elders fall “in close to the throne” every time this glorious triple theme recurs. They teach the church to give GLORY HONOUR BLESSING POWER to “the one who perfects” our Lord Jesus Christ!

## **CHAPTER 5**

### ***PARENTHESIS 2 WHAT THE CHURCH NEEDS TO KNOW***

**(28) βιβλιον THE BOOK.v1** We have here no scroll—a distinct “book” but its **comprehensiveness tempts us to see this as a very advanced fact recorder.**

It is quite normal to gain our first impressions or revelation of God from a book. The book in question is in the hand of the One that sits on the throne.

It is described as written on both sides. The book on the right hand of the One on the throne is a “small book” **βιβλιον** or “scroll”? **as contrasted with βιβλος** -Aramaic is regulative of variant.

It is a “full book”. That it is full suggests **there are many events pending** and its **seven seals opened** by Christ will resolve how He causes terrible wars to cease and settles the greatest geo-physical disruption since the flood and overcomes Satan's end time strategy in the “70th week”

**(29) εσφαγμενον (a lamb) SLAIN.v6**

Then John saw in the centre of the throne facing the Father a beloved lamb standing. Luther describes our Lord “slain as but yesterday” in his comment on **Apocalypse 5.6**. Our Lord is here characterised as complete in power and complete in understanding what must follow—the development of history. Cf **Isaiah 11.1 & 10**. Reference to “a lamb” and “the lamb” respectively **(Rev.5.6 & 14.1)** comprehend (a) the gathering of the church in the first instance and (b) Israel’s latter day witnesses or body of martyrs in the second instance from the earth.

Our Lord with great wisdom and in what REINEKER calls a **highly dramatic historical present tense “takes”** the scroll from the Father.

**(30) καθαραν και φιαλος χρυσας HARPS AND GOLDEN VIALS.v8** The elders appear with prayerful thanks and praise for the “redemption of the body and homecoming of saints to glory from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.v.9 The saints were aware of their role to rule the earth besides their intercessory privilege. With the elders they had already been made kings and priests—with the rule of earth in prospect.

**(31) αριθμος μυριαδες NUMBERING MULTI MILLIONS.v11**

Besides the circle of living creatures and elders and saints who have come home there is the fourth wide circle of angels. The **angels** are numbered at 10,000 X 10,000 and 1000 X 1000’s—that is hundreds of millions and millions besides. This power is awesome. This host assembled, co-ordinate with the call of the living creatures and expressing more fully their will that the lamb

to take power in their mighty voice “Worthy is the lamb that was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength”. Jesus said He could call 10,000 angels –here are multi millions of angels in heaven-further evidence that the church triumphant is home. All heaven and earth and earlier history consented-indeed all the above and their universal fellowship called for the unending hold on power of the lamb. This glorious tribute brings together the pictures of Psalm 47.8 Isaiah 6.1 and Ezekiel 1 26-27.

### (32) παν κτισμα (every)COLONY v13

It seems strange that at this stage before judgment fell or rebels were reined in that creation should sing to God's glory in unison. The word used by John [Apocalypse 5.13] is not κτισις but κτισμα which in Koine Greek generally means "colony" but in NT usage also so often means “creature”-perhaps we do the term no disservice to recognise that the praise of our Lord has never faltered however dark the age. It is to be additionally observed that the aorist of ακουω in this and many other contexts of the Apocalypse can mean John "heard" praise of a "once for all" and continuing nature-confirmed by the use of the present participle of λεγω in v12. With the advent of Christ after the tribulation the evidence is that there is an irreversible order of righteousness.

## CHAPTER 6

### (33)SIGNALS THE ONSET OF FAMINE DEATH & WAR APOCALYPSE CHAPTER 6.1-17

*This segment covers six of the seven seals. The seals introduce a period when Christ sets His absolute impress on world history –in the few years before his kingdom’s dramatic advent the pace quickens. Then follow in immediate succession the trumpets, thunders, vials-all of them complete. In this prior revelation or notice to mankind Christ lays bare what is to be expected at the onset of the final seven years tribulation before HIS kingdom.*

### (34)ιππος Λευκος WHITE HORSE The first of Zechariah’s horses v2

I saw when the lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures speaking like the voice of thunder, “Come and see” Here we are out of our depths on the order of being spoken of. These eternally *living creatures* worship Rev.5.8-they are the inner circle of creation. The unidentified “rider” figures in four seals that are well known to the “*living creatures*”-holding sway even thereafter

“And I saw a **white horse** and **he who placed himself** upon the horse **held a bow**. A crown was given to him and he went out conquering and that he should be future conqueror”. The horse intimates power and the symbolism of horse and bow takes us **east to the "Persian emblems" of power. The last “white horses” signify the ride of tyrants or a bid for supreme rule.** Demosthenes (355BC) spoke of the “white horses of tyrants”. After the fashion of the Spartans this person *crowns himself* and rides off to conquer. The horse in Zechariah's prophecy stand ready to ride in the last days of uneasy world peace. Is Persia deeply implicated in the first seal?

(35) ιππος Πυρρος RED HORSE v4 When the Lamb opened the second seal, John heard and obeyed while a **second of the “living creatures”** (signified by the Ox of sacrifice) said, “Come and see”. This creature drew John for a second time near the throne. There a view or picture was opened to him. John saw a **“fiery red horse”** going out and it had been given him to take peace from the earth, and that they slay one another. And a great sword (Greek=**μαχαίρος** “a bent sword of the scimitar type-Xenophon).So the “tawny” horse and the “bent sword” signify a time of religious sacrificial killing of an unusual nature (Greek=**σφαζω** cutting the jugular)

### (36) μελας BLACK HORSE v5

When the Lamb opened the third seal John heard the third **living creature** (signifying man) saying, “Come and see”. And I saw, and **the colour of this horse was black** (μελας enigmatic-malignant). The rider had a yoke-but not for equine control—rather a **controlling balance for trade**- “a balance bar for scales”.

A voice from the midst of the living creatures, “A slave’s measure of corn for a days wage and three days measure of barley for a day’s wage.” “And you must not break the law or acquire illegally oil and wine.” This means severely limited food resources.

### (37) χλωρος **DEATHLY DAPPLE GREY vs**

The fourth **living creature** (represented by the eagle) said, “*Behold a grey or fresh green horse* (Greek=χλωρος=greenish yellow –strictly of young grass or greenish yellow as the eye but mainly with the significance “fresh”).The horse fresh enough to carry its rider “death” everywhere. Another horse followed in the sense of one exactly alike and as his servant-called Hades. To them was given authority to kill more than a quarter of the earth’s population in the circles where sword ρομφαία(broad sword of war) and starvation and death(often of execution following court judgment) were the principal killers together with “beasts”(the diminutive is better translated ‘microbes’ than ‘lions’)

### (38) υποκατω θυσιαστεριον **UNDER THE ALTAR vs** Saints who had suffered-martyrs were pleading in heaven for a shortening of suffering.

When the Lamb opened the fifth seal I saw under the altar of incense –which was just outside the veil-but its fragrance came within - where souls slain murderously on account of God’s word and on account of holding true in their witness combined their prayer. **They literally screamed at God**, “Until when, O Absolute One(literally “despot”)O Holy One, O promise-faithful One, will you delay judgement and retribution for our blood from the inhabitants on earth” They were given white stoles(Greekστολαι-soldiers dress-often of special cavalry uniform-they were involved in the battle for righteousness)-and the word that “*flowed along the ranks*” ερρεθη was “Wait still a very short time-until your fellow servants and brethren(of heaven’s army) is complete-as ready to die as you yourselves were” What a striking and appropriate reply to this righteous protestation!

### (39)μικρον χρονον **A LITTLE TIME vs.11** Saints in heaven are to wait whilst Herculean events of judgment proceed on earth.

1 Behold a massive earthquake happened-the first sign

2 The sun became dark as sackcloth of goats hair

3 The moon became as blood.

4 The stars fell on the earth(“The end of the world(i.e. world government) is at hand”-Charles) or the powers that govern collapse as the fig casts her figs that grew all winter and are cast off in the spring winds.

5 The heavens are ripped apart as a papyrus scroll is wrapped up or crawls along when the hands that hold it release it.

### (40)παν ορος και νεσος **EVERY MOUNTAIN & ISLAND vs.14**

6 Every mountain and island were shaken (Greek=κινεω=the action of a plough) from their *classic locations*. The *whole earth was being prepared for a new MILLENNIAL era* as the spring ploughing of the ground for a new crop. Only the inhabitants had to go with the change-a very fearful judgment.

### (41)απο προσωπος... απο οργης **FROM THE FACE (of God) & WRATH (of the Lamb) vs16** “Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb. The kings or rulers of the earth and those who became great

by possessions and power, and the wealthy, and the military bosses of thousands of soldiers, and the powerful, and every servant and free man **hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains.** They keep saying to the rocks and to the mountains, **“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne and from the wrath of the lamb-for the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to hold his ground”**The experience was clearly sickening as everything was moving-and darkness was all about.

This chapter gives notice to prepare for a massive QUAKE of which the incremental increase in seismic activity is a strong early warning. OT scripture has many references to this “shaking” that our Lord emphasised both in the gospel & Apocalypse.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **SEGMENT 3 Ch 7.1-7.8 μετὰ ταῦτα**

#### **SIGNALS THE IMPETUS TOWARDS ISRAEL'S CONVERSION**

*This very short segment sets before the church the world and angels the wonder of divine grace and the work of the Spirit of God in the aftermath of Church History reaching out to bring the nation of Israel to Himself by especial providences. Here we see Angels deeply involved – and an Eagle(mighty power) twice acting for the well being of Israel. Israel and Jerusalem play a vital role during the tribulation and into the Millennium. This segment follows the great earthquake or geo-physical shaking foretold in the sixth seal. The OT & NT have a spate of notices of this "humongous tremor"(see Isaiah 13.13; Joel 3.16; Haggai 2.6 & 21; Matthew 24.29; Mark 13.25; Luke 21.26; Hebrews 12.26) As this segment opens four angels appear on earth "holding the four winds".*

#### **(42) ἐπὶ τὰς τεσσαράς γωνίας TO THE FOUR CORNERS v1**

John saw **four angels** standing or as we say “stood” after the style of guards above the four angles of the earth. There is no need to go anti-Copernican. To take the Magnetic north and an opposite Antarctic position along with a position above the mid-east and above the pacific shows how such angular (Greek-γωνίας–right angle)positioning is to be read from above (Greek =ἐπὶ τὰς τεσσαράς γωνίας) not from the surface view. The exact positions are clearly ordained of God—but they were devised for global cover and vital hastening immediately future events. The angels held the four winds-the BOREAS (N) EUROS (E) NOTOS(S) and ZEPHYROS (W). The winds served as points of the compass do today.

It might be asked why the winds were withheld from blowing on earth, sea or any tree. The obvious answer would be further massive destruction of fruit and the food chain from the destruction of trees (Greek=δένδρον “fruit trees” as opposed to ὕλη “timber trees”) Equally seaways were still open during this time of massive earth disturbance and though the land was in turmoil following the greatest "shake" ever known on earth and no doubt for a time the "sea and the waves were roaring"[**Luke 21.25**]a quiet sequential weather pattern would greatly abate the disaster.

#### **(43) σφραγίδα θεοῦ THE SEAL OF GOD v2**

I saw another angel coming down from the rising of the sun shrieked command to the other four lest they act illegally for the harm of the earth, sea or trees till the sealing of the 144,000. He had come to enforce the command. To act at the wrong time by the governing angels was forestalled and the “angel supervising the elect” proceeded.

#### **(44) ἐκ πάσης φύλης Ἰσραὴλ FROM EVERY TRIBE OF ISRAEL v4-S**

These angels then joined in the greater ministry of sealing the 144,000 v.4 (Greek=ρμδ) for the completion of the elect of this significant period when it is clear that the "fear of the LORD" is the beginning of wisdom for Israel. The sealed persons were sealed where a soldier's hat badge was worn-between the eyes on the forehead. They were heirs of Israel preserved till these late

days of God's sovereign purpose. (No connection with the JW Gentile Watchtower cult whose first disciples supposedly ascend to heaven whilst the residue abides on a paradise earth). Scripture is categorical that we have Jews from Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin - 12,000 from each tribe. The sealing was used in New Testament times for slaves and for soldiers. In v.3 the angel specifically calls these persons "**slaves**" (after the style of Revelation 1.1) in their absolute willing obedience to the Lord. This act of sealing forestalls the "mark of the beast" in **chapter 13**. This is the "mark of the Lamb." The beginning of the next tribulation segment sees these **soldier saints** fulfil their testimony and pass to Mt Zion above amid re-emergent cruel anti-Jewish activism of the tribulation era.

#### **SEGMENT 4 7.9-15.4 μετὰ ταῦτα**

**(NUMEROUS SAINTS OUT OF TRIBULATION -7TH SEAL-6 TRUMPETS -THE SCROLL-TWO WITNESSES-7TH TRUMPET - WRATH AND WORSHIP)**

#### **THE FAITHFUL CALLED HOME-FAITH REKINDLES ON EARTH**

*Jesus once said, "When the Son of Man comes will He find faith upon the earth" (Lk18.8). Through this SEGMENT the world and Israel too becomes very denuded of faith. John directs us to look above to heaven and home - glorious with the redeemed. "I saw, he says, a great mixed multitude-redeemed-martyrs- raptured ones. The redeemed of the ages had been invested with white stoles-the mark of completion-and held victor's palms in their hand.. They shouted as one man, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb." And all the angels had been stood in a corona surrounding the redeemed encircling the twelve elders and inside that again -the living creatures.*

#### **PARENTHESIS (3) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW**

*Before we read of the most terrible traumas of earth in this segment the felicity of the church in heaven again greets the reader's eyes. Christians may glibly say-why should God reveal so much of the trouble on earth? We don't need to know that! That is why we have the heavenly scenes running concurrent. There are a series of things taught in this scene that the LORD considers the suffering church needs to know. One of the early martyrs asks "Who are they?"*

#### **(45) περιβεβλημενους INVESTED v13**

And all four orders of creation fell on their faces and they worshipped God saying "**Amen**, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever, **Amen**".

- 1. We need to know** that the circle now comprehends like a **hunter's circle** multitudes the Saviour has searched for INDIVIDUALLY and brought to Glory.
- 2. We need to know** that this great throng that they have been clad περιβεβλημενους in highly wrought dress-beautifully-the perfect passive conveys the sense of "invested with"
- 3. We need to know** that we will be taken from the face of tribulation.  
After worship the elder asks, "These clothed in white stoles or armour-who are they and where **have they come from?**"(The Greek verb **ἦλθεν** is in the **aorist** form-and is typically so used by Homer Theocritus Aristophanes the LXX and Alexandrian literature. The effect of the participle is to denote the "manner of coming". John replies "You know!" The angel resumes "These are they **who have come out of** great tribulation "having completed all their duties". They had witnessed to blood-they were caught up from Great Tribulation.
- 4. We need to appreciate our Lord's happiness v12 with His martyr saints so near and at home** from the theatre of the spiritual warfare on earth. They are greatly loved and for this reason they are **in close** (**ἐνώπιον**-in close) to the throne.

5. **We need to know** that full surrender and commitment is called for. These continue to give their all (λατρευουσιν-to expend massive resources) in service day to Christ.  
6. **We need to know** that the honoured witnesses of the last days are shepherded to ever living fountains of waters-i.e. the “head streams” or “springs” of life –which they enjoy & understand.

**(46) εξάλειπω OBLITERATED v17**

7. **We need to know** about suffering for “wipe away” is not merely a matter of fact . The Greek is not εκλειπω but εξάλειπω “to obliterate” **“wipe off the map”** in supreme tenderness.  
8. **We need to know** guardian angels witness these great entrances before Jesus returns to rule.  
9. **We need to know** that all martyrs and witnessing saints are under the Shekinah as happy as Peter on the Mount (v16) –their labours are over. We are all to be treated as those who loved not their lives-as witnesses. We shall abide in Glory.

**(47) εκ της Θλιψεως της μεγαλη OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION v14**

The term “out of” has three general connections. It may mean out of a given location; out of a given period or out of in terms of origin. However in composition the sense of “removal” prevails. *The nub of the answer is that they are not continuously emerging out of great tribulation but they came in a mass exodus*

He that is seated on the throne **will spread his tent** over them-so they abide ever near Him. They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the sun fall upon them nor any heat. *The effect of his clause is to make clear that their destiny is not to resettle on earth.*

**REVELATION 8**

*PARENTHESIS + WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-TIME IS IN HIS HAND*

**(48) σιγη εν τω ουρανω ως ημιωπον SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOURv1**

The awesome wrath which is to cascade upon man during the time of “the seven trumpets” impacts heaven profoundly. It is important to note that angels impact warfare but is of human instigation or Satanic promotion. In the end times divine judgment is also abroad.

**(49) σαλπιγξ THIRD TRUMPETv10** There was silence in heaven as if for half an hour. There were **seven angels** standing before God. This “stand” was a singular once- for- all end time ministry. The silence is a happening-a pause to mark the solemnity of war **εγενετο**. The trumpet **σαλπιγξ** was used as a “war signal”-so we have divine messengers in a given order who received trumpets to sound in historical order. What else happened in that short space?

**(50) αλλος αγγελος ANOTHER ANGEL v3**

A **different angel** came and took his place at the incense altar, holding a golden censer. Much incense was given him. Incense is burnt in honour of a person-in this case the Lord-that he might present the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before God. This marks a time of sacrifice & stress for saints and also a time of retribution. The angel took the censer-full of fire and tossed it upon the earth. Now follows **the THIRD of SEVEN occasions** in all in this book we learn of voices and thunder and lightning and an earthquake or serious change on earth-i.e. **“war-cries, aerial action and a shaking of the foundations on earth”**. Preparation was made to sound... There was no hesitation. **Unavoidable struggles of mankind under an angry heaven are to event with devastating consequences**

**(51) χαλαξα και πυρ μεμιγμενα εν αιματι DELTING RAIN & FIRE WITH BLOOD v7**  
**Angel One** “Pelting hail”χαλαξα- mingled with blood smote mankind. The sense is hostile.

The hail from heaven is hostile to life on the earth where it falls. It is to destroy 33% of trees and green edible and other vegetation. In **Ezekiel 38.22** there is a significantly similar reference relating to God in protecting Israel during a tribulation war... Reference to the 7<sup>th</sup> plague of Hail



in **Exodus 9** is also interesting. This trumpet marks acute diminishing of man's food supply triggering famines.

(52) **οπος μεγα καιομενον εβλεθη την Θαλασσαν MOUNTAIN FALLS IN EUROPE VS Angel Two** sounded and a **mountain** was cast into the sea. 33% of the **κτισματα or living ones with souls** i.e. “men” died and 33% of the ships were destroyed. This is through the collapse of a **great power**. 33% of the sea-the Gentile factor-was involved in this war. 33% of the shipping was destroyed. We are being told of a conflict exceeding the two world wars in casualties. The cost in lives alone could be as great as 2 billion. In **Exodus 7.20** the plague of blood resulted in “fish” death but this is more than serious -a serious punctuation in heavens’ praise is understandable in view of this war.

(53)**αστηρ αφινθος WORMWOOD STAR v11**

**Angel Three** sounded and a **great star burning as a torch** fell on 33% of the rivers and fountains or sources of water. The star was “wormwood” and 33% of the waters became “wormwood” or poisonous and **many of mankind** died from consuming the waters because they had become venomous. The theatre seems to be worldwide  
**Jeremiah** predicted that Israel would eat “bitter food and poisoned water” **8.15**—scatter them & send the sword after them. The widespread impact on potable water could only give rise to disease and death.

(54) **πληγη ινα σκοτισθη A PLAGUE THAT CAUSED DARKNESS v12**

**Angel Four** sounded his trumpet -33% of sun moon & stars were struck by heaven sent calamity **πληγη**. So the 3 X33% set of catastrophes diminished sky light by a third. **Isaiah 13 9-10** exactly predicts such an event as a punishment on the “world for pride” in a day that **God makes man scarce as gold. And in a time of earth shaking and heaven trembling occurrences.**

(55) **αετου πετομενου εν μεσουρανος EAGLE IN THE MIDST OF HEAVEN v13**

Four angels have now blown their trumpets. The next **sight** is of an “**Eagle**” perhaps rising like an arrow” would be the better term. It is another sign of the times. This activity is neither in the heaven of the birds nor in the heaven of God but in what we call “space”. The eagle can go straight up and then level out and soar-this mirrors rocket and satellite flight. The “eagle” is also the world renowned symbol of American power. This eagle has a message for mankind as well. It spells out three “woes” by reason of the voices-which earmark the “war cries” of the **trumpet** of the three angels about to blow on their trumpets. The prophetic message especially heralded by faithful pre-millennialist believers in the factuality of the end times narratives of the Apocalypse continues to be presented worldwide by satellite to every nation. So **9.11, 9.13 & 11.15** are known even by the great of the earth. America fits the bill like no other power.

- (1) America would have awareness of and participate in the war of Revelation 9 in respect of abyss- which in Greek means “Well” so “oil well and smoke”
- (2) America would be deeply involved in the Euphrates “loosing” of a **2million man war for an hour a day a month and a year to slay 33% of mankind (which to hazard a very broad guess might by now would have reduced from 6billion to 4.5 billion. Thus humanity might be expected to reduce by 50% by mid-tribulation period-giving some idea of the ferocity of the calamities of these days which feature in their climax the Armageddon struggle.**
- (3) America generally holds to the view that the world is Christ’s and He will reign and as Finisher of all He began He will be glorified. It is an enlightened nation bible-wise and fully warrants the “eagle” designation for its “long view”, “power base”, “stellar program” and war-involvement. **Ezekiel 32.7-8 speaks of the “snuffing out of Egypt” and covering**

of the stars. Related references in Joel 2.10 & 3.15 speaks of the Day of the Lord when an army or air strike planes leap over the mountains and the Lord will be a refuge on a day when the sun is darkened-these texts relate to v12-so this end time history is long forecast.

In view of this third world war we take heart from the incense and the mercy seat-and look to our Lord in these terrible days. What can be said is **that 66% escape by His great mercy!**

## REVELATION 9

*This chapter records the trumpet blasts of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> angels. 15 OT quotes supply rich background. The trumpets 5-6-7 encompass three woes (cf 8.13) The Greek οὐαι is akin to the Hebrew nwya i.e. the **most terrible word** in the Hebrew vocabulary-suited to great tribulation*

### (56) φρεαρ της αβυσσους SHAFT OF THE ABYSS v2

**Angel Five** now sounds. A “star” or “fallen angel”- the quarry & adversary of a further angel later to take command of the same “abyss” or oil scene appears. He “had fallen” (**dramatic perfect** -K.L McKay Tyndale bulletin 1972”Syntax in exegesis). The fallen angel makes a dramatic impact in the current war with far-reaching spiritual implications. He uses “the key of know-how. The key to earth's oil is to be in the hands of nation(s) under the tutelage of evil or fallen angelic power. The “shaft of the abyss”(φρεαρ της αβυσσους) is a select phrase chosen by our Lord to designate apparently endless “oil-shaft reserves”. Aristotle & Aristophanes use the word “Abyss” for “unfathomed” and “immense wealth” **Quotes 1-2 Genesis 19.28 & Ex 19.18** speak of ρωfyq & nv[ Sodom’s “incense” and Sinai’s “fury”. Both are compared to smoke from a foundry-the Greek is καμινος Hebrew nvb. So iron & steel & oil merge in this prophetic statement. What we are reading about is oil based industry feeding huge arms supply to sustain the wars now raging whilst adding to the environmental disaster. This **first woe** affects visibility and air quality seriously; the sun is darkened-a massive tribulation environmental mutation is to come about.

### (57) ακριδες LOCUSTS v3 (FIGHTER-PLANES)

An Exodus reference is implicit **Exodus 10.12ff (cf Joel)**. The locust is “feared in the east”- “they have military flight array” are “all prevailing” and “leave a trail of devastation” These came **out of the smoke**-they were produced and fuelled using metals and petro-chemicals-product of the oil industry. These “engines of war” had license & power like scorpions (cf most recent Roman arrow launching catapult-so named “SCORPION” and referred to in AD80 by Plutarch. They acted on governmental instruction (bed-chamber command). There was a “constant flowing & changing”-a fluid command structure **πεω v4**. They did not target grass plants trees or men sealed-unlike the insect-a manner of distinguishing them from an insect plague. The capacity to test by terrible trial is not to kill the unsealed but to deliver a painful blow to a **pinpointed target**-as a scorpion falls on a man.

**(58) σφραγεις A PASSPORT v4 Quote 4 from Ezekiel 9.4 helps us with the sense.** As of those in Ezekiel’s time “cried and sighed on account of sin”, that is, righteous persons cf also **Matthew 24.15**). Righteous ones were divinely protected at this time when the locusts delivered excruciating blows acting under human government for **5 months**

### (59) επιθυμησουσιν THEY WILL DESIRE (DEATH) v6

“Men will set their hearts on death and have a great desire for it επιθυμεω. **Quotes 5-7 help here Job 3.21, Jer 8.3 Hosea 10.8.** In Job “bitterness digs for death like digging for treasure-rejoicing exceedingly”. “Evil men choose death before life” says Jeremiah. In Hosea “They call on the mountains & hills to fall on them”

## **(60) Απολλων...ακριδες THE GOD OF WAR...AIRPLANES v11**

Some commentators insist these "locusts" are carnivorous insects. The description flies in the face of this interpretation. The "warfare hardware" interpretation is consolidated by their origin-which is oil well based. Insects have no such origin. Again locusts have "no king" but these are ruled by Apollyon-the god of war.

1 Like horses with armour-plate-battle ready

2 Heads "gold crowns"-they had proved victors before-proven overwhelming

3 Faces-frontal view revealed masked men or in a cockpit

4 Hair-they had covering -might be anti-radar or simple camouflage -even rotors above flying as hair

5 Teeth-for they could devour with sharp shaped missiles/bullets

6 Breastplates-metal/iron-cum-steel bodies

7 Wings sounded -because engines were mounted there

8 Voices-as the sound of horses & chariots-battle velocity & sound marks their flight

9 Tails-deadly weapons with forward thrust from the rear like the scorpion-some called "stingers" now exist

the κεντρα (plural) are described as thorns left elsewhere-or spears from being thrust.

10 A King-Abaddon /Apollyon meaning *extirpation/god of archery & darts of destruction*. Now we understand more about the "fallen star" and how Satan or Apollyon who has but a short time turns industry to his death laden scheme

## **TWO WOES LIE AHEAD**

### **(61) φονος φαρμακεια πορνειαι κλεμματα SLAUGHTER DRUGS BROTHELS FRAUD v21**

**Angel 6** sounded. John says "I heard a voice from the four horns of the incense altar"-whence the righteous of earth fled. **Quote 11 Ex 30.1-3 The Old Testament** again helps us understand this as the reassuring voice of God-for priests are silent there! The voice commands the 6<sup>th</sup> angel to "loose 4 angels bound in the sweet water river Euphrates. This event awaits the destiny signal for "an hour of a day in a month of a year ahead"

**(3) I heard the number** released into battle i.e. 2 million campaigning chariot borne troops. John heard the battle calculation

**(4) I saw the horses-** These carriers had men positioned over them in military order; several to a carrier; in quiet composure and chosen ones. The carriers are then described

1. Breastplates wheat coloured /red -and dark blue-and yellow-painted in battle colours

2. Heads -as lions-making explosive noise

3. Mouths-sending out fire & smoke-missile launching vehicles sending out missiles of fire, vapour rising weapons-literally" melt to ashes" and brimstone like poison. Here are terrible sophisticated machines not yet used in such numbers in open combat

Their authority was in mouth and tail. They had tails like snakes which twisted around and spat death. Their license or orders were received in head & tail. Together with **the locusts** the horses were a second plague-together accounting for the death of 1.5-2 billion people. This is the greatest slaughter of history-possibly exceeding the death loss of the flood. It is a third world conflict and its rationale is Abaddon. In a world of human government God seeks one thing-repentance. **Four Quotes help us in this gloom Dt. 32.17 Psalms 115 4-7 & 135 15-17 and Dan 5.23** where we learn that "once beloved Jeshurun or once righteous people were now just wax proud & fat; the heathen see the rump of the west as trusting in gold & silver; men following unseeing unhearing unspeaking gods and like Belshazzar many in just one generation have turned from the Lord. They did not repent of their homicide/battle field slaying φονος;

their poisons/drugs **φαρμακεια**; their brothels **πορνεια** not **εταιρος** (partner-concubinage) and their **κλεμματα** or fraud/stratagems of war.

Thus men thought to forge ahead in sin in refusal to repent. This is nothing short of Nemesis and it occurs in a time when still on earth are sealed persons-but that itself speaks of the tribulation-cf- **Apocalypse 7 & 14**. The church of the Meshiachim is being prepared. This work proceeds today-it is associated with mercy in **Apocalypse 7.3** and **9.4**-where is the 1<sup>st</sup> woe. The second collapsed a 1/10<sup>th</sup> of Jerusalem **Apocalypse 11.13-14**-but the “sealed” herald the kingdom-cf **Apocalypse 14.1**. Their location is interesting. Before the throne-prayerful, they are on Mt Zion in the presence of our Lord and they represent all nations.

## REVELATION 10

### *PARENTHESIS (5) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-MERCY ABIDES*

(62) **ιρις** **A RAINBOW** **v1** A “different sort” of angel clothed in a cloud or with many others with a rainbow of mercy on his head appears from heaven  
*For the reasons given below this has to be the “angel of the LORD”.*

1. His face **PROSOPOS** –the word used of human form-this messenger is **truly human**
2. His feet are as pillars of fire (cf **Apocalypse 1.15**) as if they had burned in a furnace with a chimney-suggestive as in chapter one of **Christ's suffering**
3. His countenance **OPHIS** was like the sun (cf **Acts 9**)-cf. **The glory of God**
4. His Position-Greek augury looked north Roman **south**. His right on the sea=Gentiles=felicity. Left on land-Israel=sorrow-He shows **sovereign right**
5. He had clothed himself with a cloud- cf **Apocalypse 1.9** and **1Thess4.17** **He had conducted the Rapture**
6. An **IRIS** or rainbow upon his head. This signified “**the messenger among the gods themselves**” & mercy
7. The book angel-cf **5.1** cf **5.8** The book is the lamb’s possession-**only He alone can reveal the Father** and break the seals
- 8 His strength-v3 When he shouted 7 thunders discussed in their dialect-he **commanded the sealing of revelation**
- 9 He swore **εν** “**in the Godhead eternal creating**”
- 10 He swore “**no delay**” “no lifetimes left” **Time is in his hand**  
*(Biblical quotations are key to recognizing the “Angel of God”. Equivalent action is found in Deuteronomy 32.40 where God says “I lift up my hand and say ‘I live for ever’ Again in Daniel 12.7 the man in linen held up His right hand confirming the 3 and 1/2 years limitation to the rule of the beast)*

### *PARENTHESIS (6) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-PROPHECY LIKE THE MISSISSIPPI ROLLS ON*

(63) **βιβλαριδιον ηνεωγμενον** **A BELOVED OR SMALL BOOK OPEN** **v2**

(1)*We need the book & the Spirit of Prophecy* John took the **Biblaridion** that “opened itself”. He uttered a bold request for revelation just as he retained a humble silence where there was no revelation.

(2)*We need to preach judgment and grace* It was sweet to taste-bitter to digest The “bitterness” is that the message of the book is utterly refused by a whole world government in the last or tribulation days and neglected by the Church. Just as Ezekiel’s message was well digested and sweet to the prophet –a wonderful story of resurrected Israel (**Ezekiel 37**) and yet it was rejected in its day and rendered a basis for aggravated condemnation.

(3)*We need to enunciate the prophetic vision of the Cross & crown-the Saviour and Pantocrator of the bible* to the people-we must take up Jesus command before these halcyon days to tell to all “peoples” **λαος** means the “stone-like” nations- it falls to us to make scripture accessible -and we are bidden to set it in the hands of Kings and rulers and so the peoples. John

Calvin wrote first to Francis I king of France. Jesus said "This gospel shall be proclaimed among all nations-then shall the purpose be fulfilled" **Matthew 24.14, Mark 13.10, Luke 24.47 with Romans 16.26**

#### (64) **επτα βρονται THE SEVEN THUNDERS v4**

These "thunders" discussed *something*. It was not to be written so it is not liable to interpretation. What we can say is that God spoke only once on this topic (aorist) and that the sealing (aorist) is once for all. At the time of this discussion the angel made lion-like exertions and shouted. The prophet Daniel is likewise instructed in **Daniel 12.4** to shut up words **till the time of the end**

(65) **χρονος ουκετι εσται EXTENDED HISTORY NO LONGER** There follows a reference to **Angel seven** and the absolute end to the mystery of God. Thus the "seven thunders" bring us to the very shoreline of modern history where the government of man unravels quickly and the "speedy good news" proclaimed by the prophets is imminent.

(66) **πεκρανι γλυκυ BITTER SWEET vv9-10** The Lord from heaven gave authority for John to take the book and savour the Lord's coming and feel sick concerning the judgments to precede. He swallowed and digested the book and so he proceeds to detail the judgments of which this is a prelude expanding them in the ensuing chapters.

### **REVELATION 11**

*Jerusalem enters as the scene of a 3.5 year contest between the Antichrist who breaks his treaty with Israel in the "middle of the week" and the LORD*

#### (67) **εδοθη τοις εθνεσιν IT IS GIVEN THE GENTILES v2**

Ezekiel explains that there will be a millennial temple. It will be built in times of trouble.

- (1) The canon will be by a rule -3.05 metres or 10 feet long. The rule(**καλαμος**) will be one showing Jewish "Lictor authority" (**ραβδος**)
- (2) There will be a "holy of holies" and an altar (incense & bronze)
- (3) The Gentile sites and rights will continue in *the sacra* in tribulation time for the period of building and establishment
- (4) The **ark** is in heaven; temple **glory** remains in heaven until the post-trib. Apocalypse of Christ

#### (68) **δυσιν μαρτυσιν TWO WITNESSES v3 ENOCH/MOSES AND ELIJAH?**

*These two are sent from heaven to turn Israel back to God. They facilitate the conversion of Jews from each of the twelve tribes. Malachi tells us without a latter day Elijah hearts could not be turned to the future or past blessings. They also defend Israel.*

The two witnesses are signs of judgment "olive trees" and "menorahs of spiritual light" in a dark place-as was the original menorah in the holy place. They can command fire, drought and plagues on a par with those of Egypt. Their ministry is three and a half years duration-and brings about profound change in the way God stems human rebellion. It bears with it a warning for those who desire to replace Yahweh in the world He made for His glory cannot evade HIS judgment whilst they seek to wreak havoc even in the latter half of the tribulation saga.

The narrative here is central to the apocalypse and vital to the "restitution" of **Acts 3.21; Malachi 4.5; Matthew 11.14; Matt 16.14; Mark 6.5; Luke 9.8,19; Matthew 17.3-4; Mat. 17 10-11**. The response of Israel to Jesus was predictive of the path of future witness i.e. "restoring the theocracy" where Israel abides in unbelief awaits a future witness. So years after His ascension our Lord affirms statements about these who could affect climate and perform repeat acts of

power. The **great city** would be as Sodom because fire would fall by their prayer upon its rebels and like Egypt on account of plagues against it's goddess.

#### **(69)Θηριον εκ της αβυσσου THE BEAST FROM THE ABYSS v7**

A "beast" usually depicts "one above or below man". This vicious power of the current world order arose from oil based engineering status and with Satanic backing is a match for the two majestic prophets of God an open military challenge. This al -out struggle of Satan centres on "the street of the great city "**where also our Lord has been crucified**". The plaza of their death is in Jerusalem. The war that climaxes in Armageddon (**Apocalypse 16.19**) features **Jerusalem as "the great city"** Clearly the beast is antagonistic to the purpose of Yahweh for Jerusalem – and this salvo provides the beast a foothold with the Antichrist.

#### **(70) Βλεπουσιν εκ λαον και φυλον και εθνων EVERY PEOPLE FRIBE NATION SEES IT v9 of v11&12 θεωρουντα EVIDENCE OF A TV ERA**

Nothing less will fit this prophecy-because worldwide day and night audience was glued to this stunning scene. The fact is their bodies were not allowed to be placed in the inscriptions or records of the land of their death. These two persons were not permitted death certificates for burial or any record. Here is sign of great antipathy. On November 5 in the year of his death Yasser Arafat was refused the right of burial in Zion and in pending future time a similar by blunt refusal Anti-Christian authorities will deny earthly burial to God's last prophets. The scenario provides for an unparalleled proof of the power of God in **TRIBULATION** time.

#### **(71)κατοικουντες SETTLERS IE THOSE WITH CLAIM TO LAND(S) v10**

At this time there is continued Palestinian Jewish rivalry for possession of the Holy Land. The enterprise to circumvent Jewish covenant rights continues till the dawn of Christ's glorious kingdom. Those who in the wake of this "war" or struggle who continue to "come to settle" **κατοικουντες** the land under the beast will be "cheering" over the dead prophets-a very terrible insult. They will further act in respect of their victory by giving legacies and legal privilege to each other. The two prophets were gone and they had "tested the genuineness" **Βασανιζω** of those who preferred earth to the heavenly home

### **WOE NUMBER 2**

#### **(72)εις ουρανον εν νεφαλη INTO HEAVEN IN A CLOUD v12**

The Spirit of life from God entered into these two prophets and they stood on their feet. Typically world media who had been concentrating on this fascinating if gruesome occurrence were shocked. Fear gripped them. They saw both palpable evidence of God, of clouds of heavenly ones, of resurrection **at a stroke**. Besides they suffered judgment (Woe No.2) 7000 "names" **or infamous ones** died in a **great earthquake** and a tenth of the city fell. This was like Egypt under the Passover-as if the angel of death visited. This was like Sodom for the disturbance of the earth itself. This is the **second woe (for the 1<sup>st</sup> see Chapter 9 11-12)**

#### ***PARENTHESIS (?) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT PREPARES FOR THE MILLENNIUM*** **THE SEVENTH TRUMPET**

**(1)We need to know** heaven has determined on Christ's millennial rule in the city.

The blast of this trumpet was accompanied by "**great voices in heaven**" saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our God and His Christ and He shall reign eternally"

**(2)We need to know** that the Church "in heaven" will instigate the millennial rule

The response of the 24 elders was immediate. They fell in worship at the throne. “O Lord God PANTOCRATOR who was and is and is willing to go on we give YOU praise for YOU have taken YOUR great power and YOU are sovereign once for all.

### (73) ἐθνη ὀργισθησαν **THE NATIONS WERE ANGRY v18**

(3) **We need to know** the church triumphant lives for Christ and prophecy. The nations were in an orgy of anger and YOUR anger has come and the time of judgment for the dead-and **to give reward to YOUR servants the prophets** and to the saints and to those who fear YOUR name-small and great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.

### (74) διαφθειροντος την γην **DESTRUCTORS OF THE EARTH v18**

(4) **We need to know** & accept Christ *is* the Lion of Judah. The vision concludes with the “artillery of heaven”-“lightnings and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail” The stage is set for the Lord's coming to be once again at the centre of His people and to be the fear of His enemies. The “Long expected divine event” of Christ’s kingdom begins unfolding in earnest. The mighty quake and hail may well be related to the “destroyers”—a nuclear event.

## **REVELATION 12**

### **SEALS TRUMPETS AND BEYOND**

*Between the 7<sup>th</sup> seal and the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet a period spanning 2 judgements transpires. The first is a 5-month long war resulting in the death of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of those on earth. Then the eastern peoples enter the later struggle that engulfs Jerusalem. Meantime an earthquake shakes Jerusalem – with 7000 resultant deaths. The third woe follows-an unprecedented earthquake which ends warring and heralds Christ’s coming. We have seen Jesus as the Judge who moves towards speedy process 10.6 & 11.15-16 In Chapter 12.5 we have notice of Jesus’ irresistible firm rule- “He will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre”*

### (75) στεφανος **CROWN v1**

#### **(1) THE WOMAN**

*Further developments in the battle of Satan with Israel are now revealed.*

The identification of the “woman” is as Harry Ironside said, “momentous”. She is Israel. From one of her daughters came the Christ child. The prophet **Isaiah (66.7)** tells how this nation gives birth before she travails to the Christ. The prophet then speaks of the travail when Israel brings forth a nation of heirs in a day. Astride the moon and radiant in the sun-this nation is resourced with the entire Old Testament and the New Testament glory beams upon her in the latter day. The twelve tribes are her “STEPHANOS” or distinction and **HONOUR BECAUSE BY MIRACLE & THROUGH HOLOCAUST GOD PRESERVED THEM ALL** (cf chapter 7). Israel fled to the desert-some scholars opinion this to be Petra.

### (76) πλανων την οικουμενην ολην **DECEIVER OF THE WHOLE EARTH v9**

#### **(2) THE DRAGON**

Another sign was seen in heaven-a fiery dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. The image is identical with Daniel’s 4<sup>th</sup> beast as to its horns. It represents the last system of political power before Christ’s rule. Daniel does not refer to 7 heads. John says very clearly that the heads had “diadems”—that is, they had **political authority**. Matthew Henry observes that Augustus divided the Roman Empire into 10 provinces-the heads are the hills-where the rulers and mighty of the empire lived (**Apocalypse 17.9**). The dragon held all the levers of power, the woman all the clarity of religion and truth.

Bill Freel in “Survival” comments usefully with a reference from **Isaiah 9.15** “*the prophet that teaches lies is the tail*”—so as in v4 Satan’s deception swept 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the stars from the sky. He who is associated with the fall of angels (cf v9) is also associated with deception and corruption

of human religion. Just as Israel was cared for by God in 42 locations in the wilderness after the foiled pursuit of Pharaoh so Israel will be cared for by the Lord for 42 months during her time of great distress.. Our Lord who prepared a place for the early Christians and the Huguenots has kept His ancient people in the steppes of Russia and the wide plains of America will protect them through Jacob's trouble –this is the promise of God (**Apocalypse 10.6**)

**PARENTHESIS (8) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-TRIBULATION WITH AERIAL WAR**

*Of all views of heaven we least expect this one-but it will happen and it aftermath leads to the greatest war ever-the Armageddon. Satan says good bye to heaven for ever and his options shorten over 3.5 years till he is thrown into the lake of fire.*

**(77) πολεμος εν τω ουρανῳ WAR IN HEAVEN v7**

**(3)WAR IN HEAVEN -ABSOLUTE ANGELIC COMBAT 7-9**

**(1)We need to know** the Church shall take her stand in heaven-following her captain the Lamb. The provision of stoles **στολος** or "soldiers' array" to the tribulation martyrs suggests **heaven is on war alert**. That was **Apocalypse 7.9**. The outbreak of just such a war linked to the final earth struggle in declaration "War & angels in combat took place in heaven" **Apocalypse 12.7**.

**(2)We need to know** Michael the archangel stands for Israel and will overcome Satan Michael and his angels fought a decisive once-for-all battle against the devil-pushing him further and further from God's presence-where he delighted to inveigh against man. That ground was held by praying martyrs now-the fallen angels had no "familiar place" in heaven. They were strangers and their leader-the great dragon, the ancient serpent, the one calling himself Diabolus –who accuses saints-and Satan-who opposes God, was thrown out of heaven with His angels.

**(3)We need to know the effectiveness of those who resist to blood.** Heaven erupts in joy with the coincidence of four great blessings now known-Salvation in its full sense, the exercise of outward power, the emergence of the kingdom and the introduction of the rod of God's power. "I heard a great voice in heaven saying, "Now at this very moment salvation and increase of power and the kingdom of our God has come and the authority of his Christ for the accuser of our brethren who accused them day and night before our God is cast down. They gained victory over him **through the blood of the lamb** and through the word of their **witness as martyrs**. **The martyrs won.**

1. They loved not their souls-and died for Christ

2. Rejoice O heavens and those who enjoy the close tabernacle & Shekinah of Christ

**Woe to you who dwell in Israel and in Gentile lands (or the land and the sea)**

Diabolus has come down near you holding great wrath or fuming rage, perceiving that he has a little moment (to injure and slander)

**(78)δυνι περυγες αετου TWO WINGS OF AN EAGLE v14**

**(1)PERSECUTION-SATAN'S CAMPAIGN**

When the dragon perceived that he was cast down to the earth-or Israel-by Michael the prince who stands for that people-he persecuted the woman who bore the "man-child"

**The people of Israel find an eagle to support their fledgling state**

Two wings of the **great eagle** were given the woman. Clearly this represents protection. It is hard to avoid the thought since the perilous days spoken of for Israel are up ahead-that this eagle represents the support of America or Jewish America. **THE NURTURING OF THIS NATION FOR THE "TIME TIMES AND PART OF A TIME" OR THE 42 MONTHS OR 3.5 YEARS** from the presence of the serpent is linked to a special "place" This suggests to the modern mind an airlift and fundamentally terrible tribulation circumstances in Israel.

**(2)SATAN'S TORRENT OF ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA**



The serpent threw water from his mouth-or vomited after the woman that he might bear her away with the flood. This is the characteristic diabolus ploy-a spate of slander and venom against this ancient people of God. The earth rebuts this tirade. Satan does not succeed because the earth opened her mouth and swallowed the slander. In other words the wider world or the settlement in the land gave help to Israel and countered the surge of anti-Semitism released by Satan.

#### (79) εσταθη επι την αμμον της Θαλασσης **HE HAD STOOD ON THE COAST OF**

**EUROPE** Satan had to his awesome CV the persecution of Jews in Europe and still he was at war with Israel-not the nation alone but the diaspora in Europe. The devil then moved away from Israel to war with the remainder of Jews world-wide who were living by the law of Moses and also Christians i.e. Messianic Jews.

### **REVELATION 13**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **THE PENULTIMATE RULE OF TERROR THAT PRELUDES CHRIST'S REIGN**

Chapters 12 & 13 are strongly related to **Daniel 7** –which unites them to the events of that prophecy. Daniel 7 incorporates both the coming of the Lord or "rapture"(**Daniel 7.13 & 1Thess3**)and the Apocalypse of Christ to rule (**Daniel 7.27**) has to be interpreted as either conjoined (a mid-tribulation framework) or evidence must exist in support of the pre-tribulation view. Prophetically the post-tribulation view is anomalous since it defaults on God's continued interest in the Jew and His covenants with Abraham. It would be fatuous to give consideration to a-millennial ideas in the present context because it knows of no "Great Tribulation" and yet as I have shown in **the exordiums** the Church Triumphant reverses this earthly theological riposte absolutely. For it the "sovereignty of God" necessitates Rapture Tribulation and Millennium. The 21st century church in UK follows rigidly the early reformers concept of history and Luther's notion of the church as replacing Israel in the scheme of things. It is disingenuous -first because Augustine transferring the millennium where it never could be first to a **post-Constantine period** then to **1000AD** and subsequently the church dropped it like a hot potato. Today's a-millennialists propose an unacceptable interpretation that this earth is not destroyed (**2Peter 3.12**) and an equally unacceptable transfer of all millennial promises to this earth as our long-stay eternal home.

#### **DANIEL'S NIGHT VISION –REFERENCES IN APOCALYPSE 12-13**

- (1) **12.3/Dan7.7** *The fourth beast-which spans a long period*
- (2) **v4/Dan8.10** *the slow growth of the antichrist*
- (3) **v7/Dan10.13** *John the divine speaks of this Anti Christ in New Testament times*
- (4) **v7/Dan12.1** *Modern Israel shielded by Michael-evidence of which is seen since 1948*
- (5) **v14/Dan7.25 & 12.7** *The Gentile stratagem in Dan.9.27 refers to the final Jewish crisis*
- (6) **v17/Dan7.7 & 21** *Antichrist emerges with temporary success till the Kingdom comes*

- (1) **13.1, 2/Dan7.3** *The procession of power-Babylon Persia Greece Rome developing*
- (2) **v5/Dan7.8, 20, 25, 36** *The full provenance of the horn or antichrist*
- (3) **v7/Dan7.7, 21** *The fourth beast and the horn*
- (4) **v8/Dan12.1** *The short-lived universal kingdom of the beast*
- (5) **v15/Dan 3 5-6** *Babylonian draconian law on worship or death-to be used by antichrist.*

#### **THE OMITTED EVENT THAT PRECLUDES THE KINGDOM**

*As this analysis shows there is nowhere in these chapters a reference to Daniel 7.13 (cf 1Thess3.16-17)when “the Son of man comes in the clouds of heaven and returns to the ancient of days-being borne back into heaven by the throng of the redeemed”. **That is***

***because it has taken place before the tribulation story begins. Paul teaches Christ's Parousia is His first "appearing". This is also taught clearly by the Lord in his parable of the Wedding banquet. The real answer to the church's whereabouts is to be found in Revelation 3.20-5.9 where those taken home "sing anew in glory". This is strongly substantiated with the Exordium confirmations of the Church in heaven***

*In Daniel 7 the writer tells us that the old kingdoms lived on but the fourth was taken over by a power which had been long growing and used ultimately draconian religious principles-but he does not designate when the Saviour comes- but **he** does say that **he** takes up His authority after his coming back from the earth (Daniel 7.13 & 14) and thereafter ruled in an age-long kingdom which thereafter continues eternally.*

## **REVELATION 13 -Exposition of six gifts**

### **(80) θηριον THE BEAST v1**

*The concept of "**the beast**" comes from the Greek prose word θηριον which signifies both the "brutal and cruel" and fabulous monsters like the sphinx or centaur. The Hebrew term would be "living creature". The Spirit of God is showing that democracy will cease and Satan will dominate the final years of human government with a **tyrannical regime***

*I saw a beast or reptile emerging from the sea, having seven heads and ten horns. The sea in Daniel 7.2 is named "The great sea" (Hebrew=YAMA RABBAH) i.e. the Mediterranean Sea-and though Babylon and Persia arose close to the Persian gulf the "night vision" relates their latter day rise or re-emergence to a western not mid-east locale.*

*The seven heads and horns are explained in Apocalypse 17.9-12 as having a Rome centred significance(doubtless nations merged in "The Treaty of Rome")and **also** relate to seven forms of government running in relay and resulting in the final development-and **the horns** represent the last rulers combined in what may be a Euro-centred world regime of the last days*

### **(81) παρδαλις PANTHER v2**

*The beast viewed was like a panther or leopard (παρδαλις) with a bear's paws and a lion's mouth. The comparison with a "panther" suggests a stalking or monitoring power-watching and waiting-with its intelligence network. The composite nature of it is also in mind as*

*(a) **the leopard** incorporates "black and white" so modern states mingle racial characteristics. Also the power of*

*(b) **the bear** (associated with the north and Russia) and the power of*

*(c) **the lion** (Britain & associated nations. Britain like Babylon adopted the lion emblem)The dragon gave the beast -his increasing power; his seat of power, and his great authority. The dragon is always Satan in apocalyptic contexts.*

### **(82) πλῆγη PLAGUE v14**

*I saw one of the heads **as if** slain unto death a (πλῆγη "plague) was healed. The whole earth as it looked back at the blow wondered. Hence emerged **worship of the "dragon"** who gave the beast authority-and they worshipped the beast, saying "who is like the beast", who is able to destroy him once for all in war? This quasi resurrection power imitates Jesus' earlier "appearing" or "Parousia obtains political and religious dominance. The dragon gives the beast blasphemous utterance and political authority vv4&6. However this authority was to be short-lived-only 3.5 years. This "beast" empire will rise in the second half of the seven years of these segments. Aware of the rapture v.6b "He blasphemed those whose tabernacle was in heaven" many of whom doubtless were slain through the agency of the beast in its rise to power. All of this action suggests an earlier act of opposition to the beast which rendered its religion especially blasphemous. The beast was given **GIFT (3)** to carry war to the saints (Messianic saints & Israel) and to obtain victory over them. The beast was given **GIFT (4)** authority over every tribe*

tongue and nation whose names were not in the book of life. For those pinned down by this end time terror God says, "If anyone is to go into a body of prisoners –to prison he must go with others, if is to be killed by the bent sword –he must so be killed. Here is the patience and faith of the saints." (Compare 6.11 and 13.10) **Holiness is best defined as living sacrificially. True holiness modelled by martyrs.**

### **The second beast**

1. It had two small horns like a lamb, and made a noise like a dragon-since dragons were reptiles or fabulous snakes. It **"invented" its authority** flouting the first beast.
2. It united those settled after rapture in **worship** of the first "healed" beast.
3. It created great signs- **fire from heaven** -mimicking the Holy Spirit & prophets
4. It deceived men post rapture by signs **GIFT (5)** of Satan before assassinated revived beast
5. The master stroke of Satan was to give **GIFT(6)the beast the capacity to bring "life" or "spirit" into the image of the beast**-Satan's ace card of this halcyon period-creation. Failure to worship this TRIUNE TRIUMVIRATE OF EVIL-the beast –his image and the dragon means death. The final act of tyranny is to make all-tiny children and the strong, immensely rich and beggarly poor, freemen and slaves-take the mark should on their right hand or their forehead-a mark essential to trade and survival.

### **(83) χαραγμα δεξιας μετωπον THE MARK ON HAND OR FOREHEAD V16**

The stamp or mark of the cruel power is going to be essential to market exchange or barter. Each must then have either the character or number of the name of the beast to trade.

He who has the *nous*-the wisdom let him count the number of the beast-for it is the number of man, and his number is **χξς** - **it is the numerical system of man - 666 is the number now related to digital trade & banking.**

### **REVELATION 14**

*PARENTHESES (9) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW*

#### **CHRIST STANDS READY ON MT ZION 1**

**(1) We need to know** that no cruel empire shall long stand in the last days-Christ is Victor! I saw and behold a lamb standing on Mount Zion, with 144,000 foreheads marked with God's name.

**(2) We need to know** the LORD will re-match the Christian and Jewish believers in glory. Jews earn recognition from the standing Christ for their witness as martyrs. They will be received to glory each in his own order by the oracle of death as martyrs (or by rapture) during the period of the trumpets –being united to the saints in glory (7.9-15.5)

John heard a voice from heaven as of many waters and as of mighty thunder

**(3) We need to know** that the "new Song" which unites Jew & Gentile-the "Song of Moses and the Lamb" rejoices in our mutual **Exodus from the Egypt of this world** and gives praise to God as Pantocrator for the joyous experience of **"endowed perfection"** –so singing and harps!

### **(84) κιθαρος THE HARP v.2**

"With harp and with viol they sing the new song of Glory to Jesus to whom they belong!"

The lyre or harp had 7-9 strings and man has 8-9 ribs. The **κιθαραις** the harp, the **κιθαρος** is the chest –from both rich deep praise is derived. Here the instrument associated with heaven is the harp or psaltery-whose ancient associations with God's praise and man's frame render its mention most fitting. God made us for His praise-cf. Ephesians 1.12

*1 And no-one could learn the song except the 144,000 (to "get accustomed to"/ "to perceive" (cf. language of sacrifice)*

*2 Who had been purchased from the earth.*

*3 These had not become defiled with women-for they are unmarried /chaste.*

*4. These follow the lamb wherever he goes in union.*

5 They were purchased from among mankind, a first-fruit offering to God and to the lamb.

6 In their mouth no subtle scheme was found

7 They are without spot close to the throne of God

These saints of the future sound a challenge to purity and warning against the flesh to modern man. John 23<sup>rd</sup> drew near to death—a man of outstanding morality and virginity- he had been “living for Jesus only” so let it not be said that grace has a short reach.

#### (85) πετομενον **RUSHING FLYING v6**

John saw **another angel** “rushing” in the meridian of heaven-right above **at midday**-with **gospel light** to proclaim at digital lightning speed for 3.5 years once for all to the settlers (those earthbound & content with it) -to every nation and tribe and people and tongue. This messenger of the air waves is firmly lodged in the tribulation era-and the second half of that period-not in the last revival age of the church. It is quite thrilling to know that the world under judgment remains still God's world -a world still offered mercy. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God , and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgement is come-worship Him who made the heaven and earth and sea and fountains of water.”

#### (86) επεσεν επεσεν Βαβυλων **BABYLON IS FALLEN IS FALLEN vs**

**Another (second) angel** followed, saying “Babylon is fallen is fallen-the great city-from the wine of her passion/principle of life she has made all the nations drunk”. We may consider that the land which was Babylon in Old and New Testament times is the Iraq of today. It has much oil wealth. It would seem the bible holds it up as a type of **human government(and its first seat)**in its pride and pomp –especially idolatry & living for the flesh- which percolated internationally by the idolatrous Zodiac and the ancient religion of Nimrod and Semiramis giving rise to the drunken spree of crazed power and self aggrandisement of our age.

#### (87) Βασανος/ισμος **TOUCHSTONE v11**

**A third angel** followed-saying with a great voice, if anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or his hand-he will drink the wine of the passion of God poured out –unadulterated in the cup of His wrath, and he will have been tested in fire and brimstone (fire burns what corrupts and sulphur fumigates-so the process ends idolatry) before the holy angels and the lamb. That this form of trial (Greek **Βασανος**—a stone to test gold by touch, hence testing the genuine by trial). The parallel is Sodom [Genesis 19.5, 16, 24] The smoke of their touchstone trial will ascend eternally. As in **13.10 & 14.12** “Here is the patience of saints”. The first picture is of poor imprisoned and executed martyrs-the second of the end of antichrist. The death of martyrs and their cry to God has its answer in this intervention.

#### *PARENTHESIS (10) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW-DESTINY IS SETTLED WRATH IMMINENT*

#### (88) αρι **AT THIS MOMENT v13**

(1) *We need to know* that at whatever time-now or in the tribulation to be “in Christ” at death is to be assured of heaven. The one who commanded John to write was God-and the word was His word. He assured the aged saint that all through history from the moment (**αρι**-at this moment) he was living into the future “to die in the Lord”(and this is confirmed by the Spirit of God) is to rest from labour and the energised works of Christians will be like disciples left behind.

(2) *We need to know* that the king is coming to rule the earth. “Behold a white cloud”. Homer uses the “cloud” in the Iliad of an army. Here we have a “joyful happy and felicitous group and above or over them one like the “son of man”. He was crowned with the gold of victory and he held a sharp harvest sickle in His hand. This angel screamed, “Send in your sickle

#### (89) δρεπανον **SCYTHE v14**

(3) *We need to know* that the Lord will not come before His time-as He sent prophets He will send many angels prior to his final return.

The angel sends in the sickle (**δρεπανον**—sickle/sickle)-for the hour of summer harvest has come. He that had placed himself on the throne above the cloud or saints cast His sickle upon the earth and the earth was reaped. It is significant that the temple angel carries God's response to the incense of prayer and the Great intercessor or mediator now acts as judge in a war He Christ begins in heaven and concludes on earth.

#### (90) κραυγαζω **BARKING OUT COMMAND v15**

**A fourth angel** came from the temple in heaven holding the sickle for harvesting. And **another –the fifth angel** who held fire barked out **κραυγαζω** to angel with the sickle “Thrust in your sickle-and he that sat on the cloud reaped the earth-this was the reaping of the righteous. Then came **another sixth angel** from the temple with a very sharp sickle and to him the **seventh angel** from the incense altar called with a loud call “Send in your sharp sickle for the cluster of the vine is ripe and her heavy bunches are being chewed up or fermenting.” and “He sent in his sickle **into the earth**(Israel)and harvested the cluster of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the passion of God-and the press was trodden outside the city(Jerusalem) and the blood of the winepress came to as far as the bits of the horses mouths(the phrase may mean when the horse is feeding-which represents a very terrible slaughter) and to a distance of over **180 miles**(1,600 stadia)-that is as far as the borders of Iraq Syria and Egypt. More about this **intervention** and associated events – the Armageddon **marks the climax** of the Tribulation as Ezekiel's war **marks its inception** cf. **Apocalypse 16.16**

### CHAPTER 16

#### **SEGMENT 5 15.5-17.18** μετα ταυτα

#### **( SEVEN VIALS OF GOD'S WRATH- MYSTERY BABYLON)**

*The final deadly vials of divine wrath bring (1) land based sores(nuclear contamination?);(2)sea corruption with death (3) River & reservoir ruin with further death (4)Solar flares with cancer bearing burs (5)Sores on the Beast's seat with nuclear or chemical poisoning (6)on the Euphrates boding the Armageddon and (7)In the Air -highly suggestive of a Nuclear winter. These 7 plagues like the 10 under Moses deliver Israel; the 21<sup>st</sup> century deliverance is from the power of the beast and his system “I saw another great and wonderful sign in the heaven-seven angels holding the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God was fulfilled.”*

#### (91)υαλινην μεμιγμενην πυρι **A CRYSTAL SEA MINGLED WITH FIRE v2**

“I saw a crystal sea mingled with fire” quite unlike any on earth. If it were simply crystal the victors would have a narcissist mirror -but it is *mingled with fire* –it is a great reflector of Christ's sacrificial work, our separation to God and heaven's *transparent holiness* whilst the “harps of God” stand for the praise of Christ. The tabernacle had a “molten sea” –and Solomon's temple added a sphinx emblazoned on it-suitable *sign of “risen life”*. Those who conquered the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name, stood on the crystal sea, holding God's harps. This connection links the harp with prophecy. David sang and his song was prophetic.

(92) ωδιν αρνιου **SONG OF THE LAMB v3** The theme of the earlier song of 14.3 relates to the defeat of the beast-a victory song of the Lamb parallel to Moses' song at Pharaoh's defeat.

“Great and wonderful are your works, O Lord God Mighty Victor” (-παντοκρατωρ)

“Righteous and genuine are your paths, O king of saints” “Who should not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name, for YOU ALONE are HOLY “For all the nations will come and worship before you for you have made plain your judgements to amend wrong”

This great statement acknowledges the victory death resurrection & judgment of Christ.

**This statement commends God's methods, holiness and sovereign righting of wrong.**

## *PARENTHESIS (10) WHAT BELIEVERS NEED TO KNOW*

(92) ενδεδυμένοι λινον **ENDUED WITH LINEN v6**

(1) *We need to know* that destiny is settled in the Holy Place seven angels came out of the holy place. They were as priests in the sanctuary. They came from beyond the veil and were endued with linen-known as the “**thread of destiny**”. These angels held human destiny in their hands.

(3) *We need to know* that there is reflected radiance in heaven just as illumined the face of Moses They were clad in shining robes-they had come from the presence of God-and reflected His glory. They were bound around the breast with golden girdles signifying a judicial role.

(3)*We need to know* that God cares to establish justice and must judge the rebellious. John had earlier seen the angels holding the plagues but notice now that one of the living creatures gave to the seven each a golden vial full of the passion of God who lives into the ages of ages. ***There is no appeal against this wrath-the temple is out of bounds!*** Our God is a “consuming fire” - utterly awesome -compare **1Kings 8.11** when the temple was beyond bounds of the priests

(5)*We need to know* that Israel is the apple of God's eye. Nevertheless during that time Solomon made his great intercessory prayer for Israel's forgiveness & lifting of the plague –the only parallel is Calvary. Then judgement Christ bore & appeal He made outdistance priestly pleading.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE SONG OF THE LAMB**

John's spiritual adventure with the angel of God “in the Spirit” involves lessons from song:

(1)**THINK** how God rids the world of its last servitude. The seven vials gain what democracy never won-end to pride of nations and Satan's deception cf. **Exodus 9.14** sends “all my plagues”

(2)**THINK** Redemption in the time of Moses came by the sea and by the fiery pillar. We have crossed over beyond tyrannical fear to the presence of God through the blood of the Lamb

(3)**THINK** Those harps –ancient instrument of the prophets –still symbolise prophecy in heaven-foretelling as in v.4 that “all nations will come and worship before the Lamb”

(4)**THINK** of the references in this chapter to the psalmist-prophet:-

**Psalm 92.5** You, O Lord are exalted for ever (David exalts the Lord and the prophecy sets him singing. **The righteous shall flourish** God's enemies shall be scattered

**Psalm 111.2** The works of the Lord are great-sought by those who have pleasure therein. They are steadfast **for ever and ever (David foreshadows heaven)...to Him belongs eternal praise**

**Psalm 139.14** I am fearfully and wonderfully made.. and when I awake!(David speaks prophetically about the **resurrection to eternal life** as he sings)

**Psalm 145.17** David blesses the Lord “gracious and compassionate” “faithful to all His promises” “near to all who call on Him” and... “**all the wicked He will destroy...let every creature praise His holy name for ever and ever**”(LEYOLAM WE AD)

**Psalm 86.9** Here David urges in face of revolt that **all nations shall worship before Him**”.

(5)**THINK** about the tabernacle in heaven-containing in an actual sense what the old tabernacle symbolised in its manna, its tables and its rod. Christ in heaven is law and sceptre power

(6)**THINK** Angels& saints in linen “thread of destiny” praying for Satan's defeat & God's glory

(7)**THINK** The “smoke” **1Kings 8 8-10** and in **Isaiah 6 (&53)** of “**the Lord high and lifted up**”

## **REVELATION 16 THE WRATH OF GOD**

### **GENERAL COMMENT ON THE SEVEN VIALS/PLAGUES**

*The judgment scene begins when a voice “exceeding” all other sounds in the universe proclaims long awaited judgment. The “VIALS” can describe drinking cups or funerary urns.*

*This holds one 15 warnings of God's wrath.. It sits in between the sixth and seventh outpourings and it is specifically about watchfulness and holiness in the sense of moral purity-it reads “Behold I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed”*

*The bowls are administered by angels and poured on specific sites of a similar sort or on specific locations. These are 1 “the land” 2 “the sea” 3 “the springs” 4 “the sun” 5 “the throne of*

the beast”6“the great river Euphrates” and finally 7“the air”. Only one of these locations is not a recognizable geographic description, namely the throne or “seat” or “bishop’s chair” or the beast. “Satan’s seat” in the last days of human government (Pergamon throne)is in Berlin Europe. If we compare with **Chapter 13** the scene of the beasts rise is the Mediterranean.

**(93) χαραγμα θηριου MARK OF THE BEAST V2 VIAL ONE**

The **first angel** poured his vial on earth bringing a plague of sores on those who worshipped the beast. It resembled the 5<sup>th</sup> plague of Moses.. The outpouring resulted in damaging and painful suppurating weeping sores deepening in the bodies of those with the imprint of the beast. **χαραγμα** relates to money in the secular context. The second reason why these people suffered is because they worshipped the image of the beast. In **Deuteronomy 28** the infliction of a sore that developed from the feet over the whole body was on account of disobedience of enlightened people. The Lord directs His wrath first at the beast’s authority and idolatry. This judgment allowed time to recant. In like circumstances David was adamant “While others run after other gods, **I will not take their names on my lips**”-Psa16.4.

**(94) πασα ψυχη εν θαλασση EVERY LIVE THING IN THE SEA v.3 VIAL TWO**

The **second angel** poured out his vial into the sea. The fact of universal “body sores” or “ulcers” is conceivable-nuclear exchanges would entail such effects in survivors. The fact of the sea becoming one great body of death with blood streams seems poetic-until we review **Exodus7.17-21**. In the first plague the Nile water mingled with blood resulted from the death of everything in the Nile.. This judgment in Egypt related to infanticide-and its modern equivalent to abortion-statistics show that 1 in 4 American pregnancies end in abortion. Illegitimacy birth rates vary from 20% in USA to 70% in some countries.

**(95) ποταμος πηγας RIVER AND FOUNTAIN -VIAL THREE 4-7**

The **third angel** is described as “the angel of the waters”. Water nymphs are known within Greek mythology. This is different. This angel has authority over earth's springs and rivers. The angel said, “Lord, you are **righteous**, as Pantocrator for your past judgment and the instant judgment and the future renewal. **Deut32.4** “A faithful God and just is He –he does no wrong” (Song of Moses). This judgment is decreed in **Isa49 22-26(especially 26)** the **divine decree** involves ultimate retribution to those who oppose the Son. The reason for this judgment is given. The Beast and false prophet and dragon of this period will shed innocent blood-the blood of God’s holy saints and prophets and deserved to drink blood from the streams-which represented Gods word springing forth and streaming to them in earlier times. There is a voice from the altar of sacrifice. The decreed judgment is called **κρισεις** and truly it is critical.

**(96) εκαυματισθησαν εβλασφημεσαν THEY WERE BURNED & CURSED VIAL FOUR 8-9**

There are no O.T. citations to help us understand this judgment. The preposition **εις** changes to **επι** for the **fourth angel** poured his vial “upwards” “in the direction of” or “as far as the surface of” the sun. The effect is to make the earth a cauldron. Men scorched as in a cauldron and will blaspheme the name of God who has authority over these plagues –but they will not repent nor honour the name of the one who sent these plagues-cf **Apocalypse 6.16** things. This is global warming *in extremis* for lack of repentance and worship of man’s part and on mammon science - a foretaste of the hell of being without God-where there is no slaking of spiritual thirst.

**(97) εμασωντο γλωσσας THEY CHEWED THEIR TONGUES VIAL FIVE v10**

The **fifth angel** poured his vial right on and as far as **the throne of the beast**. The object of judgment was the world ruler and his realm. His kingdom was plunged into gloom and darkness reflecting the unwanted light of the gospel and its proponents. In **Exodus10.21** it was the

weightiest plague disabling rule yet Pharaoh refused freedom to the Jews as the beast of the latter days will not allow it to the godly of these last terrible times. Thus this is a judgment against rule which prohibits worship. The unrepentant last world power bites its tongues.

**(98) υδωρ εξηρανθη EUPHRATES DRIES UP VIAL SIX 12-16**

The **sixth angel** poured out his vial again quite specifically on the great river **Euphrates**. Its water will dried up. (In 9.16 we read that **200million troops** were held back as early 21st century developments in the Levant & Iraq lead to the 3<sup>rd</sup> world war. This army's surge results in the death of a third of mankind. Euphrates becomes a "dry river bed". Both Herodotus and Xenophon attest this word **ξηρος** indicates "a dry river bed". The vial will be poured on the river-so the judgment brings huge geo physical change cf. **Isaiah 11.15** He will divide the Euphrates into seven readily crossable rivers so that men could paddle across it. **Isaiah 11.15** also **Isaiah 44.27** In **Jer50 38 & 51.36** An attack of **the powers of the sunrise is in view**. **GHENGIS KHAN** did push west long ago but this context is one of final judgment.

**(99) τρια βατραχοι UNCLEAN FROGS v13**

From the dragon the beast & false-prophet they will call reinforcements. Their sources of help are earth's kings –who might generally be described as the United Nations and the Roman or economically centralized world area-**οικουμενης**. The frog represents a military colour and is an unclean reptile. Three different factions eventually liaise with the **dragon-Satan** –“the sharp-eyed adversary of God's will” and with the beast-a world force with European connection, and the **false-prophet**- who pedals a widely accepted delusion. The earlier Iraq-Iranian conflict is an eliminator to this ultimate scenario. These hidden persuaders are preparing the day of divine judgment. **Amos 4.13** says the Pantocrator reveals to man **his thoughts**. The conundrum is **“Why should three shrewd minions set about looking for the loose-living in society as they seek to draw people into war?** The answer seems to be that they will delight n the continuing skeletal weakening remains of the “free world” and are optimistic of the overthrow of Israel. The **kings** will gather together commence hostilities at the famous location of Armageddon.

**(100)σεισμος μεγας A GREAT EARTHQUAKE VIAL SEVEN 17-21**

The **seventh angel** poured his vial “into the air”. This is **THE ATMOSPHERE** –not likely “the mist of Egypt” in particular though Egypt was called **AERIA** in ancient times. Certainly Egypt was the scene of Moses' plagues. The “voice from the temple” is a quote from **Isaiah 66.6**. God revealed him alike at Sinai in “voices, thunders and lightning” from heaven – from the throne a great voice says, “It has taken place”; **a great earthquake** with no equal since man came on earth” will shake the world.. This quake is referred to in seven bible books as the unmistakably climax of this era and harbinger of a genuinely new age of righteousness.(cf **Isa 2.19-20, Ezekiel 38.17-23, Joel 3.16, Haggai 2.6,7,21 Matthew 24.29, Mk 13.25, Luke 7.24**)

**(101)πολεις των εθνων επεσεν CITIES OF NATIONS FELL v19**

(a) **The Great city-Jerusalem** - three heritage parcels Jewish Arab and Christian.  
(b) **The Gentile cities will fall-never to rise in the same manner**-leveled by act of God.  
(c) **Babylon was remembered before God** to receive the cup of His own soul and spirit as He remembered His Gethsemane and the cup of His swollen anger.  
The delayed quake finally devastates thousands of “**islands**”(“floating land” in the Greek language). Like ships they will sink. Majorca, the Canaries, Malta, Caribbean islands –the Bahamas, Ceylon, the Hebrides, the Orkneys, the Dodecanese-the Celebes-and many larger ones –“every island”. **Mountains** afterward were not discovered. **Chains of hills** were not found-gone many folds in the earth's crust. Landscape was altered for good. The quake was followed by hail which fell in lumps just short of 1 hundred weight. Massive atmospheric icing will mark this bowl and men will blaspheme God for visiting judgment on their sin.



The **dream of MARDOCHAEUS** in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of **Esther in the Septuagint** records a quake following voices where two serpents prepare every nation for war against the nation of the just. In this vision light came-Esther in her time-Christ in His-so after darkness light and a great river came from a little fountain. The Christ at the throne like Esther is set for a time such as this. **The Hail of Egypt** constituted the 7<sup>th</sup> plague and is a “full force” judgment –but one that stops short of wiping man out. Hail of even a more severe sort is the final discipline of Babylon before the ultimate burning of Babylon which we have in Revelation 18.18 with its massive smoke. There is to be **massive geo-physical and political change** to bring to book the errant nations and to re-establish **his Millennial rule** and righteousness upon the earth. Let us maintain patience and holiness of life in the light of **His coming as a thief** to take His people home.

## REVELATION 17

### (102) πορφυρουν καιν κοκκινον **PURPLE AND RED v.6**

One of the seven angels holding the phials spoke to John and said, “This way, I will point out to you the judgement of the great whore-who has settled her constitution or established herself on many waters. Kings committed adulteries with her and those settled on the earth have become drunk from the wine of her adultery”. Here in the fifth section of the book we meet this strange woman bejewelled and clad in red & purple with significant world power. She is not the “bride of Christ” who is in glory **Apocalypse 21.9** but a sinful peer of the “Bride” engaged with the world’s agenda and with a forgotten history of martyrdoms. Primitive Christianity was Anti-burgher. The New Testament church and **the Reformation Fathers** led a church separate from the state.

### (103) μυστηριον **MYSTERY NAME v5**

And he brought me in the circle of the Spirit into a desert. Why does the angel take John into a desert? First the great theocracy of Moses was formulated at Sinai. Second the world in the last days will be in free-fall spiritually and it would seem all lively faith is gone-so the earth is a veritable wilderness. “There I saw a woman “sitting” or “**of settled constitution**” on a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy.” The symbol brings us back to Nimrod’s wife Semiramis in the Tammuz fake resurrection story of Chaldea-from which we get the zodiac and initial system of gods and goddesses-i.e. the root of idolatry with immorality. It gave us the concept of the “queen of heaven” and Caesar worship, promoted Roman “pontificate” and a Medieval European religious mystery cultus.

### (104) τιμω λιθω μαργαριτας **PRECIOUS STONE PEARLS v4**

4. The dress of the woman. Her chosen **colours** -purple and scarlet-are colours derived from the suffering HAEMASTOMA and double dyeing. Her garments were inlaid or made ornate with gold and precious stone and pearls. The latter suggests the godly, the precious stone of the crucified Lord (**τιμω λιθω**) and the pearls of many who suffered. So her dress and its ornaments suggest that wrought for her by her servants-the persecutions of Holy ones.

### (105) ποτηριον χρυσιω **A GOLDEN CUP v4**

Christ shared a cup-which may have been wooden-but this is **golden**. His was plain but held the sign of His precious blood. This one brimmed with “the filth of abominations and adulteries”. Her name was written **Mystery, Babylon the Great (Great confusion), Mother of earth’s prostitutes and abominations**. The passive of the verb to write is used-*as if this had been written long ago*. Taken together with the desert visit-the very ancient origins of this evil was being instanced. The NIV uses the word “title” –which suggests as in the case of Pilate’s words of condemnation of Christ “The king of the Jews” the divine basis of judgement. John saw that the woman was drunk. The chapter actually speaks of three cups. The first is the cup of “her adulteries” which seems sweet to the kings of the world system and is indulged in by

many. The second cup of “abominations and filth” is held in her hand-which looked pure and refined-but was filled with sin-for this cup she would suffer. The third cup is that of the “blood of saints” (v.6) from ancient time right up till the present.

#### (106) ρεω **I WILL MAKE TO FLOW** v7

When John saw the woman he was astonished. He would naturally admire beauty-but he is astonished and horrified at this woman’s drunkenness and its reason-unfeeling persecution of the holy ones –and those who witness to Christ. *The angel asks, “Why are you alarmed?”* “I will tell or cause to flow before you (ερω/ρεω) the mystery of the woman and of the beast which is carrying her from place to place-which has seven heads and ten horns.”

“The beast which you see *was* and *is not* and *is about to rise from the abyss* and *go into destruction*( “go” υπαγω “in union with” the woman). And those who have “settled down” v.8 (this phrase “all that dwell” covers those staying a short time after the rapture). They are well content with such settlement and amazed at the recovery of the system –but their names are not written “on” ( επι for the duration or since) the book of life **from the foundation of the world. Here is the mind that continues to hold or grasp wisdom. 9-12**

The wisdom of God is “Here” in this vision-in the bible. *The seven heads are seven mountains where the woman has her enduring constitution or seat.* There can be no doubt that this reference is to Rome ancient and modern. Here the future of Euro-Rome is declared. *And there are seven “kings”* as well. The horn symbolises “emperors” or “archons” as Athens had-who were higher than the king-as in constitutional monarchy. It may also refer to judges or supremos and to captains or strategic persons. Scripture clarifies *The five are fallen(once for all), the one is, and the other has not yet come, and when he comes it is essential he remains for a little*

#### (107) καθημενον **SEATED** v15

The “ten” horns” as in **Apocalypse 13** are powers holding simultaneous authority during the last days of the world system. It is also so that between Tiberius and Domitian Rome had ten Caesars from Christ up until John’s time. The “seven heads” are described as “mountains” **Apocalypse 17.9** on which the woman is sat or “constituted” ( καθημενον) This speaks of the constitution as being centred on Rome –whereas through history her power base had included Chaldea, Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome-from which the seventh and last horn-the modern Euro-Rome-which after its wound was to be “the eighth king” **Apocalypse 17.11. She will constitute “on the waters” worldwide v1 and on the beast v3 finally.**

#### (108) γνωμην **VOTE/WILL EXPRESSED** v17

The beast that was and is not, he is both the eighth and also he is from among the seven-and he goes with companions (υπαγω) into destruction.

**Something to think about (1)** the 1970 analysis of Dr. Fred Tatford who followed Godet- a sage nineteenth century French exegete. Tatford adds “at the time Revelation was written the Roman Empire had known 5 different forms of government and the sixth was then in being. The empire ceased to exist in AD476 and the seventh form was yet future.

(2) In 1947 Oswald Smith onetime pastor of The Peoples’ Church, Toronto, wrote under the topic “*The future of Europe*” of a revival of “Daniel’s fourth Empire-Babylon... He adds, “I am watching for the 10 nations predicted in scripture and for the rise of the Seventh Emperor.”

(3) ELLIOTT was clear that the eighth head is a “new seventh” sprouting in the original place-chronologically the eighth. ELLIOTT also refers to the 10 **Romano-Gothic kingdoms** extant in 532 suggesting that they have been maintained more or less in the original 10 fold form through subsequent history. Could a simple re-combination take place?

(4) FAUSSET took the view that the 10 kingdoms will exist but not be gathered into his support by the beast **till the very last**. So it is not in the development phase of Euro union but its swift chameleon-like change that they figure for “an hour” as sycophant minions who “gift their

power” in a “purpose”( γνωμη-**a consultation motion or vote**) The act of **Apocalypse 17 v.13** spelling the irrecoverable end of democracy. Could this be the shape of the future?  
**Something to think about (5)** Taking the start date for the prophecy of **Daniel 9 24-25** as the edict of Artaxerxes 2 (14 March 445BC) we arrive at the 69<sup>th</sup> week on 6 April 32 AD. Israel rejected Christ following HIS Mount of Olives presentation to the nation and was overthrown by the Romans in 70AD. In 1948 the Jews proclaimed Israel as a state again. The restoration of Israel predicts the imminent expiry of the times of the Gentiles. **Luke 21.24.** Still the 70th week is delayed. In the midst of this final “week” we are told that the Antichrist will break a covenant he makes with Israel **Daniel 9.27**. This would set that nation at odds with the world and in its perilous isolation it might expect either to be crushed by man or to be rescued by God.

### (109)ογδοος **THE EIGHTH HORN v11 of 14.18**

Europe will “vote” for unity and unwittingly fulfil God’s will which is their fall before His rule. Formerly democratic powers will war with the lamb. They will in plain English “fight with God”. Long ago GAMALIEL warned Israel of this danger (**Acts 5.39**)-and though no peer of this great Rabbi I can foresee the Euro-empire of the future show dereliction of duty to the Jewish people. I can foresee a leadership emerge that cuts loose from all that is called god plunging the world into a crisis like no other.

(a)**The climax -Disruption & collapse by the glorious coming and revelation of Christ** to rule accompanied by called (welcomed) chosen (selected) and faithful (privy councillors) v15 will just as suddenly reverse the last dictatorship and herald universal theocracy.

(b)**The gradual diminishing of religious power that foreshadows this collapse**

**Look at this (1)** Hard-headed peoples, the thronging crowds, the ethnic mix, the language groups are like **rivers (cf 17.1)** where the whore sits. Europe also **has great rivers** and its capitals are largely sitting by them-as London on the Thames, Paris on the Seine, Berlin on the Spree, Luxembourg on the Alzette, Madrid & Lisbon by the Tagus, Rome on the Tiber, Warsaw on the Vistula, Prague on the Vlatava, Budapest & Belgrade on the Danube. This serves to focus the biblical geographical context more precisely.**(2)** Peoples hate the whore-they bear a grudge-they loathe their one-time companion **(3)** Peoples desolate her-she feels alone-left out-forsaken **(4)** Peoples take off her robes. This means she is shown to be morally naked. **(5)** Peoples “eat her flesh” This compares with the end of Jezebel. **(6)** Peoples “burn her with fire”. This alludes to the death of an adulteress. At the last the political leaders discover the spiritual bankruptcy of the religious system-their spiritual consort.

### (110)τελεσθεσονται **GODS WORDS WILL BE COMPETE v17**

**When Christ returns for His church** a so called religious establishment is not gathered to glory (cf **Luke 12.39**)-its very continuance will testify against it. Hence the “**vote**” which is mentioned twice accords with God’s purpose. The kings forsake **religious power** for the **beast**. The apostle says once more, “The woman you saw is the great city-with a **kingdom** above the kings of the earth. Thus Babylon surfaces in the last days in the Euro-seat of empire as a religion of mystery against which **God gives His vote** v.17. God has written that for her mysteries of religion she will be judged (**Apocalypse 17.1** “I will show you her judgement”; **Apocalypse 17.5** “On her forehead her name is written “; “God’s will is her destruction” **Apocalypse 17.17**

## **CHAPTER 18**

### **SEGMENT 6 18.1-24** μετα ταυτα

#### **(THE FALL OF BABYLON)**

*After epic wars and climactic trials earth shall shake as never before. It is uncanny that any order could be restored to the earth by the “beast empire”-but a command economy and the use of “the number” bring about such reconstruction as would not be possible without Satanic involvement. This last terrible short-lived empire falls before sceptre of our Lord*

*whose thousand year kingdom is subsumed into a heavenly kingdom belonging in a new heaven and earth.*

## QUOTATIONS IN THIS SEGMENT

Gen1	Lev1	De 1	Ps 2	Is 12	Jer 17	Ezekiel 14	Dan 1 =49
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*These specific quotes as part of 600 in the Apocalypse are dealt with in my commentary. I highlight four prophets only. **Isaiah** 12 times speaks of Babylon fallen and calls in 48 & 52 for departure from the world's style. **Jeremiah** speaks of danger from a northern alliance (Russia in this case The last word of Jeremiah(prophet of the nations)is "Babylon will sink to rise no more" Jeremiah 51.64. The prophet of the nations speaks solemnly. **Ezekiel** while living in Babylon gives the exact date for the start of the siege of Jerusalem -15 January 588BC -the ninth year of captivity (based on **Daniel's** exile) the tenth month the tenth day. So God has exact moments -**a month a day and a year in mind** for judgment-by parallel with Belshazzar's fall. The "beast" carries the woman around-and is representative of human rule in its final phase. This ruler at the last has ten sectors or rulers in his domain.*

### (111)εξελθατε ο λαος μου COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE v4

As to what we need to know -God fearing people and Jews at the precise time must hear "God's voice" saying "Come out of her my people" (18.4). This is a statement that will finally draw **Jews** apart from this "beast" and make them part of her judgment This matter of bringing judgment on the world is beginning even now. The "sins" of Babylon have piled up like latter-day rubbish dumped up to heaven-The Lord's voice continues "give her back as she has given; pay her back double for her deeds-testing and sadness. God sees the heart and hears Babylon as she boasts "I am established as queen, I am not a widow, and I shall not see bereavement **18.7.-for her the rapture is no matter-it is sustainable to go on without Christ.** But this queen and "mother of harlots"**17.5** is to be burned with fire in one day.

### (112) σπρηνιασαντες EXCESSIVELY WEALTHY MERCHANTSv9 (THIS CHAPTER IS PART OF SEGMENT 6)

John sees "**another combatant angel**" taking forward heaven's plan. We have to recognise great authority is vested in this holy angel. This messenger had already brought illumination to the whole earth. The crackle **κραζω** of this angel's voice is of significance. He makes a faith prediction "Babylon is fallen" The angel has voice like an army for power **ισχυς** The Kings This latter-day overarching power is a "place to settle for demons & evil spirits among men" and every "bird of prey". All rulers and emporiums relate to this maddening wine that unites peoples to her. They grew rich through trade in "excessive" **σπρηνους** wealth -desire of an elephant /big time indulgence

### (113)εμποροι SALES STOCKISTS v11 v15

The merchants can boast 28 products including even bodies and souls-the kings are weeping because she traded with them in so many goods and trade is at an end. There is a total trade stop so far as she is concerned-even this is already foreshadowed. The Sea captains stand afar and reminisce that there never was like. Prophets & Apostles in heaven are given to understand the hour and are "cheerful" or "merry" for they sense the end of a system of godlessness-God has judged the crime that originated in her i.e. in Babylon (That crime was idolatry-cum-persecution -cf Israel's holy vessels desecrated-cf **Daniel 5**) and in the latter day city to where the beast carries this queen of evil rule.

### (114) μωλινον μεγαν A GREAT MILLSTONE v15

An assault of war **ορμη** is now described. A mighty angel picked up a boulder like a millstone for size and cast it in the sea (18.21) and the effect was likened to the way of attacking Babylon.

In other words the final destruction of man-centered defiant rule will be by the millstone of God's judgment on a corrupt mercantile system. Rome and Europe so famous for music was without song and orchestra (18.22)

#### (115) ἐξέλθατε **FLEE** v4

1. **Babylon as a corrupt mercantile and seductive system falls 1 & 10.1**

2. **The wine v3** of this mercantile power renders men spiritually helpless.

3. **The call of Jeremiah (51.6-9)** is apt "Flee out of the midst of Babylon" 18.4

3. **Recompense Babylon** Jeremiah says - "Recompense her according to her work" (Jer50.29)

4. **Mourning for Babylon** Kings feared Merchants were distressed Mariners cried out

5. **Sorcery v.23** "The magic bewitching" of the mercantile system drew homage of governments  
Thus ends the sixth segment of this study on the Tribulation-spelling out **the nemesis of the world of business and finance**, the short-lived empire of Antichrist and the "moment of time"(Luke4.5) hurriedly contrived power base of Satan.

### **CHAPTER 19 THE MARRIAGE FEAST OF THE LAMB**

#### **SEGMENT 7 19.1-20.6**

#### **BABYLON'S CHARACTER**

*Babylon is known by the music of the harp flute and trumpet, technicians, industrial milling sound, night-long illumination, marriages, great sales people and by her compounds of poison "all the nations" were deceived. She is a persecuting power. The fact that God calls His people (Jews)out of the Babylon of Tribulation days does not exclude that it pleases God when Gentile peoples wise to the forthcoming judgment through the Church they too leave the Union. We have Jeremiah's final prophetic oracle in his ministry concerning nations that this empire's fall is writ. We are told in Revelation 18 that two prophets due to return in the last days fall there. We know categorically that the city on seven hills (Rome and the Treaty of Rome) that gives its name to a deluded spiritual empire which is the final form of the European Union is the doomed city and empire of the bible.*

The angel said 'Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb.' Rev 19.9

**In the gospel and apocalypse there are 16 references to "after these things" and we realize that John is racing to some future point in all his writing. That point is the marriage supper of the lamb – the biggest most magnificent gathering of the ages.** Kings and all nations will share in it – small and great will be there – when the saints go marching in. In *Hebrews 12.2* we read that "Jesus for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame. . ."The march of History is towards the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in all its glory.  
[The movement of thought is traceable in John 2.11, 2.13, 3.25-28,5.1,6.1-4,7.1.2.14.37,19.42,21.7 with Rev 1.19,3.20,4.1, 7.1,7.9,15.5,18.1.19.1-7].

#### (116) ἡμῶν θεός **OUR GOD** v6

**The joy of a people settled in heaven is expressed** in a *double* Hallelujah of the mass multitude of the redeemed. The "our God" is preserved along with 300 other NT "ours" only in the Aramaic background manuscripts. Aphraates is cited by Aland who inserts "our". We must not lose the intimacy of Christ-this the early eastern fathers preserved. The heavenly saints thrilled with the experience of salvation from a world of sin – and their arrival in the place of many mansions. They are overwhelmed by the Lambs victory over the scarlet lady.

b. The *humble* hallelujah of the highest un-fallen and highest "lifted creations" the Living Creatures and elders.

c. The *long extended* Hallelujah of the redeemed – as thunder– as waters roaring – and note that it is called for by a voice from the throne – calling for praise for "our God.

#### **(117) αἰνεῶ RECOMMEND /EXTOL (HIM) AND THE JOY OF HIS THRONE**

The full joy of heaven is that it is without the legal protestations of Satan.

Satan has been coming as in Job to accuse the "brethren". Now that issue is closed. The church is around the throne. Someone who will not even be named – has replaced the "angel of Light" as praise –leader of heaven – and in absolute humility contrasts with that proud spirit cf.v/6 "Worship God" v. 10 Lets look closer

**1 Satan said to Jesus** – "If you fall down and worship me I will give you all the kingdoms." **By contrast with Satan's sin the angel guide eschews worship and rebukes John v10**

**2 "See -no"** He showed him that *he had no pierced hands* – no worthiness

**3 I am thy fellow-servant.** I hold – I remain firmly committed to the evidences and witness in death of Jesus.

**4 Worship God** – let's go back to v6 "Praise Him – delight in Him – be proud of Him [*αἰνεῶ* "recommend" "show your love" "bring your vows"]".

**5 Holding the testimony of Jesus** – His death and His work on the cross is the "inspiration" of us all – our very life.

#### **(118) γαμος (δειπνον)αρνιον THE MARRIAGE FEAST OF THE LAMB v7 & 9**

**The joy of a settled world** – the presentation in which bride & bridegroom return

In *verses 7& 14* there are references to the clothing of the church. It is called "fine linen" Notice that this is the dress in which we come back to the world – the purity Christ gives us is symbolized by *byssus* – in its perfection of filament. *Βυσσος* was that which held the shellfish together in the depths of the sea. It speaks of powerful union. Our union with Christ alone gives purity and joy. It speaks of the depths of our rescue from the sins that beset us. That's wonderful in itself. But we pass to the bridegroom of our hearts. Our Lord had thrown around *περιβεβλημενος* Him a vesture dipped in blood. Hippolytus and Origen select *ραντιζω* "sprinkled" or "rained on" Irenaeus chooses *περιραμενον* "sewn in like thread".

**The bride eyes not her garments but here dear bridegrooms face  
T's not the robe she weareth but her great King of Grace.**

#### **(119) πατασσω DECISIVE STRIKE v15**

The rider on the white horse is our Lord at His Second Advent.

(a) **He settled Himself** on the horse – symbol of victory – not to be unseated & is swift as any Parthian monarchy 11 He calls himself faithful and true. He keeps covenant – He will return. v.11

(b) **He clothes Himself with Glory** v12 and has been willing Himself to interrupt history to judge v13 cf. 'dipped' Finally lets look at His names.

1. He is "Almighty" v/6 &15 He who called Abraham to look at the stars has redeemed the church.

2. **He calls himself faithful & true** or the ethical and moral ruler of the ages

3. His name is written yet unknown -that unending Eternal One exceeds an angel's grasp v/2.

4. He is the "**word of God**" – *this He calls himself* – the one who speaks to man over all ages & calls today. The action of His sword *πατασσω* means "decisive-strike"

5. He has name on his mantle and his thigh v. 16 – "**King of kings and Lord of Lords**"

His mantle of peace describes Him beautifully – He is Prince of peace. He is willing to suffer for me and to enter into all my life as the servant-king. He deserves heaven's eternal praise "My Jesus", the writer adds, "before you I bow!"

#### **(120) THE ARMAGEDDON 17-21**

The defeat of kings military command and equipment is proclaimed in a scream by **an angel in the sun** or in the “sun” meaning where the sun shines and when it shines-despite the effect of earlier plagues. This message is prophesied so in a sense it has already gone forth. The **name of this war** is found in *Apocalypse 16.16* – but there is no doubting that it is the very same conflict – the final war of modern history with the most devastating results. Leaders fall in great numbers. Men of all ages and ranks die together. The beast who had established his “mark” (19.20 & 20.4) and the false prophet and their followers were thrust into the “lake of fire”. The literal **λμνη πυρος καιομενης εν θειον** attests the last days judgment always characterized by “fire”. This victory in a real war is the ultimate answer to the cries of heavenly martyrs and our Lord establishes justice in the earth according to the word of prophecy thus He comes whose right it is- Shiloh to whom all people shall gather.

## CHAPTER 20

### THE MILLENNIUM

#### (121) **καταβαινω DESCENDING TO WRESTLE v.1**

John saw **an angel** with the key of the abyss and a great chain over his hand and arm. He came down [**καταβαινω**] as a mighty wrestler in a step of intervention. He took hold of the dragon – the ancient serpent, Diabolus or Satan and bound him for a thousand years, and cast him into the “abyss” and locked him there and sealed above him that he should not continue to deceive the nations, until the thousand years should be complete. In *Luke 8.31* the fear of the “abyss” suggests that during His earthly ministry Christ was feared as the ultimate judge of demons

#### SEGMENT 8 20.3–22.21

#### (122) **χιλια ετη A THOUSAND YEARS v3**

After that (*the millennium*) we have reference to a “second short ultimate thrust” of Satan who before the Millennium similarly brought all nations against Israel to try to overwhelm God’s purposes on earth in a penultimate struggle.

In this last section of Revelation –the main feature is the establishment of age long righteousness in the millennium and the descent of the city of God.

With Christ’s descent comes the golden age of His rule from Jerusalem. The prophetic and old testament scriptures provide handsome coverage of the rule of the Lord in the latter day on the earth – something even Job foresaw (*Job 19.25*).

Who will doubt that this “chaining” “locking up” and “sealing” of Satan for a thousand years is factually stated? (v.3)

Who will doubt that the synopsis of vv4-6 and the reign of Christ is going to be undisturbed by Satan and demons? (v. 6).

Who will doubt that this is a period that has as its end a massive war which leads to God’s fiery destruction of the earth? (cf. *2Peter 3.12*).

This short chapter falls under the curse of 22.19 – so though men may doubt God’s stated plan or how it can be arrived at from the present historical movement of human affairs – this chapter has testified for 1900 years and stands as holy scripture stating categorically that there is to be a **χιλια ετη** – a thousand years of Christ’s rule on the earth.

It is fatuous to imagine that, for example, the 1000 years could have begun in 800AD with Charlemagne – the peaceful emperor. Satan was not bound and up until 1800 there were many wars featuring the Saracens, the Normans, the conquest of Italy by Otho and the Huns, the Turkish invasion of the Romans Empire (1050) – Jerusalem invaded 1065 and William defeated Harold of course at Hastings in 1066. Then the Crusader period 1096-1248 the fifth Crusade. Then there was the Samarqand empire of Tamerlane – the list could go on and on. History shows no sign of long peace in past days – nothing to fulfil *Isaiah 11.6-9* and *Isaiah 65 19-25*.

#### (123) **πλαναω SWING OUT OF ORBIT v3**

When the 1000 years should be completed, Satan -as determined sinful and dangerous as ever- will have been loosed from his prison. He will go out to cause the nations in the four corners of the earth to swing out of their orbits [πλαναω]-”Gog “and “Magog” – the prince of the land of Magog and the land of Magog. This phrase is first found in *Ezekiel 38.2,3,14,16,18 & 39.1,11* and has to do with the peoples anciently called Rossi, Moschi & Tibareni. When we refer back to the prophet we find this nation is Meshech and Tubal (modern Moscow & Tobolsk). The prophet in the war we are to associate with Armageddon (*Ezekiel 38-9*) adds Persia, Cush and Phut to them and in *Ezekiel 38.21* that confederation meets their destined defeat in the mountains of Israel. In this the last great battle 1000 years later Gog who is Satan is still the leader and he is still able to move rebellious men and nations against the Christ of God. The numbers committed to this final struggle are described as “like the sand of the sea”. Thus all in all Satan fought in heaven – he fought against Israel and he will fight against God a third time. This massive army will move across the “breadth” of the earth. They will not come by sea or over mountains but mainly move over great plains. This move must be through Syria and southward to Israel. The flat lands to the south and east may also be used until encirclement of the battle order of the saints and the beloved city is achieved. Jerusalem becomes “The beloved city” in the millennium. It has known the presence of God and was the place of hundreds of years of worship and pilgrimage. The utter destruction of the hordes is by “**fire from God**”. In a further act of God the devil who took them away from their millennial ordered path was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone – cf. *Revelation 19.20 with 20.10*.

#### (124) βασανισθησονται **THEY WILL HAVE BEEN TESTED v10**

*And I saw a great white throne and him that sat on it from whose face the earth and heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. Peter alike attests this truth when he tells us the present earth is reserved for fire. Jesus three times said “heaven and earth will pass away”. This chapter marks the end of the present earth (and)physical heaven.*

The earlier demise of the “beast” and “false prophet” – 1000 years before indicates that other continued testing of their infamy continues. This time Satan is not put in prison but put into an ineffable eternal trial which has one feature that outlasts the present solar system – i.e. “day and night” (21.1). Whereas this lake is modelled on the Dead Sea in the day of Sodom’s destruction it is a “salt-lake” “stagnant place” [λμνη] of purifying fire and purifying smoke that speaks of the Glory of God alone. So in the course of this age by age “burning” of examination and question this trinity of evil is tested. The “flame and smoke” bespeaks testing in which neither men nor angels participate. The statement of *Genesis 3.4* “You will not die” comes back to haunt Satan. The “stagnant lake” is one into which only the dead come – in this abode created to make holiness all encompassing – the longest trial the universe ever will know continues unceasingly. The trinity of evil will know pain in their being and endure testing. The verb “**They will have been tested**” [βασανισθησονται] does not give any in this “lake” a Penelope’s thread back to life. **The power of the second death is absolute. No traveller returns.** In face of this “weak future passive” verb on **testing** we must leave the matter of eternity with God. More than that we cannot say though there can be no other touchstone than Christ for the soul. Ezekiel speaks of nations of people joining others in Hell so human beings are consciously there for long ages. Our hearts fail us to think of the sorrows and ruefulness and terror of the place – the verb governing **testing** is in the future passive and can be taken as living with utter irreversible failure or dying in utter fear and despair.

#### (125) θρονον μεγαν λευκον **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE v11**

The “great white throne” where the Lord sat at the centre of the constituted court of final judgment presents an awesome prospect. Heaven and earth fled from the face of Christ – (cf. *21.1 & 2Peter3.10*) this is the moment when there is only the throne –God’s heaven and city of



God – the physical heavens and old earth remove. They “flee”. There is no “place” found for them.

### (126) **εργα** ENERGISED WORKS v12

John was given to see the dead – such little ones too – and such mighty ones among them. There they stood before God. The books had been opened. Another – the book of life – was laid open. The dead were judged from the accounts in the first books. With the end of the physical earth and the end of the Hades economy – and indeed the end of “dying” as such – all the creatures who had perished by drowning and awaited their trial in Hades or who had just died with the end of the earth’s pilgrimage – appeared before Christ. Their works [*εργα*] done in the body and the energising factor behind them were examined. Those spiritually dead – those within the orbit of Hades of the dead were cast into the lake of fire. **This is THE SECOND DEATH**. The **book of life** was checked and anyone not found written there was cast into the lake of fire. The second death is that finality which pronounces separation from the life of God in the soul. Our LORD warned us that God can destroy both body and soul in the circle of Hell. (*Matthew 10.38 & Luke 12.5*)

Judgement is “thorough”. The beast and false prophet are dealt with. Satan is dealt with. Finally the last iniquitous hordes that after a thousand years of Christ’s grace and truth are willing to rebel are dealt with. Now we are ready to look towards the things which are eternal – which greet us in the final chapters of the apocalypse. With the assize complete – death as the power of corruption and the spirit.

## CHAPTER 21

*PARENTHESIS (12) BELIEVES NEED TO KNOW A NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH IS BEING READIED*

*"Last night I lay a sleeping – there came a dream to me – I stood in old Jerusalem beside the temple there". This is New Jerusalem -our eternal home- affording three vistas.*

### (127) **καινος** NEW v1 THE THRONE VIEW

God speaks from the throne and we are to believe what He says.

A great herald introduces the statement with the mightiest voice so that the comfort God has planned will be known to the world through John-*the man with the voice of thunder*. **Jehovah Shammah** – God present is there. The last verse of the prophecy of Ezekiel ends thus dramatically [*Ezek48.35*] and *John also comes near the end of his writing on this awesome note*. No unhappy events or public mourning; no voice of war rebellion or bad taste; no suffering or pain related to work – God’s immediacy is the crowning blessing for one and all. No other place could all tears be wiped away.

**I. OUR LORD JESUS says – write it– it is true– this classic historic comfort** – everything is to be new-sorrow no more known. A *de novo* earth never before seen with its accompanying heaven will replace the old – which passes away *at speed- like a flock of birds*-to be seen no more! N.J. affords only JOY. This is no city remould –no makeover–IT IS New Jerusalem N.J. a new capitol for a new earth – it is *spanking new καινος* (cf Wm Barclay on “*καινος* as distinct from *νεος*”) – to quote the authority on the throne!

**2.Our Lord “says” [ειπον] classic historic warning No.2** “I am Alpha & Omega – I give to him who thirsts “snow water”-water of life with spring like character and freely – this life is the reward of Victors –of Confessors who have kept the faith . **Cowards** don't get there (*it's a confessors scene*). Neither those **without faith** – nor **abominators, murderers, fornicators nor drug dealers** (*φαρμακευσι*) nor those who continue as **idolaters** nor the **deceitful** are found there – their lot is a second death – and their isolation is mirrored by the waters of the dead sea as it was at formation–mingled with fire – those who “look back” and love the old travel with it to its fiery end. We need to note the irremediable loss of secular living and should be aware that it only takes cowardice to lead us to hell!

## (128) **εχω(II) HODS FOREVER vv11-14 THE MOUNTAIN VIEW**

The Holy City as at the beginning of the millennium 9-21

The reason why **the angel with the vials of wrath** introduces the second section is because it describes the city by way of contrast of two kingdoms – that of Satan, which is to be destroyed by Judgment – and that of Christ, **whose millennial rule is imminent**. The lion-share of the next millennium belongs to Christ!

**Christ stood viewing this moment with the devil at the borderland of two concepts in Luke 4.5.(compare the “Great and high mountain”21.10 & Matthew4.11) with Satan’s “mountain kingdom”. There is presented the STIGME or short term (momentary) kingdom as devised by Satan– the reconstituted Rome of Daniel’s vision (Ch. 7).** It has a life of 7 years after the home-call of the ecclesia. The Spirit of God brings John to the very same point – only 60 plus years later. This time Christ who never bowed the knee is on the throne with the future firmly in his grip! We have still to reach this point. There follow four “I keep” [*εχω*] statements: It’s “eternal” glory is never forfeit not its eternal wall nor its eternal gates nor its eternal foundations.

**1. The Great city – the Holy Jerusalem settled down** [*καταβαινω – like a ship ashore*] (21.10).It kept the Glory\_of God about it. It will never be overthrown – cf. Daniel’s kingdom

[We might add ‘*alam almiya*’ [Hebrew “until ages of ages”] cf. *Daniel 7. 18-28*. It’s brilliance was like a crystal Jasper and diamond –the enduring stone.

**2. The great city kept its great & high wall.** Its security impenetrable-unchallenged

**3. Each of the great city’s twelve gates –were kept by angels.** The plan of God for *Israel* as for the church is going to be completed – The written names of the tribes describe the city’s felicity. **Praise God** (Judah) and **look at the Son** (Reuben)-**O what company** (Gad) what **blessedness** (Asher) what **prayer wrestling** (Naphtali) what **forgetfulness** (Manasseh) what **obedience** (Simeon) what **intimacy & cleaving** (Levi) what **reward** (Issachar) **what a home** (Zebulun) what **added (eternal)provision** (Joseph like Jesus fed the world) – what **a right hand** privilege(Benjamin).Israel’s sons nominate the dimensions of blessing in this eternal estate.

**4. The great city holds firmly to its twelve foundations** – the truth of the New Testament – which its apostles preached as martyrs for its cause – John himself is said to have escaped from a vat of burning oil by grace. These gave their lives in witness to the lamb that died – dividing the world of the first century among them as evangelists – and so most fittingly God inscribes their names upon the foundations of the heavenly city.

**5. The angel who held a vial** (*to pour on the short lived kingdom*) came also with a golden rule to describe the city’s size. Not even Ecbatana could compare with her walls for height or cubic dimensions (*roughly comparable to a base the side of which equals the distance between New York & London*) while the height length and breadth was equal. Its walls or security is in-built, not encircling clay or multi-stone construction. The order of its foundations defies that of the world (*the stones reverse the Zodiac formula*). Purpose built for those born from above it’s Jasper reflects **Christ’s eternity**; its sapphire **His divine being**; its chalcedony – the Chalcedon stone – blue & white – **His divine & human nature**; the emerald – **His courage & cheer** centred on heaven’s emerald rainbow encircled throne of grace; the sardonyx (*flesh-coloured stone*) **His incarnation**; the sardius not the carnelian (*i.e. the male not the female stone*) **His love** and blood shed for us; the chrysolite – golden transparency – **His perfection**; the beryl (*aqua-marine*) stone of Spain – **His conquest** all the worlds troubles; the topaz – historic orange stone of divining – **His omniscience** and absolute understanding of the Father’s heart; jacinth the resurrection stone (*from the youth that legend tells arose from blood*) – **His glorious resurrection**; and finally amethyst – His temperance as **Master over temptation**. “Tempted in all points – without sin!” So we leave the mountain view of a kingdom founded on the life and death of Christ – to be reflected fully and eternally in the city home of saints – the Holy City. The bride is rightly proud of her husband.

**(129) ου χρειαζαν εχει ηλιος ουδε σεληνης NEEDED NEITHER SUN NOR MOON v23  
THE STREET VIEW 21-27**

To arrive at the gate and enter this city ought to be the ambition of every man and woman alive – however many other intriguing aspirations distract from the ultimate God-given destiny of man as redeemed.

**1. It's not an easy way.** Strive to enter this gate – for it is a "great pearl". Christ suffered to bring you in. You may count on it to suffer if you live & testify for Him.

**2. It has no temple.** It is not Old Jerusalem – nor Jerusalem of today with a poor Western Wall by Wilson's Arch – it is **The New Jerusalem**. It has a broad central plaza [*the word πλατεια is used of the width of the Hellespont*] – but **no temple**. It is made of pure gold – clear as crystal – scientists, try as they may, cannot perfect such transparent gold. Heaven will look well and remain good. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its holy centre – to the central throne all heaven relates in worship.

**3. It is full of light** – but not fading light such as a sun & moon supplies – light which penetrates everywhere and lights every level perpetually. The lamb is the source of that light [*λυχνος*] in his eternal humanity to every denizen.

The bride of Christ enjoys this city. She has the throne view and is caught up to the throne before the tribulation that precedes the days of Satan's STIGMA or momentary kingdom.

**4. There are myriads there** – they come from Tierra Del Fuego in South America – from Timbukto in Africa and Ballybay in Ireland – from everywhere – but they will all have been **saved** (*middle voice of the verb*). They will actively have sought repentance and redemption by the blood of the Lamb (**29 times mentioned with affection in this great book**). The Second Coming of Christ completes redemptive activity promoted through the church.

**(130) φερουσι THEY CONTINUE TO CARRY (THEIR GLORY IN) v24**

**5. There are the kings of the earth** who **carry** their booty of vision and estimates of worth towards it – making this sort of thing their aim. The verb [*φερουσι* "carry" is a present continuous tense – not of the period in mind – but the period of John's speaking towards the time this city is fully furnished with its citizens cf. 1].

It is firmly stated that the gates are not shut **BY DAY** for **there is no night there**. The problem is that the glory of man cannot come in – this is a city where the Glory must go to Christ alone. They – the kings will carry the inspired vision and estimate of worth that the nations have acquired towards the goal of such a city of the gods – to the very days when the STIGMA Satanic KINGDOM fails amid judgment.

**6. "And there will definitely not wish to enter into it anything sexually unclean – any conduct that sickens or is loathsome, any deceit** – only those who have desired to be written in the Lamb's book of life." The scripture uses the subjunctive of negative intention here.

So we learn that the blood of Christ purchases our right of admission to this kingdom – it cannot be realized by human or political authority or victories – which halt at its gate (*cf. The angel with the vial & the golden rod*) It is absolutely and critically bound to the Lamb who claims to be Pantocrator – who will blow this world away with the breath of His mouth and establish the only New Order worth the name.

**The re-emergence of wild political optimism** amid the supposed "Safety and guarantees" – and "Shalom Salam" [*peace– peace*] days of which Jesus spoke – are now with us at the end of this century [*& moving into another – i.e. 2005*] and emphasis on the millennium needs an existential shower-bath of biblical truth but no-one dares to breathe this truth in a smug world. Mighty Angels cry out in the bible – yet the earth goes on regardless. The outlook ahead promises "a rude awakening" when the Lord disturbs this crass worldliness and spiritual malaise.

(131) εβδελυγμοις **ABOMINATION vs** γνώμη **SURRENDER BY VOTE 17.17**

John picks up a term from the LXX of Daniel 11.31 & 12.11 –also Matthew 24.15 & Mark 13.14 –a term used at a perilous time when wisdom and flight are to be chosen instead of remaining amid peril. The “desert abomination” or “Abomination that desolates” of Daniel speaks of the origins and want of hope in what replaces Jerusalem’s prayer for Messiah. The prophecy of Daniel speaks of “daily prayer”(or sacrifice) being ended-so the rights of Jews at the wall appear to be involved and the establishment of a different cultural and religious centre will stand where once the temple of God stood. The Empire of the Caesars lives again in a new form and the **“surrender” or “handing away” of powers is proceeding (δουναί–the aorist in its triple use speaks about a swift once for all handing over) whilst Paul’s use of γνώμη – the only other use in the NT in Philemon 14 suggests “by decision” i.e. Referendum or vote of nations).** The intention of God [γνώμη Rev 17.17] to judge is prepared when nations voluntarily cede powers absolutely to concur with the beast. The rapture warning forgotten the secular power moves to feud with the woman in scarlet –the king of the north leads an assault on Israel in face of a careless democracy and Christ wrestles the yoke of the last earthly tyrant at His visible return to judge the nations & bring His kingdom in. The biggest forward event in 2019 is Christ’s coming for His church-the events to follow this divine intervention have begun to be enacted politically. The Rapture will trigger the judgments in **these segments** and shorten the Euro dream. **Embittered mankind will move human politico-religious affairs to a new all time low untrammelled by the Church but harnessed by mighty angels.** The ecclesia gap will be filled by Satan – thrown out of heaven. He will play for high stakes as in **Luke 4.5** – men will bow to him where Christ did not. Every Christian should study the **STIGMA [“END-TIME MOMENT”]**

## CHAPTER 22

### ENDURING TRUTHS

Worship of Christ (1-9) Sovereignty of God (10-15) Eternal Life & Covenant Grace (16-21)

(132) θεραπεύω ..λατρεύω προσκυνέω **ENVIRONMENT, COMMITMENT, ATTITUDE vv2.3.9**

In the final chapter of scripture Christ is enthroned. Life itself like “water” literally “marches” from the throne as myriads rewarded and judged and serving receive audience and commissions for ever and ever. Here are 12 ceaseless seasons of fruit and healthful leaves. Surely these trees clap their hands and all about them sing the praise of Him who died. The idea of “healing” leaves must be coupled with people joyfully singing for **θεραπεύω** is not simply a medical term – it is a worship term – and was used very often of “divine service”. The health of heaven is its joyful song not its riverside hospitals. In this place of worship there is “no **καταναθεμα** – no curse or votive offering – only the offering of the fruit of the lips in praise and blessing. The saved will see their Melchizadek and each like a priest will have his name on their foreheads and serve Him with worship **λατρεύσουσιν**. Each shall live kingly for ever and yet unfailingly serve. The Lamb shall beam His light of life and instruction into every soul. Humility shall be blended with every act and governs every heart. The lesson of humility is well learned as John rises from the feet of his angel guide to the words “See that you don’t do that – I also am of your fellow-servants [19.10& 22.9] ...worship God **προσκύνησον**.”

(133) εγω ωμεγα εσχατος τελος **THE “I AM” THE SOVEREIGN v13**

Scripture is divine revelation. John is given a solemn warning “Do not seal **σπραγισης** the words of this book!” This command I fear is being grossly disobeyed today. Few are willing

even to open the book – it is as if sealed in many churches. Its truths ought to become familiar and the “end purposes” of the *ομεγα-η εσχατος και τελος*

*Three matters are emphasised in this section of the chapter:-*

1. Those who are justified and living sanctified lives should so continue to His glory. Those who are unjust still and do not repent but flout the will of God will remain unjustified v11.

2. God will reward works wrought from faith and fear of God and sinning v12.

3. **Christ is the Alpha and Omega.** He is the sovereign and centre of life’s purpose. His will is supreme and by that will we are saved by His atoning death and resurrection and through the sending of His Spirit into our hearts. However *six congregations* of men will live outside His will and have no part in the joy of heaven – they are described as “mangy scavengers of flesh” (*dogs*), sorcerers or addicts, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, creatures of lies and pseudo or hidden life.”

#### (134) *αστηρ λαμπρος πρωινης* **BRIGHT MORNING STAR v16**

The Lord describes Himself as “the root and offspring of David”. Before David – yet he was born of David’s line – and the grace of His humiliation led directly to the cross. “Having humbled Himself he endured the cross”. Now He is the “**Bright and morning star**” whose glorious return we dearly would experience. My memories as a boy are of a white-washed cottage in Northern Ireland where I avidly read “The Christian Herald and Signs of the times” and joined its “Golden Star Brigade”. The prophetic strains will not fade from my life till I am caught home.

#### (135) *ερχου ερχου ερχεσθω* **COME COME HE MUST COME v17**

It was **grace** that met me in Primrose Lane – “The lane that time forgot”. In the *Apocalypse* 22.17 God in covenant grace heralds a resounding threefold “Come” whilst He holds out His glorious free grace to the sinner. That grace demands the acknowledgement of the total authority of scripture and writes the last word of revealed literature as **GRACE** – a blessing for all who keep the words of the soon coming LORD and love His appearing. The parallel between the “comes” of v17 and those of v.20 should not be missed. He would come but the long years of New Testament grace tell of His patience and grace. The heart of God is written on the sleeve of this final chapter of Holy Scripture. It is as if our Lord is saying “Please put in a big effort” And so felicitously worded too “The Spirit and the bride say ‘Come’ and let him that hears say, ‘Come’, let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely.”

(136) *λογoi αληθινοι πιστοι* **THE WORDS ARE REAL TRUSTWORTHY v6** *The messenger guide eschews John’s act of worship saying “See panoramically (the throne – the Lamb) – No! I am of your fellow-servants...who hold the prophecies (A Prophet?)” Then the final words from v.12 come with joyful surprise to John who must have been confused “Behold I come quickly...It is I Jesus who sent my messenger...I am the root and shoot of David...I continue to testify to all who hear these words – “Don’t add to them, Don’t take away from them.”...I am coming as soon as possible. To which John called out animatedly “Even so-come, Lord Jesus!” The “messenger guide” gets us to view “the holy city” Like Daniel he emphasizes that the saints would inherit the kingdom for ever (Daniel 7.18,27 & v.5). Our Lord relates “The words are true & faithful” 21.6,7,9,10,18,19 to Daniel 2.45 “The dream is true-the interpretation trustworthy” and more generally John relates “After these things” Rev 4.1, 7.1, 7.9, 9.12, 15.5, 18.1, 19.1 to the general outline in Daniel 7,9,11 & 12 with the rapture and 70<sup>th</sup> week –expounding the tribulation in much greater detail.*

#### (137) *ταχυ* **QUICKLY vv 6 & 20**

Why quickly? Why do you hail a taxi? – Because you are in a hurry, of course! In one sense God is in a hurry. It is the LORD here who is saying “Quickly, quickly, quickly!!!

[*ναί ερχομαι ραχὺ ἀμὲν*] You need to arrive at a destination and the taxi by definition gets you there and gets you there quick. The desire of our LORD to return is written into the word “I come” [*ερχομαι*] yet this word does not mean “in the quickest way” but it is a word used in composition for “as quick as possible”. Thus as quick as is agreeable to the work and growth of the kingdom and in a way that goes hand in hand with “rowers overcoming difficulty at sea”. As quick as the truth of His heralds can reach and persuade those He is calling to trust and obey – as soon as the LORD shall have prepared the bride and her retinue.”

#### (138) νύμφη THE BRIDE v17 with 21.9

Heaven is worth it all for the sufferer. The bride is worth it all for the Christ of God. “What do you associate with **the Lamb**?” “Innocence” – “of course” “Consume pastoral peace!” “Why yes!” “What else?” “The throne of the lamb” “Exactly” “Anything further?” “Mediation – love for His bride – matchless patience” “Now you are talking!” “Is there anything more?” “Yes, the consuming desire of the One slain before the foundation of the world!” It has to be bound up with destroying death-aye more-to purchasing a **bride** v.7 “**Such thirst-** He waits to suffer at Calvary-such love to thirst upon the cross – such patience to wait and thirst for the kingdom to come while preachers preach and churches reach the lost!” Our Lord knows what thirst is! Mark well the urgency of the parables. Those words “the bridegroom is coming” were uttered in our LORD’S teaching [*Matthew 22.2 and 8 and in 25.1*]. He was the one who asked the question about the “wedding garment” and urged His audience to be watchful. The ultimate challenge of the bible is “Be ready also for at such an hour as you think not **the bridegroom** comes”.

(139) το πνεῦμα THE SPIRIT v17 It is ever so hard for a child to say A, B, C. It is equally a struggle for a sinner to say “I admit myself a sinner-multiplied over nations it just seems to take for ever. World Evangelism is God designed task - the Holy Spirit -**the curse breaking** parakleta (Aramaic) who brings conviction will not always strive so the night comes and also the morning-the darkness and the dawning- nearer and nearer draws the time-the time that shall surely be when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. There is a moment for which all creation is waiting and this glorious book serves to give us pause and train our sights perpetually on that moment whilst in love we work because the night is coming.

#### (140) ὁ διψῶν ἐρχεσθῶ THE THIRSTY ONE SHOULD COME v17

This last chapter is fervently evangelical. We hear the timely water-seller cry out much as the sun-kissed wizened old water-seller Mina and I watched on the occasion of our 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary visit to Israel as he stood at the Damascus gate calling out with his huge shining silver flask on his back – a modern version of the leather hide bottle **of the 1<sup>st</sup> century**. John the evangelist cries out echoing the water-seller of *Isaiah 55* “Come buy water – try a cupful freely!” Through the gospel forgiveness is free at the point of delivery though costly to Christ the provider. And what of that form of words “Let him that hears say ‘come!’” It seems, does it not, that every thirsty soul who is satisfied is to also engage as a water-seller. This beautiful final chapter of scripture has 28 allusions or references to the Old Testament scriptures. Let me set out an exhortation using 7 of these scriptures to encourage “water sellers” in their witness

- (1) In these last days ‘Don’t allow yourself to be drawn away with the wicked’ (*Psalms 28.4*)
- (2) Don’t set your heart on riches (*Psalms 62.12*)
- (3) Don’t faint in the day of adversity or fail those drawn to death though they seem **past redemption** – which itself is an old idiom drawn from Niagara giving testimony to a point (“Beyond-redemption point”) along the lead up to the falls beyond which there were no known rescues (*Proverbs 24.12*)
- (4) Don’t shout “I’m frustrated” “Fed up” – get a second wind – keep at it (*Isaiah 40.10*)

- (5) Don't view abounding iniquity simply with horror – grace more abounds – be as Great heart in *Pilgrims Progress* and believe that God will raise up a standard (*Isaiah 59.18*)
- (6) Never give up. The Beulah promise is coming. Give the LORD no rest until Jerusalem becomes a praise in the earth (*Isaiah 62.11*)
- (7) Don't forsake even for one day He who is your life – the fountain of living waters (*Jeremiah 17.12*)

## MARANATHA– EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS

### FINIS

*Original document completed 2003. Updated 2016 with occasional references to more recent Aramaic Commentary-adapted as a Wordbook in 2019*

Knowest thou not that thy master shall be taken from thy head?"

- (1) Enoch was taken up,
  - (2) Elijah was taken up,
  - (3) Jesus took the first fruits of the Church up.
  - (4) Your loved ones have been taken away up there.
  - (5) The Church will be taken up at the rapture.
- We ain't got long to stay here!

development of Christ's Ministry

The *Gospel of John* precisely like the *Apocalypse* is designed in sections which I have called sequences because the literary meta tauta device used since the infancy of the Greek language in Homer's hymns to mark sequences is used in both books provides a short time-frame related to the first and second advents of our Lord and to His ministry of grace and his ministry of judgment.

From eternity to eternity John 1.1-2.11

The gospel really begins before creation and in John 1 1-9 all through pre-history and to the chief events of creation and before the dawning of God's first acts in the universe Christ was there in the bosom of the Father. The book of Revelation ends with a pure crystal flowing river which is never ending -flowing from the throne of God and the lamb through all future eternity (Revelation 22.1-5). Between these two eternities **the events of the three and a half year ministry** of our Lord Jesus Christ in proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom are recorded in historical order in the gospel of John and the events connected to the divine reward of His whole church [Revelation 1-4] and the judgments with their apocalyptic sequences that are to fall upon this earth in the end-times prior to the full realization of our Lord's Millennial Kingdom [Revelation 19.1] **are also played out again in a short span of 7 years.** The whole conception of these two books is stupendous. In John 18.36 Jesus tells Pilate "My kingdom is not of this world."

The johannine sequences in the gospel

Sequence no.1: 1.1 ETERNITY PAST-DAYS OF JESUS & JOHN

Sequence no.2: 2.12-3.21

Sequence no.3: 3.22-4.54

Sequence no.4: 5.1-5.47

Sequence No.5: 6.1-6.71

Sequence No.6: 7.1-19.37

Segment 1 7.1-12.36

Segment 2 12.37-13.20

Segment 3 13.21-14.24

Segment 4 14.25-15.37

Segment 5 16.1-16.24  
Segment 6 16.25-16.33  
Segment 7 17.1-19.27  
Sequence No.7: 19.28-20.31  
Sequence No.8: 21.1-21.25

The johannine sequences in THE APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

Sequence no.1: 1.1-3.22  
Sequence no.2: 4.1-6.17  
Sequence no.3: 7.1-7.8  
Sequence no.4: 7.9-15.4  
Sequence No.5: 15.5-17.18  
Sequence No.6: 18.1-18.24  
Sequence No.7: 19.1-20.15  
Sequence No.8: 21.1 EARTH PASSES AWAY-LIFE IN THE NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH

JOHN'S WRITING AS GOD'S FAITHFUL PENMAN

The **Spirit of Prophecy** and the **angelic messenger** raised a curtain on the future in the "Apocalypse" given **John** from the omniscient **Christ** for the benefit of the church in all ages. There are over 600 references to the OT in the Apocalypse (UBS Greek NT 4<sup>th</sup> revision). It speaks of real things [*Aramaic Orr4*] that will happen. It is not a house of symbols. Its New Jerusalem awaits God's saints. Its *millennium* is referred to in a variety of ways over 60 times in scripture as my monograph on that topic further elucidates.

The absence of the church in the Apocalypse narrative subsequent to Chapter 4 is so unequivocal that there are just no grounds for debate however ingenious the historian endeavours to link the judicial events given with a continuing thriving church. The failure by many Christians to take account of the "catching away" and the true nature of the ecclesia has led on the one hand to a simplistic exegesis and on the other to a grotesque realignment of the Apocalypse and even to the incredulous belief on the part of some that we live in the millennium and most disturbingly to a *revisionist Calvinistic* view now widespread in Britain that **without Rapture or Tribulation** Christ is coming to take the Church in a uniform march of progress **on earth** from where we are now but without intermission right onwards into a glorious earth future. **This surreal piece of inventive thinking matches Revelation Chapter 21 to the idea that the earth groans and will be redeemed to go on as our eternal iron ball. Scripture says the creature or creation is longing expectantly like Elisha for the "carrying away from over our heads" – the unveiling of the future – and meantime everywhere men who now are subject to the emptiness that is life without God because of disobedience groan and travail together in distress.** We like them though we have the Holy Spirit and hope of resurrection also groan until placed as sons with the Father when our bodies will be changed and redeemed from this earth at the rapture. The reign of Christ on this earth will indeed occur but who among us is willing to cede residency and title is to the Zion above (**the New Jerusalem**) and those prepared places where we shall ever be with the LOR? The earth and its fashion are passing away. Heaven and earth shall pass away. The elements shall melt in fervent heat – all that we know shall be dissolved. Our part with Christ is based on the city that has foundations and not on this earth. Our new bodies are not going to be designed for temporary millennial residency but for eternal dwelling in light with God. Nowhere is the journeying or stationing of the New Jerusalem wherever the Lord should desire to be eliminated from the mind - though sinful men on earth cannot enter as scripture says.

The perspective before us in the gospel is the cross by which we escape judgment and enter glory. The perspective of the major part of the Apocalypse is judgment which falls without



remedy on a rebellious world. The glory of both of John's books is the LAMB OF GOD who is the beloved one of heaven and the Saviour of our souls.

**"Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away" (The words of our Lord Jesus Christ)**

*Bob Coffey* (Albion Bible Commentaries)

## EPILOGUE

There are many imponderables in the study. Without moving beyond the brief of interpreting in the context of scriptural reference and in line with the plain sense of scripture I have sought to be faithful as an exegete to the content of the Apocalypse and the context of its drafting.

It is right for the Christian to study with care the heavenly scenes of the Apocalypse -some of which I have not included as the brief does not take in the entire book. Such study acts as a caution against becoming content to accept the heavily slanted viewpoint of a-millennialist teaching - a predominant school of British exegetes that jumps the church back to this earth **for ever** and is relaxed that the Rapture is "fabulous" in the wrong sense.

The prophesied Great Tribulation (Jeremiah's "Jacob's trouble") darkening the last days as our Lord said comes when all seems well-"they spin and bake and marry and socialize" until the twin shock of Parousia & tribulation. We cannot be a world away from these days and so I have commend to you but not without concern that the church fails to notice these perilous times and how this final unveiling appears irrelevant in preaching. The counterpoise of "uplift" in the Wordbook is the "Rapture" and the home-call of the Bride. To fill out your understanding of the run up to the "Eternal State" Albion Bible Classics has biblically documented monographs on the "Millennium" and "Tribulation" -compendium style studies that will usefully supplement what in a Wordbook can only be a series of theological clips.

WESTGATE May 2010

*Revised* ALBION COURT April 24 2019

*Bob Coffey*

*ABC Classics*

# GREEK WORDBOOK

NO. 27



LEGEND

*AFTER THESE THINGS*

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