

Revelation Comes Alive!

By Michael H. Exton

This booklet will not only make the book of Revelation clear and understandable to the reader—a book that few people truly understand—but it will make this fascinating book of the Bible come ALIVE!

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Eighth Edition
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Printed in the USA

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A Mysterious Book

THE BOOK OF Revelation has fascinated many people for hundreds of years. A book filled with mysterious and frightful symbols and proclamations about the future. A book replete with horrifying and terrible warnings, and yet at the same time the most marvelous and encouraging good news imaginable!

Many people have spent countless hours studying and analyzing this most unusual of books and yet at the end of their rigorous research they often find themselves as bewildered as ever as to its true meaning.

What in the world is the *real* meaning behind the beast that rises up out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns? And how about the other beast that has two horns like a lamb but speaks like a dragon! And how about the four horses and their fearful riders mentioned in chapter six? And what about the 144,000 who are sealed and the great multitude who come out of the great tribulation? And how about the two end-time witnesses and the devastating plagues and judgments? And what is the *real* meaning of Babylon the Great and the woman that rides the beast? And let's not forget about the dreaded mark of the beast and the number 666!

What are all these things and how do they relate to one another? And what significance do they have for those of us living today in the 21st century?

In this booklet I will make PLAIN the *true* meaning of all these intriguing topics as well as answer these perplexing questions—questions that have baffled millions of people for centuries. In essence, I will make the book of Revelation come ALIVE!

A Book of Prophecy

In the very first verse of chapter one we are told that the book of Revelation was written concerning “things which must shortly take place.” In other words—FUTURE EVENTS! That this book is essentially a book of prophecy is then confirmed in verse three where we read, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear *the words of this prophecy.*” This is important to keep in mind as we begin to unravel the mysteries locked inside this mystifying book, especially as we move on to consider the meaning of the first puzzle that I would like to uncover—the message to...

The Seven Churches

IN the first chapter of the book of Revelation the apostle John informs us that he is writing this book to “the seven churches which are in Asia.” The seven churches mentioned are: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Then in chapters two and three we find seven separate messages written specifically to each of these seven church areas, starting with Ephesus and continuing through to the church in Laodicea. In these messages Jesus Christ encourages, warns, and corrects His churches that existed in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) at that time (just over 1900 years ago). But since this book was to be a book of *prophecy*, why did Christ ever include these two chapters in the book of Revelation? Why not just have John write a completely separate letter to these seven churches? Yes, why include these two chapters in the book of Revelation at all? What in the world do they have to do with prophecy? EVERYTHING!

The reason Jesus Christ had the apostle John include these seven letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation was because (like the rest of this astonishing book) they too had to do with prophecy. These seven messages were PRIMARILY meant to record the history of God’s *true Church in advance*. They describe the overall conditions and trials of God’s Church from the very first century

until the return of Christ. They give us a brief description of what the prevailing spirit of the Church would be in SEVEN SUCCESSIVE TIME PERIODS. In other words, they tell us what the overall makeup of the Church would be—throughout time—up until the return of Christ.

These seven letters answer such questions as: Would the Church lose its first love for God and the truth? Would it go through a period of terrible persecution? Would it compromise with the world's false religious doctrines? Would it stay pure and undefiled? Would it become corrupt and allow false teachers to seduce God's people? Would it be a dead Church? Would it be strong and vibrant, accomplishing the work of God? Would it be faithful, even unto death? Or would it be a lukewarm Church that is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked? Therefore, even though these seven letters were written to the seven Churches of Asia Minor and had implications for them, they were NOT written PRIMARILY for them, but they were written first and foremost as a *prophecy* of what would befall God's true Church throughout time. God used these seven Churches and the prevailing conditions that existed among them at that time—to represent seven different time periods or *eras* that God's Church would go through—from the very first century until the end of this age (that is—until the return of Jesus Christ).

It's interesting to note in connection with this, that in the time that the apostle John put these words to print (in about 95 A.D.), that there was a mail route among these particular seven cities, and that the mail route started at Ephesus, then went to Smyrna, then Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and finally to Laodicea—the exact order listed in the book of Revelation—thus indicating a successive and progressive sequence.

Today, we are in the last and FINAL ERA of God's true Church, the *Laodicean Era*—at least that is the predominant condition of the Church at this time. But usually, when

the baton is passed from one era to the next, there is a slight overlap of the previous era—and that is precisely where we find ourselves today.

The Laodicean Church Era began just a short time ago and as a result we still have members of the preceding era, the Philadelphian Church Era, in existence today. The Bible clearly indicates that both of these eras—the sixth (Philadelphia Era) and seventh (Laodicean Era)—would be in existence at the end-time. Plus there is some indication that a remnant of even the fifth era, if not even a small surviving trace of the preceding four eras, would survive until the very end-time (see Revelation 2 & 3). Unfortunately, not both of these major end-time church eras (the Philadelphian and Laodicean Church Eras) are welcomed with opened arms. While one (the Philadelphian Era) is spoken of very highly, and is encouraged to HOLD FAST TO THE TRUTH that it has, the other era (the Laodicean Era) is reprovved with very strong words (Rev. 3:7-11, 14-22).

Though the members of the Laodicean Church Era are part of God's true Church, they are described as being "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). Therefore, they are admonished to "*be zealous and repent!*" (Rev. 3:19). This is in SHARP CONTRAST to the "Philadelphian" members. And while the Philadelphian members will be PROTECTED from the coming "Great Tribulation," the "Laodicean" members will have to SUFFER in it (Rev. 3:10, 19).

In order for God to wake up the typically lukewarm "Laodicean" from his lethargy, God will be forced to strongly discipline him in the soon-coming Great Tribulation. And in order for a Laodicean to prove that he has *truly repented* of his abysmal attitude he will have to suffer martyrdom—most likely at the fate of the guillotine! (Rev. 20:4). But while Satan is at war with the Laodicean members of God's true Church (Rev. 12:17), the Philadelphian members are taken to a "place of safety"—a place where

they are protected from the wrath of Satan the devil (Rev. 3:10, 12:13-17, Luke 21:36, Zeph. 2:3, Isa. 26:20-21).

Though the Laodiceans will have to suffer severely in the very near future—if they *repent and overcome*—then they too will be granted eternal life in God’s magnificent Kingdom (Rev. 3:20-21)!

So which type of person will YOU be? Will you WAIT until the tribulation and perhaps repent then (when physical escape will be impossible)? Or, will you repent and turn to God TODAY, thereby avoiding the horrible pain and suffering that will soon engulf this world? *For that is the lesson that is contained in the seven messages to the seven churches for us today!*

The Seven Seals

WHAT could be more mysterious and frightening than the seven seals that we first read about in the sixth chapter of Revelation? What could these seven seals possibly mean? And what do they possibly have to do with us today? **EVERYTHING!**

In the first four seals of Revelation six, we have what is commonly referred to as: “the four horsemen of the apocalypse”—which consists of a white, red, black, and pale horse.

First Seal: The White Horse

“And I looked, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on it had a BOW; and a crown was given to him, and he went out CONQUERING and to conquer” (Rev. 6:2). Many people think this rider stands for Jesus Christ, and how fascinating it is that so many people would jump to such a *false* conclusion, when in reality, the EXACT OPPOSITE is true!

What this white horse and its rider represents is **FALSE RELIGION**—a counterfeit religion—a religion that APPEARS to represent Jesus Christ—when in fact it really represents Satan the great deceiver. *It represents a false Christianity masquerading as the real thing!* A religion calling

itself “Christian,” but in reality as far away from TRUE Christianity as the east is from the west!

While this FAKE Christ looks very similar to the genuine Christ mentioned in the 19th chapter of Revelation, this impostor carries a bow, while Christ carries a sword (Rev. 19:15).

Actually, Jesus Himself identifies this mysterious rider (as well as the other three horsemen) in the 24th chapter of Matthew. In verse three of the 24th chapter of Matthew, Christ’s disciples came privately to Him asking, “And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” And then in the next few verses Jesus begins to answer their question while also explaining the meaning of these four bewildering riders.

“Take heed that no man *deceive* you. For MANY shall come in My name [supposed CHRISTians], saying, [that] I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (verses 4 & 5—KJ Version). Here, Jesus pinpoints the identity of the first horseman of the apocalypse, the white horse and its bow-wielding rider. It stands for the MANY, who would indeed claim that Jesus is the Christ, but would deceive the world nonetheless (Rev. 12:9). How accurately and painfully true this prophecy has come to pass! Just look at society today. Throughout the world there are hundreds of millions of people professing to be followers of Christ, claiming that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus is Lord, and yet deceiving humanity with a FALSE Christianity. A very cleverly deceptive Christianity that professes Christ, and yet does NOT teach what *He taught!* A fake Christianity that preaches a counterfeit Christ—that teaches a fraudulent gospel about the person of Jesus and yet *denies what He taught.* A Christianity that MASQUERADES as the genuine Christianity founded by Jesus Christ in the first century and yet that preaches a *different* Christ and a totally *different* gospel than we find in the pages of your Bible!

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their WORKS”! (2 Cor. 11:13-15.)

These pretenders say that good works are NOT required, that the law has been done away; as well as substituting God’s true Sabbath Day and Holy Days with abominable pagan feasts and celebrations! Jude describes these false Christians as TURNING THE GRACE OF GOD INTO LICENSE TO BREAK GOD’S LAWS (Jude 1:3-4).

These COUNTERFEIT Christians can often be heard saying, “Lord, Lord,” **but they refuse to do the will of God** (Mat. 7:21-23), **and they refuse to do what Christ taught**. “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do NOT do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46.) Like the Pharisees in the day of Christ, they honor God with their lips, but—*they worship Him in vain because they reject the commandments of God in order to keep their own traditions!* (Mark 7:7, 9). Pagan traditions at that! They are often seen doing things in the name of Jesus (Mat. 7:22), but notice what Christ will say to them at His return: “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice LAWLESSNESS!’” (Mat. 7:23.)

So the white horse with its bow-wielding rider has been identified! It represents FALSE CHRISTIANITY with its deceptive and perverse “the law has been nailed to the cross” philosophy! And though their ministers appear as ministers of light, they are in actuality, ministers of darkness. As Isaiah 8:20 plainly states, “To the LAW and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because THERE IS NO LIGHT IN THEM”!

How interesting it is that many think this white horse and its rider represents the real Jesus—when in reality it

represents a phony Christ—just as many in the world today believe that *mainstream* Christianity represents the true Jesus—when in reality it represents a counterfeit Christ with a counterfeit message!

Second Seal: The Red Horse

“And another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should *kill one another*; and there was given to him a great sword” (Rev. 6:4).

If we turn to the 24th chapter of Matthew we can also find Christ’s explanation of this frightening red horse: “And you will hear of WARS and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (verses 6-7). So this bloody red horse simply depicts **WAR** and the terrible aftereffects associated with it.

Third Seal: The Black Horse

“And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius [about one day’s wage for a worker], and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine’” (Rev. 6:5-6).

Once again if we turn to the 24th chapter of Matthew we see that Jesus Christ list’s **FAMINE** immediately after listing false religion and war. So this dreadful black horse is symbolic of severe food shortages with far-reaching consequences.

Fourth Seal: The Pale Horse

“And I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to *them* [the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th horsemen] over a fourth of the earth [1/4 of humanity dies],

to kill with sword [2nd rider], with hunger [3rd rider], with death [4th rider], and by the beasts of the earth” (Rev. 6:8). So who is this fourth horseman—here referred to as Death?

Once again, let’s turn to the 24th chapter of Matthew, where Jesus also reveals the meaning of this horse and its rider. After mentioning false Christians, wars, and famines, the very next thing that Christ mentions is **PESTILENCE** (verse 7). So, this fourth horseman denotes shocking disease epidemics. That this fourth seal portrays pestilence can also be substantiated by turning to Ezekiel 14:21 where we read: “For thus says the Lord God: ‘How much more it shall be when I send My four severe judgments... the sword and famine and wild beasts and pestilence—to cut off man and beast from it.’” Also, Leviticus 26:25-26 (as well as Ezekiel 6:12 and 5:17) mention these same three curses—the sword, famine, and pestilence. So again, this sickly pale horse stands for formidable disease epidemics. (But also notice, as the book of Ezekiel and Revelation both point out—*wild animals* will also be responsible for the death of many—and there will be a great increase in *earthquakes* as well!)—Matthew 24:7.

Time Period of These Four Riders

What is the time sequence of these horrifying prophecies? When do these four horsemen come on the scene? Have they already stalked the earth, or are they about to strike?

Though these prophecies of the four horsemen of the apocalypse were meant to show the prevailing conditions on the earth from the time of their writing until the return of Christ, they were first and foremost meant for the **END-TIME!**

Though we have had gruesome wars, appalling famines, and hideous disease epidemics that have often followed in the heels of aggressive religious conquests—they

were just a *foreshadow* of the massive death and destruction that is soon to besiege this globe, when these four riders mount up for one last ride! We are SOON to witness false religion once again taking the offensive—and closely following in its wake—ghastly wars, famine, and pestilence that will toss this world into the most terrible time of trouble that this world has ever or will ever experience! (Mat. 24:21.) Satan will once again go on the warpath, mounting up all his forces for one last all-out attack, in a desperate attempt to destroy everything on this planet, including those who occupy it—US! This will be the time of SATAN’S WRATH—THE GREAT TRIBULATION! And yet Christ said that this would just be “the beginning of sorrows”! (Mat. 24:8.)

The Fifth Seal: The Cry of the Martyrs

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should REST a little while longer, until both the number of their *fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed*” (Rev. 6:9-11).

Just like the previous four seals Jesus Christ also explains the meaning of this fifth seal in the book of Matthew. “Then they will deliver you [true Christians] up to tribulation and KILL you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Mat. 24:9). This fifth seal therefore represents **A FINAL END-TIME MASSACRE OF TRUE CHRISTIANS.**

In Revelation 6:9-11, those true servants of God who had been slain throughout the ages, and who are now dead

in their graves (see 1 Thess. 4:13-16), are *allegorically* pictured as being alive under the altar of God. They are symbolically portrayed as crying out to God to avenge their innocent blood, just as the righteous blood of Abel metaphorically cried out to God for retribution (see Gen. 4:10). But before their blood can be avenged, God tells them that they must rest (in their graves) just a little while longer, until their “FELLOW SERVANTS” are also killed—until a future end-time martyrdom of God’s people is completed!

This future worldwide slaying of God’s true servants is further depicted by the “GREAT MULTITUDE” spoken of in the seventh chapter of Revelation. “After these things I looked, and behold, a GREAT MULTITUDE which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes...” (Rev. 7:9). *These people—the great multitude—are the “fellow servants” mentioned in Rev. 6:11.* They, like the martyrs of Rev. 6:9-11, are figuratively illustrated in white robes at the throne of God. “These are the ones who COME OUT OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION [by being KILLED in it!], and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7:14).

So the soon-coming martyrdom of God’s servants will indeed be great, with people coming from many different nations. And before they die, they will probably have to go through a great deal of pain, agony, and suffering during the Great Tribulation (as indicated by Rev. 7:16-17). But in the end they will rejoice, “for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 7:17).

This great multitude of people—who will soon be slaughtered—will represent the seventh and final era (the Laodicean Era) of God’s true Church (which was discussed earlier in this booklet). But they do NOT have to go through this martyrdom! If they would just repent NOW,

and turn to God NOW, they could and would be protected from the soon-coming Great Tribulation and be spared the horrible times awaiting them!

Sixth Seal: Cosmic Disturbances

“I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind” (Rev. 6:12-13).

Once again, lets go to the book of Matthew for a further description of this same event. “Immediately *after* the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Mat. 24:29).

So *after* the soon-coming Great Tribulation—which is the WRATH OF SATAN—amazing heavenly signs will take place. The sun and moon will be darkened, and many of the stars will fall to the earth. There will also be a tremendous earthquake, so huge that every mountain and island will be moved out of its place! (Rev. 6:14.)

These great heavenly omens will in effect be declaring the end of Satan’s fury, and announcing the beginning of *God’s* punishment on a hostile and disobedient humanity, the much-prophesied “*Day of the LORD*”!

After these things “the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of HIM who sits on the throne and from the WRATH OF THE LAMB! For the great day of HIS wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” (Rev. 6:15-17.)

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the coming of the great and terrible *DAY OF THE LORD*” (Joel 2:30-31).

“Wail, for the DAY OF THE LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man’s heart will melt, and they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. Behold, the DAY OF THE LORD comes, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible*” (Isaiah 13:6-11).

“Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger” (Isaiah 13:13).

This “day” will actually last ONE YEAR. “For it is the *day* of the Lord’s vengeance, the *year* of recompense for the cause of Zion” (Isa. 34:8; see also Isa. 61:2, Num. 14:34, and Ezek. 4:5 for more proof of this “day for a year principle”). But BEFORE this year of God’s anger is kindled we have the sealing of...

The 144,000

MOVING ON TO Revelation 7:2-4 we read: “Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand...”

In trying to understand the sealing of the 144,000 it is important to notice the TIME FRAME involved. Please note that it takes place *after* the Great Tribulation is over (the first six seals have already passed) and just *before* the Day of the Lord begins (the seventh seal—which represents the wrath of God—is just about to begin). The 144,000 are therefore sealed AFTER the martyrdom of the saints and immediately AFTER the cosmic portents that warn of Christ’s impending judgment of this planet. This sealing must therefore represent those servants of God who survived the Great Tribulation, who somehow managed to escape martyrdom!

Remember, a GREAT MULTITUDE of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues will be massacred during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 7:9). Out of this innumerable multitude—a few—144,000—do NOT die but instead live on into the Day of the Lord! But since the Day of the Lord represents the wrath of God, and since these people are God’s peo-

ple—“the servants of God”—they must be **PROTECTED** from Christ’s own punishment on sinning humanity. Therefore, God seals them immediately BEFORE His vengeance, so that they are safeguarded from His own retribution on mankind.

To further prove that these people are shielded from the chastisement of Christ we only have to turn to the ninth chapter of Revelation. In this particular section of Revelation, THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS ALREADY BEGUN—as four of the seven punishments (trumpet blasts) have already sounded and the fifth is about to begin (Rev. 8:7-13). “Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to HARM the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but *only those men who do NOT have the seal of God on their foreheads*. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. And their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man” (Rev. 9:3-5). So here it is made abundantly clear that the 144,000 are sealed—that is—protected—from the punishment of God, while the rest of the inhabitants of this earth must suffer the anger of Christ for their evil deeds.

So who are these people—the 144,000? As shown above, they are the servants of God. They therefore represent *spiritual Israel*—the true Church of God. They apparently include those members of the Philadelphian Era—who previously escaped to a place of safety at the start of the Great Tribulation—AS WELL AS a remnant of those people who repent and turn to God during the Great Tribulation. As explained previously—the vast majority of those who repent during the Great Tribulation will be executed (the great multitude)—but evidently a very small number will somehow escape martyrdom, and will be part of the 144,000 that are protected from the punishment of Christ. These are those who “sigh and cry over all the abomina-

tions” that occur on this earth (Ezek. 9:4-6). And even though thousands may be killed all around them, no harm shall befall them (Ps. 91:7, 10).

The Seventh Seal

CONTINUING ON IN Revelation we read: “When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given *seven trumpets*.... So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound” (Rev. 8:1-2, 6).

As mentioned earlier, the seventh seal represents the Day of the Lord, the wrath of God. And this seal is divided into seven parts, represented by seven trumpets.

First Trumpet

All green grass is burned up, and one third of the trees are also incinerated (Rev. 8:7).

Second Trumpet

One third of the sea turns to blood, one third of the fish die, and one third of the ships are destroyed (Rev. 8:8-9).

Third Trumpet

One third of the rivers and springs become poisonous, causing many people to die as a result of this plague (Rev. 8:10-11).

Fourth Trumpet

One third of the sun, moon, and stars become very dark—so dark that a third of the day and night is without light (Rev. 8:12).

Fifth Trumpet (First Woe)

Smoke, like the smoke of a great furnace, comes upon the earth, resulting in the sun and the air becoming darkened (Rev. 9:1-2). And out of the smoke locusts come upon the earth. These locusts have power as scorpions and they harm those people who do NOT have the seal of God on their forehead (Rev. 9:3-4).

So all humanity is tormented except for the 144,000 who are supernaturally protected. These locusts do not kill mankind but only torment them (like the pain of a scorpion) for five months (verse 5). The agony will be so bad that men will want to die but they will be unable to do so! (verse 6.)

“And the shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle... and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle”—perhaps modern-day war planes and helicopters (verses 7-10).

“One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming”! (Rev. 9:12.)

Sixth Trumpet (Second Woe)

During the second woe (sixth trumpet blast) *one third of mankind is killed* as two hundred million soldiers go to battle! (Rev. 9:13-18.) “But the rest of mankind, who were not killed... did NOT repent of their works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk, and they did NOT repent of their murders or their sorceries (margin: drugs) or their sexual immorality or their thefts” (Rev. 9:20-21).

“The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe [the seventh trumpet] is coming quickly”! (Rev. 11:14.)

But first, before the seventh and final trumpet sounds, we need to backtrack a little. For while the seven seals are being fulfilled there are other important things going on that now need to be explained. For one thing we have...

The Two Witnesses

DURING THE LAST three and a half years of this age—during the time of the Great Tribulation (which lasts about two and a half years), and the Day of the Lord (which follows and lasts about one year), there will be two men who go around this earth proclaiming the truth of God. They will be servants of God and will receive great power from Him (Rev. 11:3-6).

These two witnesses—will of course—come from God’s true Church. Apparently, one of the two witnesses will come from the Philadelphian Era of God’s Church, while the other one will come from the Laodicean Era (though of course this particular witness will have repented by then, else God would not be able to use him for such an important mission).

Why do I think that one of the two witnesses will come from the Philadelphian Era, and the other one will come from the Laodicean Era? Because in Rev. 1:20 we are told that the seven Church eras are represented by seven lampstands, and in Rev. 11:4 the two witnesses are also represented by lampstands. Therefore, the two witnesses evidently represent two of the Church eras, presumably the last two—the Philadelphian and Laodicean Church Eras.

As already mentioned, these two end-time servants of God will be given awesome power! If anyone tries to harm

them—fire will come out of their mouths to devour them! (Rev. 11:5.) They will also have the power to prevent rain from falling during the whole three and a half years of their ministry (verse 6). Not only that, but they will also have the power of turning the waters to blood, and to strike the earth with all kinds of plagues—as often as they desire! (verse 6.)

As a result of these terrible plagues, the people of this earth will abhor these two men of God. And once their testimony is finished they will be killed (verse 7). “Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, *make merry, and send gifts to one another*, because these two PROPHETS tormented those who dwell on the earth” (verse 10).

After the two witnesses are lying dead for three and a half days something amazing happens. God resurrects His two prophets! (verse 11.) Then *great fear* enters those watching! The two witnesses stand on their feet and ascend to heaven in a cloud (verses 11-12). Then there is a tremendous earthquake—resulting in the death of seven thousand people (verse 13).

Though the world may not appreciate the two end-time witnesses—God will. And He will show His appreciation for them by bringing them back to life—right in the midst of their enemies!

The Woman, Child, & Dragon

MOVING AHEAD TO Revelation 12:4-6 we read: “And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. And she bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and to His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.”

In the above quotation the “woman” is symbolic of God’s true Church (verse 17), and the dragon is just another name for Satan the devil (verse 9). These verses start off with the true Church allegorically giving birth to a male Child—Jesus Christ. Satan is then shown trying to destroy Jesus right after His birth—and that is precisely what Satan tried to do (Mat. 2:13, 16). Next, it shows Christ being resurrected—“caught up”—to heaven to the throne of God—where He is currently sitting at the right hand of God. Finally, this little section shows God’s true Church going into hiding. They go to a remote and secluded area—away from the major cities of the world—for 1260 years (once again using the “day for a year” principle found in Num. 14:34 and Ezek. 4:5). Historically, this occurred from about 325 AD to about 1585, when God’s true Church had to flee

from the populated cities of Europe in order to escape the bitter persecution of the Roman Catholic Church.

Now continuing with verse 7 we read: “And war broke out in heaven; Michael [the archangel] and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels [fallen angels—demons] fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, WHO DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” (verses 7-9). These verses are describing an extraordinary war that will erupt in heaven in the VERY NEAR FUTURE! But, as these verses point out, the devil and his evil cohorts do not prevail in this colossal battle and are cast back down to the earth (verses 8-9).

But look out! On seeing that he is hurled back down to the earth, Satan goes on the WARPATH! “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea! For the devil has come down to you, having *great wrath*, because he knows that he has [but] a short time [left]”! (verse 12.)

Upon being tossed to the earth, Satan springs into action—in a mad PURSUIT of God’s true Church—in a desperate attempt to destroy her! (verses 13-15: see especially the Jerusalem Bible, New English Bible, RSV, or NIV.) But the Church is TAKEN AWAY by God to a place in the wilderness—to a **place of safety**—where SHE IS PROTECTED from the presence of the conniving serpent (verses 14-16). So for the last three and a half years of this age—the last few years before the return of Christ—the Church is sheltered and hidden from the presence of Satan (verse 14).

On seeing that he cannot harm God’s Church—at least the Philadelphian Era of the Church—the devil is ENRAGED! So he goes to make war with the rest of her offspring—the Laodicean Era of God’s true Church! (verse 17.) *This is when the great tribulation officially begins!*

The Beast With 7 Heads & 10 Horns

IN REVELATION 13:1-7 we read: “And I saw a BEAST rising up out of the sea, having **seven heads** and **ten horns**, and on his horns ten crowns... Now the beast which I saw was like a **leopard**, his feet were like the feet of a **bear**, and his mouth like the mouth of a **lion**.... I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.... and he was given authority to continue forty-two months.... And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.”

Before we get into the specific meaning of this BEAST of Rev. 13, we must first quickly review some intriguing statements mentioned in the book of Daniel, as well as discuss some very interesting facts that occurred in ancient history. Then afterwards, we will be able to understand the precise meaning of this seven-headed and ten-horned beast of Rev. 13.

The Great Image of Nebuchadnezzar

In the second chapter of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is greatly perplexed by a dream he has. In this strange dream of his he sees an enormous image that is made up of FOUR DISTINCT PARTS: head of *gold*, chest and arms of *silver*, belly and thighs of *bronze*, and its lower

legs and feet of *iron*—with its feet partly of iron and partly of clay (Dan. 2:31-33). Then in verses 37-38, God reveals that the head of *gold* of this immense image represents King Nebuchadnezzar and his *Babylonian Kingdom*. “But after you shall arise ANOTHER KINGDOM [a SECOND KINGDOM OF SILVER] inferior to yours; then another, a *third kingdom of bronze*, which shall rule over all the earth. And the FOURTH KINGDOM shall be as strong as IRON, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters all things; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others” (verses 39-40).

So, as clearly shown by the above Scriptures, the massive image in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar depicts FOUR SUCCESSIVE KINGDOMS that would dominate the nations of this world—first starting with the Babylonian Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar. Then eventually the Babylonian Kingdom would fall, giving way to a second kingdom. Then in due time this second kingdom would also crumble, resulting in a third world-ruling kingdom. Then this kingdom would collapse as well, giving way to a fourth and final Gentile kingdom.

It is further explained in the book of Daniel that **this fourth kingdom would somehow exist at the very end-time—at the literal return of Jesus Christ**—at which time Jesus will set up God’s Kingdom on this planet! THEN—GOD’S KINGDOM—AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, WILL DESTROY AND CONSUME THIS LAST GENTILE EMPIRE, AND GOD’S KINGDOM WILL THEN REIGN ON THIS EARTH FOREVER AND EVER! (Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45, 7:18, 22-23, 26-27.)

The Four Great Beasts of Daniel

For more details on these *four* world-ruling empires and what they have to do with the beast of Rev. 13 we now turn to the seventh chapter of Daniel: “And *four* great beasts

came up from the sea, each different from the other. The **first** was like a **lion**... And suddenly another beast, a **second**, like a **bear**.... After this I looked, and there was another [a **third**], like a **leopard**... After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a **fourth** beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge **iron teeth**; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had **ten horns**” (Dan. 7:3-7).

What are these four incredible beasts? “Those great beasts, which are four are four kings [or FOUR KINGDOMS—see margin as well as verse 23] which arise out of the earth” (verse 17). By carefully comparing Dan. 7 with Dan. 2 you will notice that these four beasts denote the *same* four Gentile **kingdoms** represented by the great image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream!

The **first** beast—which was like a **lion**—therefore is symbolic for the **Babylonian Kingdom** (the **head of gold** in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream). And the other three beasts portray the three successive empires that would follow in the wake of the Babylonian Empire.

So what were the other three universal empires that followed in the footsteps of the Babylonian Empire? According to history, after the Babylonian Kingdom (which lasted from about 625-532 BC), the **second** kingdom was the **Medo-Persian Empire** (which existed from about 532-330 BC). The Medo-Persian Empire is therefore depicted by the **bear** (as well as the **chest and arms of silver** in the great image of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream).

The **third** world-ruling kingdom was the **Greco-Macedonian Empire**. This empire, under the leadership of Alexander the Great, conquered the Medo-Persian Empire (in about 330 BC). The Greco-Macedonian Empire is therefore denoted by the **leopard** (as well as the **belly and upper legs of bronze** in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream).

The **fourth** and final universal Gentile kingdom was the **Roman Empire** (which lasted from about 27 BC to 476 AD). This empire is therefore represented by the “terrible and dreadful” fourth beast with its huge **iron teeth and ten horns**. (The Roman Empire is also portrayed by the **lower legs of iron** which make up the lower part of the great image in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream). This kingdom crushed and broke to pieces all of the other preceding empires (Dan. 2:40, 7:7, 19, 23).

(Perhaps you are thinking: “But wait a minute! Didn’t you earlier say that the fourth empire would exist at the second coming of Jesus Christ? Now you are saying that this fourth kingdom—the Roman Empire—only lasted until the year 476. What’s going on? Did the Roman Empire fall in 476 or will it fall at the return of Christ? It can only be one or the other—so which one is it?” Yes, I most certainly did make both of these seemingly contradictory statements! But please be patient and bear with me, for I will explain the mystery of this dilemma soon!)

Now finally, with the beasts of Daniel identified, we can return to the beast of Revelation 13. *For indeed, the seven-headed and ten-horned beast of Revelation 13 has much in common with the beasts of Daniel!* So let’s now turn to Revelation 13.

The Beast of Revelation 13

When the apostle John (in the book of Revelation) sees the beast that he describes in the 13th chapter of Revelation, the other three beasts (the Babylonian, Medo/Persian, and Greco/Macedonian Empires) of Daniel have already come and gone. The only world-ruling kingdom left at the time that John recorded the book of Revelation is the Roman Empire. Therefore, John sees one beast instead of four. And since this last and exceedingly terrible beast was to devour the previous three beasts that went before it, and

since it was to be far greater and stronger than its predecessors—occupying all their territory—it therefore included the three beasts that preceded it. Therefore, John records that the BEAST that he sees was “like a **leopard** (Greco/Macedonian Empire), his feet were like the feet of a **bear** (Medo/Persian Empire), and his mouth like the mouth of a **lion** (Babylonian Empire)” (Rev. 13:2), since it *absorbed* and therefore *included* the three beasts that went before it, the first three beasts of Daniel 7.

John’s beast of Revelation 13 has *seven heads*. But what are these seven heads? The first head represents the empire of the Babylonians, the second and third heads represent the empire of the Medes and Persians, the fourth and fifth heads represent the empire of the Greeks and Macedonians, and the sixth head represents the Roman Empire (which existed from about 27 BC until about 476 AD).

“This calls for a mind with understanding: The seven heads of the beast represent... *seven kings (or kingdoms)*. Five kings have already fallen [Babylon, Media, Persia, Greece, & Macedonia], *the sixth now reigns* [the Roman Empire—remember—this was written around 95 AD!], and the seventh is yet to come, but his reign will be brief (Rev. 17: 9-10—NLT).”

So what about the seventh head—the one that is “yet to come”—what does it represent? This seventh head represents the Roman Empire as well—but this time an *end-time* revived Roman Empire that will last but a few short years and that will wreak havoc on an unsuspecting world!

But not only does the seventh head represent an end-time revival of the Roman Empire, but it also represents the *leader* of this soon coming beastly empire—the ANTI-CHRIST! “Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.... All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life...” (Rev. 13:6-8).

The beast of Revelation 13 also has *ten horns*. But what are these ten horns? “The ten horns which you saw are *ten kings* [ten European political leaders] who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour [just a few short years] as kings with the beast [i.e. the Antichrist]. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast (Revelation 17:12-13). They will even wage war against Jesus Christ at His return (Rev. 17:14)!

Another Beast: A Two-Horned Beast

MOVING ON TO Revelation 13:11 we read: “Then I saw *another beast* coming up out of the earth, and he had *two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.*” What could this mystifying beast possibly stand for—a beast that resembles Jesus Christ (for Christ is often pictured as a lamb—see Rev. 17:14)—but that speaks like Satan the devil (see Rev. 12:9)?

This two-horned beast (or FALSE PROPHET as he is called throughout the book of Revelation—see Rev. 16:13, 19:20, & 20:10) is none other than a FALSE REPRESENTATIVE OF JESUS CHRIST. One who *appears* as a servant of righteousness, but is in fact a servant of the devil and therefore speaks the doctrines of demons (2 Cor. 11:13-15)!

To unravel the mystery behind this two-horned beast (or “false prophet”), let’s once again turn to the book of Daniel: “He shall **speak pompous words** against the Most High, shall **persecute the saints** of the Most High, and shall intend to **change times and law...**” (Dan. 7:25).

Who in the world is this individual who speaks pompously, persecutes God’s people (the saints), and changes times and law? THE PAPACY!

But, did the popes really PERSECUTE the true followers of Christ? And how about this CHANGING OF TIMES AND

LAW—surely, they didn't do that, did they? They most definitely did!

If you do some research into this matter you will find out that it was indeed the popes and the Roman Catholic Church that has been responsible for the *persecution* of God's true Church—God's TRUE followers—the true saints—throughout history! And the Roman Catholic Church and its popes have certainly tried to *change times and law*. Perhaps the greatest change of all involves both times and law, as this false reprobate church has blatantly tried to change God's true Sabbath day from the seventh day of the week (Saturday) to the first day of the week (Sunday)! These are those spoken of in Jude 1:4—“For admission has been secretly gained by some who long ago were designated for this condemnation, *ungodly persons* who PERVERT THE GRACE OF OUR GOD INTO LICENTIOUSNESS...” (RSV). “... They have fooled [many people] by disguising themselves as apostles [representatives] of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder his servants can also do it by pretending to be godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve” (2 Cor. 11:13-15, NLT).

Not only has the Catholic Church refused to keep God's true Sabbath day holy, thereby breaking the fourth commandment, but they also arrogantly disregard the second commandment as well with all of their abominable statues and other idols! (See Exodus 20:4-5, 8-11.)

The papacy has also changed other *times*, switching the ending of each day from sunset (as the Bible instructs) to the middle of the night (12 o'clock midnight). And they are responsible for shifting the beginning of each year from early spring to the middle of the winter (January 1st). Furthermore, they have exchanged God's holy days (Passover, Pentecost, etc.) for ancient pagan celebrations (Easter,

Xmas, etc.)! For more information on this subject please read my booklet “*Do Christians REALLY Follow the Bible?*”

Finally, Satan (who deceives the WHOLE WORLD—see Rev. 12:9) has used the Roman Catholic Church in deluding almost everyone concerning the KINGDOM OF GOD.

“We read in history that the popes were accepted as the ‘Vicars of Christ,’ which means ‘IN PLACE OF CHRIST.’ The teaching was that the Second Coming of Christ had occurred—Christ had returned to earth, as King of kings and as Lord of lords, in the person of the popes. The millennium [the 1,000 year rule of Jesus Christ] had begun.

“For ...years, the emperors accepted the popes as such, ruling the nations with a ‘rod of iron’ as Christ is to do when He really comes. Consequently they acknowledged the supreme religious power of the popes....

“In most any encyclopedia, under article ‘millennium,’ you will read the history of this very event—of how the ‘Holy Roman Empire’ was called the ‘Kingdom of God upon earth.’ They claimed the millennium had arrived!” (Herbert Armstrong, 1960, page 20, *Who is the Beast?*)

How incredibly CUNNING Satan is! He’s replaced the true teaching of the Kingdom of God—the one that John the Baptist taught (Mat. 3:1-2), that Jesus Himself preached (Luke 4:43, 8:1; Acts 1:3), that the 12 apostles taught (Luke 9:2, 60), and that the apostle Paul preached (Acts 20:25)—with a PERVERTED COUNTERFEIT! For the Kingdom of God is *yet future!* As proven throughout the pages of your Bible! Such Scriptures as Dan. 7:22, Luke 19:11-27, 21:31, 22:30, 1 Cor. 15:50-54, John 18:36, Matt. 6:9-10, 33, as well as scores of others, prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that God’s Kingdom is YET FUTURE!

God’s Kingdom will *not* be set up on this earth *until the second coming of Christ*—when JESUS HIMSELF WILL LITERALLY RULE ON THIS EARTH with the resurrected saints! (Rev. 5:10, 20:4.) At that time—and at that time only—Christ will destroy the kingdoms of this world

(Dan. 2:44), and the kingdoms of this earth will become the kingdoms of Christ! (Rev. 11:15.)

Then and only then—at the return of Jesus to this earth—will the Kingdom of God finally be HERE! And that is the gospel message that is supposed to be preached today, and that will be preached to all nations before the second coming of Christ! (Matt. 24:14.) Not a perverted counterfeit that the Catholic Church has palmed off on this world. Nor is it something that is set up in the hearts of men, as some others would have you believe! But it will instead be the LITERAL government of God governing *on this planet*, with Christ reigning as the REAL King of kings and Lord of lords! (Rev. 5:10, 17:14.) God's true and faithful servants throughout the ages will then be resurrected from their graves (as well as those living at that time) and will rule with Christ (1 Cor. 15:50-54, Rev. 20:4, 6). And the law of God (including ALL of the ten commandments) will be taught and enforced, as Christ will come this time with a rod of iron to beat down any who would oppose His righteous rule! (Rev. 12:5.)

The Coming Hitler!

AS EXPLAINED IN chapter eight of this book, the PRIMARY BEAST of Revelation (the seven-headed and ten-horned beast) not only represents an end-time revival of the “Holy Roman Empire,” but it represents its *leader* (the Antichrist) as well. And as explained in chapter nine, the SECONDARY BEAST (the two-horned beast who is also referred to as the “false prophet”) represents the pope who will preside over the Roman Catholic Church in the end-time. These two servants of *Satan* (the Antichrist and the false prophet) will then work hand-in-hand to deceive an unsuspecting world!

Statue of the Beast

“Then I saw another beast [the end-time pope] come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, and he spoke with the voice of a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast [the Antichrist]. And he required all the earth and those who belong to this world to worship the first beast, whose death-wound had been healed. He did astounding miracles, such as making fire flash down to earth from heaven while everyone was watching. And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people of the world to make a great

statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. He was permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die” (Rev. 13:11-15; NLT). Wow!

So in the end-time the pope will receive great power from Satan (see also Rev. 13:4 & 2 Thess. 2:9), which will allow him to do astonishing miracles. He will then have a statue made of the Antichrist (the political leader of a revived “Holy Roman Empire”) and anyone refusing to worship it will be executed!

Deadly Wound Healed

God will even allow Satan to miraculously heal the Antichrist from a deadly wound. “He [the end-time pope] ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast *who was wounded by the sword and yet lived*” (Rev. 13:14—NIV). Not only will the European leader (the Antichrist) be wounded, but he will be injured so badly that the inhabitants of the earth will be absolutely amazed and astonished when he recovers! (Rev. 13:3.) There is even some indication—that not only will he be severely wounded—but that he will be **KILLED**—and then brought back to life! (Rev. 13:3, 14, 17:8.) And that is precisely how the Living Bible renders these verses! “He was **FATALLY** wounded and then **CAME BACK TO LIFE**”! (verse 14.) And 17:8—“He was alive but isn’t now... and the people of the earth... will be dumbfounded at his reappearance **AFTER BEING DEAD**”!

If the Antichrist is indeed killed and brought back to life, don’t be surprised if he dies on “Good Friday” and is resurrected back to life on Easter Sunday! (See my booklet *When Was Jesus Crucified?* for additional information on this important subject!)

When the ruler of the revived “Holy Roman Empire” recovers, the world will marvel and worship him (Rev.

13:3). But where does he get his power from? From Satan the devil of course! “So they worshipped the *dragon* who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” (verse 14.) So the whole world will not only worship this end-time despot, but they will worship Satan as well! For it is Satan who is behind this false messiah and his corrupt government—just as it is Satan who is behind the pope and his evil religious system!

Seven-Year Agreement

The Bible does NOT state exactly how many years the Antichrist will reign, but it does mention in Dan. 9:27 that he will make an agreement or treaty with others for seven days (that is *seven years*—once again using the day-for-a-year principle that is so common in Bible prophecy; see also GNT). Who exactly this treaty is made with, is uncertain at this point. Perhaps this Scripture is referring to the compact he will eventually make with ten leaders of Europe—when they sign over all of their power to him, giving him absolute authority over Europe (Rev. 17:12-13). Or, perhaps this treaty will be some kind of agreement he will make with Israel and/or some of the nations of the Middle East. Whoever this agreement is with—once it is made—there will only be seven years left before Jesus Christ returns to this earth!

Now, let’s read Dan. 9:27: “Then he [the Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant [or treaty] with many for one week [seven years]. But in the middle of the week [after ABOUT 3½ years—or exactly 1290 days before Christ’s return—see Dan. 12:11] he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering....” The second part of this verse is suggesting that the seven-year pact that the Antichrist will make will involve Jerusalem. This verse seems to be indicating that he will make a treaty with the Jews in order to allow them to

once again make animal sacrifices at their temple, but then in the middle of this agreement (after 3½ years) he will double-cross them, as he will rush in and destroy Jerusalem and the temple with a flood (great army)—verse 26. Luke 21:20-24 confirms this: “But when you see *Jerusalem* surrounded by *armies*, then know that *its desolation is near....* For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.... And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away CAPTIVE into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

When this horrible tyrant puts an *end to the sacrifices* he will also *set up the abomination that causes desolation*. “And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress [the temple]; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation (Dan. 11:31). When this occurs there will only be 1290 days left until Jesus Christ returns (Dan. 12:11).

But what exactly is this “abomination that causes desolation?” The STATUE of the Antichrist that we discussed earlier—the one that the end-time pope will make—the one that will speak! “And with all the miracles he [the pope] was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast [the Antichrist], he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people of the world to make a great statue of the first beast [the Antichrist], who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. He was permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die! (Rev. 13:14-15—NLT.)

So once this seven-year agreement is made, we will only have seven more years before Christ’s return! Then, when there are only 1290 days left, the animal sacrifices in Jerusalem will be stopped and the statue of the Antichrist will be set up at the temple in Jerusalem. But then some-

where around this time the Antichrist will be mortally wounded. Then after being supernaturally healed (or brought back to life) he will continue to live for 42 more months (Rev. 13:3-5). But when he recovers—LOOK OUT! For he will go out to destroy (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 13:5-10)! *This will be the start of the Great Tribulation!*

This end-time leader of the resurrected “Holy Roman Empire” will be extremely sly, treacherous, and cunning (Dan. 8:23-25), and he will deceive many with his FLATTERY (Dan. 11:32). And as a result of his “CUNNING DECEITS AND SINISTER SCHEMES” he shall *prosper and thrive* (Dan. 8:23-25). He will accomplish all this not only with craftiness but also with awesome power. “His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [but by Satan the devil!]...” (Dan. 8:24; see also Rev. 13:4).

In union with the great false church, this frightful despot will bring *enormous wealth and prosperity* to much of the world (Rev. 18:11-19). But in his utter arrogance he will speak incredible blasphemies against the great God of heaven! (Rev. 13:5-6.) And not to be outdone, the end-time pope will also speak POMPOUS words against the Most High! (Dan. 7:25.) And together, they shall persecute God’s people! (Dan. 7:21, 25, 8:24; Rev. 13:7, 18:24.)

This dreadful oppressor will also magnify himself in his heart as he goes about destroying everything in his path (Dan. 11:40-44). Then “he shall exalt and magnify himself *above* every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods... He shall regard neither the God [or gods] of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for HE SHALL MAGNIFY HIMSELF ABOVE THEM ALL. But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god [Satan and his demons?] which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them

to rule over many, and divide the land for gain” (Dan. 11:36-39).

Not only will the Antichrist destroy many people and nations, but he will make SLAVES of his captives—probably even trading in human parts and organs! (Rev. 13:10, 18:13.)

Mark of the Beast

Next, we come to the much debated—“mark of the beast.” What could this mark possibly be? Is it a LITERAL mark? And if it is, what kind of mark is it?

“He required everyone—great and small, rich and poor, slave and free—to be given a *mark* ON the right hand or ON the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name.” (Rev. 13:16-17; NLT.) This Scripture clearly shows that *the mark of the beast is simply either the name of the Antichrist or the number that represents his name* (more on his name and number later).

Now that we know what the mark is—it’s the name and number of the beast—what kind of mark is it? Is it a physical, literal mark, or does it somehow have some kind of mystical or figurative meaning? Let’s let the Bible answer that question! “He also forced everyone... to receive a mark **on** his right hand or **on** his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name” (Rev. 13:16-17—NIV). This verse, as well as every other Scripture on this subject STRONGLY IMPLIES that it is indeed *a literal, physical mark!* Look how the Living Bible words this verse: “He required everyone... to be **tattooed** with a certain mark....” And from Today’s English Version: He “forced all men... to have a mark **placed** on their right hands....” And from the Jerusalem Bible: “He compelled everyone... to be **branded** on the right hand or on the forehead....” And on

and on it goes! *The mark of the beast then will definitely be a literal, physical mark* that everyone will be required to have on either their right hand or on their forehead in order to buy and sell.

I need to make one other thing perfectly plain concerning the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast will also—UNQUESTIONABLY—be an *outward sign* of one's ALLEGIANCE to and worship of Satan the devil—as well as his religious and political system—including its human leader! It's showing a total rejection of the true God and his laws and commandments! Anyone who *accepts* this mark will be pledging their loyalty to the devil. Therefore, unlike what some conspiracy theorists may be teaching, it WON'T be some secretive thing, which one might unwittingly receive because they were caught off guard. It will be nothing of the kind! Once again I repeat—it will be nothing of the kind! ON THE CONTRARY, IN ORDER TO EVEN RECEIVE THE MARK, YOU'LL APPARENTLY HAVE TO **KNOWINGLY VOW YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE ANTICHRIST (AND EVERYTHING THAT HE STANDS FOR)—AND REJECT OUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER AND HIS SON JESUS CHRIST!** (Rev. 14:6-11.)

We are strictly warned NOT to receive the mark of the beast! And we must not! And those who do will be severely punished! “If anyone worships the beast and his image [i.e. statue], and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name”! (Rev. 14:9-11.)

The Number of the Beast—666

“Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding COUNT the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is 666” (Rev. 13:18—KJV). Now, what in the world can this Scripture possibly mean? And what is meant by, “count the number of a man”? And how does it all add up to 666?

The Living Bible renders the last part of the above quoted verse as “... *the numerical values of the letters in his name add to 666.*” Many people in the world are familiar with Roman numerals—where the letter I stands for 1, V for 5, X for 10, etc. Well, many other languages have similar systems, where they designate a certain number for a particular letter. Each language has its own unique way for how this is done. For instance, in the Greek language, A represents the number 1, E represents 5, I represents 10, etc. So what we have to do—is—find a man’s name whereby the letters in his name add up to 666. Here is an example: suppose there was a Latin man with the name of Vix (strange name, huh?). What would his number be? Well, if you add 5 (for the V) and 1 (for the i) and 10 (for the x) you get 16. So Vix couldn’t possibly be the beast—because his name only adds up to 16, and we know the name of the beast must add up to 666. So if it’s not Vix, who could it be?

We have already seen that the “beast” is symbolic for the Roman Empire AND its end-time ruler [i.e. the Antichrist]. So, does the number 666 have anything to do with Rome, its founder, or its end-time ruler? Yes, it most certainly does!

The founder and first king of Rome (from which the city of Rome derives its name) was a man named ROMULUS. **Romulus** is translated as Romiith in the Hebrew language—the language that most of the Old Testament was written in. And in this language his name adds up to 666!

(Romulus was also the name of the last emperor of Rome before its fall in 476 AD.)

Next, we have the word “**Lateinos.**” Irenaeus (a late 2nd century writer) credits POLYCARP—the disciple and successor of the APOSTLE JOHN—for coming up with the name “Lateinos.” Lateinos is a Greek word—and most of the New Testament was written in Greek, including the book of Revelation. In the Greek L is 30, A is 1, T is 300, E is 5, I is 10, N is 50, O is 70, and S is 200. Add them up and what do you get? 666!

“Lateinos” signifies “a Latin” or “Latin-man,” but it can also be translated as “**Roman**”! Why? Because “lat” and “rom” are virtually synonymous with one another. For proof of this, look up the words Roman and Latin in any good dictionary and you will see what I mean. For instance, in my dictionary (The American Heritage Dictionary: Second College Edition) you will find the following: “**LATIN**”: 1. Of or relating to LATIUM, its people, or its culture. 2. Of or relating to ancient ROME, its people, or its culture. Notice that *Latium* and *Rome* are essentially synonymous with each other! Then if you look up the word “**ROMAN alphabet**”—the definition given is—**LATIN** alphabet! **LATIN** Church—**ROMAN** Catholic Church! **LATINIZE**—**ROMANIZE**! And on and on it goes! As a result, the English word “**Roman,**” can therefore be translated into the Greek language as either **Rhomaïos** or **Lateinos**, since the two Greek words Rhomaïos and Lateinos mean (for all intents and purposes) the exact same thing—just like the two English words Roman and Latin! A Latin, in its strictest sense, refers to an inhabitant of Latium. And a Roman, in its strictest sense, refers to an inhabitant of Rome. So how can these two words be synonymous with one another? Because both of these territories are essentially the same!

When Rome was first founded by Romulus in 753 BC it was a desolate area of SEVEN HILLS. It was located in the very small country of Latium, in what is now Western Cen-

tral Italy. Italy was not a country back then but was instead the name of a region. So Rome was a city, located in the small country of Latium, which was located in the region of Italia or Italy.

Not long after Rome was founded it became a thriving city. Within a relatively short period of time it was stretching out its wings—looking for people to conquer. Those who lived closest to it became its first victims—which happened to be the inhabitants of the surrounding area—Latium! Eventually Latium and its people (Latins in English; Lateinos in Greek) became absorbed by the inhabitants of Rome (Romans in English; Rhomaios in Greek) until the two names became essentially one and the same. Not only that, but the Romans intermarried with the Latins practically at the outset of the founding of Rome by Romulus. As the Concise Columbia Encyclopedia states: “Romulus populated Rome with fugitives from other countries and gave them wives abducted from the Sabine tribe [who lived in Latium].... The Sabines warred with Rome, but by the third century BC they were completely amalgamated [the two became one]” (articles: Romulus; Sabines; 1991 edition). So there you have it. That’s why, to even this day, the two words mean basically the same exact thing.

So where does that leave us? And what has all of this to do with today and the prophesied events that are destined to occur in the very near future? EVERYTHING!

As I stated already in this booklet—the word “beast” in the book of Revelation represents the **end-time political RULER** of a revived “Holy Roman Empire” first and foremost! And since it applies primarily to the end-time political LEADER of the soon-coming United States of Europe, this number—666—must indelibly be stamped on his name! But how will this be accomplished?

Regardless of who the beast is—his name will definitely add up to 666. But can anyone think of a better name for the beast than “ROMAN”? Not only can this name be

translated into Greek as “Lateinos”—which just happens to add up to 666, but this name also stands for the government that the Antichrist will lead—the ROMAN Empire! And it’s also the name for the great false church—the ROMAN Catholic Church! But here is the real shocker! There is a leading politician today, with the name of ROMAN, who just happens to be a GERMAN—and the Antichrist will (in all likelihood) be a German (incidentally German means “man of war”). Not only that—but this particular man received the 1997 International Charlemagne Prize *for his efforts to unite Europe!* But there’s more—much more!

The 1997 Charlemagne award was given out at a prestigious ceremony (King Juan Carlos of Spain as well as other dignitaries were present) in Aachen, Germany. “Charlemagne, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, made the city of Aachen, Germany, his home... *many referred to Aachen as a ‘second Rome.’* It was from here that the Holy Roman Empire ruled the world as a political and religious power”! (Andrew Locher, *The Philadelphia Trumpet Magazine*, June 1997, page 12.) This article goes on to show how this “Charlemagne award winner” stressed in his acceptance speech how Europe MUST be united just as Germany was. This same man then went on to declare: “For one thousand years the destiny of our continent has revolved round the choice between a cohesive or a fragmented Europe. Charlemagne, after whom our prize is named, made his own particular choice: *the first unification of Europe.* At such an hour the truth must be told: ONLY BY WADING THROUGH A SEA OF BLOOD, sweat and tears did he reach his goal.” Yes, through the *blood of others!*

So who exactly was Charlemagne? He was a ROMAN EMPEROR born of GERMAN blood! *Historians view Charlemagne’s coronation as the beginning of the “HOLY Roman Empire!”* But what KIND of man was he? Was he a peace-loving man? “During the next three decades, Charles will wage 18 campaigns in his costly and bitter struggle

against the stubborn Saxons. In 804 they will finally be CHRISTIANIZED AT THE POINT OF THE SWORD and incorporated into his empire.... During his long career, he will conduct 53 expeditions and WAR against 12 different nations! And in the process he will UNITE BY CONQUEST nearly all the lands of Western Europe into one political unit.... Charles is now the most conspicuous ruler in Europe. History will know him as Charlemagne—‘Charles the Great’! (Keith Stump, *The History of Europe and the Church*, 1983, page 20.)

So who is this other German—this modern German? Who is this man who recently won the Charlemagne prize for his efforts to *unite Europe*? Who is this man whose name adds up to 666 in the Greek language (the language that the book of Revelation was written in)? Who is this man who apparently idolizes Charlemagne and is ready to follow in his footsteps? Who is this man who wouldn't mind wading through a SEA OF BLOOD? ROMAN Herzog—the past president of Germany!

Of course, Roman Herzog may NOT be the end-time beast at all. Perhaps he is a wonderfully kind and loving man. Or perhaps he will be long dead and buried when these prophesied events finally come to fruition. But wow—does his name ever fit!

There are also some other very interesting names connected with the number 666. For one thing, we have *the name of Satan himself*. As explained throughout this booklet the head of both the ROMAN Empire and the ROMAN Church is really Satan the devil. And according to Alexander Hislop in his book, *The Two Babylon's*, one of the names of Satan in the Greek language is *Teitan*. And wouldn't you know it—this name (Teitan) adds up to 666 in that language (page 275)!

Then there is *the original name of Rome itself*. About 4,000 years ago this “CITY OF SEVEN HILLS” went by the name of *Saturnia*. (Years later it was destroyed and burnt to

the ground—it was just heaps of ashes when it was founded by Romulus in 753 BC.) Anyway, Saturnia means “the city of *Saturn*.” In the BABYLONIAN language Saturn was spelled “Stur,” and in this language, the name “Stur,” adds up to 666!

Incidentally, *Saturn*—which was one of the titles of Nimrod—the founder and king-priest-god of the Babylon MYSTERY Religion—means “HIDDEN god.” And wouldn’t you know it—Lateinos—has almost the exact same meaning! According to Hislop, “*Lateinos*” means “HIDDEN one!” (*The Two Babylons*, pages 269-270.) Of course “MYSTERY” also signifies “HIDDEN.” Is it any wonder then, that, *Saturn was known as the god of the Babylonian Mystery Religion?* And as Hislop words it, “**Saturn and Lateinos are just synonymous, having precisely the same meaning**” (page 270). Hislop then adds: “The reader cannot have forgotten the lines of Virgil, which showed that **Lateinos**, to whom the ROMANS OR LATIN race traced back their lineage... was worshipped as the ‘offspring of the SUN’”—**THE SUN GOD!** (page 270.) And that’s why their followers always worshipped on SUNDAY!

Finally, we have one other intriguing possibility. As explained earlier, if Roman is indeed the name of the Antichrist, then the name Roman will represent three things in one (similar to the false trinity teaching)—the POLITICAL SYSTEM (the Roman Empire), the false RELIGIOUS SYSTEM (the Roman Church), and himself—the end-time POLITICAL LEADER of a revived Roman Empire. But, it seems as if the *leader of the false church* will be left out. But perhaps he won’t. It’s conceivable that his name will also add up to 666. Maybe even he will have the name Roman. *Or perhaps his name will in some other way signify 666.*

Have you ever noticed that each time a new pope is elected to the office of “bishop of Rome” he is given a new name? The current pope is Benedict XVI. This name of course is not his real name, but was the name he selected

when he was first elected pope several years ago. Possibly, the final pope, the one who will team up with the political leader of the revived Roman Empire, will take on the name **Sixtus**. There have been several popes who have had this name in the past (the last one being in 1585-90). Just how many have there been so far? Would you believe—FIVE! The last one was Sixtus V. So, if there were to be another one, he would be known as **Sixtus VI**! This would be especially significant if the suffix “tus,” in the name “*Sixtus*,” actually meant “six” in the ancient Babylonian language (or some other meaningful Biblical language). For then, “*Sixtus VI*,” could be literally translated as *Sixsix VI*, or 666!!

So, as thoroughly explained throughout this section, the number 666 is stamped all over Rome—from its rotten political and religious system, to its founders, leaders, and false god. However, it isn’t finished yet! For there will yet be one final resurrection of this despicable system! And when it raises its ugly head from out of the abyss—its end-time leader—the soon-coming Hitler [i.e. the Antichrist]—will have this number indubitably stamped on his name as well! And as explained, who knows, maybe this number will also be stamped on the name of the false religious leader as well.

The Woman & The Scarlet Beast

MOVING ON TO the 17th chapter of Revelation we are introduced to a GREAT HARLOT who commits fornication with the kings of the earth, causing the inhabitants of the earth to become DRUNK with the wine of her fornication (verses 1-2). This insidious prostitute is dressed in purple and scarlet, and she is adorned with gold, pearls, and precious stones (verse 4). She sits on a scarlet beast that has 7 heads and 10 horns (verse 3) and **she is drunk with the blood of the saints** (the true followers of God)—verse 6. Her name is “*Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth*” (verse 5). Who is this treacherous harlot and what is she doing riding a scarlet beast? And what in the world is this 7-headed and 10-horned scarlet beast?

The identity of this fallen woman is nothing new to this booklet—for we have discussed her several times already! This base prostitute is none other than the Roman Catholic Church (and her end-time leader)! And of course, the animal that she sits astride is none other than the so-called Holy Roman Empire (and its end-time leader)! Throughout history she has been responsible for the spilled blood of God’s people, and she has made the world spiritually drunk with her false perverted teachings. Just as a drunkard can-

not see clearly but has a hazy view, this abominable apostate church is responsible for deceiving the world to the point that it can no longer see clearly but has a distorted and corrupted view of the truth and plan of God.

She is called the “MOTHER of Harlots”—for a mother she is—for many false churches have come out of her. Her Protestant DAUGHTERS have protested against her in opposition to her corrupt ways, and yet they have received many of their own detestable doctrines directly from her. She is their spiritual mother, and she has bred nothing but one deceitful doctrine after another.

The Catholic Church has palmed off on the Protestants such contemptible teachings as: the trinity; the wearing of crosses; Sunday worship; Christmas; Easter; and the false concepts of heaven (as a place where the saved go) and hell (as a place where the lost are continuously tormented). Not only do these misguided teachings have nothing to do with the truth of the Bible, but they were the teachings of just about every major pagan nation centuries *before* Jesus Christ was ever born! Let me repeat that! These so-called “Christian” doctrines and practices were taught and exercised by just about every known heathen nation hundreds of years *before* the birth of Christ! And they all originated from the ancient Babylon Mystery Religion—with Nimrod and his wife Semiramis and their son Tammuz!

Yes, the trinity was really taught BEFORE Christ. The heathen priests taught that Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz were gods (Ralph Woodrow, *Babylon Mystery Religion*, 1986, page 9). The teaching was that they were three in one and one in three—the **trinity**! (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, page 17.)

Next, we have the cross (t). The **cross** just represents the letter “T,” the initial of *Tammuz*! It also stands for “Teitan”—one of *Satan’s* names in the Babylonian and Greek languages! (Hislop, page 281.) Both the cross and the teaching of a triune god existed long *before* the Chris-

tian era ever began!

So how about Sunday and the other supposed Christian holidays? First, let's start with Sunday. **Sunday** worship has been around for THOUSANDS OF YEARS, as it's the day that pagan societies worshipped their gods—especially the sun god! And **Christmas** is just *another* celebration of the sun god! Right around December 25th of each year (for those living in the Northern Hemisphere) the sun begins to stay out longer (the shortest day of the year is usually December 21st or 22nd). This date was chosen by heathen nations to depict the rebirth of the sun. Some historians claim that it was also the birthday of Nimrod (or Tammuz)! Then we have Easter. **Easter** was the day that pagans celebrated in honor of Tammuz. Shortly after Nimrod died, his wife Semiramis gave birth to a son, Tammuz, and she claimed that her child was the rebirth of Nimrod (Woodrow, pages 9 & 147). The early spring was chosen to celebrate this rebirth as it was during this time of the year that the earth is renewed. Both Easter and Christmas (then known by a different name) go back several millenniums—long *before* the birth of Jesus!

Heaven, as a place where the saved go—to sit around doing virtually nothing for all eternity—is another doctrine that is as far away from the truth as the east is from the west! All human beings who have ever lived and died are still in their graves, and they will remain there until after the return of Christ! And **Hell** (as a place where the lost are unmercifully tormented day and night for all eternity) is another *pagan* teaching that dates back long *before* the Christian era (this teaching was especially popular among the Greeks during the days of Plato and Socrates).

Now, let's get back to the ten-horned scarlet beast that the harlot is riding. As already mentioned in this booklet the beast (i.e. the Antichrist) will receive his incredible power as the result of ten kings (ten political leaders of ten European nations or groups of nations) uniting together to

give him their combined power. “For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast” (Rev. 17:17).

The harlot (the Roman Catholic Church led by the end-time pope) will then team up with the beast (the revived Roman Empire led by the Antichrist). Both of these leaders—the religious leader and the political leader of the revived “Holy Roman Empire”—will be directly led by Satan and possessed by demons! (Rev. 13:2, 16:13-14, 18:2.) And besides being responsible for the martyrdom of *true* Christians (*spiritual* Israelites) during the fast approaching Great Tribulation, these two arrogant men will also be responsible for the death of hundreds of millions of *physical* Israelites! And when I say physical Israelites I do NOT mean *just* Jews!

Today, the Jewish nation calls itself “Israel,” and Jews are Israelites (just as Californians are Americans), *but they are NOT the only Israelites* (just as Californians are not the only Americans)! God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, and Jacob (or Israel) had 12 sons—and not just one! Therefore, the descendants of *all* 12 sons are Israelites. One of his sons was named Judah (this is where the name “Jews” comes from)—therefore, the Jews ARE Israelites. But the descendants of the OTHER 11 sons are just as much Israelitish as the people who descended from Judah—just as the people of the other 49 states of America are just as much American as those Americans who reside in California!

Most of the world today does NOT know where these other Israelitish people are today—the other sons of Jacob. The world supposes that the ten tribes that descended from ten of Judah’s brothers got lost (to be never found again) when they went into captivity by the hands of the Assyrians around 721 BC, hence they refer to them in history books as “*the LOST ten tribes of Israel.*” But they are no longer lost! They have been found! And the United States and Britain are the two chief nations on earth today that are de-

scended from Jacob (i.e. Israel)! For proof of this astonishing truth as well as the identity of the other so-called “lost ten tribes of Israel,” read “*The USA & Britain in Prophecy*” located on my website. Or read “*Judah’s Sceptre and Joseph’s Birthright*” by J. H. Allen. Both of these books (as well as dozens of others) leave no doubt that we—the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic people of the United States, Britain, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (as well as others) are indeed descended from the patriarch Jacob, and are therefore Israelites! Just as the Jews are Israelites, so are WE!

Though it may be a tremendous honor to realize that we are descended from one of the great patriarchs of the Bible, it certainly won’t feel that way in a few short years! For the wrath of Satan, in the soon-coming Great Tribulation, will NOT ONLY be directed at true Christians (at least those who do NOT escape to a place of protection), but the devil’s cruel anger will also be aimed directly at those nations that are descended from Jacob (i.e. Israel). Namely, those nations listed above! US!

This terrible time of trouble that is just ahead of us now is sometimes referred to in the Bible as “JACOB’S TROUBLE” (Jer. 30:7). It’s called “Jacob’s trouble” because the modern descendants of Jacob will indeed be troubled when Satan strikes our nations with his furious wrath! Altogether *one third* of our people will *perish* as a result of famine and pestilence (the 3rd and 4th horsemen of the apocalypse), *another third* will be consumed by an invading army (the 2nd horseman), and the *remaining third* of the American and British people will be taken captive as *slaves* to foreign nations, where even MOST of these will eventually DIE! (Ezek. 5:12.)

The army that will be responsible for the *annihilation* of North America, Britain, Israel, and the other modern Israelitish nations will come from this revived “Holy Roman Empire”—a government composed of **10 European Na-**

tions or Regions—the soon-coming United States of Europe! And almost surely they will be led by GER-MANY!

One of the things of great significance that this beast power will do is *surround Jerusalem with its armies*—perhaps in the guise of a great peacekeeping mission in the volatile Middle East (Luke 21:20). This rejuvenated European Confederation will NOT stop there however. They will eventually enter Jerusalem and kill many of its people, and take many others away into captivity! (Luke 21:21-24.)

The holocaust inflicted on the Jewish people by the Nazis during World War II will return! And yet this time it will be far worse! For when it is all said and done this awful dictator will make Hitler look like a choirboy! And it won't be JUST the Jewish people who suffer at the cruel hands of this merciless warlord, but as explained earlier, all the descendants of the patriarch Jacob (including the United States and Britain) will suffer terribly as well! “For then there will be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be”! (Mat. 24:21.)

“Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and ALL FACES TURNED PALE? Alas! For that day is GREAT, so that *none is like it*; and it is the time of **Jacob's trouble**”! (Jer. 30:6-7.)

However, the Antichrist will not be content with just the conquest and destruction of the modern descendants of Israel, for he will also conquer Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, and others (Dan. 11:40-43).

But not all will go well with the beast power—for “news from the east and the north shall trouble him” (Dan. 11:44). Yes—FRIGHTENING NEWS that an ENORMOUS army from Asia is mustering together! (Rev. 9:16.) As these two titanic armies clash, **a third of mankind will lose their lives!** (Rev. 9:18.) That's roughly *two billion* human be-

ings! Wasted! Destroyed! Annihilated!

With these two armies warring we come to the conclusion of the sixth trumpet blast, so now we can finally move on to...

The Seventh Trumpet: The 3rd & Final Woe

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET blast contains the seven last plagues of God Almighty and completes His wrath on an unrepentant and wicked humanity (Rev. 9:20-21, 15:1). It also announces the return of Jesus Christ to this earth, to restore the government and kingdom of God! (Rev. 11:15; 1 Thess. 4:16.)

As explained already in this booklet, the first five seals of the book of Revelation represent the Great Tribulation (the wrath of Satan), and lasts about two and a half years in its end-time fulfillment. The seventh seal represents the “Day of the Lord” (the wrath of God), and lasts about one year. Furthermore, the seventh seal consists of seven trumpet blasts, and the seventh trumpet blast contains the final seven plagues of God. And these final seven plagues begin on the same day that Christ returns to this earth and they probably last about nine days.

First Plague

FOUL AND LOATHSOME SORES come upon all those who have the mark of the beast and those who worship his image! (Rev. 16:2.)

Second Plague

The sea turns to BLOOD and all sea creatures die! (Rev. 16:3.)

Third Plague

Rivers, streams, and springs turn to BLOOD! (Rev. 16:4.) Why would God do this? “You are righteous O Lord... because you have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due” (Rev. 16:5-6).

Fourth Plague

The sun scorches man with INTENSE HEAT! But man still refuses to repent! Instead, he blasphemes the name of God! (Rev. 16:8-9.)

Fifth Plague

The beast’s kingdom becomes full of DARKNESS, and humanity suffers FIERCE PAIN, yet they still refuse to repent of their wicked deeds! (Rev. 16:10-11.)

Sixth Plague

The Euphrates River dries up to allow the armies of the world to gather together for *the battle of that great day of God Almighty* (Rev. 16:12-14). “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **Armageddon**” (Rev. 16:16)!

Seventh Plague

The mightiest EARTHQUAKE ever occurs, cities fall, islands and mountains vanish, and HAILSTONES weighing about 100 pounds each fall to the earth! (Rev. 16:18-21.)

The Battle Of That Great Day Of God Almighty

WHEN WE LAST left the beast power its European army was in a monstrous battle with a gargantuan army from the nations of Asia (presumably such nations as Russia, China, India, and Japan). As they battle for world supremacy the world lies on the brink of utter destruction—the complete and total obliteration of the human race!

“Mankind will stand on the very threshold of *total annihilation*—the terrible end result of its rebellion against God and its rejection of His LAWS and His government! Were the enormous power of the world’s armies actually to be unleashed, Satan’s goal of erasing all life from this earth would become reality! ...But before that happens, the seventh trumpet sounds!” (*The Middle East in Prophecy*, 1988, pages 34-35.)

Fortunately for us, Christ will step in at this most critical of moments, to put an end to the barrage of destruction that is occurring on this planet—just before mankind is exterminated and blown into total oblivion! (Mat. 24:22.) But will we be thankful to God and receive Christ with open arms of appreciation, and **repent** of our foolish behavior?

On the contrary! We will do just the opposite! The military forces of the world will stop fighting each other and will instead join in unison to WAR AGAINST THE RETURNING JESUS! (Rev. 19:11-19.)

Demons will gather the armies of the world together at **ARMAGEDDON** in order to attack the returning Christ (Rev. 16:14, 16). “Armageddon” literally means Mount Megiddo, a place about fifty miles north of Jerusalem. But no battle will be fought there. It apparently will just be the place to get organized, to muster the troops together. From this staging area then they will march south towards Jerusalem to confront the Son of God!

The troops of the world’s armies will then stop in the valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:9-14). “This deep valley or ravine borders Jerusalem on the east, between the city and the Mount of Olives. Today it is more commonly known as the Kidron Valley.

“Jehoshaphat means ‘judgment of the Eternal.’ The rebellious and unrepentant nations of this world will be judged there by God for their *disobedience!* The world’s armies will converge on Jerusalem to fight Jesus Christ” (Keith Stump, *The Middle East in Prophecy*, pages 35-36). But to NO avail—for they will be liquidated—and the birds of the earth will feast on their corpses! (Rev. 19:17-21.)

“Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths”! (Zech. 14:12.) And their shed blood shall be “two hundred miles long and about five feet deep” (Rev. 14:20; GNT). Such will be the fate of anyone who goes up against the returning Christ!

The 1,000-Year Reign Of Jesus Christ

AFTER SWIFTLY and convincingly defeating His enemies, the glorified Christ will then rule this earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4). Christ will then restore the government and *kingdom of God* throughout the world (Rev. 12:10). And ruling with Him as kings and priests during this 1,000-year period will be those TRUE followers of God who have lived throughout the ages (Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:4-6).

When Jesus returns the dead in Christ will rise up out of their graves first, including all the prophets of the Old Testament (1 Thess. 4:13-16; Luke 13:28). This is the first resurrection. “Then we [TRUE Christians] who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...” (1 Thess. 4:17.) We will then come down with Jesus to Jerusalem, and we will be with Him forever (rest of verse 17).

Will we then go to heaven? Absolutely NOT! We shall then reign on the **earth** as kings and priests, with world headquarters at Jerusalem (Rev. 5:10; Micah 4:1-2; Zech. 14:8-9, 16-17). But we shall no longer be mortal flesh and blood human beings. Instead we shall be immortal, incor-

ruptible spirit beings! (1 Cor. 15:50-54.) We shall no longer be made of flesh and blood, but spirit! (Dan. 7:22; John 3:5-6.) We will finally be born again—for we are NOT “born again” today (as many suppose)! But we (once again—TRUE Christians) will be born again at Christ’s return! This time though, instead of being born into a human family, we will be literally born into God’s very Family and Kingdom as literal, immortal sons and daughters of our great loving heavenly Father! (2 Cor. 6:18; Rom. 8:16-19, 21:7; John 1:12-12.) And we shall rule over all those mortal—flesh and blood—human beings who survive the terrible times just ahead of us now (Rev. 2:26-27, 3:21).

During the soon-coming millennial reign of Jesus Christ, Satan will be put away where he can no longer influence and deceive mankind (Rev. 20:1-3). And all of the modern-day descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel who have survived, and who at that time will be SLAVES in foreign countries, will be led back to the promised land (Jer. 23:3-8, 50:4-5; Ezek. 20:34-43, 36:24-28).

With Satan removed and with Jesus ruling ALL nations in righteousness, **the world will soon burst into a haven of incredible joy, peace, and prosperity!** (Isa. 11:1-5.) Nations shall turn their military weapons into farming equipment for they will no longer have any use for such destructive instruments (Isa. 2:4). God will even change the behavior of wild beasts from fierce meat-eaters to gentle eaters of straw (Isa. 11:6-9).

It will be a magnificent, wonderful utopia—for God’s laws and way of life will be taught, administered, and upheld! (Isa. 2:2-3, 30:21.) Even the true Sabbath day and God’s holy days, such as the Feast of Tabernacles, will be kept (Zech. 14:16-19). This will all be made possible because *God will give mankind a new Spirit—His Holy Spirit—that will enable men and women everywhere to finally obey God and to live in peace and harmony with their fellowman.*

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness [see Gal. 5:19-22] and from all your idols. I will give you a NEW HEART and put a NEW SPIRIT within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and *cause you to walk in My statutes*, and you WILL keep My judgments and do them” (Ezek. 36:25-27). What an awesome world it will be! May God quicken that day!

Satan Released From Prison

After the millennium has expired, however, Satan will be released from his prison (Rev. 20:7). Unfortunately, he will be up to his old tricks and get many people to *rebel* against Christ and the saints! (Rev. 20:8-9.) He will succeed in deceiving many people into gathering together to go to battle against them. But, as they surround Jerusalem, in order to attack Christ and the saints, fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them! (Rev. 20:9.) Then the devil will be cast into the lake of fire, where he will remain for all eternity, never to harm or delude anyone, ever again! (Rev. 20:10.)

How sad it is, that even after the tremendously joyful and peaceful 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ, that some would still rebel against Christ and the resurrected saints.

The Great White Throne Judgment

AFTER THIS FINAL great rebellion is crushed we come to the time period known as “the great white throne judgment.” This is the time when all of those who have ever lived since the creation of Adam and Eve are now resurrected back to life (except for the very few TRUE servants of God who were already resurrected 1,000 years previously).

This *second resurrection* will include the vast, overwhelming majority of humans who have ever lived. Like most of those flesh and blood human beings who lived into the millennial reign of Jesus Christ, these men and women will get their very first real opportunity for salvation—of being born into the very family of God and receiving eternal life.

Those resurrected in this second resurrection will apparently live for one hundred years to see if they are willing to accept the sacrifice of Jesus for their sins, and to prove it by living a life of obedience to God (Isa. 65:20). Afterwards, each one will be “judged according to their WORKS, by the things which were written in the books [of the Bible]”—Rev. 20:12. All of those who repent and overcome the pulls of the flesh (with the help of God’s Holy Spirit) shall be born as God’s literal sons and daughters, and shall live for all eternity (Rev. 21:7).

Those who make it into God's Eternal Family will be those who *DO the commandments of God*, and their name shall be found written in the Book of Life (Rev. 14:12, 22:14). But "anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15). This includes all unrepentant sinners, those who refuse to look to God and turn from their evil ways (Isa. 65:20; Rev. 21:8, 27, 22:15). This is the **SECOND DEATH** (Rev. 21:8). They will cease to live ever again.

A New Heaven and a New Earth

After the great white throne judgment is completed our present-day heaven and earth will pass away and God will create a new heaven and a new earth, with a spectacular new holy Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1, 9-27). *Then God the Father Himself will come down from heaven for the very first time and dwell with man.* "And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away'" (Rev. 21:3-4).

What an *awesome* world it will be! Let's do our part to be there!

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20.)

Chapter Summary of Revelation

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapters 2 & 3: The 7 messages to the 7 churches

Chapters 4 & 5: Description of heavenly throne/activities

Chapter 6: The first 6 seals

- A. 1st Seal: White Horse—False Religion
- B. 2nd Seal: Red Horse—War
- C. 3rd Seal: Black Horse—Famine
- D. 4th Seal: Pale Horse—Pestilence
- E. 5th Seal: Martyrdom of the saints—in its end-time fulfillment the first 5 seals represents the Great Tribulation (which is Satan's wrath and lasts about 2½ years)
- F. 6th Seal: Heavenly signs—warning of God's impending wrath

Chapter 7: The Great Multitude that comes out of the Great Tribulation and the sealing of the 144,000

Chapters 8 & 9: 7th Seal—Contains 7 Trumpet Blasts (though the 7th trump isn't described until the 16th chapter). These 7 trumpet blasts represent the Day of the Lord, which is God's wrath upon sinning mankind (lasts one year—the final year before Christ's return).

- A. 1st Trumpet: 1/3 of trees and all green grass burn up
- B. 2nd Trumpet: 1/3 of sea turns to blood; 1/3 of ships destroyed; 1/3 of fish die
- C. 3rd Trumpet: 1/3 of rivers/springs become poisonous
- D. 4th Trumpet: 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars become dark, so that a third of the day and night are without light

E. 5th Trumpet (1st woe): locusts torture mankind for 5 months

F. 6th Trumpet (2nd woe): 1/3 of mankind dies as 200 million soldiers go to war

Chapter 10: Inset chapter about the “little book” and the 7 thunders

Chapter 11: Inset chapter about the ministry of the 2 witnesses (during the final 3½ years of this age), as well as the proclamation of the 7th angel

Chapter 12: Inset chapter concerning God’s true Church

Chapter 13: Inset chapter describing the 2 beasts, statue of the beast, mark of the beast, and the number “666”

Chapter 14: Inset chapter discussing the song of the 144,000, the proclamations of the 3 angels, and the harvesting of the earth—the grapes are reaped for the wrath of God

Chapter 15: Introduction to the 7th Trumpet; and the saints who have overcome the beast (the great multitude?) sing the song of Moses

Chapter 16: The 7th Trumpet (3rd woe)—it contains the seven last bowls (plagues) of God’s wrath (& lasts perhaps 9 days)

A. 1st Bowl: Ugly and terrible sores come upon mankind

B. 2nd Bowl: The sea turns to blood and all sea creatures die

C. 3rd Bowl: Rivers, streams, and springs turn to blood

D. 4th Bowl: The sun scorches man with intense heat

E. 5th Bowl: Darkness and great pain grip humanity

F. 6th Bowl: The Euphrates River dries up allowing the armies of the world to gather for the battle of that great day of God Almighty—to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

G. 7th Bowl: The earth is utterly shaken by a tremendous earthquake and great hailstones weighing about 100 pounds each fall to the earth

Chapter 17: Inset chapter concerning “Mystery, Babylon the Great”

Chapter 18: The great fall of Babylon the Great

Chapter 19: Heaven exalts over the fall of Babylon, and Christ returns to earth with an army to defeat the beast, his armies, and the false prophet. The bride (saints) of Christ are dressed in white, awaiting the marriage banquet with Him.

Chapter 20: Satan is bound for 1,000 years and the saints are resurrected and reign with Christ during this time. At the end of the 1,000 years Satan is released for a little while, at which time he causes a rebellion. But he and his cohorts are crushed. Afterwards, the Great White Throne Judgment takes place (in which the rest of all humans who have ever lived are now resurrected back to life and judged).

Chapter 21: A new earth and a new heaven are created, and God the Father comes down to earth to dwell with mankind!

Chapter 22: All those who are OBEДИENT to God will inherit both the river of life and the tree of life! Christ is returning *soon!*

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