



REVELATION

**PROPHECY
FROM JESUS**

Revelation

Prophecy from Jesus

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INTRODUCTION: GOD SENT TWO ANGELS TO ME IN THE OCEAN

Let me start by telling how God saved me in the ocean by sending His two angels. Some years later, the Holy Spirit visited me in visions and dreams. I pass on to you what was given to me. Clarity on each chapter of the Book of Revelation presented here is a result of the Holy Spirit's actions. What was impossible for me to understand at even a most basic level, has now become crystal clear.

Revelation is directly from Jesus Christ. It is the most important New Testament Book for the world today.

The most important concept to keep in mind is that everything is about Jesus. That's why this introduction is brief; my name does not appear, nor my picture. It is about God, not man. However, I do want to give God glory for saving my life and sending His revelations.

The Book of Revelation is a Mystery from God, and Revelation may be understood only when God chooses to reveal it. It tells us what Jesus wants us to do, and what Jesus forbids. It tells us how to avoid what the false prophet taught the world, and how to become a disciple of Jesus.



WHILE IN THE OCEAN TWO ANGELS APPEARED AND SAVED MY LIFE

No simple human mind can decipher such a profound divine Mystery regardless of how much effort is applied. Bible experts and people interested in prophecy have studied Revelation over the centuries and made little, if any, progress on its true meanings.

The Holy Spirit directed me to share Revelation's meaning with you. This includes those of you who are Christians, as well the one-third of the world who have been deceived. Jesus wants all mankind to be saved, and the Book of Revelation gives us all the information we need to find the Truth.

LOST IN THE OCEAN; ALONE WITH NO HOPE

I now share with you an extraordinary near-death ocean event in my life. God blessed me with a mathematical and scientific mind. I have seen genuine miracles, and I have also seen events that are mere coincidence. Twenty years passed before I fully understood it, or told anyone besides my wife. Over time I have come to believe with certainty it was two angels that saved my life that day. God has a plan, and His plan is unfolding right now.

I was snorkeling in the ocean for about an hour or so before sunset with two other people. I wore my pair of my well-fitting flippers, my facemask, and snorkel, but no life vest. I had purchased these flippers several years earlier, and they were specific to the size of my feet. They fit so well that I never had to adjust to them while I was swimming.

Soon I began to notice that I was drifting away from the beach and much farther out into the open ocean. I started to get somewhat alarmed when I was probably 400 yards or so from the shoreline. At this time, I was a long way from the others, who had no idea where I was. I could no longer see them, nor could they see me.

BOTH FLIPPERS WERE PULLED OFF MY FEET AND DISAPPEARED

Shortly after that, an unexpected disaster happened to me. While I was trying to swim in towards shore, I felt my right flipper was working off of my foot. It moved just a bit at first, but then I could tell it was about halfway off my foot. I tried to reach down in the water and pull it on tighter, but just at that moment, it completely fell off and started to sink. Then I lost the other flipper. One flipper went right and the other went left. It was like someone pulled them off my feet. I struggled for 20-30 minutes treading water and heading farther out in the ocean. I could make no progress to shore.

THE TWO ELDERLY MEN WHO SAVED MY LIFE

I got to a point where all I could do was tread water. I also realized that I was not going to be able to get back to shore, and there was no one anywhere to help me. I would not say I panicked, but I also knew it was a bad situation. Perhaps there was not any time to panic. Never once did I yell for help, flail about, or wave my arms.

I did not utter any sounds at all, and I am ashamed to say I did not pray to God. There were no boats, no swimmers, no snorkelers, no scuba divers, no jet skis, and no windsurfers as far as I could see. The ocean was empty as I looked to my left, to my right, in towards shore, and occasionally out behind me. By now, I was about 500 yards from the coast.

I looked around many times but never saw anything. Then, I looked behind me, and there were two older men in the ocean about five feet from me directly behind me! They did not swim up to me. I did not see any motion. They were waiting in the water behind me when I turned around. It was like they knew the plan and had seen it ahead of time.

I don't know how long they were waiting for me to turn around. They were looking straight at me. It was late in the evening near sunset. The men looked to be at least 75 years old! I distinctly remember them being elderly.

I do not recall them speaking at any time. I looked at the closest one, and I only said: *"I can't get in."* The one closest to me immediately swam to my left side, about two feet away. He never hesitated, and he seemed to have no fear I would cause him to drown or go under the water. He acted as he knew what he was supposed to do. I will always remember how this person had no hesitation in helping me. He was not wearing a life vest.

THE TWO ANGELS TAKE ME TO THE SHORE; THEN MY FLIPPERS APPEAR

I clearly remember placing my left hand on his right shoulder, and we had no difficulty swimming in together. I do not remember pausing at all for him to rest as we swam in the 500 yards. It was just a steady pace the entire time. The leader was on my left side, and the other person was on his left. I never touched the second person as the first was always between us. I suppose it took about 10-15 minutes to swim in. It was not a fast swim, but it was a steady swim.

We had absolutely no trouble moving through the water, that just minutes earlier, I made no progress whatsoever and, in fact, was going farther out to sea. When we got to the beach, they walked away.

I turned around and saw my two flippers on the beach right behind me! They somehow placed the two flippers on the beach, but I never saw them do that. The angels saved my life, and later changed my life. I know this was not a dream since I still have the flippers today.



“KEEP THE GOSPEL PURE”

THE FLIPPERS TODAY

I will now share some of the Holy Spirit interactions. For a long time, I was somewhat reluctant to talk about the Holy Spirit visions and dreams I had experienced. I can now count many dozens of these, as well as hostile demonic attacks trying to stop God's message. They were real—and yet I have done nothing special to deserve them and did not seek any glory for myself. I struggled about telling about the amazing things God has done. But they must be said. If non-believers could have seen the things God has done for me and allowed me to see, I am sure they all would see God is real. I feel since God has done this, I am obligated to tell people.

In my first dream, I was told to study the Book of Revelation. I had read Revelation a few times before but could never make any sense of it. I began to understand the warnings Jesus gave to John about a dominant false religion in the last days. This is about Islam. I was told: *"Keep the Gospel pure and avoid those who mix false Islamic teaching with the truth."* Anyone who is taught Jesus was not crucified, did not rise from the dead or that Jesus is not the Son of God has been deceived.

“HERALD, HERALD”

In the second dream I was told to read the book of “Herald” in the Bible. In the dream I looked and looked but, of course, could not find the Book of Herald. I said: “I cannot find it.” Then the word **“Herald”** was repeated to me over and over. The important message was *“Jesus is returning soon.”* The next morning, I had to look up the word “herald” in the dictionary to be sure I knew what it meant. It means “an official messenger bringing news”, or “a sign that something important is to happen.”

God wants us to help people to get ready for the return of Christ. No human knows the date. God does not provide the date, but He is telling us to get ready.

Mathew 24:44 (NIV)

So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

REJOICE: THE WOMAN RUNS AWAY FROM ISLAM; ANGELS PRAISE JESUS IN THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM

In another dream I saw a woman that was running away from Islam as she looked behind her. She was traveling down a long and winding hilly road in the country. I saw Jesus greet her in the road and she accepted Him. He did not have to say His name. His identity was instantly known. Then I was instantly transported to ancient Jerusalem and I was in an assembly of angels.



I stood amid an assembly with thousands and thousands of joyful people and angels around me singing, praising God, worshipping, and giving thanks. I then understood Hebrews 12:22, because I saw it. Hebrews 12:22; *“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly.”*

THE BOOK OF REVELATION MYSTERY UNVEILED

Jesus Christ is the author of Revelation. Jesus is the truth. Revelation is the 27th and last Book in the New Testament. It is the 66th and last Book in the Bible. Revelation contains 22 chapters, 404 verses, and 12,000 words. The Book of Revelation contains more prophecy than the other 26 Books of the New Testament combined. It is filled with hundreds of prophetic spiritual warnings, and great promises from Jesus, the Lamb of God, that He will conquer every demonic spirit.

Revelation is more relevant today than at any time in history. Predicting the future belongs to God. Our job is to observe the events as they appear. When they are fulfilled, we must speak up.

Once understood, the Book of Revelation is the most significant Book in the New Testament for all the world today.

The world needs to understand Revelation. This includes Christians and non-Christians. One-third of the world now follows the teachings of Mohammad. They need to understand that Jesus was warning them specifically in Revelation. Jesus saw everything Mohammad, the false prophet, would teach. Christians need to believe the words of Jesus are always true. Study the Philadelphia church!

Christians would have more faith if they knew dozens of Revelation prophecies, given more than 1,925 years ago by Jesus Christ directly, are precisely fulfilled in the world today!

Revelation is now. Jesus kept the Philadelphia church from the trial that the rest of the world has faced, Islam. Right now we can identify the false prophet, the words “added”, the words “taken away”, the Qur’an-his false holy book, his Shahada “mark” or statement of faith, his great city of Mecca, and his worship “image”, the Kaaba, that the entire world must pray to five times a day.

The prophecy of Revelation is divinely precise when applied to the events Jesus intended to illustrate to His children. But, if a prophecy writer tries to “force” the prophecy to fit his needs, to suit his preconceived notions, it becomes the writer’s plan, not God’s. When used this way, the verses make little sense. Sadly, what the writers “predict” never happens--time and time again. This mystery is the power of God! We must do better in how we handle the holy messages given in His Book.

It is a mistake to believe all Revelation events are all still in the future. We can see much of it today when our eyes are opened.

The seemingly nonsensical, embarrassing, and sometimes blasphemous predictions given over the past years by numerous “experts” have caused today most pastors to cease preaching on Revelation prophecy. John Darby’s Dispensationalism (a human antichrist from Rome, a 7-year peace treaty, etc.) is quickly fading because of such wildly inaccurate guesses, and empty results. But you can trust the words of Jesus. Not all Revelation prophecies are fulfilled today, but many, many more are fulfilled than more experts understand.

WHEN IS “SOON” IN REVELATION?

The Book of Revelation is of the things which were at the time of John, and the things that will be still in the future. That means in the future for the Apostle John, but not all of it is still in the future for us in the year 2020. John is the writer, but Jesus Christ is the author. While there are many false religions, Revelation gives us several hundred prophecies uniquely and accurately fulfilled by Islam alone.

The Apostle John's visions were in 95 AD. In Revelation 1:1, what does Jesus want us to know the word “soon” means? It is based on God's time frame, not man. In chapter one, we are told these events will be “soon.” Beginning in chapter four, the prophecies move into the future. But many prophecy writers have been so focused on the distant future and their human-made theories, they missed the prophetic events even as they surely occurred in front of them.

Revelation 1:1 (NIV)

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.

How much more extended is the waiting period after John? When is “soon?” Soon does not take 2,000 years to see future events. Soon is a little over 500 years. Just some 515 years later, many of the prophecies started to unveil. In 610 AD, Mohammad received his first of more than 22 years of visitations and revelations (610-632 AD) from a demonic spirit calling himself the “Angel Gabriel.” The false gospel of the Qur'an precisely fulfilled Revelation chapter 22 (22:18-19), warnings about adding or taking away the Bible text. The Qur'an added, and it took away, exactly as Jesus warned about.

When you read Revelation chapter six, you will learn about the Four Horsemen that control one-quarter of the world's population. This is another series of prophecies that would be “soon.” The Four Horsemen did not take 2,000 years to materialize. They were the first four Islamic leaders (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman), and they swept across the Christian lands 624-660 AD. Their Umayyad Caliphate would exercise authority over one-quarter of the world (Revelation 6:8), just as Jesus said they would. Mohammad, with a crown, carries a bow (Revelation 6:2) because Mohammad, the exalted Islamic final prophet, is a direct descendant of Ishmael, the archer (Genesis 21:20) As you study further, you will see many more examples of “soon.”

PASTORS SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO PREACH REVELATION

Few pastors preach on anything past Revelation chapter three, other than jumping to the last chapter 22, with the new heaven and new earth. Pastors are fearful they lack accurate interpretation. They see Revelation text as too complicated and preaching on it is too risky. This means all the warnings in Revelation go unpreached as well. We must give people the warnings, as well as the Good News.

The popular “Left Behind” books are not Biblical. Likewise, once you move away from Darby's Dispensationalism (John Darby never read the Qur'an), you will see how perfectly accurate the prophecy from Jesus is in the Book of Revelation. Every prophecy from Jesus is divinely accurate, but just not in the way John Darby envisioned. You can preach Revelation with confidence.

PLEASE USE THE BOOK OF REVELATION THE RIGHT WAY!

The Book of Revelation has the highest divine authority and divine authorship of all the Books in the New Testament! We know the author with certainty because Jesus tells us it is Christ Himself.

Revelation 1:1-2 (NIV)

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:16 (NIV)

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

Just think how much more faith people would have if they could see dozens of Revelation prophecies, given more than 1,925 years ago by Jesus Christ directly, precisely fulfilled in the world today. We need to give people this great message. Did you know the *“open door no one can shut”* has been open at the Philadelphia church for 1,925 years now? We also must warn about the false prophet.

God lays forth His precise plan in Revelation. Humans have a duty to pay attention and observe the events as they unfold.

We should not fear Bible prophecy. Overall, the Bible is 28% prophecy. God clearly wants His people to be aware of certain events—**so they can be identified as they happen**—not to predict them ahead of time! And not to sell DVDs. Some prophetic events are positive (the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, given in Isaiah 53:10-12), and some prophetic events are harmful (the punishment and then release of the beast Baal from the Abyss, given in Jeremiah 51:44 and Revelation 17:8). Just remember, it is God alone that makes the predictions. Our job as humans is to observe.

The Book of Revelation is a Mystery from God. In this context, *“mystery”* means no human will understand it until God ordains. It is part of the glory of God. The word “mystery” is used four times in the NIV version of Revelation. The word mystery is in verses Revelation 1:20, Revelation 10:7, Revelation 17:5, and Revelation 17:7. As such, no one can understand a divine mystery until God alone selects the proper time. It is an unfolding, an increasing awareness.

It is especially important to read the mystery language of Revelation 17:5, the identity of the harlot city controlling the world-wide false religion. In this verse, God tells us it is a mystery until such time as to be understood. Until then, it is a solid stone wall for the human mind.

Revelation 17:5 (NIV)

The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

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

Revelation prophecy interpreters have made wild predictive guesses about “Babylon” for some time now. Many think it Rome, some think Jerusalem, some think America, others the United Nations, others the European Union, and still others the Catholic Church and the Pope. None of these is correct. But God has now revealed His mystery of Babylon.

Remember the author is Jesus Christ, and the Apostle John merely wrote down what he heard and saw. The Book has been a mystery to humans for 19 centuries. The word Revelation is from a Greek word "apocalypse" meaning “to uncover”, “to reveal”, or “to unveil.” But it is only unveiled when God selects the time. Without God’s permission, no one can unveil it. Some portions of Revelation are still not unveiled. Until God wills, they will remain impenetrable.

SIX HELPFUL STEPS TO UNDERSTAND REVELATION

1. Do not use Revelation to predict a future event. Throw away all the prophecy newsletters predicting something will happen at the United Nations a year from now. The future belongs only to God. Use the information Jesus provided in Revelation to identify the events as they happen. Jesus is always right. Let the Bible interpret the Bible.
2. Heed the Revelation warnings from Jesus. When you have finished all 22 chapters of Revelation, you will see Jesus tells us not to follow the teachings from the false prophet Mohammad, not to read his book the Qur’an, never pray to the Blackstone image Mohammad set up in the Kaaba, never to recite and take his Shahada mark, nor travel in the Hajj to his Great City of Mecca. Jesus warns about all this in Revelation. Jesus says the punishment for this is severe! (Revelation 14:9-12)
3. Do observe that the symbol, the crescent moon of Baal, is the universal symbol of Islam.
4. Do observe that the colors of dozens of Middle Eastern Islamic country national flags are always the colors of the Four Horsemen (Chapter 6), always white, red, black, and pale green.
5. Many prophetic events in Revelation are crystal clear. It should be without debate the beast of Revelation is a spirit. The Bible says clearly in Revelation 17:8 it is from the Abyss.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

6. Understand that some prophecy is on earth, BUT at least half of the Revelation prophecy is in the spiritual realm. In the Book of Revelation, every reference to the “sea” is figurative language, always meaning the spiritual realm. An example is in Revelation 13:1, the beast from the “sea.”

Revelation 13:1 (NIV)

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

WHO IS THE REAL JESUS? THE BIBLE VERSUS THE QUR'AN

WHAT IF YOU ARE WRONG ABOUT JESUS?

Why does one-third of the world believe the story of the Islamic Jesus? The story told that Jesus is a great prophet, a beloved messenger of Allah, a loyal servant of Allah, much like the final prophet Mohammad. Did Jesus ever call himself God? Did Jesus ever tell people to worship him? Did Jesus promise the prophet Mohammad would follow him?

Why is the name of Jesus in the Qur'an many times more than Mohammad? Where can I find the name of Mohammad in the Bible? Why is Mohammad the final prophet?

Did the Apostles of Jesus change and corrupt the Bible Scriptures to turn Jesus from a man, into Jesus the God? Can we trust the writings of Paul? Is the Qur'an the final revelation? Should we accept Islam as the pure religion, and absolute monotheism? Is Islam true monotheism? Why is the plural pronoun "We" in the Qur'an verses so many times? Why is Allah in the Qur'an, and yet Muslims must face the Kaaba to pray? Will performing good Islamic works help you avoid the hellfire? Why does the Qur'an (19:71) promise everyone will see the hellfire?

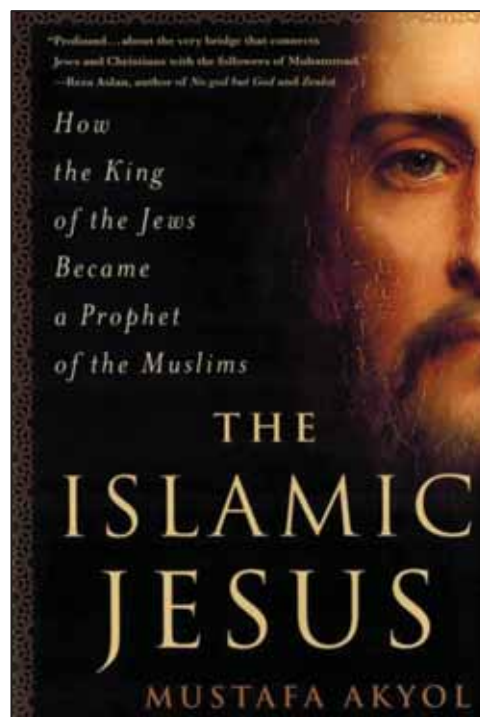
There is only one Jesus. The correct answer leads to eternal life.

The wrong answer leads to the eternal hellfire.

The true Jesus is different from the Qur'an Jesus. The Bible tells of a different Jesus. This is the eternal Jesus, the Son of God. This Jesus has existed with the Father for all eternity, yet died for our sins, always loved us, and offers the only hope of salvation and eternal life for all humanity. Was the tomb of Jesus empty? Because the location of Jesus' burial was known to those living in Jerusalem, is it not likely that anyone believing the Apostles' claims about the resurrection of Christ would demand to see the empty tomb? Did the resurrection of Jesus give hope to all who believe?

The Bible and Qur'an have two different and opposite Jesus concepts. The correct choice leads to eternal life, while if you are wrong it leads to the hellfire! Because the answers are impossibly different, only one contains the truth. **There is absolutely no middle ground.** One is 100% right, the other is 100% wrong.

If Jesus is just a prophet, the entire Christian world is wrong, some 28% of the world's population is wrong. If Jesus is the Son of God, and did rise from the dead for our sins, every person in the Muslim world is wrong. Islam is fast approaching one-third of the world population today. Could one-third of the world be facing a spiritual death? If fact, Jesus said this very thing! This proves He is truth.



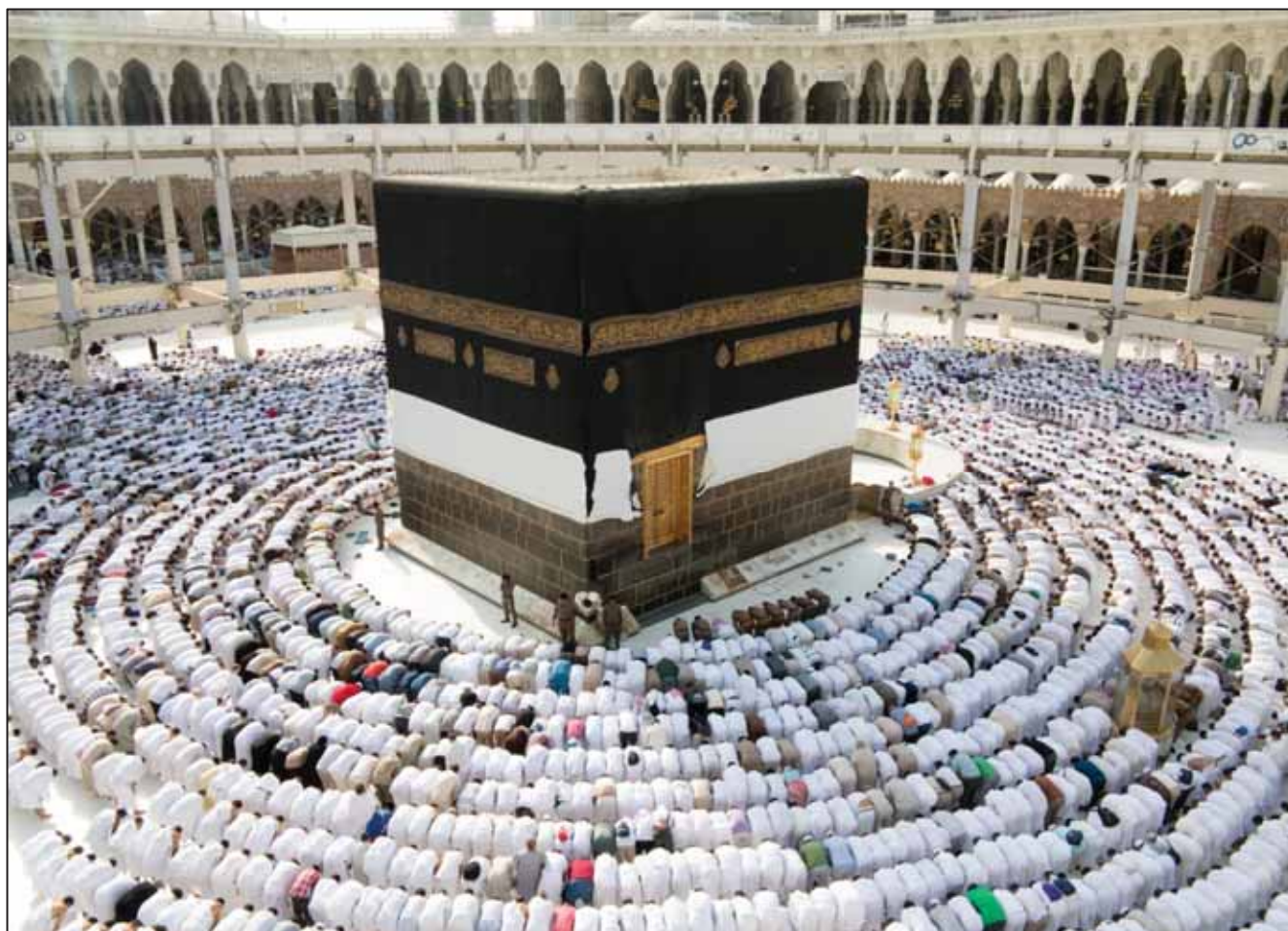
JESUS GAVE REVELATION PROPHECY TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

Would it matter to a Christian, Muslim or nonbeliever if Jesus said all of this would happen some 1,925 years ago? Should that not convince you Jesus was really God? Here is what Jesus said in Revelation 9:18-19 about one-third of the world spiritually dying. Note that these kill by their mouth—the false words of false doctrine in the Qur'an killing the soul.

Revelation 9:18-19 (NIV)

A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

Would it matter to a Christian, Muslim, or nonbeliever if Jesus told us a false prophet would set up an image of worship to a demonic spirit? All Muslims know the prophet Mohammad placed the sacred Blackstone in the Kaaba, in the Great City of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Muslims must pray to the Kaaba five times a day from every point in the world. The prophet Mohammad commanded this some 1,400 years ago. Would it matter if Jesus saw all this more than 500 years before Mohammad?



**MOHAMMAD SAID TO PRAY TO THE KAABA FIVE TIMES A DAY
JESUS SAID NEVER PRAY TO, NOR WORSHIP, THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST**

What if Jesus said all of this would happen some 1,925 years ago? Jesus said it more than 500 years before Mohammad. Again, should that not convince you Jesus was really God? Here is what Jesus said in Revelation 13:14 about the false prophet setting up an image of worship to the beast, a demonic spirit desperate to be like God. The Bible tells us this demonic beast emerges from the Abyss, where it seemed to have a fatal wound.

Revelation 13:14 (NIV)

Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

The Qur'an adds some key text compared to the Bible, and it takes away text compared to the Bible. Muslims are taught the Qur'an is the final revelation from Allah. They are told it is the only Scripture that has not been corrupted; as the Jews corrupted the Old Testament, and the Apostles corrupted the New Testament. They are told the Qur'an is correct.

Would it matter to a Christian, Muslim, or nonbeliever if Jesus gave specific warnings about adding or taking away text in the Book of Revelation? Jesus gave a precise warning about what the Qur'an would do. Jesus said if you add, you will receive the very specific plagues for the specific actions of praying to the image and taking the mark. Jesus said if you take away, you lose your salvation. These are exactly what the Qur'an added, and what it took away! Jesus said it more than 500 years before Mohammad. Here is what Jesus said in Revelation 22:18-19 about a future text doing this.

Revelation 22:18 (NIV)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

The Qur'an adds text. The Qur'an adds required prayers to the Kaaba; it adds taking the mark-saying the Islamic statement of faith, the Shahada, it adds required travel Hajj to the Great City of Mecca, and the Qur'an adds that Mohammad is the last and final, prophet.

When it comes to salvation and the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Qur'an takes away. The Qur'an takes away the crucifixion of Jesus, it takes away the Deity of Jesus, it takes away Jesus as the Lamb of God, it takes away Jesus the Son of God, it takes away the Resurrection of Jesus, it takes away any helper to the soul, and it takes away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Yes, Jesus said all of this and much, much more 1,925 years ago. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus gave several hundred prophecies, and most are warnings about Islam. We can see many dozens of these fulfilled in the world today. It is not our job to give prophecy. God makes all the predictions in Revelation. Humans have a duty to pay attention and observe the events when they occur.

Listen to Jesus. He is returning soon. Every word from Jesus is true, and you can see much of what Jesus said is clearly in the world today.

Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has taken away from Jesus concerning the truth of His resurrection; that Jesus is the Son of God, and His atoning sacrifice will face the wrath of God: *"God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."*

Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has added about worship to the image of the beast (praying to the Kaaba) will face the wrath of God: *"If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll."*

Nearly half of all Christians believe Muslims and Christians worship the same God. This is a deception. When you study the Qur'an teachings you see they are in total conflict with the Bible. The Bible is true and the final revelation from God. No new edition was needed. You can trust Jesus. Jesus said he will create a new heaven and a new earth. Those that are baptized and accept Jesus as God and Lord will see his face. They will see God. They will see Jesus. They are One God.

Revelation 21:1-2 (NIV)

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:3 (NIV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

God knows everyone who will accept Christ. Their names were in the Book of Life before the creation of the world. They acted out of free will, but God has seen the entire set of events. When the final name is in the Book, Jesus will return.

Jesus is returning soon and will reign forever. Be prepared. Not everyone who calls Jesus "Lord, Lord" will be saved. Those that call Jesus a beloved prophet, but do not accept him and Lord and Savior will be lost. Only those who follow the will of His Father and look to the Son are saved.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Revelation 11:15 NIV

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Understand the Key Truths of the Bible

The Qur'an Has Conflicting and False Stories

Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Qur'an Verse	Opposing and False Qur'an Text
Jesus is the Son of God.	John 14:13	"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."	Qur'an 17:111	And say, "Praise to Allah , who has not taken a son and has had no partner in his dominion and has no need of a protector out of weakness; and glorify Allah with great glorification."
Jesus was crucified.	Matthew 27:35-37	When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	Qur'an 4:157	And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.
Jesus rose from the dead.	Matthew 28:5-6	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."	Qur'an 3:55	Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you in submission to Allah alone superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.
Jesus is the only path to heaven.	John 14:6	Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."	Qur'an 4:59	O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey his Messenger [Mohammad] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best way and best in result.
The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.	Matthew 12:31-32	"And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."	Qur'an 4:171	O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul created at a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.
God first loved us.	1 John 4:19	We love because he first loved us.	Qur'an 51:56	And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship Me.
Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.	John 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."	Qur'an 112:3	Allah begets not, nor is He begotten.
Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit- the spirit of truth.	John 14:26	"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."	Qur'an 61:6	Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! Truly I am the Messenger of God unto you, confirming that which came before me in the Torah and bearing glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me whose name is Ahmad [Mohammad]."

WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE REAL JESUS

Jesus loves you. Did Jesus or the Holy Spirit appear in a dream? Would just a prophet appear to you, or was it the Son of God, the risen Jesus? ***Yes, it was Jesus the risen Son of God! Jesus is appearing to many Muslims and others to give them the truth. He wants you to be saved.***

Muslims know the Qur'an teaches that Jesus was born of a virgin (19:20); that He is among those closest to God (3:45); that He taught a message of kindness and compassion (57:27); that He healed the sick and raised the dead by the power of God (3:49); that He miraculously fed the hungry (5:112.); that He is alive now in heaven (3:55); and that He will return at the end of the age (43:61). Muslims also know the Qur'an says that Jesus is the Messiah and the Word of God (3:45 and 4:171).



At the same time, however, most Muslims have been told that Jesus did not die on a cross. They believe He did not rise from the dead or atone for human sin, and that people should not worship Him as God. When you take away these truths of Jesus—you take away his salvation for you. The truth is Jesus the Son of God, died for you and rose to life. This Jesus is the only path to God. Following any other path will result in being cast away from God on the coming Day of Judgment.

Muslims often feel most strongly, however, that it is deeply offensive to refer to Jesus as the Son of God. But Jesus himself said He was the Son of God when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. (John 11:4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.") So believe him!! There is much prophecy warning about Islam's false doctrine in the Bible, but you can learn about that later.

Muslims have been taught that the One God of Abraham is not triune (three in one) and has not become incarnate among us. Though they believe the New Testament, Torah, and Psalms are God's inerrant Word in the original manuscripts, most have been told a falsehood that people have altered the original text that the Bible we have today is not reliable. The Bible text is reliable and true.

If you are a Muslim, or have a Muslim friend, please take three steps to know the truth:

- ✓ Pray that you receive the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Read the Gospel of John—it will teach you that Jesus is the risen Son of God
- ✓ Ask a Christian friend to explain the Gospel to you

In John 15:7 Jesus said: ***"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."*** Jesus will hear your prayers.



REVELATION CHAPTER 1

THE REVELATION FROM JESUS CHRIST, TO SHOW HIS SERVANTS WHAT MUST SOON TAKE PLACE

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 1

While living in exile on the island of Patmos, John received the Revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to John, who testifies everything he saw is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

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

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



Revelation 1:1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

The Book of Revelation is of the things which were at the time of John, and the things that will be still in the future. John is the writer, but Jesus Christ is the author. While there are many false religions, Revelation gives us several hundred prophecies uniquely and accurately fulfilled by Islam.

The Apostle John's visions were in 95 AD. What does Jesus want us to know the word "soon" means? It is based on God's time frame, not man's. Here in chapter one, we are told these events will be soon. Beginning in chapter four, they move into the future. But many prophecy writers have been so focused on the future and their theories, they missed the prophetic events as they happened.

How much more extended is the waiting period after John? It does not take 2,000 years to see events. Just some 515 years later, the prophecy started to unveil. In 610 AD, Mohammad received his first of more than 22 years of revelations (610-632 AD) from a demonic spirit calling himself the "Angel Gabriel." The false gospel of the Qur'an precisely fulfilled Revelation chapter 22, (22:18-19) ending warnings about adding or taking away the Bible text.

When you read Revelation chapter six you will learn about the Four Horsemen that control one quarter of the world's population. This is another series of prophecies that would be "soon." The Four Horsemen did not take 2,000 years to materialize. They were the first four Islamic leaders (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman), and sweep across the Christian lands 624-660 AD. Their Umayyad Caliphate would exercise authority over one-quarter of the world (Revelation 6:8), just as Jesus said they would. As you study further, you will see many more examples of "soon."



INSCRIPTION FROM CAVE THOUGHT TO BE WHERE JOHN LIVED ON PATMOS

Revelation 1:2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John tells us the substance of his testimony and witness is the Word of God. It is not from man; it is from God divine and can be trusted. John gives us his word as an Apostle of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

John wanted the Book of Revelation read to the members of the church. Those that read it and hear it are blessed.

It is a shame today that so few pastors read from the Book of Revelation. They are afraid their interpretation is wrong, like so many before them. For example, you will love studying Revelation chapter three. In chapter three you will learn the facts about the Philadelphia church. Jesus gave a promise that has lasted some 1,925 years and counting today!

The Philadelphia church was the only one of the seven Revelation churches not destroyed by Islam. *(“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” Revelation 3:8)*

The Revelation prophetic words are perfectly accurate and can be seen in the world today, seen through prior historical events, and some final prophecies will be seen very soon in the future.

The Book of Revelation is from God and can be trusted. The monetary gain should not be the purpose of studying it. God does not bless those profiting from prophecy newsletter sales and DVD sales.

Fictional movies and novels such as “Left Behind” sell many movie tickets, but shed no light on the truth of the Book of Revelation, and mislead. Probably the greatest deception is that people will have time to be saved after Jesus returns. The Left Behind series seems to suggest that will happen. Jesus makes clear that once he returns the door is tightly shut.

The safest way to handle this is to encourage people to accept Christ today. It is too risky to hope there might be a second chance. The Bible does not teach that anywhere.

Matthew 25:11-13 (NIV)

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ‘But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.’”



**LEFT
BEHIND**

Revelation 1:4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

Some have taught that the letters to the seven churches represent the conditions of the global church in the successive epochs of its history. It is better to understand that Jesus was dealing with each church uniquely to their needs, but there are lessons from all seven churches for us today.

Islam destroyed six of the seven Revelation churches, and only the church at Philadelphia received an open door from Jesus that no one can shut. Islam could not prevail against the Philadelphia church.

Here in Revelation 1:4, John tells us Jesus has seven spirits before his throne. John tells us that the Lamb's seven eyes were the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 5:6 (*"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."*)

The seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. This is all the information we have from Scripture. We can say this about the seven spirits of God:

- ✓ Revelation 1:4; the seven spirits are before His throne
- ✓ Revelation 2:1, John tells us Jesus holds the seven stars in his right hand.
- ✓ Revelation 3:1; Jesus holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, as having the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 4:5; the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne are the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 5:6; the Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

Jesus receives three titles here that are revealed in more detail throughout the Book of Revelation. The triple titles applied to Jesus are 1) Christ the Revealing Prophet, 2) the Life-giving High Priest, and 3) the absolute ruler of all humanity. Only the blood of Jesus Christ gives us eternal life.

Revelation 1:6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Peter said each member of Christ shares in his eternal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Revelation 1:7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

This passage ties back to Old Testament prophecy in Zechariah 12:10-12 about the weeping on the day of the Lord-when the door closes tightly, and it is too late to accept Jesus.

The Zechariah prophecy also makes clear Jesus and the Father are the same one God (*“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him.”*)

This Revelation verse absolutely refutes the popular “secret rapture” when John is told *“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”*

Everyone will see Jesus return. There is no secret return, no doubt that it is Jesus Christ, nor any second chance for a nonbeliever at that point.

Zechariah 12:10-12 (NIV)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself,

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Jesus was, before all things and exists forever. Later you will learn how the Qur'an takes away his atoning sacrifice, his Deity, his crucifixion, and His resurrection. The Bible is the truth. The Bible, in John 17:3-5, tells us Jesus had glory with the Father before the world existed.

John 17:3-5 (NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

John was banished to the Island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian, some years after Nero died in 68 AD. John was a companion and shared in their tribulation with them, and he tells all of us that patience, which brings endurance, is desirable, because it is patience in Jesus.

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Most Christians worship on the first day of the week, Sunday, to honor the resurrection. This Lord's day John refers to is not the day of the Lord, but a regular worship day. John was in a trance, a prophetic vision; so overwhelmed with the power, and filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, as to be insensible of outward things, and wholly taken up with spiritual and divine. It was brought to his attention by a sudden command or a shout like a trumpet.

Revelation 1:11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

The seven churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. John received precise instructions to give the contents of the vision written down on a scroll to the seven churches of Revelation; they all were in Asia Minor, or Western Turkey today.

Revelation 1:12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

In a number of his visions in Revelation, John sees things that Ezekiel saw, and John also sees things that Zechariah saw. The seven golden lampstands are similar to what Zechariah saw.

Zechariah 4:1-6(NIV)

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps.

Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 1:13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Someone like a son of man was evidently the Lord Jesus Christ himself, elsewhere in the New Testament so often Jesus called himself "the Son of man." The golden sash is a symbol of Christ's glorious authority.

John sees the vision of Jesus that Daniel (Daniel chapter 10) saw some six hundred years earlier. The "great war" that Daniel saw (Daniel 10:1), which made him mourn and be sick for three weeks, is the great spiritual war between the Lamb of God, the beast, and the dragon.

This religious war is, of course, still ongoing today. It will continue until the Lamb defeats the beast and the dragon by the word out of His mouth.

Daniel 10:1-6 (NIV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Revelation 1:14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

The hair white as snow, and eyes like blazing fire are another description of the transfigured Jesus, where Jesus shone with the brightness of the sun.

Matthew 17:1-3 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Revelation 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

That the voice of Jesus was as the sound of many waters lets us understand the power of his word. The vision of his bright bronze feet was similar to what Ezekiel saw of the four living creatures.

Ezekiel 1:4-7 (NIV)

I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.

Revelation 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

The stars are explained later on (Revelation 1:20) to be the emblems of the angels of the seven churches.

Revelation 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

The power and glory of Jesus would overwhelm any person, even John who saw Jesus before and after the resurrection. Jesus is love and comfort. *“Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”*

Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

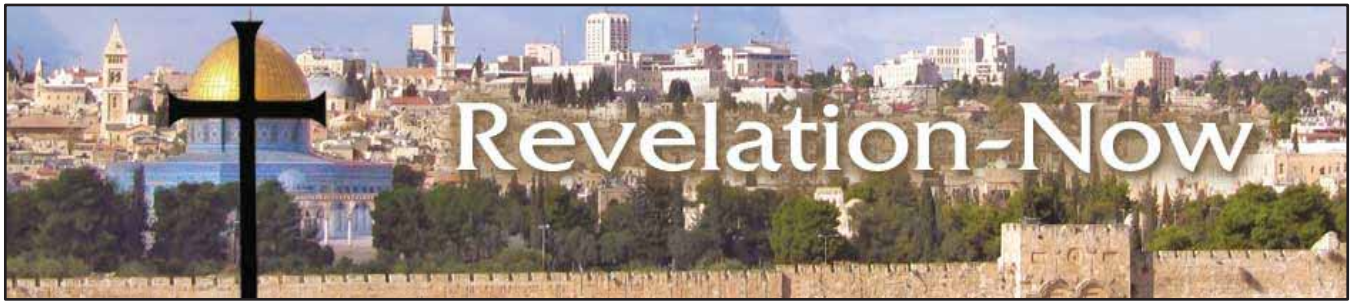
Revelation 1:19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

Hades (Sheol, the Abyss) is the vast unseen spiritual realm (the “sea” all throughout Revelation is the spiritual realm) into which souls are ushered by death; dark and mysterious as that realm is, but Jesus has both under His power. The keys are the emblems of His right and authority. Jesus explains the meaning of the seven stars and the seven lampstands in Revelation 1:19-20.



THE BEACHES ON THE NORTHERN PART OF PATMOS



REVELATION CHAPTER 2

LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES AT EPHESUS, SMYRNA, PERGAMUM, AND THYATIRA

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 2

In Revelation chapter 2 Jesus tells the church at Ephesus they have persevered and endured hardships for His name. Yet Jesus holds this against them: They had forsaken the love they had at first. Jesus says if they do not repent, He will come and remove their lampstand from its place. But they have this in their favor: Ephesus hates the practices of the Nicolaitans, which Jesus also hates.

Jesus tells the church in Smyrna that He knows their afflictions and poverty—yet Jesus tells them they are rich! Jesus tells them not be afraid of what they are about to suffer.

Jesus tells the church in Pergamum He knows where Satan has his throne. Yet they remain true to His name.

There are some there hold the teaching of Balaam, who enticed the Israelites to sin. At Pergamum also those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Jesus says: “Repent!”



THE GREAT ALTAR OF ZEUS AT PERGAMUM

Jesus tells the Thyatira church He knows their deeds, they have love and faith, service and perseverance, and they are now doing more than at first. But Jesus tells them not to tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. With her teaching, she misleads His servants into spiritual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols, and Baal worship.

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS: REVELATION 2:1 TO 2:7

Ephesus was an ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia, just one mile from present-day Selçuk in İzmir Province, western Turkey. It was built in the 10th century BC on the site of the former Arzawan capital by Attic and Ionian Greek colonists. During the Classical Greek era, it was one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League. The city flourished after it came under the control of the Roman Republic in 129 BC.

The city was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Ephesus was one of the seven churches of Asia in the Book of Revelation. Some scholars also believe the Gospel of John was written here.

Muslims destroyed Ephesus. Ephesus was sacked by the followers of the Islamic Four Horsemen (Revelation chapter 6) in the year 654–655 AD by Islamic caliphs, and later again in 700 and 716 that hastened the decline further. When the Islamic Turks conquered Ephesus in 1090, it was an only small village. The town surrendered, in October 1304, to a Turkish Islamic warlord.

Contrary to the terms of the surrender, the Islamic Turks pillaged the church of Saint John and deported most of the local population. During these events, many of the remaining inhabitants were massacred, and the city ceased to exist from then onward. Ephesus was abandoned by the 15th century. Islam killed the Ephesus church.



ANCIENT EPHESUS CITY GATES

THE APOSTLE PAUL ESTABLISHED THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

On Paul's second mission tour (49-52 AD), he visited Ephesus after leaving Corinth, and planted the church there (Acts 18:19-22). Ephesus sounds like the Greek word "arestos" (desirable), and in many ways, it was a desirable place to live until the followers of Mohammad destroyed it.

Acts 18:19-22 (NIV)

They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

On the third preaching journey, Paul spent between two and three years teaching in the city (Acts 19:8-10). Paul spent his time eliminating false doctrines, Blackstone worship, and pagan practices. Baal worship is associated with Blackstone rites and worship. Today, the Blackstone is in the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. All Muslims pray to the Blackstone. Similar demon inspired rites occurred at Ephesus and Pergamum. Ephesus derived its greatness from two sources, commercial trade and religion. During the Roman Period, it was a center for the mother goddess worship, known to the Greeks as Artemis and to the Romans as Diana. It was during this stay that Paul wrote 1 Corinthians.

Acts 19:8-10 (NIV)

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Diana of the Ephesians (also known as "Artemis") was a repulsive-looking idol covered with many breasts that emphasized fertility. The superstitious Ephesians believed that Artemis fell from heaven (Acts 19:23-41), along with the Blackstone; it is in the Kaaba today.

The temple of Artemis took a century to build. The immoral practices held there made Ephesus a problematic place to preach the Gospel. Nonetheless, Paul's teaching in the school of Tyrannus was so successful that those who practiced magical arts brought their books and burned them (valued at 50,000 pieces of silver in Acts 19:18-20).

The sale of Artemis silver shrines began to fall off, and the silversmiths caused an uproar (Acts 19:26-41). Paul was nearly killed in the riot. After this quieted down, Paul left for Macedonia. In the Bible, Ephesus is also the place where the Apostle John took Mary, the mother of Jesus, there to live (John 19:26-27).



ARTEMIS IDOL

Revelation 2:1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

Revelation 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

Revelation 2:3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Here in Revelation 2:1, John tells us Jesus holds the seven stars in his right hand. John tells us that the Lamb’s seven eyes were the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 5:6 (*“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*)

The seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. This is all the information we have from Scripture. We can say this about the seven spirits of God:

- ✓ Revelation 1:4; the seven spirits are before His throne
- ✓ Revelation 3:1; Jesus holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, as having the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 4:5; the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne are the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 5:6; the Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth

John tells us in Revelation 1:20 the meaning of the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20 (NIV)

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

In Revelation 2:2 (“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.”) we see Jesus knows all the good and all the evil which his servants and his enemies suffer and do. How dreadful will it one day sound to the wicked, how sweet to the righteous! People today do not think God knows everything. God does know everything. The seven churches must have been astonished to find their several conditions to be so well understood.

“You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.” The church at Ephesus had to deal both with false teachers (false doctrine about Jesus), and the persecution was coming from Jews and pagans. At this time, they had also dealt with the second wave of oppression coming from the Roman emperor Domitian.

Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Revelation 2:5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

“Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.” The most famous love is to love God. This command is in the Shema in Deuteronomy chapter 4:

Deuteronomy 4:9 (NIV)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

In Revelation chapters 13 and 17, you will learn much more about the two principal demons that oppose Jesus. These are Satan and Baal, which are called the “dragon” and the “beast.” Satan and Baal want for themselves this first love that only belongs to the true God. In chapter 13 you will learn about the mark, or statement of faith, to the beast.

This mark is the dragon and beast's counterfeit copy of the Shema. There is similar language about placing the mark on your “hand” and “forehead” in Revelation 13. It is a spiritual mark, a statement of faith to a false god, a cheap copy of the Shema.

Revelation 13:16-17 (NIV)

It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

The Ephesians had a rich history, but it was not enough. The greatness which Ephesus once held needed to be restored through repentance and prayer. *“If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”* If they do not repent, Jesus will take the church away from them. In fact, Jesus did take their church away from them. Jesus took the lampstands away from six out of the seven Revelation churches. The words of Jesus are always true!

Of the seven churches, six were destroyed by Islam. The church at Ephesus was the first destroyed by the followers of Mohammad. Only one Revelation church, the church at Philadelphia, did not fall to Islam during their ongoing tribulation. The church at Philadelphia was given protection (“an open door”) by Jesus in Revelation 3:8-10. Compare the church at Ephesus to that at Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:8 (NIV)

I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation 2:6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Revelation 2:7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

"But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate." Jesus criticizes the Nicolaitans twice in the letters to the seven churches. Here to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:6, and in Revelation 2:15-16 to the church at Pergamum. Pergamum and Ephesus both had Nicolaitans. Pergamum and Ephesus both worshipped a stone from heaven. The Nicolaitans are a forerunner of Islam.

We do not know a lot about the Nicolaitans. But Jesus sure hated what they did. Jesus seldom used the word "hate." What the Nicolaitans did greatly offended the true God. From the first and second commandments, we know the false worship of idols angers the true God. The Nicolaitans were mentioned in Revelation twice--in the letters to the churches at Ephesus and at Pergamum.

Revelation 2:15-16 (NIV)

Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

WHY DOES JESUS HATE THE PRACTICES OF THE NICOLAITANS?

The Greek word for Nicolaitans is composed of two words meaning "**subduing**" and "**the people**." "Islam" in Arabic means "**submission of the people**" to Allah. Thus, it is likely the Nicolaitans taught people to pray and worship the Blackstone (and demonic spirits) at the temple of Artemis; thus being subdued by it or in submission to it. Since Satan's throne was in Pergamum, the people were in submission to Satan. The Nicolaitans were doing what Mohammad would later teach the world.

The only other thing that Pergamum and Ephesus had in common was they both worshipped a Blackstone meteorite that fell from heaven. They both associated this Blackstone with the female goddess Artemis and Cybele. We are told (Revelation 2:13) Satan's throne was at Pergamum at the time when Revelation was written. Some commentators believe the Nicolaitans encouraged each other to commit sexual immorality and to eat things offered to idols. Spiritual adultery and prayer to a false god is worse. The deeds of the Nicolaitans were undoubtedly an abomination to Christ. They, like the Gnostics and other false teachers, abused the doctrine of grace and tried to introduce Satanic false belief in its place (2 Peter 2:15, 19; Jude 1:4).

Later in Revelation Chapter 13, we will see that Jesus repeatedly warns us to avoid the image and mark of the widespread false worship that will occur sometime in the future from the time of the Revelation to John, well after 95 AD. Jesus warns us eight times to avoid this mark, and another eight times to avoid this image. There is a strong connection between all three warnings—the Blackstone. In stark contrast to the Blackstone of false doctrine--Jesus gives the white stone of truth (Rev 2:17).

THE “IMAGE WHICH FELL DOWN FROM HEAVEN” AT EPHESUS

In the Book of Acts, we find a detailed description of a hostile Ephesus crowd surrounding the Apostles. The pagan crowd worshipped the female goddess Artemis and her "sacred" meteorite stone. (*“and of the image, which fell from heaven”*)

Acts 19:23-41 (NASB)

23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; 25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. 26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

27 Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence.”

28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. 30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him. 31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater.

32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of **the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven?** 36 So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38 So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. 40 For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today’s events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering.” 41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

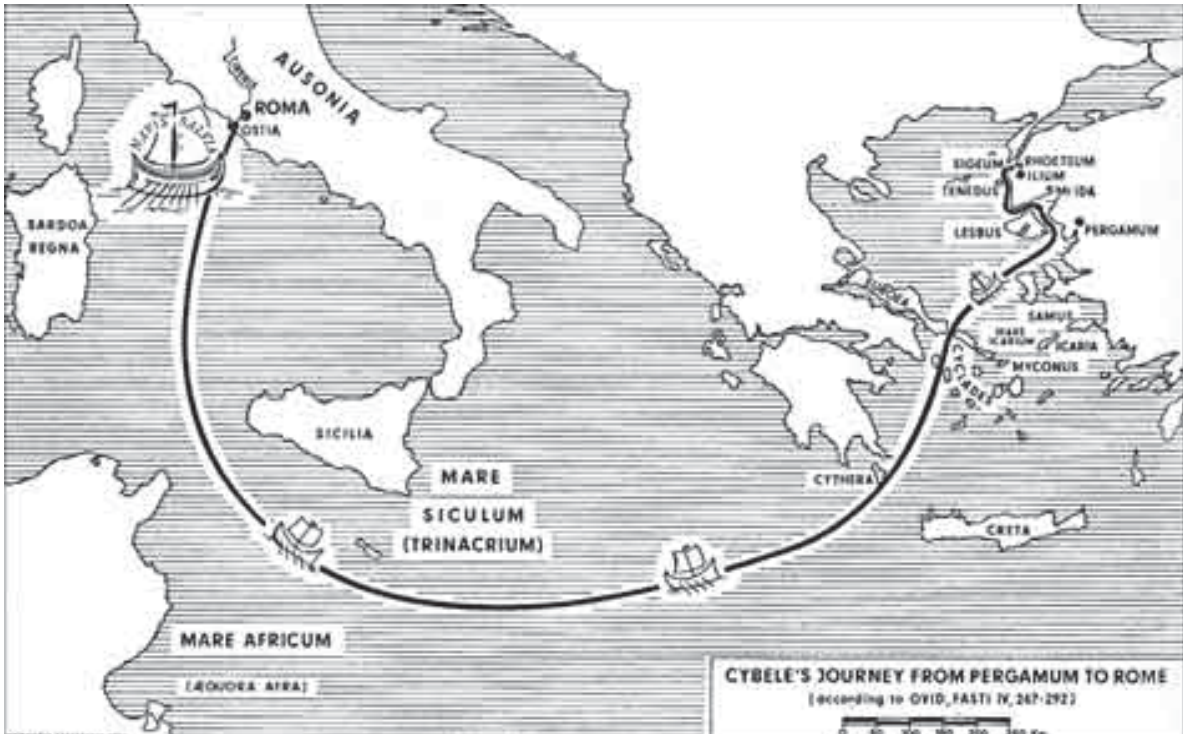
RGAMUM WORSHIPED CYBELE--THE BLACKSTONE METEORITE FROM HEAVEN

eteorite that people believed was "a stone that fell from heaven."

Great mother goddess Cybele--in the shape of a meteoric Blackstone--from Pergamum to Rome.

Carthage wars led by Hannibal. The people of ancient Carthage worshipped Baal. During Hannibal's invasion of Italy in 204 BC, the Romans believed an idolatrous prophecy that the enemy could be expelled and conquered if Cybele were brought to Rome, together with her sacred symbol, a blackstone reputed to have fallen from the heavens.

der the names of both Cybele and the Great Mother.



SEA ROUTE OF THE BLACKSTONE FROM PERGAMUM TO ROME IN 204 BC

When the ship carrying the Blackstone approached the mouth of the Tiber, Publius Cornelius Scipio brought her to the shore, where the leading matrons of Rome were waiting to receive the goddess.

Passing the Blackstone hand to hand in unbroken succession, the women sent the sacred Blackstone on its way to Rome. Incense was burned along the route, and when the stone passed, they lit incense and prayed that the goddess would enter Rome willingly and look upon them favorably. The Blackstone was moved to the Temple of Victory on the Palatine on April 12, her "holy day," and a crowd of people brought the goddess; a banquet for the gods was held.

The last account of the Blackstone meteorite's physical appearance was written over 500 years after it had been moved to Rome. The Christian writer Annobius of Sicca (who died in around 330 AD), who spoke out against Pagans, recorded seeing the Blackstone in his work, Against the Pagans--Adversus Nationes. Where the Blackstone meteorite went after the early 4th century AD is not known until a Blackstone meteorite was placed by Mohammad in the Kaaba in Mecca around 610 AD.

MOHAMMAD PLACED THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA—THE STONE FROM HEAVEN

The Blackstone is a meteorite set into the eastern corner of the Kaaba, a cube-shaped building (a cube copied from the pure holy of holies in the Tabernacle) in the center of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Mohammad traveled to Mecca after a fire damaged the Kaaba. The citizens couldn't agree on where to place the Blackstone and decided to ask the next person to walk through the city gates to make the decision. That person was Mohammad. Mohammad set the Blackstone in the Kaaba, where it is worshipped by tens of millions of Muslims to this day. It is the *"image of the beast"* that Jesus warns us about.



THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD PLACES THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA



EPHESUS TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS ANCIENT RUINS



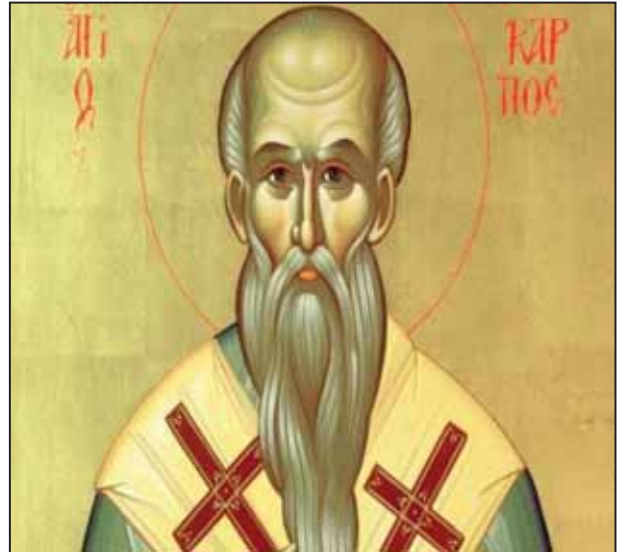
THE CHURCH AT SMYRNA: REVELATION 2:8 TO 2:11

Smyrna was a Greek city founded in antiquity located at a central and strategic point on the Aegean coast of Anatolia (Western Turkey). Since 1930, the modern town located there has been known in English as İzmir, in Turkey. Smyrna rose to prominence due to its advantageous port conditions, its ease of defense, and its good inland connections.

POLYCARP

Polycarp (69-156 AD) was a disciple of John and the bishop of Smyrna. Rome martyred Polycarp at Smyrna in 156 AD. Irenaeus was a student of Polycarp. In his book, Against Heresies, Irenaeus testifies that Polycarp told him that he (Polycarp) had spoken to people who saw the risen Christ!

“Polycarp was not only instructed by the Apostles, and conversed with many who had seen the risen Lord.”



ANCIENT SMYRNA RUINS TODAY

ISLAM DESTROYS SMYRNA

Smyrna was taken over by Islam—the followers of Mohammad. The Islamic Seljuk commander Tzachas seized Smyrna in 1084 AD. The city was ravaged several times by the Turks. In 1402 AD, Tamerlane stormed the town and massacred almost all the inhabitants.

The Mongol conquest was only temporary. The Islamic Turks under the Ottomans seized control of Smyrna when the Ottomans took over these lands after 1425 AD. Some Greek Christian influence persisted, and for a time, it was called by the Turks the “Smyrna of the infidels.” Today it is 99.5% Islamic.

Revelation 2:8 To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

Revelation 2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

Revelation 2:11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.” The church at Smyrna faced great tribulation. In his letter to Smyrna, Jesus speaking to them under their great tribulation and persecution, describes himself accurately to provide their hope and comfort.

Jesus himself was for three days dead and now is alive always, and those that believe in him, because he lives, shall live always as well!

“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.” The persecutors of the church of Smyrna are Jews in name, but in reality, working for Satan as opponents and not worshippers of the Messiah.

Jesus gives similar language about *“those who say they are Jews but are not”* to the church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3:9. It would include all who claim to be following God but are not.

Revelation 3:9 (NIV)

I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

“Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.” In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus tells us his yoke is easy. Yet in John 16:33, Jesus also said that his followers must expect tribulation. Following Jesus is easy, but the world will hate you.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

John 16:33 (ESV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”



PASTOR ANDREW BRUNSON WAS IMPRISONED IN SMYRNA

Some 1,925 years after Jesus gave this prophecy about time in prison in Smyrna, Pastor Andrew Brunson was held in an Islamic prison in Smyrna (Izmir today) for nearly a year. He had a small church in Smyrna, and Satan sought to crush it. The “crown of life” is the reward to those that are faithful to Christ until they see death.

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.” Every true Christian, especially those killed as a martyr, need not have any fear anything beyond the first bodily human death. The second death of condemnation in the eternal lake of fire for the soul has no impact at all on the faithful, no matter how they and their brothers had to suffer from the terrors of Rome or Mohammad.

THE CHURCH AT PERGAMUM: REVELATION 2:8 TO 2:11

Pergamum was a rich and powerful ancient Greek city in Aeolis. It is located about 16 miles from the modern coastline of the Aegean Sea on a peninsula on the north side of the river Caicus by the modern city of Bergama, Turkey. During the Hellenistic period, it became the capital of the Kingdom of Pergamum under the Attalid dynasty in 281–133 BC, who transformed it into one of the significant cultural centers of the Greek world. Pergamum was the northernmost of the seven churches of Asia cited in the Book of Revelation.

The followers of the false prophet Mohammad soon brought pain and false doctrine to Pergamum. In 663 AD, Pergamum was captured by raiding Islamic Arabs for the first time. Many battles were fought here for control over the next several centuries.

Pergamum was sacked again by the armies of the Islamic leader al-Malik. It was again rebuilt and refortified after the Arabs abandoned their Siege of Constantinople in 717–718 AD. It suffered from the attacks of the Islamic Seljuks on western Anatolia after the Battle of Manzikert in 1071 AD, and after attacks in 1109 and 1113, final destruction came to Pergamum. With the expansion of the Anatolian Islamic armies, Pergamum was absorbed into the Islamic orbit shortly after 1300 AD, and then conquered by the Islamic Ottomans. It has been in Islamic hands ever since.



ANCIENT PERGAMUM ACROPOLIS

Revelation 2:12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

Revelation 2:13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.” Jesus carries a double-edged sword with the truth that comes from his mouth. One side of the sword is truth for those that believe in Jesus. On the second side, we see the sword of Jesus impact on the unbelieving in Revelation 19:21.

Revelation 19:21 (NIV)

The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

“I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.”

Jesus tells each of the seven churches he knows their works. The power of God is beyond human understanding. We will learn more about the White Throne judgment in Revelation chapter 20. We cannot imagine that all our actions, thoughts and words are recorded, but Revelation 20:12-13 tells us everything is recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:12-13 (NIV)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

Pergamum was a place of particular wickedness. It was as if Satan dwelt there. Satan is, as it were, enthroned there. The influence of Satan in producing all Christian persecution is apparent from the reference, made to the case of Antipas, the “faithful martyr.”

The martyr Antipas is not well known in the Christian world, other than in this Revelation passage, but Jesus has not forgotten him.

Pergamum also worshipped Zeus with a large altar (Zeus is the Greek god equivalent to Baal) and a black stone that “fell from heaven.” Yet most of the believers in the church at Pergamum remained faithful by the words of their mouth and by their actions by not renouncing their faith in Jesus Christ.

Revelation 2:14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

Revelation 2:15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Revelation 2:16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Revelation 2:17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Jesus hates the teachings of the Nicolaitans! Jesus says the teaching of Balaam was how Balak learned to bring Israelites into sin and brought upon them judgment. The Israelites worshipped Baal again. Baal always fights God, through today, even to the final day of the Lord (Zephaniah chapter 1).

Zephaniah 1:4 (NIV)

“I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”

Balak, king of Moab, felt that he could not prevail against the children of Israel as they approached his borders. His people were dispirited and demoralized. (Numbers 22-24) Balaam professed to be a prophet of the Lord. The king Balak asked Balaam to place a curse on the Israelites. Balaam asks God whether he should comply with this request. God forbids him to go. Balaam first followed God's word and did not curse Israel. Though Balaam first followed God's word, later, he did not. Eventually the Lord commanded Moses to kill Balaam.

Numbers 22:2-4 (NIV)

Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.”

Numbers 22:12 (NIV)

But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed.”

Numbers 24:2-4 (NIV)

When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him and he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened.”

God is greatly angered by worship to Baal, a fallen angel, rather than the true God.

Number 25:1-3 (NIV)

While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them.

Following the Lord's command, Balaam was killed by the soldiers of Moses (Numbers 31:7-8).

Numbers 31:7-8 (NIV)

They fought against Midian, as the Lord commanded Moses, and killed every man. Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

“Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.” The Nicolaitans were previously discussed on the Ephesus church. Both Pergamum and Ephesus were connected to the false god Artemis (Cybele), and both worshiped a Blackstone that “fell from heaven.” They are connected to the worship of Baal. The Blackstone today is in the Kaaba in the great city of Mecca.



WORSHIPPING BAAL THE BEAST TODAY AND THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA

PRAYER TO THE BLACKSTONE IS SPIRITUAL DEATH



THE BLACKSTONE OF THE KAABA ARE THESE MODERN DAY “NICOLAITANS”?

“Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” The word of God coming from the mouth of Jesus is the great weapon that Christ fights against and defeats all anti-Christian Satanic powers.

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.” Note that Jesus gives the white stone of truth. The truth of Jesus is the complete opposite of the Blackstone of the Nicolaitans, of Pergamum, of Cybele, the Blackstone of the Kaaba. The Blackstone is not truth--it is a lie from Satan. Prayer to the Blackstone is spiritual death. Jesus gave a warning about Islam with the Book of Revelation. Jesus knew one-third of the world would pray to the Blackstone in the Kaaba. Listen to the warnings from Jesus.

Manna, though it fell in the wilderness, came from heaven, and it is the heavenly food that is suggested by the symbol. Those that are faithful to Jesus are given a new name—they are a new creature as Paul told us in 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA: REVELATION 2:18 TO 2:29

Thyatira was the name of an ancient Greek city in Asia Minor, now the modern Turkish town of Akhisar (“white castle”). It lies in the far west of Turkey, south of Istanbul, and almost due east of Athens. It is about 50 miles from the Aegean Sea.

In the book of Acts, Lydia was a wealthy benefactress and converted to Christianity. A seller of purple cloth, Lydia’s original home was the city of Thyatira. The ancient coins of Thyatira show a multitude of guilds, including linen weavers, bronze workers, potters, and bakers. Thyatira was the only city of the Seven churches built on flat ground without natural defenses, making it vulnerable to attack.

After the partition of the Roman Empire in 395 AD, and Islam coming to demonic power in the 7th century, raids by Islamic Arabs resulted in considerable loss of land for Byzantium, and the region of Thyatira witnessed many battles between Eastern Roman Byzantine and Islamic forces. In the 12th century, a large-scale inflow of Islamic Turkish tribes came to the area. Thyatira swayed back and forth between Eastern Roman Byzantine and Islamic Turkish rulers during the next two centuries.

In the 14th century, Islamic Turks regained all Western Anatolian lands, and Thyatira went under Turkish Islamic rule in 1307. In August 1922, because of the capture of the city by the Islamic Turkish nationalist army, the last remaining local Christian “Greeks” were killed. Since then, there has been no Christian community in Thyatira. The city is 100% Islamic today. Pray that they receive the truth.



ANCIENT THYATIRA RUINS TODAY

Revelation 2:18 To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

Revelation 2:19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

“To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.” John is given an image of the immense power of God. Here we see the love of Christ. Jesus Christ, in this letter, gives praise before he assigns any blame. If Christ wrote this letter to us today, how many of us could say we are doing more now than we did at first? Yet Jesus knows our works.

Revelation 2:20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

Revelation 2:22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

Revelation 2:23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

“Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.” What Jesus describes is very similar to the actions of the Nicolaitans at the church of Ephesus and Pergamum.

It is likely the woman Jezebel was promoting Baal worship as well. The Bible says Queen Jezebel of 1 Kings 16:31 worshipped Baal. Worshipping Baal the beast and praying to the image (the Kaaba in Mecca) will bring on the full wrath of God. This may be why Jesus calls her “Jezebel.”

1 Kings 16:31 (NIV)

He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him

Revelation 14:11-12 (NIV)

“And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

"I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling." It is not sexual immorality that Jesus expects her to cease. It is worse than that. It is the worship of a false god. Jesus has given her time to repent, but she has not. Her time is coming to an end. The idolatry and sin had been of long-standing, but Jesus now resolved to tolerate it no longer. The action of God is that sufficient time is given for repentance. Punishment is often delayed for a while after the crime is committed, but not forever.

"So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways." Jezebel's punishment is distinct from theirs; she is to be cast into a bed, and her children to be killed; while those who make themselves partakers of her sin by tolerating her false worship, are to receive great tribulation. This is very similar to the sores coming on those that take the mark (recite the Islamic Shahada), and worship the beast and his Kaaba image in Revelation 16:2.

Revelation 16:2 (NIV)

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

"I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds." Jesus does not kill her physical children. Jesus refers to the students of her false worship. This is to be understood of her followers. She had her disciples; death, especially spiritual death, is their penalty.

Revelation 2:24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you,

Revelation 2:25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

Revelation 2:26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—

Revelation 2:27 that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father.

Revelation 2:28 I will also give that one the morning star.

Revelation 2:29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

"Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you." The heretics condemned in the preceding verses were most likely Gnostics (Gnostics were teachers of complex false doctrine basically denying the atoning sacrifice of Jesus). Later the area around Thyatira would be overrun by the followers of Mohammad and his false doctrine of Jesus Christ.

SATAN'S SO-CALLED DEEP SECRETS

“And have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets.” In the Qur’an, the dragon and beast, Satan and Baal (“we”) give a false story about Jesus. This is another form of Satan’s so-called deep secrets.

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) SENT THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 21:107 And We have sent you, [O Mohammad], as a mercy to the worlds.

SATAN AND BAAL (“OUR WORD”) GAVE A FALSE GOSPEL TO MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 37:171 Our Word has already gone forth to Our servants, the messengers [Mohammad]

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) HAVE A PLAN TO SEND ALL HUMANS TO HELL

Qur’an 19:70-71 And then We shall know well all those most worthy to be cast in Hell. There is not one of you but shall pass by Hell. This is a decree which your Lord will fulfill.

“To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— that one ‘will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery’—just as I have received authority from my Father.” On the Day of Judgment, the believing saints that finish the good race shall sit with Christ and judge and condemn the world severely, and then the sinners shall be broken in pieces. This is a fulfillment of Psalm 2:8-9.

Psalm 2:8-9 (NIV)

“Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

“I will also give that one the morning star.” The promise given from God of the coming day, both for the waiting witnesses, and for the ungodly, who loved darkness because their deeds were evil. This is a fulfillment of Daniel 12:2-4. Jesus also tells us he is the bright Morning Star in revelation 22:11.

Daniel 12:2-4 (NIV)

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.

Revelation 22:16 (NIV)

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

“Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Listen to what Jesus told the seven churches. His words still apply to all believers today.



REVELATION CHAPTER 3

LETTERS TO THE CHURCHES AT SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA, AND LAODICEA

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 3

In Revelation chapter 3, Jesus tells the Sardis church they have a reputation of being alive but are dead! Jesus tells them to wake up, and if they do not wake up, He will come like a thief, and they will not know at what time He will come to them. Jesus tells the church at Philadelphia that He knows their deeds. They have little strength, yet they have kept His word and have not denied His name. Since they have kept His command to endure patiently, Jesus will also keep them from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

Jesus tells the Laodicea church He knows their deeds, that they are neither cold nor hot. Jesus wishes they were either one or the other! “So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ “But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire so that you can become rich, and white clothes to wear.”



ANCIENT LAODICEA STONE WITH GREEK INSCRIPTION

THE CHURCH IN SARDIS: REVELATION 3:1 TO 3:6

The city of Sardis was located in West Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), about 50 miles east of Smyrna and 30 miles southeast of Thyatira. Sardis was about 40 miles from Laodicea. Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, one of the principal cities of the Persian Empire, the seat of a Seleucid Satrap, and the place of a proconsul under the Roman Empire.

Ancient Sardis had an extensive and prosperous Jewish community, which produced the largest ancient synagogue outside of Palestine. Christianity arrived in the 1st century AD and Sardis was one of the seven churches of Revelation. Sardis now lies entirely in ruins and is only an archaeological site in the village of Sartmahmut with ongoing excavations.

Sardis was very prosperous, but in the year 616 AD, Sardis' life came to an end. A pre-Islamic Persian army penetrated the defensive lines set up previously in eastern Turkey. Soon after, part of that region fell to the Persians, including Sardis. The city fortifications could not do much to stop the Persian troops, and Sardis was sacked and devastated so completely that no documented attempt occurred to restore the city. This incident constituted the end of Sardis' civic life.

A military detachment regained the citadel in 660 AD. Still, the town itself remained empty, and all subsequent references to Sardis are only to a castle on the hill, never to the city. The Islamic forces of the false prophet Mohammad conquered Sardis in 716 AD, followed by the invasion of the Islamic Ottoman Turks in 1306 AD, and the city has been under continuous Islamic oppression since 716 AD.



ANCIENT SARDIS SYNAGOGUE MOSAICS

Revelation 3:1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 3:2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.

Revelation 3:3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.” Note that the titles by which Jesus speaks of Himself in the letters to the seven churches are essential. Jesus uses specific titles to reflect the spiritual condition of the community addressed.

The church in Sardis, to which Jesus describes Himself as *“him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars”* had no heresies or Baal (Blackstone worshipping Nicolaitans) activities needing correction. Jesus says: “you are dead.” Jesus, the Son of God, holds the Spirit, not as One who receives it from the Father, but as One who can impart it to men. As man, he accepted it; as God, he gives it. The church at Sardis needs such a gift. Jesus repeats his message about having the seven stars, which also appears in the letter to the Church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1).

“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.” The works of the church at Sardis have been weighed and found wanting before God. They must wake up and be watchful, against sin, and to the commands of Jesus and perform in a better manner than the current state. Jesus warns them (and us) to not let your faith and works die out—for they are about to die.

The warning is an echo from what Jesus said in the Gospels (Matthew 24:42-43; Luke 12:39-40). The coming of Christ to judge will be in an hour unexpected. Which hour, Jesus will come is unknown; the sound of his approaching footsteps unheard until the sky is bright.

Sardis did not repent and listen to Jesus. The letter was not John’s message to the Sardis church; it was a message from Jesus Christ. A dead church, and one unrepentant in its deadness, will face severe discipline from Jesus.

Sardis was very prosperous but only survived another five centuries after the warning from Jesus. In the year 616 AD, the freedom of Sardis ended when a pre-Islamic Persian army penetrated the defenses that had built by the Byzantine forces in eastern Turkey.

Soon after, that region fell to the Persians, including Sardis itself. Sardis faces ravages, plunder, and devastation so complete that no attempt to restore the city from that day in 616 occurred.

Revelation 3:4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 3:6 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.” To be with Jesus in the new heaven and the new earth, you must be worthy. The only thing that makes it possible for us to have that future life of active communion with Jesus Christ, in the perfect beauty of inward character and of outward form, is that we must keep our faith in Christ and follow his commands.

“I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life.” It is a solemn and tremendous claim that Christ’s finger can write, and Christ’s finger can erase a name from that register. Yet it is true. Revelation 20:12-15 tells us anyone whose name is not in the Book of Life is removed from the presence of Jesus and sent to the lake of fire on judgment day.

Revelation 20:12-15 (NIV)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

On the day of judgment, Jesus will acknowledge those that acknowledged him. He will testify on our behalf to the Father.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NIV)

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

Jesus, the Son of God, has exact and perfect knowledge of all the chosen ones, he knows them by name; and that he has a strong and affectionate love for them, and is not ashamed of them.

The lesson of Sardis is the word of God not only ministers life to those who are spiritually dead, but it also strengthens life in those whom Christ has already made alive. Because our life is always dependent upon his sovereign will, we need to beg God continually for his Word and Spirit. We must remember what Jesus did for us and give Him glory and praise.

THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA: REVELATION 3:7 TO 3:13

Philadelphia today has the modern Islamic name of Ala-şehir in Western Turkey. It is about 100 miles from Smyrna. King Eumenes II of Pergamon (197-160 BC) established Philadelphia in 189 BC. Eumenes II named the city for the love of his brother, who would be his successor, Attalus II (159-138 BC), whose loyalty earned him the nickname “Philadelphos,” literally meaning “one who loves his brother.” Philadelphia is best known as the site of one of the seven churches of Asia in the Book of Revelation. This city was the youngest of the seven churches of Revelation.

Islam DID NOT destroy the Philadelphia believers, as Islam did to the other six Revelation churches.

The divine protection fulfills what Jesus said to Philadelphia in Revelation 3:10; *“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”*

Philadelphia remained steadfastly Christian, even though twice, in 1306 and 1324, it was besieged by the Islamic Seljuk Turks. Still, it retained its independence until after 1390, when it was controlled by the combined forces of the Turks and Christian Byzantines.

According to Greek census data, published in 1905, the metropolis of Philadelphia (Ala-sehir) included 19 Orthodox communities, almost all of them Turkish-speaking Christians, not ethnic Greeks, consisting of 14,003 people, 25 parishes and 23 priests. During World War I, the Turkish Christian population there was estimated to be 18,000 to 25,000. All the Christians were moved as a group in 1923 to a suburb of Athens, Greece, called Nea Filadelfia (meaning “New Philadelphia”).



ANCIENT PHILADELPHIA APOSTLE JOHN GRAVESITE

THE GRECO-TURKISH WAR AFTER WORLD WAR I

At the end of World War I in 1918, the population of Philadelphia (Ala-sehir) in Turkey was mostly Christian, as it had been for nearly 19 centuries. The Christians were classified as “Greeks” by the Turkish Muslim government, but they were most all Turkish Christians—the same faith since John received the Book of Revelation.

The Greco-Turkish War of 1919–1922 was fought between Greece and the Turkish National Movement during the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, between May 1919 and October 1922. The Greek campaign was launched primarily because the western Allies, particularly British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, had promised Greece territorial gains. The World War I defeat of the Ottoman Empire gave Greece a chance to reclaim Anatolia (Asian Turkey), which had been part of Ancient Greece and the Byzantine Empire before the Ottomans captured the area.



TURKISH MUSLIM TROOPS CAPTURE SMYRNA 1922

The armed conflict started when the Greek forces landed in Smyrna (now Izmir), on May 15, 1919. Turkish forces checked their advance at the Battle of Sakarya in 1921. The Greek front collapsed with the Turkish counterattack in August 1922, and the war effectively ended with the recapture of Smyrna by Turkish forces and the great fire of Smyrna. No allied power, exhausted from four years of bloodshed, had the will to engage in a new war and relied only on Greece.

THE “OPEN DOOR NO ONE CAN SHUT”

THE 1923 POPULATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY

As a result of the defeat, the Greek government accepted the demands of the Turkish National Movement. It returned to its pre-war borders, thus leaving Eastern and Western Anatolia to Turkey. The Allies negotiated a new treaty at Lausanne with the Turkish National Movement. Estimates are that from 1900 to 1922, various Turkish Islamic regimes killed from 3,500,000 to over 4,300,000 Christian Armenians, “Greeks”, and Assyrians. Thus, after the war it was very important to protect Christian populations from further Islamic genocide through a full population exchange.

The 1923 population exchange between Greece and Turkey was arranged by "Convention Concerning the Exchange of Greek and Turkish Populations" signed at Lausanne, Switzerland, on January 30, 1923, by the governments of Greece and Turkey. It involved at least 1.6 million people. There were 1.2 million Greek Orthodox Christians from Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace, the Pontic Alps, and the Caucasus, and 400,000 Muslims from Greece. The exchange also included the entire Christian population of the Philadelphia church. It was similar to Operation Ezra and Nehemiah between 1948 in 1951, as Jews miraculously left Islamic countries and migrated back to Israel.

In Philadelphia (Ala-şehir), the entire local Orthodox Christian element (estimated at more than 20,000 people in 1922) was evacuated in the Greek-Turkish population exchange of 1923. In many cases, their families had lived in Turkey for many centuries.

The new state of Turkey also envisioned the population exchange as a way to formalize and make permanent the flight of its native Christian Greek Orthodox peoples following their genocide (1900–1922).



JESUS GAVE THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH AN OPEN DOOR

The Christians were safely moved to a suburb of Athens, Greece. It was given a new name for them as *Nea Filadelfia* ("New Philadelphia"). Just as Jesus promised—Jesus spared the Philadelphia church from the coming trials of Islamic control and persecution.

This major compulsory population exchange, or agreed mutual expulsion, was based not on language or ethnicity, but upon religious identity, and involved nearly all the indigenous Orthodox Christian citizens of Turkey, including even long time native Turkish-speaking Orthodox Christians citizens.

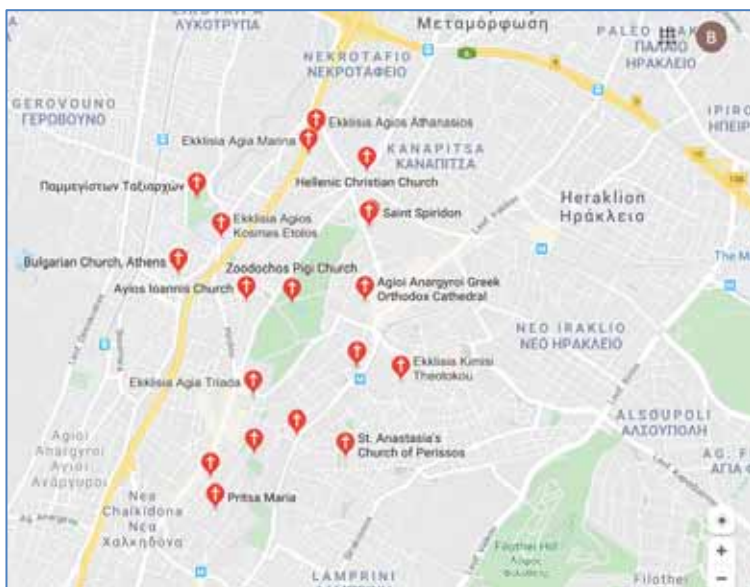
THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH TODAY STILL WORSHIPS CHRIST

Nea Filadelfeia (Greek: Νέα Φιλαδέλφεια, meaning “New Philadelphia”) is a suburb of Athens, Greece. It was named after the Anatolian Christian city Filadelfeia, now Ala-şehir in Turkey, and it was settled in 1923 by Greek refugees from Asia Minor after the Greek-Turkish war of 1919-1922.

The population of the Nea Filadelfeia area is about 25,000 people. They have many Christian churches in 2020, as the Google map demonstrates.

Today they fulfill what Jesus promised in Revelation 3:10:

“Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.”



A CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN NEA FILADELFIA (“NEW PHILADELPHIA”) TODAY

Revelation 3:7 To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation 3:8 I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Revelation 3:9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

“These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.” Only Jesus, “who is holy and true” alone can unlock the hidden treasures of truth. The use of the phrase “who holds the key of David” points to Isaiah 22:22-24, and to a wider meaning. Jesus Christ has the true honor of the house of David. We learn this from Hebrews 3:2-4.

Isaiah 22:22-24 (NIV)

I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father. All the glory of his family will hang on him: its offspring and offshoots—all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars.

Hebrews 3:2-4

He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house. Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” The church at Philadelphia is the only church that does not receive condemnation from God. They are faithful to the Lord and find being faithful does not always produce results that are beneficial to the members. Yet despite the opposition and persecution, he has set before them an open door, and no earthly power can shut it. The Islamic armies of Mohammad will never dominate them!! They never closed the door!!

“Have not denied my name.” When Christians stood before Islamic magistrates in times of persecution, they were required to renounce the name of Christ, say the Shahada (the mark of the beast), and to disown Jesus, the Son of God, in public. The Muslim teacher Zakir Naik today has made videos on YouTube of Christians renouncing Jesus Christ as God. He then requires them to say the Shahada publicly. Amidst the persecutions that raged around them, no doubt members of the church at Philadelphia had faced similar such trials of faith, and they had stood the test firmly.

"I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you." Those imposing the solemn guise of Islamic religious worship are in reality carrying on Satan's cause and interest. (*"the synagogue of Satan"*).

Jesus again here tells us that there will be a re-appearance of the same troubles that afflicted the Church of Smyrna: the fixed and contemptuous exclusiveness of the "people of God" was their trial. It is not about trying to be ritualistic "Jewish." It is about claiming to be the only true people of God. Islam claims to be the only true religion of God. Qur'an 3:19, 3:85, 5:3 and 61:6 makes false claims the only true people of God are Muslims, and Islam is the true religion of God.

Qur'an 3:19 Truly the religion with Allah is Islam.

Qur'an 3:85 And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam it will never be accepted of him and in the hereafter he will be one of the losers.

Qur'an 5:3 This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.

Qur'an 61:6 And remember when Jesus son of Mary said, "O children of Israel I am the messenger of Allah unto you."

It would seem from Revelation 3:9, that efforts had already been made to induce them to renounce the name of Christ. Those who professed to be the people of God (Jews) are really speaking for Satan. In Revelation chapter 13, Jesus tells us the false prophet Mohammad will be claiming to partner with Jesus (Jesus the mere prophet, the "messenger"), but will be speaking for Satan.

Revelation 13:11-12 (NIV)

Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

The "two horns like a lamb" are a prophecy about the Qur'an references to Jesus. There are some 37 references to Jesus in the Qur'an. But Mohammad was really speaking for Satan (the dragon), when Mohammad claimed Allah told him Jesus was not God, and was not crucified.

Qur'an 5:72 They do blaspheme who say: "God is Jesus the son of Mary." But said Jesus: "O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the hellfire will be his abode.

Qur'an 4:157 They said: "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah";-but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no certain knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, and for sure they did not kill him.

Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

Here we have a specific promise Jesus made this only to the Philadelphia church. Some take the passage out of context and use it for general support for the pretribulation rapture of the church. Indeed, the "hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth" is in the future, when given to John in 95 AD. The hour of trial is to the whole world, but the promise of protection is only to the church at Philadelphia. The hour of trial (tribulation) is not the same as the wrath of God. The trial is from Satan. The Bible tells us believers are saved from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:9 (NIV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Jesus tells us to endure persecution patiently. The Philadelphia church had shown this in the trials which they had experienced; Jesus promises now, that in return, he will keep them safe in the future trials that shall come upon the world. One of the highest rewards of patience in one trial is the grace that God gives us to bear another. God does not leave those who they are faithful to him.

Note that Jesus says "*keep you from*" rather than deliver through. The safekeeping cannot be the rapture since the Philadelphia church did not see Jesus coming in the clouds, and yet Jesus protected them from the trials of Islam. Later on, we can learn more about patient endurance during the tribulation on the rest of the world in Revelation 13:10.

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

Revelation 3:12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Revelation 3:13 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Philadelphian Church is the only church of the seven in which there was nothing that Christ rebuked. The letter to the church reveals no recorded faults, either of morals or doctrine. Jesus tells them to keep doing what they are doing. Jesus promises in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 the new heaven and new earth. Jesus gave the Philadelphia church a door no one can shut.

We repeatedly have in this book the image of the divine name written on the foreheads of God's servants, in Revelation 7:3, Revelation 14:1, and Revelation 22:4. Inscribing the name is here means they will be children of God and have their name in the Book of Life. Jesus gives a mark of life; in contrast, the Islamic Shahada, the mark of the beast, is a mark of death.

THE CHURCH AT LAODICEA: REVELATION 3:14 TO 3:22

Laodicea on the Lycus (modern Turkish: Laodikeia) was an ancient city built on the river Lycus in western Turkey. The ruins of Laodicea are near modern Denizli, Turkey. Many of Laodicea's inhabitants were Jews, and Cicero records that Flaccus confiscated the considerable sum of 9 kilograms (20 lb) of gold, which was being sent annually to Jerusalem by the local Jewish community for the Temple (Pro Flacco 28-68).

With its large Jewish community, very early Laodicea became a seat of Christianity. The Epistle to the Colossians (*"I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally."* Colossians 2:1) mentions Laodicea as one of the communities of concern for Paul the Apostle.

By the end of 5th century AD a powerful earthquake destroyed the city, after which the city lost its importance and could never get back to its former prosperity. The city has never been rebuilt after this natural disaster, and its inhabitants moved to other cities nearby. The area around it today is dominated by the city of Denizli, a city of 650,000, just four miles away.

Islam became nearly universal in Turkey (other than Philadelphia) after the invasion of the Islamic Ottoman Turks, and the area has been under continuous Islamic oppression to this day. Denizli is mostly Islamic, but thankfully some Muslims are accepting Jesus there today.



ANCIENT LAODICEA MAIN STREET

Revelation 3:14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.

Revelation 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!

Revelation 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Of all the churches in Revelation, Laodicea is most similar to our current era, that is to say, sadly, the era of the degeneration of the church. Laodicea could be thought of as the first church teaching the “Prosperity Gospel.” The word “Laodicea” itself is a compound word of two Greek words meaning at the root level “people” and “just”, and giving to the translation “the self-justifying people”.

The church at Laodicea is the only one that received no positive comments whatsoever from Jesus Christ. Even Sardis, as Revelation 3:4 told us, had some positive comments; *“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.”* Still even in Laodicea, Jesus always welcomes back the lost in Revelation 3:21. *“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.”*

“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!” The “hot” here is the glowing, fervent zeal and devotion to God and truth, which is commended and commanded elsewhere, as in Romans 12:11-13.

Romans 12:11-13 (NIV)

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Jesus is not seeking the self-conscious, galvanized “hot,” which, in days of false piety, passed for zeal. It is an earnestness that does not know itself earnest, absorbed in its work as a servant for the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither is it “cold”, meaning totally untouched by spiritual life, dead and cold, as an unrepentant heathen would be.

If we look at how soft is the line is between the church and the world today, we can see what Jesus was telling the church at Laodicea. The weak faith of an enormous mass of professing Christians, the goals of the world are their goals, and the sort of life that the world lives is the sort of life that they prefer to live.

“So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

The distaste produced by lukewarm drink, which the stomach naturally rejects with nausea, is used as a figure in which to express the abhorrence of Jesus for those who lacked zeal in His service.

Jesus is not telling the church at Laodicea that they will be saved if all they do is improve their works. The Bible teaches in Ephesians 2:8-10 we have no basis for boasting before Him because of works which we have done. But in James 2:17-19, we see that faith without works is dead.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

James 2:17-19 (NIV)

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

“You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” There is worldly wealth and there is spiritual heavenly wealth. They are totally different. Spiritual pride and lukewarm faith are frequently produced by worldly prosperity. Jesus is telling them when compared to the holiness of God, they are wretched.

“I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” They are to “*buy from me gold refined in the fire*”; the emphasis being laid on me (Jesus), in contradistinction to their trust in themselves and their wealth. They are actually poor, not wealthy, (verse 17), and must, therefore, obtain gold refined by the fire - gold superior to that on the possession of which they so prided themselves, that they may indeed be rich. The “gold” is the living water that comes only from Christ.

To buy this gold (living water) by giving something of equal value in exchange, they were truly unable. Yet it was to be bought and would entail the sacrifice of something which, though perhaps dear to them, would be nothing in comparison with the eternal life return they would obtain. In this situation, they are very similar to the rich young man in Matthew 19:20-24.

Matthew 19:20-24 (NIV)

“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Revelation 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

Revelation 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:21 To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 3:22 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Verse 3:19 is a comfort and encouragement to the church at Laodicea. Jesus requires them to make the sacrifices, not so much that they might be punished for their transgressions, but to prove themselves of the number of God's elect. They must be worthy of the seal of God. Christians are rebuked by Christ, not in the way of wrath, but in a tender manner, to make them aware of their sin and their duty. They must end their mistake of trusting any creature or system more than Jesus, and that they might be saved.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” What an offer!! The offer is not to the seven churches, but to “*anyone*.” Here is a revelation of universal truth, applying to every man and woman on the planet. All who live within the sound of Christ's Gospel and of the written revelations of His grace can be saved. The internet means that nearly every person in the world can dine with Christ today.

“To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” This promise from Jesus in verse 3:21 is also described by Paul in Ephesians 2:6. Note the expression, “*on my throne*” occurs nowhere else. This crowning promise is made to the most unworthy of sinners. It also makes clear Jesus Christ is God.

Ephesians 2:6-7 (NIV)

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

This closes the letter writing portion of the Book of Revelation to the seven existing churches. In chapters 4-22, Jesus next gives John visions into the future of the world. Of the seven Revelation churches, six would come to their end. Most of the final destruction came from the followers of the false prophet Mohammad. Only the church at Philadelphia would escape because of the specific promise Jesus gave to them. The captivity or ruin of the six churches of Asia Minor is now history.

Where the six churches once stood, today they pray to Allah in the mosques set up by Mohammad. They read a book of lies (the Qur'an), taking away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, take on the mark of the beast (the Shahada), and pray to Baal in the Kaaba in the great city of Mecca. But those from the Philadelphia church are still faithful to Jesus in 2020, some 1,925 years after Jesus gave his perfect promise to them! Trust Jesus.



REVELATION CHAPTER 4

JOHN SEES A THRONE IN HEAVEN

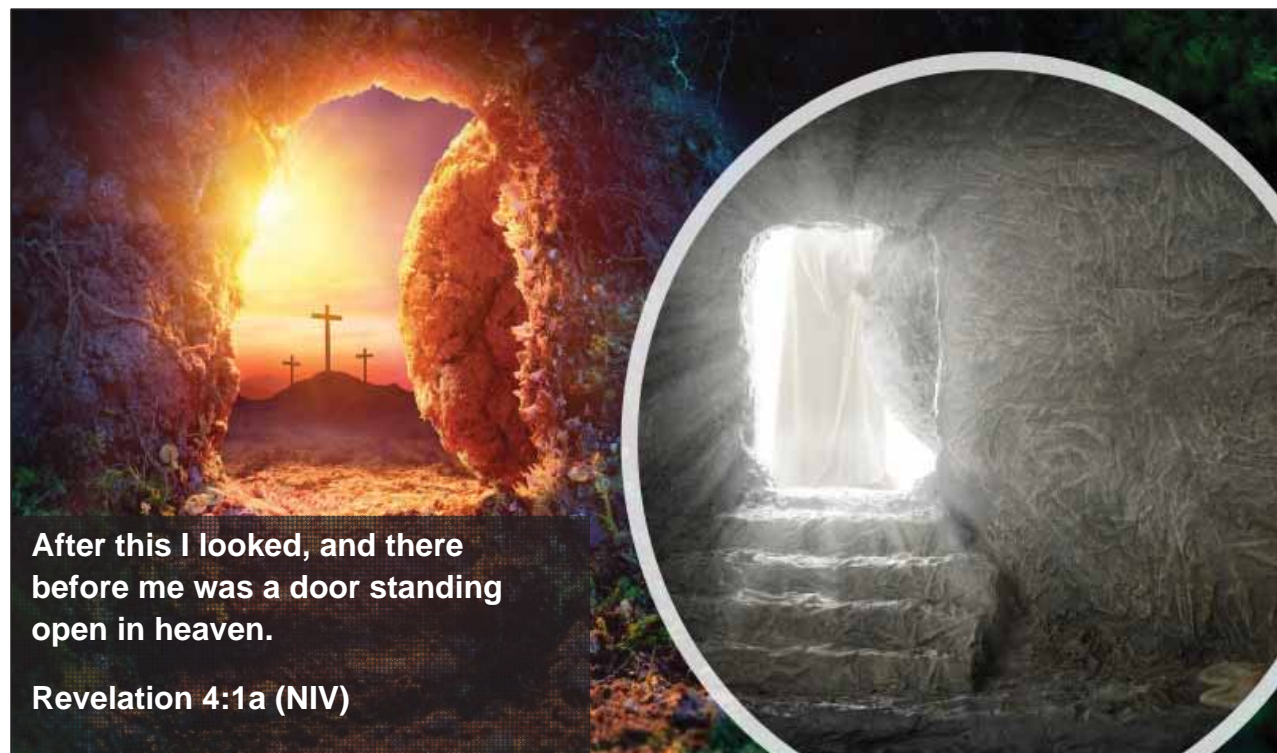
SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 4

In Revelation chapter 4 John looked, and before him was a door standing open in heaven. A voice that sounded like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” John was in the Spirit, and before him was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, John saw four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, 'who was, and is, and is to come.'”



**After this I looked, and there
before me was a door standing
open in heaven.**

Revelation 4:1a (NIV)

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

Revelation 4:2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

All of John’s visions beginning with Revelation 4:1 through Revelation 22:21 are in heaven. The images of the temple he sees all throughout Revelation are in heaven. After Jesus had instructed John (chapters 1-3) to write to the churches, the things that are, there was another vision. Now John saw a throne set in heaven, an emblem of the universal dominion of Jehovah. (*“after this”*) How long after these things this occurred, John does not say - whether on the same day or at some subsequent time; and we do not know.

In chapter 4 the Revelation of John really begins in earnest! Events from chapter 4 onward would unfold over time in the future, long after John wrote Revelation in 95 AD. They are not confined, as some would believe, to the last couple of years of life on earth.

Most prophecies are complete today, but not understood or recognized by most—even those in the church. Beginning in 610 AD (some 515 years after Revelation was written), they start to unfold. In 610 AD, the false prophet Mohammad receives his first vision, continuing for 22 years until his death in 632 AD, from the demonic spirit that gives Mohammad the Qur’an, a false Gospel about Jesus.

The Four Horsemen, Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman (Revelation 6:1 to 6:8) are fulfilled from 610 AD through 656 AD. Much of Revelation chapter 13 about the beast (Baal) from the “sea”, i.e., the spiritual realm, released from the Abyss and the image (the Kaaba), and the mark (the Shahada) are fulfilled during these years as well. Other revelations take even more time. The 1,260 days/years (Revelation 11:3) and 1,260 days/years in the wilderness (Revelation 12:6) prophecies were fulfilled in 1948, exactly 1,260 years after the sinful Dome of the Rock was set up in 688.

The 42 months (1278.4 days/years) trampling of the Holy City of Jerusalem (Revelation 11:2) ended in 1967, 1,278.4 years after the Dome of the Rock was set up in 688. The great city of Mecca, with its wicked Kaaba, its immense wealth, was fulfilled by Middle East oil money in the last twenty years.

Events dealing with the destruction of the great city of Mecca (Revelation 17-18), the return of Christ (Revelation 19-20), the seven bowl judgments on the Day of the Lord (Revelation 16) and the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21-22) are still in the future.

“At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.” Similar to Revelation 1:10 (*“On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet”*), John does not state specifically that he was caught up into heaven. Most likely, John was still in Patmos, and these things were made to pass into his mind by God as a reality; that is, they appeared as real to him as if he traveled to heaven physically and saw them. Thus, they were in fact an accurate representation of things occurring in heaven, and in the “sea”, the spiritual world.

Revelation 4:3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

Revelation 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 4:5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

John saw the glorious one upon the throne; almost impossible to describe in human terms of understanding. Much like how difficult it was for John to describe the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:11 (*"It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal."*)

"Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads." Experts have offered many ideas about the twenty-four in number. They are the twelve tribes doubled, to signify the union of the Gentile with the Jewish church; they are the two sets of twelve, to represent the two Testaments; they are the twelve Patriarchs and the twelve Apostles. In summary, the twenty-four elders represent the complete Church of God in the past and in the future, in the Jewish and Gentile worlds; and as such, the true spiritual church of God. It is all those that accept Christ.

"From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God." The lightning and thunder represent the majesty and power of God. John mentioned the seven spirits previously in Revelation 1:4 and 3:1 (Revelation 1:4; *"John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,"*) Jesus Christ is described in Revelation 3:1 (*"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars., as having the seven Spirits of God."*)

Here in Revelation 4:5, John tells us that the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, are the seven Spirits of God. John tells us that the Lamb's seven eyes were the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 5:6 (*"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth."*) The seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. This is all the information we have from Scripture. We can say this about the seven spirits of God:

- ✓ Revelation 1:4; the seven spirits are before His throne
- ✓ Revelation 3:1; Jesus holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, as having the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 4:5; the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne are the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 5:6; the Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth

Revelation 4:6 Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.

Revelation 4:7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

Revelation 4:8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

In Revelation, the sea is the spiritual world. Since John observes that the “sea” was as smooth as glass and clear as crystal, there was complete harmony in the spiritual world in front of God at that time. The spirits are in perfect balance with God. John has not yet seen the spiritual war in heaven (Revelation 12). In Revelation 15:2, John observes there that the sea is again smooth and glowing with the glory of God. In Revelation 15, the war in heaven (Revelation 12) is over, and the sea is stable again. Jesus won. In front of God, rebellion is not tolerated, and all who remain in heaven obey God.

Revelation 15:2a (NIV)

And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name.

“The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.” These are living spiritual beings that attend to God, not “beasts,” as in some translations. They should not be confused with “beast of Revelation” in chapters 13 and 17, which is Baal released from the Abyss. Baal opposed God once, and does it again.

**The first living creature
was like a lion, the
second was like an ox,
the third had a face like a
man, the fourth was like a
flying eagle.**

Revelation 4:7 (NIV)



THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES WORSHIP JESUS

John sees the four living creatures several times. The four living creatures are described in Revelation 4:6-9; 5:6-14; 6:1-8; 14:3; 15:7 and 19:4. The “living creatures” are not human. These living creatures do not represent the evil element in the world. They serve the living God. One of the most interesting aspects of the four living creatures is that they demonstrate that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is equal to God Himself. The four living creatures fall down and worship the Lamb of God, Jesus, in Revelation 5:6-14.

Revelation 5:8-9 (NIV)

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

Revelation 5:13-14 (NIV)

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

JOHN SEES THE SAME FOUR LIVING CREATURES AS EZEKIEL

Ezekiel also had a vision of the four living creatures that John saw. The entire Ezekiel chapter 1 is devoted to describing the magnificent images of the four living creatures surrounding God.

Ezekiel 1:10 (NIV)

Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle.

In Ezekiel, the four creatures are a part of the throne of God, something like the “wheels” of the throne of God. There are some differences between the description by John and Ezekiel. The four creatures are described as having similar other-worldly features. They are “full of eyes” or “eyes all around.” This is similar to Ezekiel 1; the cherubim are “wheels within wheels, full of eyes.” But the description is also slightly different; the faces are not quite the same in Revelation. One difference between these four creatures and Ezekiel 1 is that each creature has a different face, while Ezekiel 1 describes four creatures with four faces each. This could be how God presented them each time.

We can know for sure these creatures lead worship in heaven (Revelation 4:6-9; 5:6-14, 14:3, and 19:4), and they are associated with the throne of God. In Revelation 6:1-7 they announce the coming of the Four Horsemen (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman) after each seal is opened, and in 15:7 one of these creatures gives the seven bowls of God’s wrath to the angels who pour them out on the earth on the day of the Lord.

Revelation 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,

Revelation 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

“Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever.” The four living creatures are often associated with praise and worship for God and the Lamb.

“The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever.” As soon as the living creatures begin their song of adoration and praise, the elders immediately fall down. The picture John gives us implies that they did so at the same instant, and that they both do this frequently.

ARE THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES ALSO ISAIAH’S “SERAPHIM”?

Isaiah chapter 6:1-4 talks about a type of heavenly creature that Isaiah called a “seraphim.” These verses show us that Isaiah was seeing seraphim and describes their features as beings with six wings. They use two wings to cover their faces, two to cover their feet, and the last two are used to fly. The description mirrors what John sees in Revelation 4:8 but with more details.

Isaiah 6:1-4 (NIV)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

These heavenly creatures seen by Isaiah praise God (*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”*), just as John’s living creatures praise God (*“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”*) Isaiah here doesn’t mention the fact that they have eyes all over their bodies, but they most likely are the same beings.

Some commentators have tried to equate the four living creatures with the four Gospels. But John does not give us enough information in Revelation to make this conclusion. It is better to see the four living creatures as wonderful and unique heavenly creatures that attend to God and continually praise Him until God reveals more to us.



REVELATION CHAPTER 5

ONLY THE LAMB IS WORTHY TO OPEN TO SCROLL

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 5

In Revelation chapter 5 John saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. Then a mighty angel proclaimed in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

John wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to John, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Those around the throne sang a new song to Jesus, the Lamb of God, singing: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”



Revelation 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

Revelation 5:2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

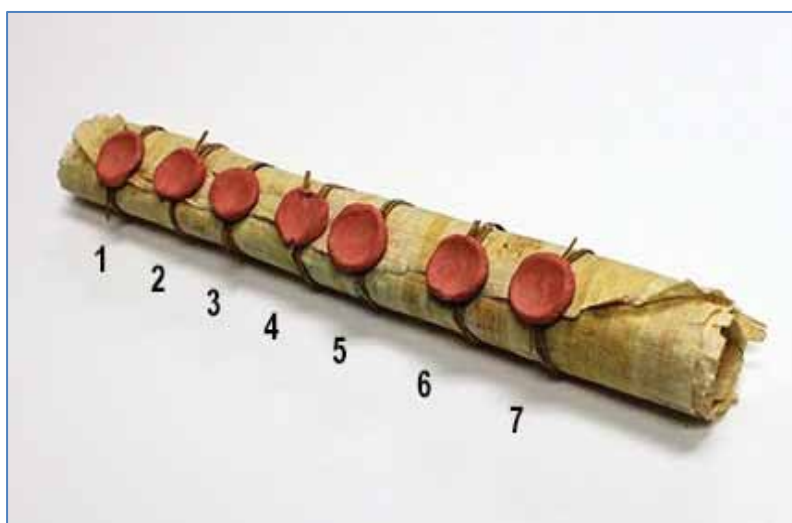
Revelation 5:3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

This book is here seen by the Apostle John as being in the right hand of God, to signify that, as He alone directs the affairs of future prophecy, so He alone can reveal to anyone of His choosing. It is written, not on the inside only, as was the usual way, but, like the roll of the book which Ezekiel saw (Ezekiel 2:9-10), it was written within and without.

Ezekiel 2:9-10 (NIV)

Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

This book was also tightly sealed, to signify that the mystery of God is made known solely when God decides in His sovereign authority.



“And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?’” We must understand the full meaning when John uses the word “worthy.” It is not merely equivalent to “brave enough” or “strong enough.” Here John is telling us worthy means glory and righteousness and seems to imply total moral fitness. Glory is a feature in the heavenly world. John did not lack intellectual capacity so much as the remnant of moral unworthiness, which prevented the opening and reading of the book.

“But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.” Wow--no one was able in all of God’s creation - in heaven, or on earth, or in the place of departed spirits (Sheol-the Abyss where Baal was held). No one was able to *“open the scroll.”*

In fact, no one was able to *“even look inside it.”* In the earthly realm, the heavenly realm and the spiritual dungeon no one was qualified to see or explain what the mysterious scroll might contain. God’s mystery is only revealed by the Lamb of God. Only the Lamb is worthy.

Revelation 5:4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

Revelation 5:5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

“I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.” John is not ashamed to call attention to his weeping and tears. He wanted to know what the future held in the scroll. Once opened, John would learn about the Four Horsemen that would promote a false Gospel about Jesus with the Qur'an. John would learn about the first rider with a crown and bow on the white horse-Mohammad.

John would learn about the rider on the red horse-Abu Bakr. The scroll shows John about the third rider on a black horse with a pair of scales to calculate his new Islamic taxes-Umar. And John would learn about the fourth rider on a pale green horse-Uthman. John would learn the Four Horsemen would soon have authority over a quarter of the world with the Umayyad Caliphate. Their four colors (white, red, black, and pale green) are the universal colors of Islam. But here, John does not know anything about the future because the scroll is not open, and John weeps.

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.’” Christ's victory has this impact. Only Jesus, the Lamb of God can open the scroll. Jesus is not just a “messenger” as written about Him in the Qur'an. Jesus is the Son of God.

Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Revelation 5:5 NIV



Revelation 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Revelation 5:7 He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

John carefully describes the position of the Lamb from his point of view. Jesus (the Lamb) is not sitting on the throne, but in the middle front of it, and the four living creatures surround the Lamb. The twenty-four elders are present as well. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is in the center, and to Jesus, all things bow and sing.

“The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” In Revelation 4:5, John told us that the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, are the seven Spirits of God.

We learn here seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. They do the work God commands them to do on earth. The Lamb has conquered; He has risen from the dead and He has taken the scroll. Jesus did not “grab” it out of the Father’s hand. The Father gave it to Jesus. Jesus was loved by the Father, and Jesus loves the Father.

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. Revelation 5:7 (NIV)



Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

Revelation 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

In Revelation 14:3 the "new song" is also sung by the symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God who accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Only the redeemed Jews can sing it. They fulfill *"Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life"*, (Daniel 12:2). Those Jews that reject Christ; *"others to shame and everlasting contempt"*, (Daniel 12:2) will never be able to sing the new song to the Lamb in heaven.

Revelation 14:3 (NIV)

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

NEW SONG LYRICS

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

The song is new in the sense that it is a song by the symbolic 144,000 Jewish people redeemed in Revelation 14:3, giving thanks for the Lamb's blood that *"purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation."* This new song is distinguished from the songs sung in heaven before the work of redemption was completed by Jesus Christ.

"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." John does not say this will be a reign under the Savior as a literal kingdom on the earth. John does not say the saints will descend from heaven and occupy thrones of power under Christ as a visible king. Jesus said clearly *"My kingdom is not of this world."*

John 18:36-37 (NIV)

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Revelation 5:11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

Revelation 5: 12 In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

Revelation 5:14 The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

John looked and saw many angels and heard their voices. They praised Jesus Christ as they were standing around the throne along with the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders.

John says the number of angels were “*thousands and thousands*”, and then for emphasis says; “*ten thousand times ten thousand*.” John tells us he saw 100 million angels- a general term to communicate either a countless number or an exceedingly high number. We should not take the exact 100 million angels literally. What John is telling us is that all the heavenly hosts, the uncountable angels, the twenty-four elders, and the four living creatures were praising Jesus Christ—the Son of God.

The fact that the Father allows the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures to fall down and worship Jesus Christ and the Father proves Jesus was really God—just as Jesus told us.



Revelation 5:12 NIV

In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”



REVELATION CHAPTER 6

THE LAMB OPENED THE FIRST OF THE SEVEN SEALS

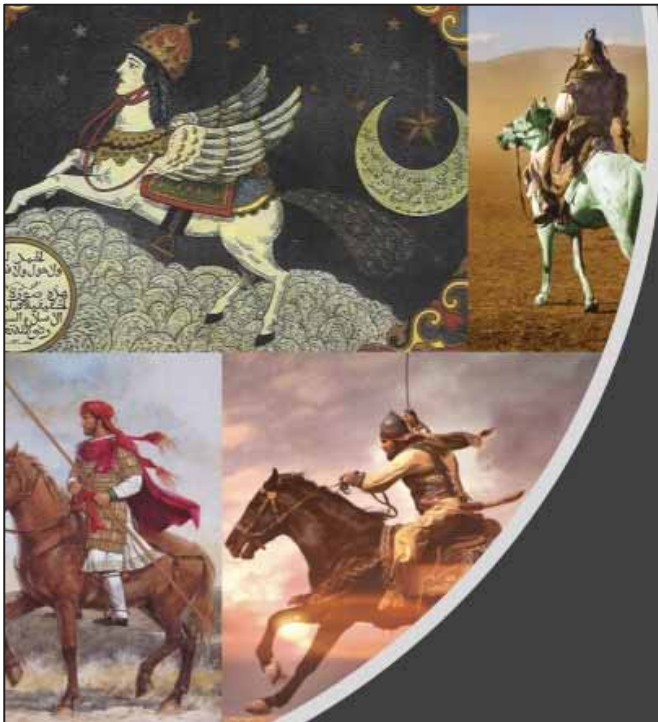
THE FOUR HORSEMEN TRAMPLE THE EARTH

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 6

In Revelation chapter 6 John watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. John looked, and there before him was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

Then John another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword. John saw a third rider on a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, John looked, and there before him was a pale green horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth, to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.



Mohammad

Abu Bakr

Umar

Uthman

Revelation 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!”

Revelation 6:2 I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.

Jesus Christ, the Lamb, opens the first seal, and we are now to observe what appeared. That only Jesus can do this signifies the great importance of the events disclosed. One of the four living creatures tells John to come and observe. John does not mention the particular living creature, though what is said in the subsequent verses indicates that it was the first in order as seen by John - the one “like a lion” in Revelation 4:6-8.

Revelation 4:6-8 (NIV)

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

“I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.” Only the first rider on the white horse was given a crown. Thus, the first rider outranks the other three. This is Mohammad, the final prophet of Islam.



MOHAMMAD ON THE NIGHT RIDE TO JERUSALEM-A CROWN AND WHITE HORSE

THE FIRST RIDER CARRIES A BOW—A DESCENDANT OF ISHMAEL—MOHAMMAD

Ishmael was considered the ancestor of the Northern Arabs, and Mohammad was linked to him through the lineage of the patriarch Adnan. Adnan was the son of Ishmael's first son Kedar (Genesis 25:12-16). Ishmael is mentioned over ten times in the Qur'an. Ishmael was an archer (Genesis 21:20), and Mohammad is a descendant of Ishmael through Ishmael's son Kedar. Hagar, Ishmael's mother, was from Egypt, and Ishmael's wife was from Egypt (Genesis 21:21).

Genesis 21:17-21 (NIV)

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Islamic sources (Syed Yusuf) give this lineage of Ishmael down to Mohammad:

- 1 Abraham was the father of
- 2 Ishmael was the father of
- 3 Kedar was the father of
- 4 Adnan was the father of
- 5 Ma'add was the father of
- 6 Nizaar was the father of
- 7 Mudar was the father of
- 8 Ilyaas was the father of
- 9 Mudrikah was the father of
- 10 Khuzaimah was the father of
- 11 Kinaanah was the father of
- 12 Al-Nadr was the father of
- 13 Maalik was the father of
- 14 Quraysh was the father of
- 15 Ghaalib was the father of
- 16 Lu'ayy was the father of
- 17 Ka'ab was the father of
- 18 Murrah was the father of
- 19 Kilaab was the father of
- 20 Qusayy was the father of
- 21 Abd Manaaf was the father of
- 22 Haashim was the father of
- 23 Abdul Muttalib was the father of
- 24 Abdullah was the father of
- 25 Mohammad the Prophet

HE LOOKS LIKE A LAMB BUT SPEAKS LIKE A DRAGON—THE FALSE PROPHET

Since the first rider wears a crown, he ranks highest as a chief prophet but is a false prophet on a white horse. All those deceived will look to this prophet for the message. All Muslims and the Qur'an call Mohammad the "Messenger." Mohammad, as the prophet, outranked those following him.

Mohammad's night ride to Jerusalem on a white horse fits the description of the first rider. Islam claims Mohammad was taken from Mecca and back in one night to the outer court on the Temple Mount on a white horse, a place Revelation 11:2 says was set aside for Gentiles and did not belong to the people of God since it is "excluded." (Revelation 11:1-2; *I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles."*)

We can learn more about Mohammad from what the Bible tells us in Revelation, chapter 13, about the false prophet. The main human enemy of Jesus (in addition to Satan, the spiritual enemy) will claim to speak for God, but instead really speaks for the dragon-Satan. He may not even know Satan is talking through him. This individual in Revelation 13 is referred to as *"the second beast of the earth"* and *"It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon."* (Revelation 13:11-18). Obviously, he has a pious appearance (*"like a lamb"*), but underneath his words and actions are dark and Satanic (*"spoke like a dragon"*).

The *"two horns like a lamb"* identifier also gives John's readers an image of the crescent moon of Islam, the image of Baal the beast. Baal is allied with Satan in the Old Testament. Hubal, or Hub Allah, or Hu' Baal, are different names for the same moon god of Mecca. Baal was another name of the Babylonian moon deity "Sin." Baal was sent to the Abyss (Jeremiah 50:1-3, Jeremiah 51:44, and Isaiah 14:15-17). The beast emerges from the Abyss. (Revelation 17:8a; *"The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction."*)



ANCIENT SYMBOL OF BAAL



ISLAMIC CRESCENT MOON

“IT HAD TWO HORNS LIKE A LAMB”—HOW MOHAMMAD ASSOCIATED WITH JESUS

Revelation 13:11-12 says the false prophet will try to associate with Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Revelation 13:11-12 (NIV)

Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

The Qur'an claims Jesus said Mohammad's name ("Ahmad") can be found in both the Old Testament and New Testament. The claim is that Jesus said Mohammad would follow him.

Qur'an 61:6

And when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and **bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad.**"

Muslims claim Mohammad is the "prophet in Deuteronomy 18:18. (*"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."*) Muslim scholars also claim that the "Paraclete," "Spirit of Truth," or "Comforter" about whom Jesus foretold in John chapters 14-16 is the prophet, Mohammad. They say that the prophecy talks of a human being, a person, who would come after Jesus as the final prophet.

John 14:15-17a (NIV)

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him."

But continued reading of the prophecy in John indicates the disciples would see it in their lifetimes, and that the spirit of truth would live in them. This is not a human appearing some 600 years later!

John 14:17b-18 (NIV)

"But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Islam claims Mohammad is the messenger of Allah. Mohammad repeatedly tries to associate with Jesus in the Qur'an, just as Revelation predicted. The name of Jesus ("Isa") is found more often in the Qur'an than Mohammad's name. But Mohammad is speaking from the dragon, also just as Revelation predicted. The Qur'an lies about Jesus. The Qur'an takes away that Jesus is the Son of God. The Qur'an takes away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. The Qur'an takes away the crucifixion of Jesus. The Qur'an takes away the resurrection of Jesus. The Qur'an takes away a loving God. The Four Horsemen caused much damage to followers of Jesus. All four fight the truth of Jesus—that he died and rose again for our sins. This is what the Qur'an claims--that Jesus is not God, did not die for our sins, and was not raised from the dead.

REVELATION PROPHECY SAYS THE FALSE PROPHET DOES FIVE THINGS:

1. The false prophet will attempt to look like, claim to be connected to, or associated in some way to the Lamb (Revelation 13:11)
2. The False Prophet deceives the world. (Revelation 13:14)
3. The False Prophet sets up an image of false worship to the false god. (Revelation 13:14-15)
4. The False Prophet creates a mark, a statement of faith, to the false god. (Revelation 13:16-18)
5. Demonic spirits and messages come out of the false prophet mouth. (Revelation 16:13-14)

Islam says Mohammad is the last prophet. Thus no Muslim will ever look for another prophet in the future. A false prophet must be someone who has been claiming to speak for a false god. According to Revelation, this person must: 1) claim to have a connection to Jesus (Revelation 13:11), 2) deceive the entire world (Revelation 13:14), and 3) set up an image (the Kaaba Blackstone in Mecca) of false worship to the false God (Revelation 13:14-15). He must: 4) give a mark (Revelation 13:16-18), a statement of faith, to worship the false god (the Islamic Shahada), and finally 5) he must also have a message with demonic words and spirits coming out of his mouth (Revelation 16:13-14). Mohammad did all five of these things. Mohammad is Islam's last prophet and the false prophet.

Mohammad received all the revelations from Allah to create the Qur'anic writings. Mohammad and the other three horsemen spread these false revelations. These writings deny Jesus is the Son of God, deny the crucifixion and resurrection, and block the only redemptive path to the true God.

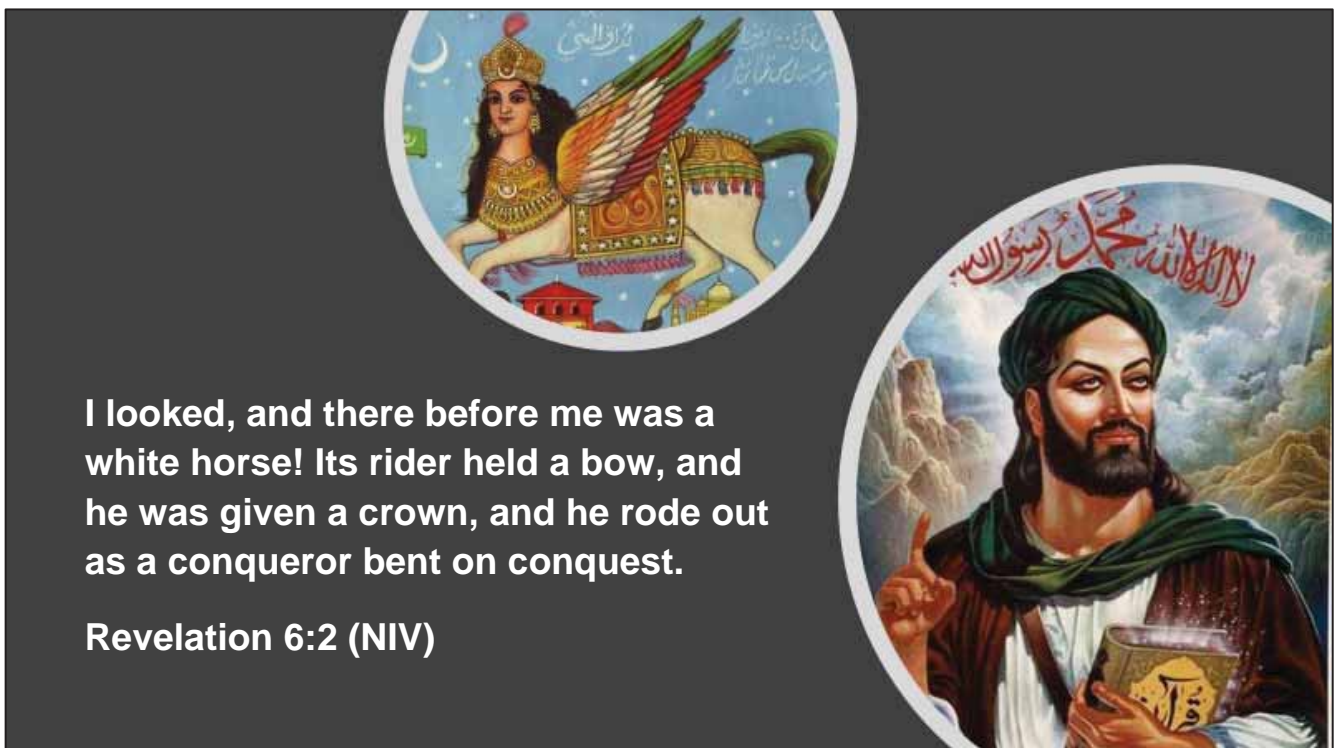


MOHAMMAD PLACED THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA—THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

In both Revelation 19:20 and 20:10, John is told the false prophet is thrown in the lake of fire at the time of Christ's return. Mohammad indeed deceived billions of people to receive such special wrath from Jesus Christ! Islam has deceived one third of the world.



PRAYER TO THE KAABA SET UP BY MOHAMMAD



Revelation 6:3 When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!”

Revelation 6:4 Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.

THE NEXT THREE RIDERS ARE THE THREE CALIPHS THAT FOLLOWED MOHAMMAD

The Four Horsemen produced a caliphate (“kingdom”) that was devastating to the truth of Jesus in the Bible. They had power over one quarter of the world’s population (Revelation 6:8b; “*They were given power over a fourth of the earth*”)

The leader of a caliphate is called a “caliph.” Mohammad was the first rider, followed by Abu Bakr, then Umar, and finally Uthman. Historically, three significant caliphates existed: the Rashidun Caliphate (632–661), the Umayyad Caliphate (661–750), and the Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258). The fourth major caliphate, the Ottoman Caliphate, established by the Ottoman Empire in 1517, was a manifestation whereby the Ottoman rulers claimed caliphate authority and lasted another 400 years until World War I.

(Highest Ranking) White Horse Mohammad 570-632



Red Horse Abu Bakr 632-634



Black Horse Umar 634-644



Green Horse Uthman 644-656



The Great Split

Shia

Sunni

ABU BAKR IS THE RIDER ON THE SECOND RED HORSE

Revelation tells us the second horseman is on a red horse. He does not rank as highly as the first because he does not wear a crown. (Revelation 6:3-4 *When the Lamb opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” Then another horse came out, a fiery red one. Its rider was given power to take peace from the earth and to make people kill each other. To him was given a large sword.*) The second rider on the Red Horse of War was the 1st Caliph after Mohammad, Abu Bakr.

Mohammad received his revelations in a cave near Mecca. Mohammad then told Abu Bakr what had happened in the cave and how Allah had revealed to him the Qur'an and made Mohammad his messenger.

When Abu Bakr heard this from the prophet, he did not stop to think; he at once became a Muslim. Abu Bakr submitted to Islam with determination. Islamic records say the prophet Mohammad remarked, "I called people to Islam, everybody thought over it, at least for a while, but this was not the case with Abu Bakr, the moment I put Islam before him, he accepted it without any hesitation."

Abu Bakr became the first openly declared Muslim outside Mohammad's family. Abu Bakr served as a trusted advisor to Mohammad. On his return from a business trip from Yemen, he was informed by friends that in his absence the prophet Mohammad had declared himself the Messenger of Allah and proclaimed a new religion—the "new fortress god" described in Daniel chapter 11:37-38.



ABU BAKR-THE RIDER ON THE RED HORSE

From 622 to 632, Abu Bakr was Mohammad's chief adviser but had no prominent public functions except that he conducted the pilgrimage to Mecca in 631 and led the public prayers to Allah in Medina during Mohammad's last illness in 632. In 632, Abu Bakr became the first caliph.

Abu Bakr's caliphate crushed the rebellion of the Arab tribes throughout the Arabian Peninsula in the successful Ridda Wars. Though the period of his caliphate covered only 27 months, it included successful invasions of the two most powerful empires of the time: the Sassanid Persian Empire and Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire. Abu Bakr was the red horse of war!

In the last months of his rule, Abu Bakr sent general Khalid on conquests against the Persian Sassanid Empire in Mesopotamia and against the Byzantine Empire in Syria. This would set in motion a great Islamic Empire continued by Umar and then Uthman. In just a few short decades, this would lead to one of the largest empires in history and control a quarter of the world.

Abu Bakr died in 634. He only was a leader a little over two years. He is regarded as the "*Successor of Allah's Messenger*" (meaning the successor to Mohammad), and first of the "*Rightly Guided Caliphs*"—i.e. Rashidun—and as the rightful successor to Mohammad, the final prophet.

Revelation 6:5 When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

Revelation 6:6 Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

UMAR IS THE RIDER ON THE THIRD BLACK HORSE WITH A PAIR OF SCALES

Umar was the second caliph and followed Abu Bakr. Umar ruled from 634 to 644. Revelation tells us the third rider is on a black horse with a pair of scales. (Revelation 6:5-6 *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”*) Among the many things Umar did was impose a new tax system.

Under Umar, the caliphate expanded even faster, defeating the Sassanid Empire and most of the Byzantine Empire. His attacks against the Sassanid Empire resulted in the conquest of Persia in under two years (642–644). After invading the Holy Land and conquering Jerusalem in 637, Umar gave a covenant or pact. The pact was a harsh treaty between the Muslims, Jews, and Christians of Syria, Mesopotamia, and Jerusalem. Umar "distributed the land for a price" (Daniel 11:39.) Umar instituted taxation on the conquered peoples, as illustrated by the pair of scales to calculate the tax.



**UMAR-THE RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE
WITH A PAIR OF SCALES TO CALCULATE HIS NEW TAXES**

UMAR--"THE KING WILL DO AS HE PLEASES" IN DANIEL 11:36

Daniel was taken captive in 605 BC as part of the Babylonian captivity of Israel. Daniel finished his work around the year 530 BC, shortly after the capture of Babylon by Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC. In the book of Daniel (Daniel 11:36-45 and 7:23-25), he sees a future king who treats the Holy People very badly. This king defeats three kings and changes the set times and laws.

This king has many battlefield conquests and invades the Holy Land. Today many people think this king is still in the future (perhaps the "Antichrist"), but Daniel was writing about the second Muslim caliph after Mohammad named Umar. Daniel wrote this 1,200 years before Umar. Just as Daniel saw, the end to Umar arrived and no one came to help him. This was at a mosque in Medina.

JOHN DESCRIBES UMAR'S NEW TAXATION IN REVELATION 6:5-6

Carefully look at what John wrote about the third seal with the black horse in Revelation 6:5-6: *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day's wages {denarius}, and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day's wages {denarius}, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"*

WHAT DOES "A QUART OF WHEAT FOR A DAY'S WAGES" MEAN?

John says a certain amount of wheat is demanded while earning a full day's pay. Many Bible commentators have interpreted this text to mean that a day's wage (a denarius) will only purchase a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. In ancient times, a denarius would generally buy about 10 quarts of wheat and 2-3 times more in barley. Since this interpretation of Revelation gives wheat and barley prices about ten times higher than usual, they interpret this as a severe famine. The famine concept is not correct. What they miss is the new taxation of Umar at 10%, or one quart of wheat for 10 quarts of wages earned in a day. The scales are to calculate a 10% tax.

The famine theory describes a future condition where basic goods are sold at greatly inflated prices. They think the black horse rider depicts a future time of deep scarcity or famine.



But John does not use any words to indicate a buy/sell transaction such as the actual buying of grain or a purchase of something. John does not indicate grain or food scarcity exist or are connected to wages. The literal text says: *"Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day's wages {denarius}, and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day's wages {denarius}."* John does not write: "To buy a quart of wheat you must spend a day's wage." John could have just as well meant: **"You owe a quart of wheat to the Islamic caliphate state in taxes for earning a day's wages."** This is the correct interpretation.

Most Bible commentators are puzzled by the next part of the text: “*and do not damage the oil and the wine!*” They have no solid explanation for this, other than oil (olive oil) and wine are more expensive, and perhaps wealthy people in the famine can still afford these items. But it seems unlikely that olive oil and wine prices would not rise in a famine. In fact, they would probably rise even higher than basic grain prices. They would be harmed in a famine.

So, what is John really trying to tell us about the Four Horsemen, power, crops, wine, oil, and wages? What do the scales mean? Why is the ratio 10 to 1?

Revelation 6:8 tells us the Four Horseman have power over a quarter of the world’s population. All conquering powers impose new taxes to fund their activities. The rider on the black horse seems to place some type of new yoke (bondage or servitude) on the land. A better understanding of the Revelation 6:5-6 text is that the Four Horsemen impose a new taxation system (one quart of wheat tax out of ten quarts earned in a day) on these conquered people. The scales are used to calculate the tax. When a person earns a day’s wage (a denarius) they **must pay a tax** rate equivalent of a providing a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley to the caliphate of the Four Horseman.

Since at normal prices a day’s wage would buy about 10 quarts of wheat, a one quart wheat tax example would give the new system income tax rate of about **10%** of the daily wage, using normal grain prices. **Apparently, the 10% tax is placed on labor related to raw crop grains such as wheat and barley, but finished products that are stored such as olive oil and wine are exempt.** This is what Umar did in actual history. Umar fulfilled this prophecy precisely!

THE NEW ISLAMIC TAXES “DO NOT DAMAGE THE OIL OR THE WINE”

The Islamic conquest of the Middle East brought not one, but four new taxes to the conquered peoples. The money was used to fund the Islamic State. The four types of taxes in Islam are called Zakat, Jizya, Kharaj, and Ushr. These taxes were instituted by the Four Horsemen.

1. Zakat Tax: The Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam. The Zakat tax rate is 2.5%. It is a tax partially designed for helping the poor, used to promote Islam, and fund jihad. The funds are partially used to bring more people into Islam—and deny Jesus Christ is the Son of God and risen Savior. Although technically Zakat was only for Muslims, overall many people were forced to convert to Islam and pay the Zakat, rather than the Jizya tax. The Zakat command is given in Qur’an 9:60.

Qur’an 9:60 “The Alms-tax is only for the poor and the needy, for those employed to administer it, for those whose hearts are converting to the {Islamic} faith, for freeing slaves, for those in debt, for Allah’s cause {Jihad fighters}, and for needy travelers. This is an obligation from Allah. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.”

Shariah Law states only nine items are subject to the Zakat tax. Wheat and barley are part of the obligatory nine items. Olive oil and wine are specifically exempt. Shariah Law 657 states Zakat is obligatory in nine things: wheat, barley, dates, grapes (raisins), gold, silver, sheep, cows and camels. Source: <https://www.al-islam.org/a-summary-of-rulings-makarim-shirazi/rules-zakah>



THE FOUR NEW ISLAMIC TAXES INCLUDE A 10% CROP PRODUCTION TAX

2. Jizya Tax: The Jizya tax is a per capita yearly tax historically levied by Islamic states on certain non-Muslim subjects—called “dhimmis”—permanently residing in Muslim lands under Islamic law. The Qur’an and Islamic Hadith mention Jizya without specifying its rate or amount. However, scholars largely agree that first Muslim rulers (the Four Horsemen) expanded systems of taxation and tribute in the conquered lands.

In lands conquered by the Muslims by force, the Jizya was imposed upon all who refused to convert to Islam in exchange for protection. This was a tax on Christians and Jews that refused to convert to Islam. The Jizya could be paid with cash or crops such as wheat or barley. The tax could not be paid with pigs, or wine, or dead animals. The rate of Jizya varied until it was fixed and broadly implemented by Umar, the second caliph after the Prophet Mohammad and the first caliph Abu-Bakr. Umar is the third rider on the Black Horse with the scales.

Arab Christians and Jews were to be fought until they paid the Jizya willingly and humbled. **This is according to the Qur’an--that the Jizya was to be collected in humbling conditions.**

Qur’an 9:29 “Fight those who do not believe in Allah, nor in the latter day, nor do they prohibit what Allah and His Apostle Mohammad have prohibited, nor follow the religion of truth, out of those who have been given the Book, until they pay the tax in acknowledgment of superiority and they are in a state of subjection.”

Umar set in place the Jizya in Syria and Palestine. The Jizya was initially a measure of wheat together with one dinar per capita, then gold merchants and 40 dirhams on traders, taxing the rich heavily, the poor the least, and the middle classes moderately. Umar then imposed the Jizya upon all classes of Non-Muslim society, ordering a census of personal wealth to be carried out in all parts of the Islamic State. Later, Uthman (the fourth horseman on the pale green horse) concluded that there were just 550,000 “non-believers”, i.e., people who held to their Christian beliefs. Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M'Baye, pages 197-202. UNESCO, 2011

3. Kharaj Tax: The third Islamic tax is called Kharaj, which is a type of individual Islamic tax on agricultural land and its produce developed under Islamic Sharia law. Since most people lived in an agrarian society in the times of the Islamic conquests, this tax applied to most people—especially most workers. Kharaj refers to the land tax levied by the early Muslim rulers (the Four Horsemen) on their non-Muslim subjects, still collectively known as “dhimmi.” In an ancient Arab papyrus document, when the Kharaj tax is paid in kind, such as with wheat or barley, it is called a “**food tax.**” Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M'Baye, page 203. UNESCO, 2011

Fulfilling more prophecy, Umar “*distributed the land for a price.*” (Daniel 11:39) The phenomenal Muslim conquests by the Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:8 “*They were given power over a fourth of the earth.*”) created one major problem, namely what to do with the extensive lands conquered by the Muslims. After the conquest of Iraq in 635, about three years before the Islamic conquest of Jerusalem in 637, the commander wrote to Umar. He wrote that the Muslims had asked him to divide the towns, people, and land, including plantations and crops, among them. He refused to do this until Umar wrote back with his views. The troops requested that Umar divide up the conquered territories.

Instead, Umar allowed the conquered people to remain on the land and pay a Kharaj crop and land tax to the Islamic State. This is how he “*distributed the land for a price.*” Umar set the Islamic tax at the established rate of 1 dinar and 3 ardabs of victuals (1 ardab equals 69.6 kg of wheat or barley). Some land produced a higher return and tax. One governor wrote to Umar that “we have accepted types of produce with a higher value than wheat and barley” – mentioning beans, grapes, dates and sesame – “which have been taxed at a rate of 8 dirhams, and what was previously sent to the caliph in cash and kind has been abolished.” Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M'Baye, pages 202-204. UNESCO, 2011

4. Ushr Tax: Ushr is the obligatory income tax on farm produce, which is 10% for most land crop usage and 5% for others. Muslims and non-Muslims must pay it. Ushr was also instituted by Umar. Muslim merchants paid 2.5%, non-Muslim subjects paid 5.0%, and those from non-Muslim lands called the ‘the House of War’, paid a Ushr tax of 10%. Another action Umar took with important economic consequences, and which encouraged people to convert to Islam, was allowing the poor and former slaves to become landowners with full rights to buy, sell and bequeath their land. All they had to do was pay the Ushr tax to the Islamic state (a tithe), a tax levied on all people equally. Source: The Spread of Islam Throughout the World, Editors: Idris El Hareir and El Hadji Ravane M'Baye, pages 203-211. UNESCO, 2011

Revelation 6:7 When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, “Come!”

Revelation 6:8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAD POWER OVER A FOURTH OF THE EARTH

Revelation tells us the Four Horsemen will have power over one quarter of the world. (Revelation 6:8 *"They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."*) They did not kill a quarter of the world. The conquests of the Four Horsemen set in motion the Umayyad Caliphate. This is one of the most misunderstood and misquoted verses in the entire book of Revelation. Most prophecy experts incorrectly make the statement that “the four Horsemen will kill a quarter of the world.” The Bible does not say that. The Bible says they will have power or control over a quarter of the world.

Just as Revelation predicted, the Four Horsemen had power over a quarter of the world. At its greatest extent^{1,2}, the Umayyad Caliphate covered 5.8 million sq miles and included 62 million people (29% of the world's population at that time), making it one of the largest empires in history in both area and proportion of the world's population. Today about 28% or more of the world is Islamic.



THE FOUR HORSEMEN HAD POWER OVER A QUARTER OF THE WORLD

¹Blankinship, Khalid Yahya (1994), *The End of the Jihad State, the Reign of Hisham Ibn 'Abd-al Malik and the collapse of the Umayyads*, State University of New York Press, p. 37, ISBN 978-0-7914-1827-7

² <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-under-the-umayyad-caliphates/>

UTHMAN IS THE RIDER ON THE FOURTH GREEN HORSE

Revelation tells us the fourth rider is on a pale green horse (Revelation 6:7-8 *When the Lamb opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*)

In many Bible footnotes, there is an explanation that the color is not pale, but rather pale green or green. The footnotes indicate the Greek word in verse 8 is chlóros: meaning pale green or green. This word is the same derivative as in the word "chlorophyll," which gives the green color of leaves.

UTHMAN DESTROYED ALL QUR'AN VERSIONS BUT ONE

Uthman centralized the administration of the caliphate and established the official version of the Qur'an. Uthman created a standardized copy of the Qur'an by gathering all versions across the caliphate and burning all but one.

That is why Islamic scholars try to claim today; there are no errors in the Qur'an—since all Qur'ans today came from the one version that they did not burn. The other Qur'an texts with mistakes were different and destroyed.

Uthman is critically important in Islamic history because after his death marked the beginning of open massive religious and civil war conflicts within the Islamic community (called the "Fitnah"). Uthman was also murdered by other Muslims. Following his death, Ali was chosen as the fourth caliph, but not before violent conflict broke out.



UTHMAN ON THE PALE GREEN HORSE

War erupted when Ali became caliph, and he too was killed in fighting in the year 661 near the town of Kufa, now in present-day Iraq. The violence and war split the small community of Muslims into two branches that would never reunite. The battle continued with Ali's son, Hussein, leading the Shiites. He and 72 members of his family and companions fought against a huge Arab army of the caliph, and they were all massacred. Hussein was decapitated, and his head carried in tribute to the Sunni caliph in Damascus. The Sunni Shia split continues to this day. This fulfills Daniel's divided kingdom prophecy—*toes of iron and clay*. The Umayyad Caliphate was the second of four Islamic caliphates and was founded in Arabia after the Prophet Muhammad's death. The Umayyads ruled the formerly Christian lands, now the Islamic world, from 661 to 750 A.D.

WHITE, RED, BLACK AND GREEN ARE THE FOUR COLORS OF THE HORSEMEN—AND ISLAM

The Bible makes clear the first three colors are white, red and black, but many translations give the fourth color as "pale". The correct translation is green, or pale green. The Greek word in verse 8 is *chlóros*: pale green, pale Original Word: *χλωρός*, *ά, όν* Transliteration: *chlóros* Short Definition: green, pale Definition: green, pale green.

WHITE, RED, BLACK AND GREEN ARE THE COLORS OF ISLAMIC MIDDLE EAST FLAGS



SYRIA



IRAQ



JORDAN



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



SUDAN



LIBYA



PALESTINE LIBERATION



KUWAIT



IRAN



YEMEN



WESTERN SAHARA



AFGHANISTAN



TURKEY



SAUDI ARABIA



PAKISTAN



TUNISIA



SHAHADA



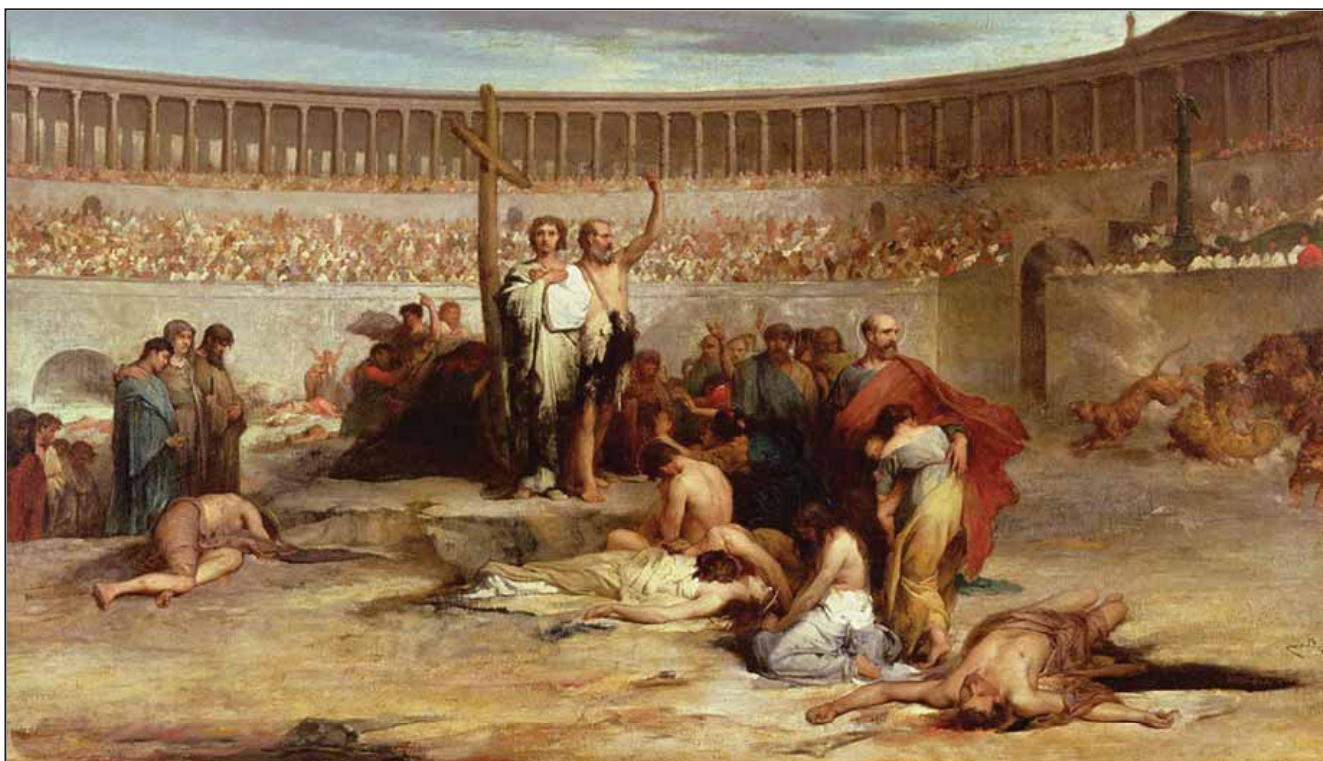
ISIS

Revelation 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Revelation 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

Revelation 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

The fifth seal denoting human events differs from the four earlier seals. The voice of the four living creatures does not introduce it, and the command “Come.” The voice we hear is not the cry of the groaning world, but the oppressed and troubled church. In the fourth seal the climax of the Four Horsemen (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman) brought false doctrine and sorrow to the world. Now we see the results of their actions on Christians and a prayer for God’s judgment on them.



The tribulation has been in effect since Jesus lived on earth. Jesus told us we would have tribulation, but not to worry because he has conquered the world and death. Open Doors listed the top 20 worst countries to be a Christian in 2020. The one consistent theme of all 20 countries is that they worship false gods. Of the top 20, 18 are Islamic worshipping Satan and Baal, one (North Korea) praises their leader, and one (India) is both Hindu and Islamic worshipping idols, and the dragon and the beast.

John 16:33 (ESV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Revelation 6:12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

Revelation 6:13 and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.

Revelation 6:14 The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Now John moves to the day of the Lord. On this unique day, God pours out His seven bowls of wrath on nonbelievers left on the earth in a final judgment. Revelation does not say the seals, trumpets, and bowls occur in chronological order. The sixth seal is the last day. Most all of the trumpets' prophecies have happened before the day of the Lord. In the sixth seal, John takes us forward to the day of the Lord, and the seven bowls of judgment. The seals are in the human earthly realm, and the trumpets are in the spiritual realm. They overlap in human time. The trumpets are events in the "sea."



THE DAY OF THE LORD

In Revelation 6:13-14, John is referring back to Isaiah 34:1-4 to describe the day of the Lord.

Isaiah 34:1-4 (NIV)

Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. For the Lord's indignation is against all the nations, And His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. So their slain will be thrown out, And their corpses will give off their stench, And the mountains will be drenched with their blood. And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree.

When the sixth seal was opened, there was a great earthquake. The foundations of Baal, Satan and the nonbelievers will be terribly shaken. The great changes on the earth, moon and sun on the day of the Lord are described in Isaiah 24:19-20.

Isaiah 24:19-23 (NIV)

The earth is broken asunder, the earth is split through, the earth is shaken violently. The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard and it totters like a shack, for its transgression is heavy upon it, and it will fall, never to rise again. So it will happen in that day, that the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together like prisoners in the dungeon, and will be confined in prison; and after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders.

The prophet Zephaniah tells us Baal will be worshipped until that very last day.

Zephaniah 1:2-4 (NIV)

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. “I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.” “When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”



BAAL WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE DAY OF THE LORD

Revelation 6:15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

Revelation 6:16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

In Revelation 6:15-17 John further describes the day of the Lord. John refers back to prophecy from Hosea 10 and Luke 23.

Hosea 10:8 (NIV)

The high places of wickedness will be destroyed—it is the sin of Israel. Thorns and thistles will grow up and cover their altars. Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” and to the hills, “Fall on us!”

Luke 23:28-30 (NIV)

Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then “they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!””

The bowl judgments further highlight what will occur on the day of the Lord. (Revelation 16:20; “*Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.*”)

Revelation 16:17-20 (NIV)

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

The prophet Zechariah tells us this will all occur on one unique day.

Zechariah 14:5-7 (NIV)

Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.

Thus in the final day of judgment the revealing of the Son of Man will confound men whose minds have been blinded by their entire absorption in world-splendors and the teachings of the false prophet Mohammad.



REVELATION CHAPTER 7

144,000 SEALED FROM ALL TRIBES OF ISRAEL AND A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 7

In Revelation chapter 7 John saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

Next John heard an angel say: “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” John heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

After this John looked, and before him was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” One of the elders asked John, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” John answered, “Sir, you know.” Then John was told these have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**And he said, “These are they
who have come out of the great
tribulation; they have washed
their robes and made them
white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 7:14b (NIV)



Revelation 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.

Revelation 7:2 Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea:

Revelation 7:3 “Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.”

“After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.” There is somewhat similar prophecy limited to Elam (in modern Iran and parts of Iraq) in Jeremiah 49:36-38.

Jeremiah 49:36-38 (NIV)

I will bring against Elam the four winds from the four quarters of heaven; I will scatter them to the four winds, and there will not be a nation where Elam’s exiles do not go. I will shatter Elam before their foes, before those who want to kill them; I will bring disaster on them, even my fierce anger,” declares the Lord. “I will pursue them with the sword until I have made an end of them.”

Revelation chapter 7 is still a continuation of the sixth seal, for the seventh seal is not until the beginning of the next chapter. The sixth seal begin the day of the Lord from a human perspective. In the figurative language of Scripture, the blowing of the four winds together, means a dreadful and general destruction. But the destruction is delayed until the symbolic 144,000 Jewish remnant coming out of the holocaust will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

“Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea.” In Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual world. The angel “coming up from the east” refers to the demonic kings from the east in Revelation 16:12. These refer to the bowl judgments on the day of the Lord.

Revelation 16:12 (NIV)

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

“Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” The Jews emerged from the Holocaust in 1945, wholly broken. Until World War II, virtually no Jews had accepted Christ since the early church of the Apostles. “The servants of God” are the 144,000 are symbolic of the Jews that have accepted Christ since the Holocaust. Of these, most of “the elect” have accepted Christ only since 1967. Jesus shortened the days of World War II so that the Holocaust did not kill all Jews in the world. Jesus said: *“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”* (Matthew 24:22)

Revelation 7:4-8 4 Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. 5 From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, 6 from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, 7 from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, 8 from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

These five verses of Revelation have raised many questions for hundreds of years! Immediately five quick questions arise from these verses.

First, what does John want us to understand by the precise number of 12,000 from each tribe, for a specific total of 144,000? Second, why is every tribe the same in number (12,000), regardless of its actual size? Third, which people are selected from the tribes of Israel? Fourth, why is there a change of the order and missing names of the tribes? Fifth, what else does the Bible tell us about these people?

The first question: what does John want us to understand by the precise number of 12,000 from each tribe, for a specific total of 144,000? There are differences of opinion among reputable Bible scholars as to the identity of the 144,000 in both here in Revelation 7 and also Revelation chapter 14. Some Bible scholars argue that the number referred to those saved from the physical nation of Israel. Others believe this group is spiritual Israel, i.e., the Church. Still, others believe the 144,000 are symbolic of the Messianic Jews that are part of the Church. **Since the second century AD, most all Messianic Jews have come to faith only since 1967.** Estimates vary, but many believe there are more than 250,000 Messianic Jews in the world today in 2020. If the 144,000 is symbolic of Messianic Jews joining the Church, the prophecy is fulfilled today.

Until World War II, virtually no Jews had accepted Christ since the early second century. This is the best explanation--- that the 144,000 are symbolic of the Jews that have accepted Christ since the Holocaust. Most of these have accepted Christ since 1967. This fulfills a prophecy of Ezekiel 36:33 (*“On the day I cleanse you from all your sins”*) because the cities of Israel were only rebuilt after the 1967 war. Only after 1967 did Messianic Jews start to appear in Israel.

Ezekiel 36:33-34 (NIV)

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it.”

The second question: why is every tribe exactly the same in number (12,000), regardless of its actual size? There are parts of Revelation text that John meant to be symbolic. This single passage seems to show the mistake of those who always expect the numbers in the Revelation to be precise and exact, for is it to be supposed, that there should be in each tribe 12,000 believers, neither more nor fewer, to make up the total sum of 144,000. The 144,000, with 12,000 in every tribe exactly, is almost certainly a symbolic figure. Another way of looking at it is 12 x 12 x 1,000. It is the twelve tribes and twelve Apostles multiplied by 1,000 to show completeness.

We can see a somewhat similar ratio given in the Book of Numbers (31:1-5).

Numbers 31:1-5 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses, “Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.” So Moses said to the people, “Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites so that they may carry out the Lord’s vengeance on them. Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel.” So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel.

The Numbers text supplies another clue that will make sense when matched with passages in Revelation: the 12,000-man army of Numbers 31 is to take vengeance on Midian for its sin of sending women to corrupt the Israelites men with eating things sacrificed to idols, adultery, and fornication. It was the false prophet Balaam who taught the Midianite women how to do this. **Here we see the worship of Baal, the same Baal as the beast of Revelation released from the Abyss.**

According to the Bible, the Israelites, after spending a short time in the plain of Moab, begin to involve themselves with the Moabite women. Consequently, under the influence of Moabite culture, the Israelites begin participating in the worship of the Moabite gods, and join themselves to Baal Peor (Hebrew בעל פעור Ba‘al Pə‘ōr), in the Septuagint Beelphegōr, a baal associated with Mount Pe‘or.

Numbers 25:1-3 (NIV)

While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them.

The 144,000 in Revelation 14:4 are described as virgins and not defiled with women.

Revelation 14:4 (NIV)

These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb.

“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins.” Some have tried to interpret this literally as celibate men that have never had sex with a woman. Revelation 14:4 is not referring to men living in a monastery. The focus on Revelation is a warning about spiritual immorality—believing the false doctrinal teaching of the harlot woman—the great city of Mecca.

The word rendered here “defiled” is a word that cannot be applied to the marriage relation. It means properly to “soil, to stain, to defile.” It is also used in Revelation 3:4; *“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.”* The word does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament, except in Revelation. It is not an expression against marriage and in favor of celibacy. It is a word that is appropriately expressive of illicit sexual intercourse - of impurity and unchastity of life - and the statement is referring to spiritual pollution. The saved believers are not impure and unchaste in worshipping the true God. They have not bowed their knees to Baal at the Kaaba.

The Book of Revelation gives many warnings about the spiritual immorality coming from the teachings from Mohammad and the great city of Mecca. The 144,000 remained faithful even when their lives were at risk of converting to Islam or other false religions. The 144,000 have avoided praying to the Kaaba, and they did not recite the Shahada-the mark of the beast, they did not believe the Qur'an from the false prophet Mohammad, they did not worship the dragon, and did not kiss the Blackstone of Baal.

Revelation 17:1-2 (NIV)

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

Revelation 18:9-10 (NIV)

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

Revelation 19:1-2 (NIV)

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

The third question: who are these who are selected from the tribes of Israel? The sealed ones are explained to be the servants of God; the description which follows proclaims them to be the “Israel of God.” They are the Jewish people coming out of the holocaust that have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They are the redeemed. They are the ones identified in Daniel 12:2 with everlasting life. (*“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”*)

The fourth question: why is there a change of the order and missing names of the tribes? John changes the order and names of some of the 12 tribes. This certainly is to have the readers understand the message is symbolic. According to list given in Deuteronomy 27, Dan is missing and Manasseh has replaced them in Revelation. In Deuteronomy Simeon and Levi are first and second, while in Revelation Judah and Reuben are first and second.

Deuteronomy 27:12-13 (NIV)

When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

In the Old Testament, the twelve tribes were named after sons or grandsons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel after he wrestled an angel of the Lord, the Hebrew people became known as Israelites. Jacob's first wife, Leah, bore him six sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun. Each was the father of a tribe, though Levi's descendants (among whom were Moses and Aaron), the priests and temple functionaries, were dispersed among the other tribes and received no tribal land of their own. Two other tribes, Gad and Asher, were named after sons born to Jacob and Zilpah, Leah's maidservant.

Two additional tribes, Dan and Naphtali, were named after sons of Jacob born of Bilhah, the maidservant of Rachel, Jacob's second wife. Rachel bore Jacob two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin provided Israel with its first king, Saul, and later assimilated into the tribe of Judah. No tribe bore the name of Joseph, but there were two tribes named after Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. The ten tribes that settled in northern Palestine and were carried into captivity by the Assyrians became known as the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

However, the twelve tribes turned into thirteen when Jacob gave Joseph a "double portion." This meant that each of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, became a tribe, rather than just the one tribe of Joseph (Genesis 48:5).

Genesis 48:5 (NIV)

"Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine."

However, this thirteen became twelve again as the tribe of Levi received no land. The Levites were only given certain cities and were the tribe of the priesthood who received the tithes of the other twelve tribes who tithed from their land.

It is likely one the differences is that Joseph was split into Ephraim and Manasseh, while Levi was dedicated to the Lord. In Revelation, Levi is very conspicuously brought back with the others. Obviously this is very symbolic, indicating that the priesthood is over. Now, bringing Levi back is effectively going back to the time before Jacob gave Joseph the double portion, so technically Dan should still be on the list, and Ephraim and Manasseh should not, given that they a part of Joseph! Indeed this is odd and must have some symbolic meaning.

If we assume Dan is removed due to its idolatry (Judges 18:30-31), then Manasseh is added to fill Dan's place to keep the number twelve. Possibly the return of Levi and exclusion of Dan indicates that the Levitical priesthood was over and original election according to the flesh really did not matter any more.

These tribes are actually symbolic of the whole invisible church 'extended' through history. This means they are not a strict grouping at a given time in history, otherwise Joseph and one of his sons would not be on the same list. How will Jewish people even know to which tribe they belong? What about Jewish people have married Gentiles over the many generations? What happens when two tribes marry? Of course, God would know.

One final point in this section should be noticed. Revelation 7:4-8 indicates that when the sealing of the 144,000 occurs, each tribe is larger than 12,000 people. For example, the Bible says, *“from the tribe of Reuben 12,000.”* Today, no one knows the identity or whereabouts of the twelve tribes. Fire destroyed the genealogical records of Israel in 70 AD when the *“the people of the prince who is to come”* (Baal) destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, just as Jesus said.

Daniel 9:26 (NASB)

Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

The fifth question: what else does the Bible tell us about these people? Other Revelation Bible text tells us more about these symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God.

1. John calls the 144,000 *“fellow servants”* and *“servants of our God”* in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 6:11, 7:3)
2. The four angels are not allowed to *“harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God”*; until the 144,000 are redeemed by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Revelation 7:3)
3. The 144,000 Jews will receive the spiritual seal of God. They accept Jesus Christ and become His disciples. (Revelation 7:3)
4. They *“were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.”* They are the Jews that the blood of Jesus purchased. (Revelation 14:4)
5. They will not be defiled with the harlot of Babylon. (Revelation 14:4)
6. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. (Revelation 14:4)
7. Unlike the numberless multitude of Gentiles *“from every nation, tribe, people and language”*, the 144,000 are a small enough group of Jews to be numbered. (Revelation 7:5-14)
8. The 144,000 will experience and endure the sufferings of Christ. They will be honored above all other Jews since they are the redeemed remnant. (Revelation 14:1-3)
9. They fulfill the Jews returning to Israel that accept Christ; *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life”*, (Daniel 12:2)
10. No other Jews will sing their new song, since they are not in the Book of Life. (Revelation 14:3)
11. No lie or falsehood will be found in the mouths of the 144,000. The blood of Jesus has taken away their sins (Revelation 14:5) Jesus is a better sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:23-28)
12. The 144,000 will wear the spiritual mark of the names of the Father and Son on their foreheads throughout eternity. (Revelation 14:1; Revelation 22:3, 4)
13. Their mark is the opposite of the mark of the beast, the Shahada. (Revelation 13:16-18)
14. The 144,000 will be Messianic Jews, descendants of Abraham. (Revelation 7:4-8)

In summary, it is best to see Revelation 7:4-8 as a picture of Paul's teaching the book of Romans. Romans 9:6-8 (NIV) *It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.*

THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL BIBLICAL HISTORY

THE “TIME OF TROUBLE FOR JACOB”; “I WILL SURELY SAVE YOU”

PROPHETIC EVENT	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
Jesus gives Olivet Discourse	Matthew 24:21	“Great distress, never to be equaled again”
Daniel end times prophecy	Daniel 12:1	“Distress such as has not happened before”
Time of trouble for Jacob	Jeremiah 30:6	“No other time will be like it.”
Two thirds will perish	Zechariah 13:8	“Two-thirds will be struck down and perish”
Every man afraid	Jeremiah 30:6	“Every face turned deathly pale”
Remnant will be purified	Zechariah 13:8	“I will refine them like silver”
Remnant will be saved	Jeremiah 30:10	“I will surely save you out of a distant place”
Remnant will be saved	Matthew 24:22	“Days shortened for the sake of the elect”
Daniel’s 3 ½ times	Daniel 12:7	“It will be for a time, times and half a time”
Jew’s power broken	Daniel 12:7	“Power of Holy people has been finally broken”
1260 days/years wilderness	Revelation 12:6	“Be taken care of for 1,260 days”
1260 days/years prophecy	Revelation 11:3	“They will prophesy for 1,260 days”
Jews in the dust will awake	Daniel 12:2	“Who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake”
Jews come back to life	Ezekiel 37:12	“I will open your graves”
Jews trapped 3 ½ years	Revelation 11:8	“Three and one-half days refuse them burial”
They stand on their feet	Revelation 11:8	“And they stood on their feet”
They stand on their feet	Ezekiel 37:10	“They came to life and stood up on their feet”
Remnant will be saved	Daniel 12:2	“Some to everlasting life”
Not all Jews are saved	Daniel 12:2	“Others to shame and everlasting contempt”



DEATHLY PALE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF WW II HOLOCAUST CAMPS 1945

THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL BIBLICAL HISTORY

THE “TIME OF TROUBLE FOR JACOB”; “I WILL SURELY SAVE YOU”

The Jewish rejection of Christ. The punishment of Israel and the salvation of the Jewish remnant. Putting together the harmonized prophecy of Daniel, Jeremiah, Matthew, Ezekiel and Revelation.

JEWS REJECT CHRIST → TEMPLE DESTROYED → WILDERNESS/DEATH 1,260 years →
HOLOCAUST → ISRAEL RESTORED 1948 → OPERATION EZRA & NEHEMIAH →
JERUSALEM NO LONGER TRAMPLED → MESSIANIC JEWS REMNANT ACCEPTS CHRIST

Three different Bible texts predict a catastrophic Jewish event like no other. (Matthew 24:21, Daniel 12:1 and Jeremiah 30:6) Since “it is like no other,” they must be talking about the same catastrophic event. The singular worst event is the Holocaust, where the Nazis killed precisely two-thirds of Jews in the lands they controlled. Shortly after this event, a remnant will be saved. Revelation 7 text harmonizes when studied this way in conjunction with Ezekiel 37, Daniel 12, and Revelation 11.

Much of Daniel’s prophecy is concealed until the end time (Daniel 12:9 “He said, “*Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.*”) There is very similar prophetic language in Ezekiel 37 (Valley of the Dry Bones) and Daniel 12 (Sleep in the Dust) about seemingly dead Jewish bodies coming back to life. Many have viewed Ezekiel 37 as symbolic but see Daniel 12 as a literal resurrection. Both Bible texts most likely are describing the same events. These events are the return of the Jews to Israel from the diaspora and Operation Ezra and Nehemiah (Revelation 11 and the Two Witnesses). These events all were fulfilled right after the Holocaust. (Daniel 12:1 “*There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.*”) Only a remnant will accept Christ.

Daniel 12:1-4 (NIV)

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

Daniel’s text tells us that Archangel Michael will “*will arise*” (from the dead after being killed by the beast) before those that sleep in the dust will awake. Then they will be rescued from *the “distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until then”* (the Holocaust). The image of a “resurrection” has a symbolic thrust in the case of Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones. Just as in Ezekiel 37, Daniel’s seemingly dead bodies return to Israel. In Daniel 12 they have a chance to accept the Gospel. Some will accept the Gospel will (“*some to everlasting life*”, while others reject the Gospel (“*others to shame and everlasting contempt*”).

The 1260 days/years begin as the Dome of the Rock is built during 687-691. The Gentiles are given the outer court, which is where it was constructed. The 1260 days/years time period runs from 688 to 1948. It ended when Israel was restored, as God promised.

Consider the terms “disgrace and everlasting contempt.” “Disgrace” and “contempt” as applied to those destined for punishment. “Disgrace” suggests that which is the object of “reproach.” Here the term is plural, “reproaches,” likely for emphasis sake. “Contempt” denotes that which is the focus of “aversion” or “abhorrence.” Clearly, these terms, combined with the modifier “everlasting,” reveal the abiding conscious torment of those being punished for rejecting the Gospel after God miraculously returns them to Israel.

Operation Ezra and Nehemiah functioned for the three and one-half years, from May 1948 to the end of 1951. There is much more on this in Revelation, chapter 11. After this, only about a handful of Jews were left in Islamic countries. Most of the 2,500 year-old Jewish community immigrated to Israel during the three and one-half years between May 1948 and November 1951. The success of Operation Ezra and Nehemiah helped pave the way for future Israeli airlifts of Jews from around the world who found themselves in dangerous conditions. Such missions include the airlift of Ethiopian Jews in Operations Joshua, Solomon, and Moses.

MESSIANIC BELIEVING JEWS REPRESENT THE 144,000 FROM ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL

The 144,000 is symbolic of a remnant of saved Jews. The Messianic salvation through Jesus began with a remnant of Jews from all the twelve tribes. This remnant became the Messianic Judaism of Jesus. Into this remnant, the Gentiles were grafted. These two groups are the human side two witnesses of Revelation 11. Today the number is estimated to be between 350,000 and 500,000. Some estimates are as high as one million. The number in Israel proper is estimated to be about 20,000.

Paul mentions this in Romans 9:27-28. *"Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality."*



Although there were some Messianic Jews throughout history up until World War II, the growth has really taken off since 1948. The year 1948 corresponds to the close of Daniel's final seven, and we are told in Daniel after the distress; *"Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness"*. Thus many Jews have accepted God's atoning sacrifice after the final seven and the end of the distress (the Holocaust). Since 1948, and particularly since the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967, hundreds of thousands of Jewish people around the world have accepted Jesus as the Messiah.

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language.” We have just had the picture of the sealing of a Jewish group which could be numbered as a symbolic 144,000 and now we have the picture of a countless group.

Some think the 144,000 and “great multitude” are the same peoples. This is not the case. How can the numbered of the one vision be the same as the numberless of the next? They are numbered in the first vision because the remnant of Jewish survivors of the holocaust that accept Christ is a finite number.

This is the same four group classification as the song in Revelation 5:9-10. (*“And with your blood you purchased for God persons from every **tribe and language and people and nation.**”*) This group is a mixture of Gentiles from every place on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10 (NIV)

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

The redeemed believers are clothed with white robes, and carry palm branches in their hands. It has been suggested that these are the signs of victory; they demonstrate of a triumph. It is the sacred rejoicing of the Israel of God. The white robes are signs of their righteous acts (Revelation 19:14). This image is also drawn from Palm Sunday in John 12.

John 12:13-14 (NIV)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”



Revelation 7:10 And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Revelation 7:12 saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

The first fruits of Christ having led the way, the Gentiles converted later follow, and attribute their salvation to God and the Lamb, with triumph. In both here and Revelation 5:12, the worship is occurring in heaven. The use of the language shows that God and the Lamb are regarded in heaven as entitled to equal praise. This again proves the Deity of Christ.

Such a glorious appearance will the faithful servants of God make at last, when they have fought the good fight of faith, and finished their course. With a loud voice, they gave to God and the Lamb the praise of the great salvation. Those who enjoy eternal happiness must and will bless both the Father and the Son; they will do it publicly, and with vigor.

“Saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Those who wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb will enjoy eternal happiness. They will bless both the Father and the Son, and they will do it with great emotion. We too, here on earth, should give praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit every day.



Revelation 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

Revelation 7:14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

“And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” They are those who come, but not all at once, but not in a three and one-half year time period imagined by John Darby. The saints of God are continually passing into the unseen world, and taking their place among the spirits of just men made perfect by the Blood of the Lamb. They come out of the great tribulation. Are we to limit the phrase and idea to a unique and peculiar affliction of a last great trial? Jesus told us that we would have tribulation in the world.

John 16:33 (NASB)

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

What is “*the great tribulation*?” There is no doubt about the prophetic end-times emphasis which the definite article “THE” gives--it is the great tribulation. Even if “THE” great tribulation refers to a specific event, how do we know it has not already occurred? Was it the time of Nero burning live Christians like candles? Was it the time of nearly 100% apostasy as the Four Horsemen (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman) spread through the Middle East and caused tens of millions to lose their faith? Is it the time of ISIS crucifying and beheading thousands of people in Syria and Iraq?



ISIS MEMBERS DISPLAY COPTIC CHRISTIANS BEFORE BEHEADING THEM

It seems unlikely to limit the phrase to some particular short season of trial. Is not the great tribulation the testing most of those must encounter who are on the side of Christ and righteousness? There may yet a scheduled time for the Church of Christ to face trials so great that they may be called, in comparison with those which went before, the great tribulation. Yet a single three and one-half year future event, so prevalent in prophecy books, seems out of harmony with the more significant message John is telling us about Islam and its false Gospel of Jesus (running 1,400 years in length now).

The church has and will go through the tribulation. The prophecy books warn of a terrible three and one half year time period of the great tribulation, but then “promise” Christians will not go through it because the rapture saves them. They equate the tribulation from Satan and Baal being the same as the wrath of God. The church goes through the tribulation—this is where all of these people John sees come from. We clearly saved from the wrath of God, as Paul tells us many times.

Romans 5:9 (NIV)

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (NIV)

The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

THEY WILL HAVE AUTHORITY OVER ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD THEY DO NOT KILL ONE QUARTER OF THE WORLD

Probably no Scripture is more misquoted and misinterpreted by dozens of prophecy writers than Revelation 6:8. All Bible translations say; “*They were given power over a fourth of the earth*”, or “*Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth.*” The phrase about controlling one quarter of the world is then followed by a second phrase explanation of how they will control one quarter of the world. They control one quarter of the world using specific methods “*to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.*” Prophecy writers then conclude one quarter of the world (nearly 2 billion people) will be killed in THE three and one-half year great tribulation. And people wonder today why most churches do not teach Revelation prophecy!

Revelation 6:8 (NIV) I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 6:8 (NASB) I looked, and behold, an ashen [pale green] horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

It is worth reviewing the warnings from Revelation chapter 6 again. Of these, Revelation 6:8 is the most misinterpreted verse of Bible prophecy. All Bible translations say; *“They were given power over a fourth of the earth”,* or *“Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth.”*

The Four Horsemen control one quarter of the world by using certain methods *“to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.”* The Four Horsemen were Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman. They set up the Umayyad Caliphate.

REVELATION CHAPTER SIX TEXT FROM A WELL KNOWN PROPHECY WRITER

PREDICTING ONE QUARTER KILLED

“As chapter 6 opens the great tribulation begins and we get a taste of what is going to be like on earth--a terrible, terrible period of time.”

“As a result of these four horsemen, one fourth of all the people on earth die in just this first pouring out of the seal judgment.”

THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH THIS

Revelation 6:8 DOES NOT teach one quarter of the world dies from the Four Horsemen in the great tribulation. This is why most churches today do not teach, nor believe, Revelation prophecy!



The Umayyad Caliphate was the second of four Islamic caliphates and was founded in Arabia after the Prophet Mohammad's death. The Umayyads ruled the Islamic world from 661 to 750 AD. Their capital was in the city of Damascus; the founder of the caliphate, Muawiya ibn Abi Sufyan, had long been the governor of Syria. At its greatest extent^{1,2}, the Umayyad Caliphate covered 5.8 million sq miles and included 62 million people (29% of the world's population at that time), making it one of the largest empires in history in both area and proportion of the world's population.

¹Blankinship, Khalid Yahya (1994), *The End of the Jihad State, the Reign of Hisham Ibn 'Abd-al Malik and the collapse of the Umayyads*, State University of New York Press, p. 37, ISBN 978-0-7914-1827-7

² <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-hccc-worldcivilization/chapter/expansion-under-the-umayyad-caliphates/>

THE DIDACHE SAYS “ALL CREATED MANKIND SHALL COME TO THE FIRE OF TESTING”

The Didache is also known as “*The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations*” is a brief anonymous early Christian treatise written in Koine Greek, dated by most modern scholars to the first century. The first line of this treatise is “The teaching of the Lord to the Gentiles (or Nations) by the twelve apostles”. Didache Chapter 16 deals with the end times. In 16:8 it makes clear “*the world-deceiver shall appear as a son of God*”; (meaning the beast Baal is a spirit, not a human) and all Christians will be tested in 16:11; “*Then all created mankind shall come to the fire of testing, and many shall be offended and perish.*”

DIDACHE CHAPTER 16

16:1 Be watchful for your life; 16:2 let your lamps not be quenched and your loins not ungirded, but be ready; 16:3 for you do not know the hour in which our Lord comes. 16:4 And you shall gather yourselves together frequently, seeking what is fitting for your souls; 16:5 for the whole time of your faith shall be of no use to you, if you are not perfected at the last. 16:6 For in the last days the false prophets and destroyers shall be multiplied, and the sheep shall be turned into wolves, and love shall be turned into hate. 16:7 For as lawlessness increases, they shall hate one another and shall persecute and betray.

16:8 And then the world-deceiver shall appear as a son of God; 16:9 and shall work signs and wonders, and the earth shall be delivered into his hands; 16:10 and he shall do unholy things, which have never been since the world began.

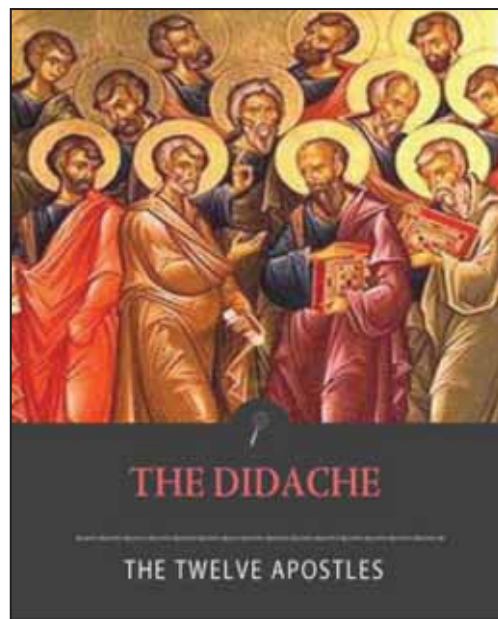
16:11 Then all created mankind shall come to the fire of testing, and many shall be offended and perish; 16:12 but those who endure in their faith shall be saved through the Curse itself. 16:13 And then the signs of the truth shall appear; 16:14 first a sign of a rift in the heaven, then a sign of a voice of a trumpet, and thirdly a resurrection of the dead; 16:15 yet not of all, but as it was said: 16:16 The Lord shall come and all His saints with Him. 16:17 Then the world will see the Lord coming upon the clouds of heaven.

Revelation 13:9-10 makes clear many Christians will face the great tribulation coming from the dragon and the beast.

Revelation 13:9-10 (NIV)

Whoever has ears, let them hear. “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

Those who come out of great tribulation know that they are forgiven, and rejoice in the knowledge that our salvation is of God.



Revelation 7:15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

Revelation 7:16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” Here we have the promise of Revelation 21:3-4, the new heavens and the new earth. These are the ones that washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”



“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:14 NIV

Ezekiel saw the future stream of ever-increasing water issuing forth from the Temple (Ezekiel 48:1). Still, in the new Jerusalem, where there is no temple, we are carried to the very throne of God, to find the living water that only comes from Jesus. Here the Lamb, who is also the High Priest, leads His people to the springs of the water of life. Joy, too, is theirs; for God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 21:4).



REVELATION CHAPTER 8

THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE GOLDEN CENSER

THE SEVEN ANGELS WHO STAND BEFORE GOD

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 8

Revelation chapter 8 John saw seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. John saw another angel, who had a golden censer with the prayers of all God's people. The angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth.

Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up and a third of the trees were burned up. The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

After the first four sounded their trumpets, John heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

Revelation 8:3 (NIV)



Revelation 8:1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

“There was silence in heaven for about half an hour.” The seals deal with events in the human earthly realm, and trumpets deal with developments in the spiritual realm. The seals and trumpets are not chronological (otherwise, it would just be the 14 or 21 seals), but the seals and trumpets overlap each other and coincide.

The sixth seal begins the day of the Lord from the human perspective. (Revelation 6:16-17; *They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”*) Here, as the Lamb opens the seventh seal, the day the Lord draws even closer, heaven is silent in great anticipation. The prophet Zephaniah said silence before the Sovereign Lord will occur as the day of the Lord draws near.

Zephaniah 1:7 (NIV)

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

The Lord Jesus is the High Priest of the church, having a golden censer, and much incense gives us the picture of his glorious person. The seventh seal begins the day of the Lord, and the seven trumpets in the spiritual realm are complete now as well. Thus, silence in heaven is expressive of the fearful anticipation felt on opening the last seal that was to close both the seals and trumpets (human and demonic events) and to wind up the affairs of the church and the human world.

“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.” The seven seals showed us events from the human realm, and now the seven trumpets show us events from the spiritual realm, particularly the demonic spiritual realm. The seven seals concluded with the day of the Lord.

The identity of the seven angels is unknown. They appear to be seven specific angels (some think archangels such as Michael, Gabriel, or Raphael) from among the legions of angels standing around the throne of God. There is an interesting passage that speaks of specific angels allowed to stand in the presence of God. It is both from the non-canon apocryphal book of Tobit, as well as in Luke.

Tobit 12:15 (GNT)

“I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand in the glorious presence of the Lord, ready to serve him.”

Luke 1:19 (NIV)

“I am Gabriel,” the angel answered. “I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news.”

Revelation 8:3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

"Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne." The altar is the altar in heaven. In Revelation, all references to the temple are spiritual. The altar analogy resembles the earthly temple service. Still, in heaven, the first angel brings in his golden censer fire from the brazen altar of sacrifice, and now *"He was given much incense to offer,"* by another angel, incense to burn at the golden altar of incense. The comparison of prayer with incense is in accordance with the Old Testament language. *"May my prayer be set before you like incense"* (Psalm 141:1-2).

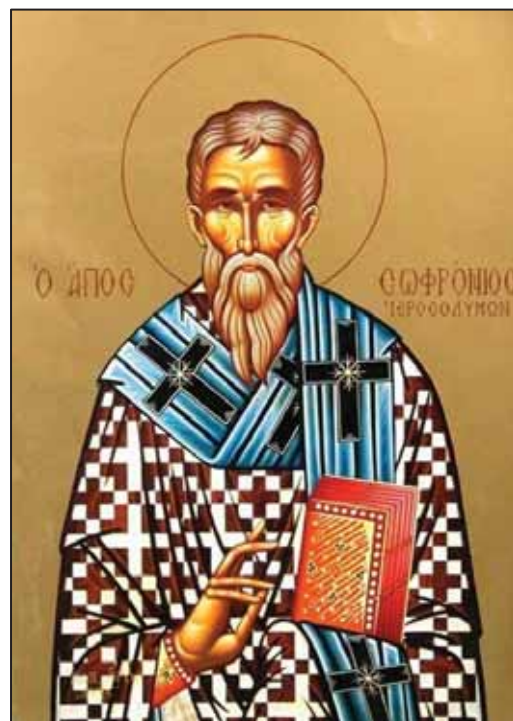
Psalm 141:1-2 (NIV)

I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

The types of prayers are uncertain, but they certainly include the tribulation coming from false Islamic doctrine and attacks about Jesus. Incense mingled with the prayers of the saints. The incense provided a fragrance to the prayers of the saints and caused them to be acceptable before God. The prayers are about to be answered.

An example of prayer would be from Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, when it was conquered in 638 AD by the Islamic caliph Umar. Sophronius wrote: *"The godless Saracens entered the holy city of Christ our Lord, Jerusalem, with the permission of God and in punishment for our negligence, which is considerable, and immediately proceeded in haste to the place which is called the Capitol. They took with them men, some by force, others by their own will, in order to clean that place and to build that cursed thing, intended for their prayer and which they call a mosque."*

Sophronius gave this prayer:



**Holy City of God,
Home of the most valiant saints,
Great Jerusalem,
What kind of lament should I offer you?
Children of the blessed Christians,
Come to mourn high-crested Jerusalem**

Revelation 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.

"The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand." The anxiety of the church about the events which were about to occur would naturally lead to many prayers. The 200,000,000 or more demons would soon escape from the Abyss.

The Bible tells us about similar actions of Moses before Pharaoh when he took ashes of the furnace and sprinkled it towards heaven, but it descended towards earth as a symbol of the plague about to fall upon the land (Exodus 9:8-10). The hot ashes are the tokens of the coming Divine judgments. The Revelation prophecy is like the vision of Ezekiel concerning the burning coals (Ezekiel 10:2).

Ezekiel 10:2 (NIV)

The Lord said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the wheels beneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from among the cherubim and scatter them over the city." And as I watched, he went in.



Revelation 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake

"Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake." The prayers of the saints are answered, and the fire of God's wrath is hurled to earth. This is the answer to the prayers of the saints in the fifth seal of human realm events in Revelation 6:9-11.

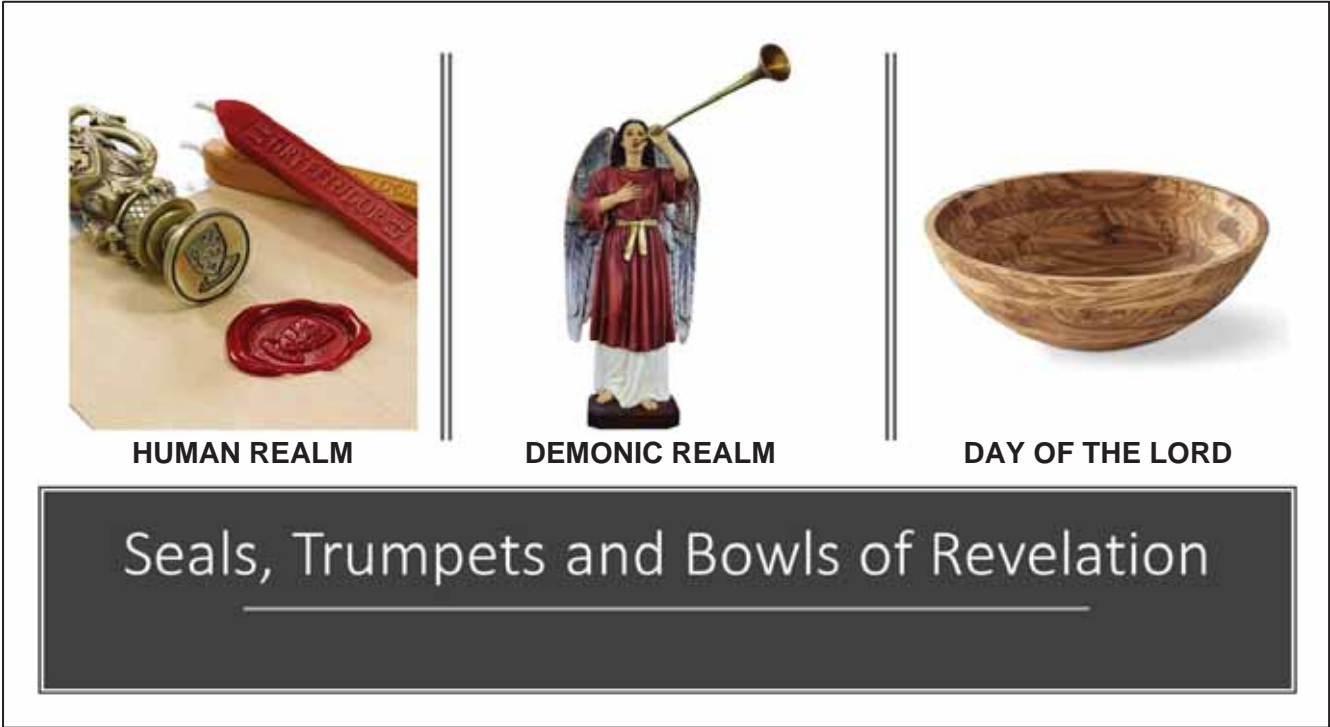
Revelation 6:9-11 (NIV)

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

The tribulation, ongoing since the time of the Apostles, requires patience on behalf of the saints. However, God will surely judge those that have rejected his word and rejected the atoning sacrifice of Christ, the Son of God.

Revelation 8:6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

In Revelation, the “sea” is a figurative expression for the spiritual world. Now with the seven trumpets, we can see what happened in the demonic spiritual world—the sea. The sixth and seventh seals are humans on the Day of the Lord, the end of time as we know it. With the seven trumpets, God’s “prophetic clock” resets itself, and we can observe the demonic spiritual realm events that gave rise to the seals-the human actions.



In Revelation, the seven seals are events in the human earthly realm. The demons caused this.

SEAL	BIBLE TEXT	HUMAN WORLD EVENT
First	Rev 6:1-2	Rider on White Horse; Mohammad
Second	Rev 6:3-4	Rider on Red Horse; Abu Bakr
Third	Rev 6:5-6	Rider on Black Horse; Umar
Fourth	Rev 6:7-8	Rider on Pale Green Horse; Uthman
Fifth	Rev 6:9-11	Christians killed by Islam and others
Sixth	Rev 6:12-17	Humans Left on Earth Fear the Day of the Lord
Seventh	Rev 8:1-4	The Day of the Lord

The seven trumpets are related events in the demonic spiritual world. The trumpets are not in chronological order after the seals. Many prophecy writers try to make seals, trumpets, and bowls occur in chronological order. If they were strictly chronological, there would be 21 seals. Seals, trumpets, and bowls are distinct groupings because they are in different realms. The trumpets occur at the same time as the seals. The trumpets are the actual demonic spiritual world events that caused humans (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman) to take the actions described in the seals. Strictly speaking, the trumpets occur before the seals, as the demons drive the human actions.

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

“A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” The demonic angels (hail and fire mixed with blood) were hurled to the earth. They take one-third of all souls with the false teaching of Mohammad. Likewise, the first bowl judgment (Revelation 16:2) comes upon all those that take the mark (recite the Islamic Shahada) and worship the image (pray to the Kaaba Blackstone in Mecca) set in place by Mohammad.

Revelation 16:2 (NIV)

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

The natural skin of the non-believers that pray to the Kaaba will also have festering sores as well, but the soul is most important. The first trumpet explains one-third of the human souls taken and destroyed by Islam with the false gospel of the Qur'an.

Since the seals and trumpets occur during the tribulation since the time of Mohammad, only one-third of the earth was “burned up” and taken by Islam, since believers and other non-Islamic false religions (Hindu, atheists, Buddhists, etc.) are also in the world. With the first bowl (after the rapture of believers), all left on earth will have the sores, because believers are no subject to the wrath of God.

In the first trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood fell down on the earth. In Revelation, hail represents angels. Hail in the first trumpet is symbolic of Satanic angels thrown out of heaven down to earth. In the first bowl, all people left on earth after the rapture receive the festering sores on their souls. The false gospel of the Qur'an does not save anyone. The Qur'an denies that Jesus is the Son of God. The Qur'an denies that Jesus was crucified.



“And all the green grass was burned up.” After 610 AD (Mohammad's first visit from the demonic spirit, and ongoing until his death in 632 AD) the church, out of fear and ignorance, totally stopped sending Gospel Missionaries (the green grass of truth) to the lands of Islam controlled by the dark cloud of demons released from the Abyss. The followers of Jesus should do the things he did so that they can be a blessing to those around them, but here the church failed to spread the Good News. Just as Revelation 8:7 predicted in prophecy.

The Bible in Mark 6:39, Psalm 23:1-3, and Ezekiel 34:14-15 tells us that green grass is associated with the love of Jesus and His truth. In the land of Islam, the green grass of evangelism for Jesus was burned up and ceased.

Mark 6:39 (NIV)

Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass.

Psalm 23:1-3 (NIV)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Ezekiel 34:14-15 (NIV)

I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord.

The lack of green grass of Gospel evangelism lasted about 1,260 years from the death of Mohammad in 632 AD until Samuel Zwemer (April 12, 1867 – April 2, 1952), nicknamed “The Apostle to Islam,” went to Arabia in the 1890s. Zwemer was the first devoted Christian missionary to Muslims. He was in Arabia from 1891 to 1905. He also was a member of the Arabian Mission from 1890–1913, and Zwemer served in Egypt from 1913 to 1929. Zwemer had a passion for understanding their culture and giving them the Good News of the Gospel. Zwemer could not understand why the church was so reluctant to follow the Great Commission.

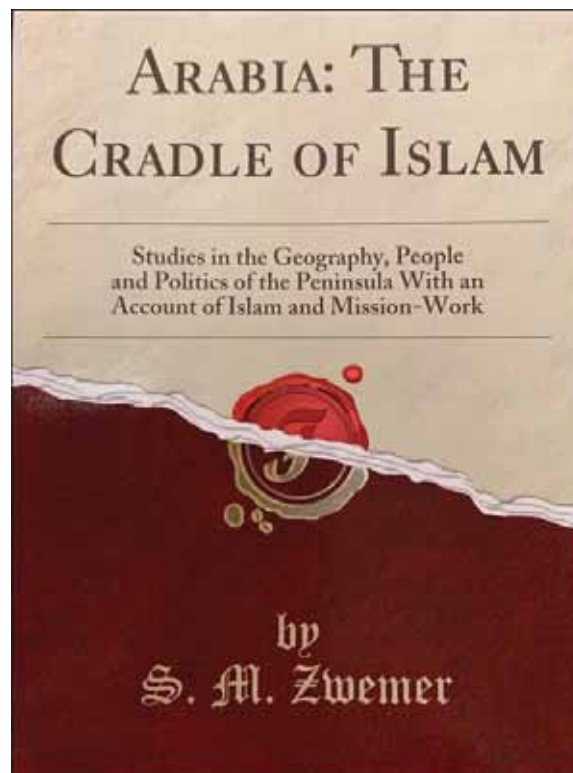
“So little did the church of God feel its responsibility towards the tens of millions walking in darkness after the false prophet.”

“Only two Christian missionaries were sent to the lands of Islam from 632 until 1892.”

The church did little to help him, thinking evangelism to Muslims was fruitless, dangerous, and a waste of time and resources. Zwemer was actually turned down by the American Missionary Society, which resulted in him going overseas alone, even though he was married. Yet he founded and edited the publication “The Moslem World” for 35 years. He was also influential in mobilizing many Christians to go into missionary work in Islamic countries.



SAMUEL ZWEMER



ARABIA: THE CRADLE OF ISLAM

“LESS THAN A DOZEN CONVERTS”

It wasn't easy to replant the green grass that burned up. Zwemer worked very hard for four decades, but the demonic forces blocked his efforts many times. According to Ruth A. Tucker, Ph.D., Samuel Zwemer's converts were "probably less than a dozen during his nearly forty years of service," and his "greatest contribution to missions was that of stirring Christians to the need for evangelism among Muslims."

“THE PROPHET AND HIS BOOK”

Zwemer wrote in *Arabia: The Cradle of Islam* the following:

"First of all, the Mohammedan conception of Allah [God] is purely negative. Allah [God] is unique and has no relations to any creature that partake of resemblance. He cannot be defined in terms other than negative. Absolute sovereignty and ruthless omnipotence are his chief attributes while his character is impersonal—that of a monad. The ideas of fatherhood, love, impartial justice and unselfishness are absent. The Christian truth "God is love" is to the learned, blasphemy and to the ignorant an enigma."

"By the New Testament law of Jesus Christ, the Arabian final prophet stands self-condemned. The most cursory examination of his biography proves that he broke repeatedly every sacred precept of the Sermon on the Mount. And the Qur'an itself proves that the Spirit of Jesus was entirely absent from the mind of Mohammed." Zwemer prayed "*That at the name of Jesus every 'Mohammedan' knee should bow and every 'Moslem' tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*"

Revelation 8:8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,

Revelation 8:9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The second trumpet (Revelation 8:8-9) and second bowl (Revelation 16:3) deal with the “sea.” In Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual world. With the second trumpet, one-third of the angels in the “sea” were “killed” by taking sides with the dragon and the beast. In the second bowl (Revelation 16:3), all the creatures in the sea die as God punishes the full demonic spiritual world on the day of the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 25:41; *“the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

Matthew 25:41 (NIV)

Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Revelation 16:3 (NIV)

The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

On the day of the Lord, God withdraws His Spirit and angels, leaving the “sea” controlled by the dragon and beast. Thus, all of the sea “dies” in the second bowl, whereas in the second trumpet only one third of the sea dies. The sea dies spiritually—which is the worst form of death. Recall that the trumpets point to the spiritual damage done to human hearts by the presence and preaching of false doctrine—the Qur’an. The angels aligned with God are safe, as they are in a different spiritual realm as part of the *“armies of heaven”* on the day of the Lord.

Revelation 19:13-14 (NIV)

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

In the second trumpet, a huge mountain (Baal the beast sent down to Sheol) is sent into the sea—the spiritual realm to gather his demonic angels. A mountain was used in the Old Testament to symbolize Babylon and Baal. The prophet Jeremiah (51:25) says to Babylon; *“I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord.*

Jeremiah 51:24-25 (NIV)

“Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion,” declares the Lord. “I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord. “I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.

Placing the fulfillment of John’s visions in a straight line chronological time sequence fails to grasp that the trumpets do not follow the seals in chronological order. Both are being fulfilled side by side in two realms, the earthly human realm (the seals) and the spiritual realm (the trumpets).

Revelation 8:10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—

Revelation 8:11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

“A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.”

The third trumpet and bowl (Revelation 16:4-6) deal with Satan thrown to earth (a great star falling into the rivers of springs of fresh water) and his false gospel--the Qur'an given to Mohammad. In the third trumpet, Islam kills one-third of souls with the “bitter wormwood” of the false Qur'an. Jesus tells us his Gospel and the Holy Spirit are the “living water” in John 7:37-39. Satan and Baal pollute the living water with false stories about Jesus in the Qur'an.

John 7:37-39 (NIV)

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

In Revelation 22, we see in the new heavenly Jerusalem the complete fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy of flowing water of salvation written about in Joel, Zechariah and Ezekiel. The Prophet Joel saw a fountain out of the house of the Lord (Joel 3:17-18). Only those with their name in the Book of Life from the Lamb of God will drink of this heavenly water.

Joel 3:17-18 (NIV)

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The bitter false doctrine is about Jesus only being messenger and not crucified. In the third bowl (Revelation 16:4-6) all are lost to the false gospel; none who follow the Qur'an will be saved. On the Day of the Lord during the third bowl, all believers have been previously removed from earth by the rapture, so only Satan's false gospel (the Qur'an) is seen by those on earth.

Revelation 16:4-6 (NIV)

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

Revelation 8:12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

In the fourth trumpet in the spiritual world, Satan took one-third of the angels with him. Their lights went dark. On earth, the false doctrine of the Qur'an took one-third of souls with the bitter wormwood deceit. One-third of angels worked with Baal and Satan, and their lights went dark.

In the fourth bowl (Revelation 16:8-9), all souls left on earth feel scorching heat from the power and glory accompanying Jesus as He returns to earth. Their souls were seared by the intense heat as they prayed to the false god Allah of the Qur'an. While this is primarily a spiritual war, there is a physical human component as well.

Revelation 16:8-9 (NIV)

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Jesus tells us on the day of the Lord all the heavenly bodies will be shaken. On the day of the Lord, it is not one third, but everything is shaken.

Matthew 24:29-31 (NIV)

“Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Revelation 8:13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

The judgments signified by the four trumpets in the spiritual world are very significant and dreadful. Yet more significant events remain to be inflicted on the earth, in the events that are to follow upon sounding the three remaining trumpets.

Next comes the fifth trumpet in Revelation 9:1-2. *“When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The smoke from the Abyss darkened the sun and sky.”* Jesus and the Gospel are the light of the world—just the opposite of the Qur'an.

The dark smoke coming from the Abyss that darkens the sun is the false teaching of the Qur'an. Some 200,000,000 or more demons would sweep over the Christian world and take one-third of souls with their “bitter wormwood” of false doctrine.



REVELATION CHAPTER 9

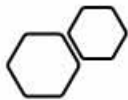
A STAR FALLS TO EARTH WITH A KEY TO OPEN THE ABYSS THE POWER AND PLAGUES CAME OUT OF THEIR MOUTHS

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 9

In Revelation chapter 9 John heard the fifth angel sound his trumpet, and then John saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. Out of the Abyss came smoke and locusts on the earth, and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

The horses and riders John saw had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.



**The horses and riders
I saw in my vision
looked like this: Their
breastplates were fiery
red, dark blue, and
yellow as sulfur.**

Revelation 9:17 (NIV)



Revelation 9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

Revelation 9:2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

“And I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.” We know that Baal was sent into the Abyss (Isaiah 14:15-17), and that the beast emerged from the Abyss (Revelation 17:8). When Baal emerged from the Abyss the Bible says his *“fatal wound was healed.”*

Isaiah 14:15-17 (NIV)

“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’”

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

The expression, *“a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth”* seems to mean permission directly from God for these evil and catastrophic events. Terrible spiritual events follow from opening the Abyss. They could not have happened but by the consent of the true God. We do not know if this star was a demonic angel or even Satan himself. But God controls everything.

“When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.” Jesus and the Gospel are the light of the world. The dark smoke coming from the Abyss that darkens the sun is the false teaching of the Qur'an. The Muslim hordes sweep across the Christian lands in the Middle East with the sword and false doctrine. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, experienced firsthand the inundation of the Saracens, the locusts, scorpions, and grasshoppers invading Christendom.

An example of the *“smoke from the Abyss”* is in the Qur'an 5:72 and 5:75. Here Jesus, the Son of God, is made inferior to “Allah” in the Qur'an, the dragon who desires to call himself “God.”

Qur'an 5:72 They do blaspheme who say: “God is Jesus the son of Mary.” But Jesus himself said: “O Children of Israel! worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord.” Whoever joins other gods with Allah,- Allah will forbid him the garden, and the Fire will be his abode.

Qur'an 5:75 Jesus the son of Mary was no more than a messenger; many were the messengers that passed away before him. His mother was a woman of truth. They had both to eat their (daily) food.

Revelation 9:3 And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

Revelation 9:4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

“And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.” The dragon carries on his evil designs by blinding the eyes of men, by putting out light and knowledge, and promoting false doctrine about Jesus and error. Out of this smoke came a swarm of locusts, emblems of the devil’s agents, who promote superstition, prayer to the Kaaba, orders to follow the teaching of the false prophet Mohammad, taking Baal’s crescent moon as a symbol, and taking the mark--the Islamic Shahada.

“They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” The locusts which are sent not to injure the vegetation are not literal locusts. The security of those with the seal of God on their foreheads is assured against the beast. Real locusts eat plants and crops. They devastate everything green. These Revelation “locusts” did not eat grass, plants, or trees, but were, in fact, the Islamic hordes of Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman sweeping across the Middle East.

The Islamic locusts had no power to hurt those who had the seal of God. God's all-powerful, distinguishing grace, and truth of the Gospel keeps his people from the Islamic apostasy. Islamic power is limited, but it would be very sharp. Those that remain faithful to Jesus are saved. The Islamic followers of Mohammad have been deceived and are not the true servants of God, but are lost and idolatrous souls heading to the lake of fire.



Revelation 9:5 They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes.

Revelation 9:6 During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

“They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes.” The followers of Satan and Baal could not kill the soul of a true Christian—regardless of what they did to the body. As the Saracens (Muslims) were to hurt only the physical body, so these were not given the power to kill the soul of believers, but only to torment the physical realm. They made many weary of their lives. And yes, the followers of Mohammad did authority over a quarter of the earth (Revelation 6:7-8).

The locusts may not hurt God's servants. Thus, we are taught that God always preserves his own, though it may sometimes appear to man as though the innocent suffer with the guilty.

Five months is 152 days, or for this prophecy 152 years. During the time period of 610 AD to 762 AD, the Islamic locusts went from one man with a vision given from a demonic spirit (Mohammad seeing Baal) to sweeping over nearly every country in the Middle East that was previously Christian.



MOST OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAS CHRISTIAN IN 610 AD



THE ISLAMIC LOCUSTS SWEEP ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE SWORD



MOST OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAS ISLAMIC BY 762 AD

IMPORTANT DATES IN ISLAMIC CONQUEST IN THE FIRST JIHAD 610-762 (THE FIRST WOE)

610 AD-- The Angel Gabriel visits Mohammad

632 AD – Islamic Jihadists conquered Yemen.

632 AD – Invasion of Abyssinia (Ethiopia) but the invading Islamic army was repelled by the orthodox church backed by the Portuguese. This was a particularly disgraceful event, because just seventeen years earlier, Abyssinia had helped the persecuted Moslems.

633 AD – All the desert tribes of Arabia were thoroughly subdued through military campaigns.

635 AD – The attacking Islamic army conquered Damascus.

637 AD – The Persians (Iranians) were defeated at the battle of Qadisiyya.

637 AD – The fall of Iraq

638 AD – Islamic fighters occupied Jerusalem.

639 AD – All of Syria fell into Moslem hands.

642 AD – All of Egypt fell to Moslems after some resistance in Alexandria. The great Coptic church was destroyed never to get strong again.

666 AD—Shahada created in final form

670 AD – Khalif Muawiya ordered an unsuccessful sea assault against Byzantium.

688 AD – The fall of Carthage.

702 AD – The Berber tribes of North Africa conquered.

705 - 708 AD – Occupation of North Africa.

711-713 AD – Arabian expansionists captured all of Spain and Portugal. The place the Islamic Commander pitched his headquarters still bears his name, Gibraltar, in English, or Jebel Tariq (Arabic), meaning mountain of Tariq.

715-717 AD – Arabian armies subdued Afghanistan, central Asia, northern limit of the Caspian sea, much of northern India.

718 AD – Islamic forces started attacking France.

725 AD – The invading Islamic armies besieged Toulouse and raided Burgundy and the Rhone valley.

732 AD – Bordeaux was besieged. The Islamic armies advanced up to Poitiers where they were defeated by Charles Martel.

762 AD-- New caliphate Islamic leaders (Abbasids) change focus to building the new city of Baghdad near the ancient location of Babylon

“During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.” The change of tense from the future (“will seek death”) to the present (“but death will elude them”) gives greater meaning to John’s description. During the Islamic invasions (even today with ISIS), men will seek death in vain, and they will long to die.

Some of those enslaved by their Islamic masters, death will seem a relief. It will be an end of suffering. They will find peace in the grave and guarantee they shall suffer no more. They bear their trials with patience, for the end of all sorrow to them is near, and death will come to release their spirits from the suffering physical world, and to bear them in triumph to a “new heavens and a new earth” from Jesus where never a tear is shed. The ravages of the Saracens, their incursions, and the invasions by them, struck such terror into the inhabitants of the Middle East, that they made death more attractive to them than life during the tribulation.

Revelation 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

Revelation 9:8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Revelation 9:9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.

Revelation 9:10 They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.

Many authors have observed that the head of a locust resembles that of a horse. The Italians, therefore, call them "cavalette", as it were little horses. The Arabians, too, have been famous for their horses and horsemanship. Their strength is well known to consist chiefly in their cavalry. Another distinguishing mark and character are having on their heads as it were crowns like gold. This is an allusion to the headdress of the Arabians, who have worn turbans continuously and boast of having those ornaments for their everyday attire, which are crowns and diadems with other people. The crowns also signify the kingdoms and dominions which they conquered.



“THEIR FACES RESEMBLED HUMAN FACES”

The locust-like Islamic army has characteristics partly human, partly diabolical, somewhat civilized, partly barbarous, and under the complete command of the dragon and beast. Mohammad spread his false religion both with the sword and with the lie.

Revelation 9:11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

Revelation 9:12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

“They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).” Is their king Satan, Baal, or another equally strong demon? Is Mohammad the king of the Islamic warriors? There is no greater destroyer than the false gospel of the Qur'an. There is more than one point in which John wishes us to see the contrast between these symbolical and the natural locusts. Locusts have no sting; these have. Locusts have no king (Proverbs 30:27; *“locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks”*); these have a king. Mohammad and his successors were the authors of all those horrid wars and desolations. They openly taught and professed their religion was to be propagated by the sword.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

The demonic king Abaddon was number 7 in the "seven heads" of the beast. They followed Baal of Babylon-the third head. Baal is the "prince who is to come" in Daniel 9:26-27. God punished Baal and sent Baal to the Abyss. Baal was the both third and eight head. Baal "comes out of the seven" and "has a fatal wound that is healed" when released from the Abyss (Revelation chapters 13-17).

1. Egypt, 2. Assyria, 3. Babylon >> Sheol >> Baal the Beast, 4. Persia, 5. Seleucid Greeks, 6. Rome, 7. Demonic King-rules only a short time {Abaddon from the Abyss}. 8) Baal released from the Abyss.

“The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.” Here we are told for the true believers to have patience and faith. The tribulation is ongoing since the time of the Apostles. The troubles which pass only yield, even more, the rest and the victory are not yet; the powers of evil have not exhausted themselves. The sin of the social and spiritual followers of Satan and Baal is not complete.

Revelation 13:10 (NIV)

“If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.

John is telling us that it would be a characteristic of the Islamic powers that they would lead others into captivity. The prophecy was fulfilled since it was the characteristic of the Islamic Caliphates to invade other countries and to make their inhabitants prisoners of war and slaves of other people. Islam (the Pact of Umar, for example) set up unjust dominion over other people called the “dhimmi.” A person living in a region overrun by Muslims received an inferior status. They were allowed to retain their original faith only if they paid the Jizya taxes of Umar (the pair of scales). Islam was distinguished for persecuting and imprisoning the innocent.

Revelation 9:13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God.

Revelation 9:14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

Revelation 9:15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

Revelation 9:16 The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

Satan has permission to release at least 200,000,000 demons. In the vicinity of the river Euphrates, there were mighty Islamic powers that were bound. They were now to be let loose upon the world. It is also symbolic of spiritual realm boundaries.

The sixth trumpet references the river Euphrates. The sixth trumpet and bowl deal with demonic spirits moving past the “Euphrates River” spiritual boundary as they get ready for the final battle with Jesus Christ. In the sixth trumpet, demonic spirits kill one-third of souls. In the sixth bowl, the Euphrates river spiritual boundary is “dried up” and wide open for demons to cross. Jesus signals that his return is imminent. We also learn in Job 38:8-11 that God set the boundary of the sea (*“when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place”*), not the physical oceans because the oceans have moved over time, but the interface between the earthly realm and the “sea,” the spiritual realm.

Job 38:8-11 (NIV)

“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?”

The river Euphrates is listed having four characteristics in the Bible and history. The Euphrates is the longest river of Western Asia. It emerges from the confluence of the Kara Su or Western Euphrates and the Murat Su or Eastern Euphrates upstream from the town of Keban in southeastern Turkey.

1. It was the boundary of David and Solomon’s kingdom, Deuteronomy 11:24 (*“Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea.”*)
2. It was that river by which Babylon stood, Jeremiah 13:4 (*“Take the waistband that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a crevice of the rock.”*)
3. It was the Eastern boundary of the Roman empire, beyond which it could never extend itself.
4. And it also was the seat of the Islamic Ottoman Empire, who having some years before come over the Euphrates, controlled vast territory in Asia, in Syria, Iraq, and Jerusalem, among other places.

Revelation 9:17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.

Revelation 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.

Revelation 9:19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

The army is mainly of horsemen, and they are described as resolute and relentless. The Islamic riders wore breastplate of fiery red, dark blue and yellow as sulfur. *“The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.”* The power of Islam is from its’ mouth. The Qur’an proclaims a false gospel about Jesus from the mouth of Mohammad.

THEIR BREASTPLATES WERE FIERY RED, DARK BLUE, AND YELLOW AS SULFUR

“A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.” Those that listen to the Qur’an have their souls spiritually killed.

Islam is approaching the largest religion in the world. Nearly one-third of the world is Muslim. Islam has spiritually killed a third of the world.

The fire, and smoke, and brimstone may be referred either to the horses, or to the horsemen, or both.

Some interpret this allegorically, and by “fire,” understand it to be the tyranny of the troops of Mohammad over the Christian lands.

Their fury against others, their blasphemy against God, and Christ, and his people, are like demonic locusts fighting against the God of the Christians. The “smoke” is the false doctrine of Mohammad and prayer to Baal in the Kaaba.



THEY KILL WITH THEIR MOUTH—THE FALSE GOSPEL OF THE QUR'AN

Revelation 19:17; *"out of their mouths"*, Revelation 19:18; *"came out of their mouths"*, Revelation 19:19; *"having heads with which they inflict injury."* The Qur'an is full of verses blaspheming Jesus, the Son of God. They kill with their mouths, the false teaching of the Qur'an. The "Allah" of the Qur'an is the dragon. Baal, the beast, is worshipped in the Kaaba.

IN THE QUR'AN 5:116, JESUS BEGS ALLAH TO FORGIVE HIM

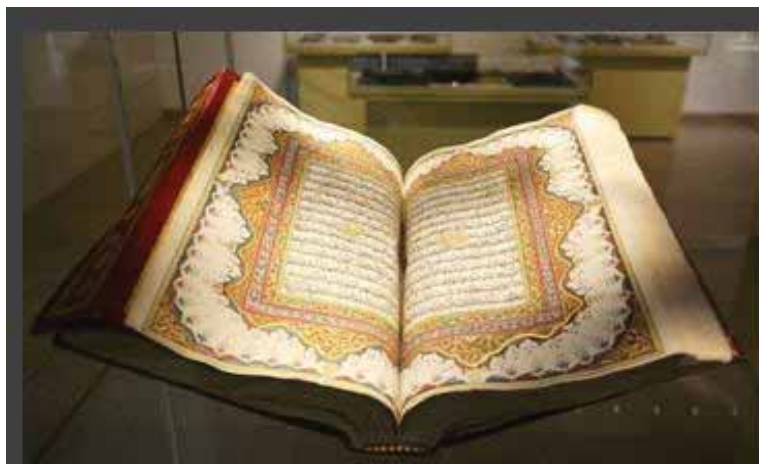
Qur'an 5:116 Allah will say: "O Jesus the son of Mary! Did you say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?" Jesus will say: "Glory to Thee! Never could I say what I had no right to say. Had I said such a thing, you would indeed have known it. You know what is in my heart, and I do not know what is within You."

IN THE QUR'AN 5:17, ALLAH SAYS HE CAN DESTROY JESUS

Qur'an 5:17 They have certainly disbelieved who say that God is Jesus, the son of Mary. Say, "Then who could prevent Allah at all if He had intended to destroy Jesus, the son of Mary, or his mother or everyone on the earth?" And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them. Allah creates what He wills, and Allah is over all things competent.

IN QUR'AN 61:6, JESUS PROMISES THAT MOHAMMAD WILL FOLLOW HIM

Qur'an 61:6 And mention when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad. [Mohammad]"



The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

Revelation 9:19 (NIV)

Revelation 9:20 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

Revelation 9:21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

“Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” Paul tells us *“God sends them a powerful delusion”* to those who failed to listen to the truth of the Gospel. The truth that Jesus is the Son of God, the truth that Jesus died for our sins, the truth that Jesus rose from the dead, and the truth that Jesus is the only path to the Father and eternal life. The Qur’an and false teachings of Mohammad deny all the essential truths of Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 (NIV)

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

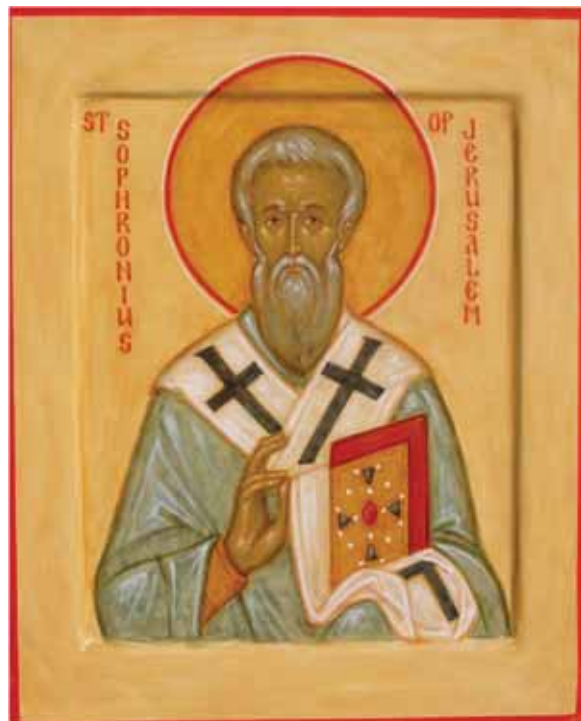
Men will not repent; therefore the last final judgment becomes necessary. These verses make one or two points clear. First, they show us that, whatever the nature of the Islamic plagues might be, they were afflictions designed to bring about repentance and return to the teachings of Christ.

Sophronius, (born in 560 AD in Damascus, Syria and died March 11, 638, in Jerusalem), was the patriarch of Jerusalem. He was a monk and theologian teaching on the essential nature of Christ. He saw these plagues first hand. Sophronius surrendered Jerusalem to Umar (Daniel 11:41-42) when Islam conquered Jerusalem. Sophronius called the Muslims “Saracens”, which means “the ones that Sarah sent away.”

Daniel 11:41-42 (NIV)

He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Sophronius noted the “Saracen menace” to Palestine in his Christmas sermon of 634, in which he commented that the Arabs already controlled Bethlehem.



SOPHRONIUS

Sophronius lived during a time of horrific upheaval. He was an eyewitness to the Four Horsemen of Revelation chapter 6 (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar, and Uthman) and the trumpet spiritual plagues of Revelation chapter 9. He saw the first Islamic invasion of Palestine and Jerusalem during the 632-638 time period. He provides us with a trustworthy, eyewitness account of the merciless brutality of the Muslims (referred to in antiquity as “Saracens”), which we see again sweeping the world in our own day in Islam’s renewed war against Christians.

The fall of Jerusalem to Umar in 638 probably hastened Sophronius’ death after he had negotiated the recognition of civil and religious liberty for Christians in exchange for tribute. In his writings, Sophronius relates his hope that surrendering Jerusalem would win clemency from the Muslims. But his dream was dashed. Sophronius and his flock lived through a two-year siege of Jerusalem by the Muslims. Worn down by famine, the Christians finally agreed to open the gates of Jerusalem, on the condition that the Muslims spare the holy places. But this condition was not fulfilled, and Sophronius died in grief in 638 over the desecration of the Christian sacred sites.

The false prophet Mohammad had planned on a campaign against Christian Syria and Palestine. When he saw Heraclius’s armies of the Byzantine Eastern Roman Empire, Mohammad decided to bide his time. Mohammad died in 632 and succeeded by Abu Bakr (the second rider on the red horse in Revelation 6:3-4). Other Muslims murdered Abu Bakr in 634, and his successor Umar (the third rider on the black horse with a pair of scales to calculate his Islamic taxes in Revelation 6:5-6) waged a campaign of conquest in fulfillment of Mohammad’s ambitions.

The battle of the Yarmuk River in 636 spelled the doom of the Christian government in the Levantine regions. The Byzantine army ceased to exist. The Persian and Muslim wars, coming as they did in quick succession, had exhausted the Byzantine Empire’s military resources. Heraclius, who lived until 641, could do nothing to recover what had just been recovered. He spent the rest of his days broken-hearted, having seen his great conquests lost. Umar defeated three kings, and Heraclius was one of the three. (Daniel 7:24). The other two were the Afghan king and the Persian king.

Daniel 7:24 (NIV)

The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

Sophronius recognized that the plagues of the Muslims were to cause Christians to repent, just as Revelation 9:20-21 says. Sophronius wrote: *“We, however, because of our innumerable sins and serious misdemeanors, are unable to see these things.”*

Sophronius also recognized that the invasion of the Muslims in Jerusalem and the Temple Mount was the “abomination of desolation” foretold by the prophet Daniel. Sophronius wrote: *“That is why the vengeful and God-hating Saracens, the abomination of desolation clearly foretold to us by the prophets, overrun the places which are not allowed to them, plunder cities, devastate fields, burn down villages, set on fire the holy churches, overturn the sacred monasteries, oppose the Byzantine armies arrayed against them, and in fighting raise up the trophies of war and add victory to victory. Moreover, they are raised up more and more against us and increase their blasphemy of Christ and the church, and utter wicked blasphemies against God.”*

SOPHRONIUS SEES ISLAM AS A PUNISHMENT

The pride of all the barbarians, and especially of the Saracens who, on account of our sins, have now risen up against us unexpectedly and ravage all with cruel and feral design, with impious and godless audacity. More than ever, therefore, we entreat your Holiness to make urgent petitions to Christ so that he, receiving these favorably from you, may quickly quell their mad insolence and deliver these vile creatures, as before, to be the footstool of our God-given emperors.

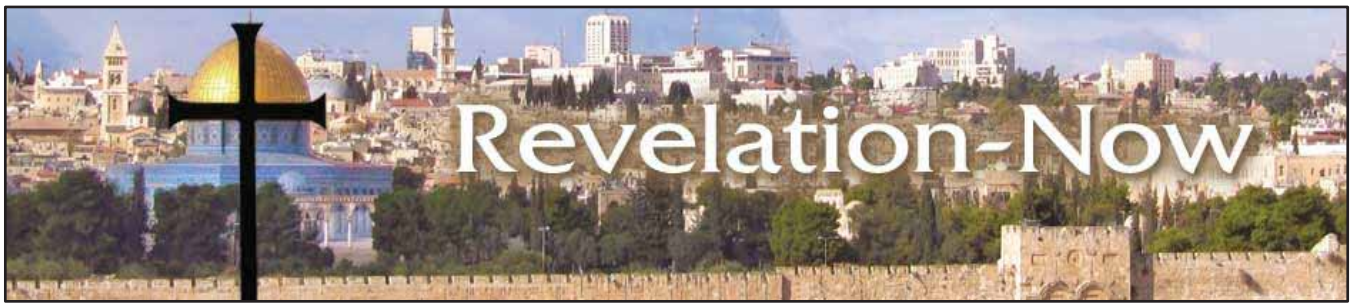
We, however, because of our innumerable sins and serious misdemeanors, are unable to see these things, and are prevented from entering Bethlehem by way of the road. Unwillingly, indeed, contrary to our wishes, we are required to stay at home, not bound closely by bodily bonds, but bound by fear of the Saracens.

But the present circumstances are forcing me to think differently about our way of life, for why are so many wars being fought among us? Why do barbarian raids abound? Why are the troops of the Saracens attacking us? Why has there been so much destruction and plunder? Why are there incessant outpourings of human blood? Why are the birds of the sky devouring human bodies? Why have churches been pulled down? Why is the cross mocked?

Why is Christ, who is the dispenser of all good things and the provider of this joyousness of ours, blasphemed by pagan mouths so that he justly cries out to us: "Because of you my name is blasphemed among the pagans," and this is the worst of all the terrible things that are happening to us.

That is why the vengeful and God-hating Saracens, the abomination of desolation clearly foretold to us by the prophets, overrun the places which are not allowed to them, plunder cities, devastate fields, burn down villages, set on fire the holy churches, overturn the sacred monasteries, oppose the Byzantine armies arrayed against them, and in fighting raise up the trophies of war and add victory to victory.

Moreover, they are raised up more and more against us and increase their blasphemy of Christ and the church, and utter wicked blasphemies against God.



REVELATION CHAPTER 10

THE MIGHTY ANGEL GIVES JOHN A LITTLE SCROLL

JOHN WAS TOLD TO PROPHECY TO MANY PEOPLES AND NATIONS

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 10

Revelation chapter 10 John saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. This angel was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand.

The angel said: "There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

John was told to take the little scroll from the angel's hand and eat it. It tasted as sweet as honey in John's mouth, but when he had eaten it, John's stomach turned sour. Then John was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

Revelation 10:8 (NIV)



Revelation 10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

Revelation 10:2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

Revelation 10:3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

The image of this angel is so great some have wondered if it is actually Jesus Christ. But John describes it as a “mighty angel”, so it could not be Christ, the Son of God.

“He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.” In the Book of Revelation, the sea is the spiritual world. This angel was standing at the interface between the spiritual realm and the human earthly realm, with one foot on the sea and one foot on land.



“And he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.” The thunders are called the “seven thunders” to bring them before us as another collection of sevens. The seven thunders are the sixth set of sevens in Revelation, and into harmony with the seven seals, the seven trumpets, the seven vials, the seven mountains, and the seven kings.

John says it was not a seven-fold peal of thunder, but seven distinct thunders (seven “voices”), which spoke individually in their own voices. We can only imagine what they said to John. It must have been of tremendous importance and part of the mystery of God.

His powerful voice was echoed by seven thunders, solemn, and terrible ways of discovering the mind of God. We are not told the subject matter of the seven thunders, nor God's reasons for suppressing them. However, we are given enough information in the Book of Revelation to understand the warnings about Islam from Jesus. Listen to Jesus. There is no path to the Father, but through the sacrifice of Christ.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

[Jesus said] “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Revelation 10:4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”

Revelation 10:5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.

“Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” John heard many great events of prophecy, but here, and only here in Revelation, we see the only things, of all which John heard, that he is commanded to keep secret. Why would God reveal these to John and then tell him to keep it secret? We do not know, but they were probably intended only for John, to help him understand the Book of Revelation that he was writing.

The episode may further indicate that the written contents of Revelation represent only a part of John’s actual vision. John has very similar language about the many miracles of Jesus in John 21:25.

John 21:25 (NIV)

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.



“Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.” Here the angel is standing at the interface between the spiritual world, the sea, and the human earthly realm, the land. In Daniel chapter 12 there is an oath similar to this, but the angel in Daniel has both hands lifted up, while here only one. The action was customary among the Jews in swearing to God. It means the words are true.

Daniel 12:5-7 (NIV)

Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”

This prophecy of Daniel (*“when the power of the holy people has been finally broken”*) ran from 706 AD, when the al-Aqsa mosque is completed on the Temple Mount until 1948 when the newly restored homeland of Israel is completed and Jews come out of the wilderness. The year 706 AD was the middle of the seven, and three, and one-half times (*“time, times and half a time”*) runs until 1948. The seventieth seven first began in 536 BC when the Jews first came back to Israel from Babylon.

Revelation 10:6 And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay!

Revelation 10:7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

“And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, ‘There will be no more delay!’”
In Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual world.

Not only did God create everything on earth, God also created everything in the spiritual world, the angels. The angels rejoiced (Job 38:4-7) when the earth was created, and therefore the angels in the “sea” are older than the earth.

Job 38:4-7 (NIV)

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

We also learn in Job 38:8-11 that God set the boundary of the sea (*“when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place”*), not the watery oceans because the oceans have moved over time, but the interface between the earthly realm and the “sea”, the spiritual realm.

Job 38:8-11 (NIV)

“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?”

John is told there should be time no longer; there shall be an end of the world. John understood of the time of Daniel’s fourth beast, the terrible demonic system, the Islamic empire of Satan and Baal, will come to an end. The time of the afflictions of the church, whether by Rome or Islamic enemies, should be no more.

The scroll is given to John to signify that the scroll’s contents were not to be kept secret like those of the seven thunders, but revealed for the instruction, direction, encouragement, or warning of humanity.

The prophecy and predictions were about the coming of Islam and the false prophet Mohammad. It is vital prophecy that concerned Satan and the beast Baal, as well as kings and nations, so it was to be made public for believers’ use and information. It is also to warn those that follow the Qur’an to repent and listen to the words of Jesus, the true Son of God.

Revelation 10: 8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

Revelation 10:9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.’”

Revelation 10:10 I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.

Revelation 10:11 Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

John says when eating the little scroll that *“It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.”* Many people feel pleasure in looking into future events, and all good men like to receive a word from God. But when this book of prophecy was thoroughly digested by John, the contents would be bitter. Islam would bring awful and such grievous persecutions of the people of God. The desolations in the earth, the rise of Islam, the daily prayer to the Kaaba by billions of deceived souls, the Shahada that denies Jesus is God, that the foresight and foreknowledge of them would be painful to his mind. John’s sour stomach when seeing the future is similar to the reaction of Daniel (Daniel 10:1-3) when Daniel saw this great spiritual war in the future.

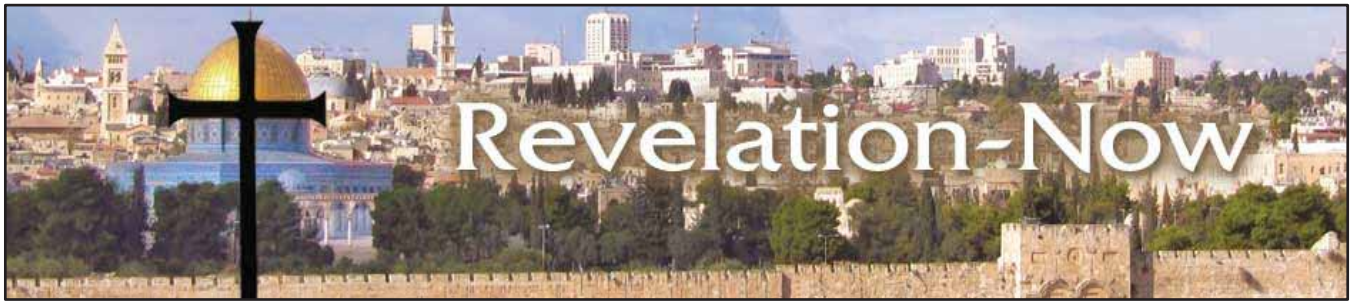
Daniel 10:1-3 (NIV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

Now we move on to the vision in the next chapter, chapter 11, where the two witnesses (Michael and Gabriel) stand so solitary, and prophesy so mightily. John will have to tell the story of churches and peoples, the false prophet Mohammad, unmindful of their high calling and their allegiance to their true king, and of their hatred of God’s mightiest and purest witnesses. The end, indeed, will come. The Church will be victorious. The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of Christ.

The connection of prophetic events in Revelation to Daniel is very strong. The two witnesses’ prophecies of Revelation 11 are connected to prophecy from Daniel and Ezekiel. Revelation chapter 11 prophecies about the two witnesses and the dead bodies coming back to life are connected to Daniel chapter 12 and Ezekiel chapter 37.

There is very similar prophetic language in Ezekiel 37 (*“breathe into these slain, that they may live”*) and Daniel 12 (*“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake”*) about seemingly dead slain Jewish bodies coming back to life. This occurred when Israel was restored in 1948, and Jews were trapped in Islamic countries for three and one half years until the end of 1951.



REVELATION CHAPTER 11

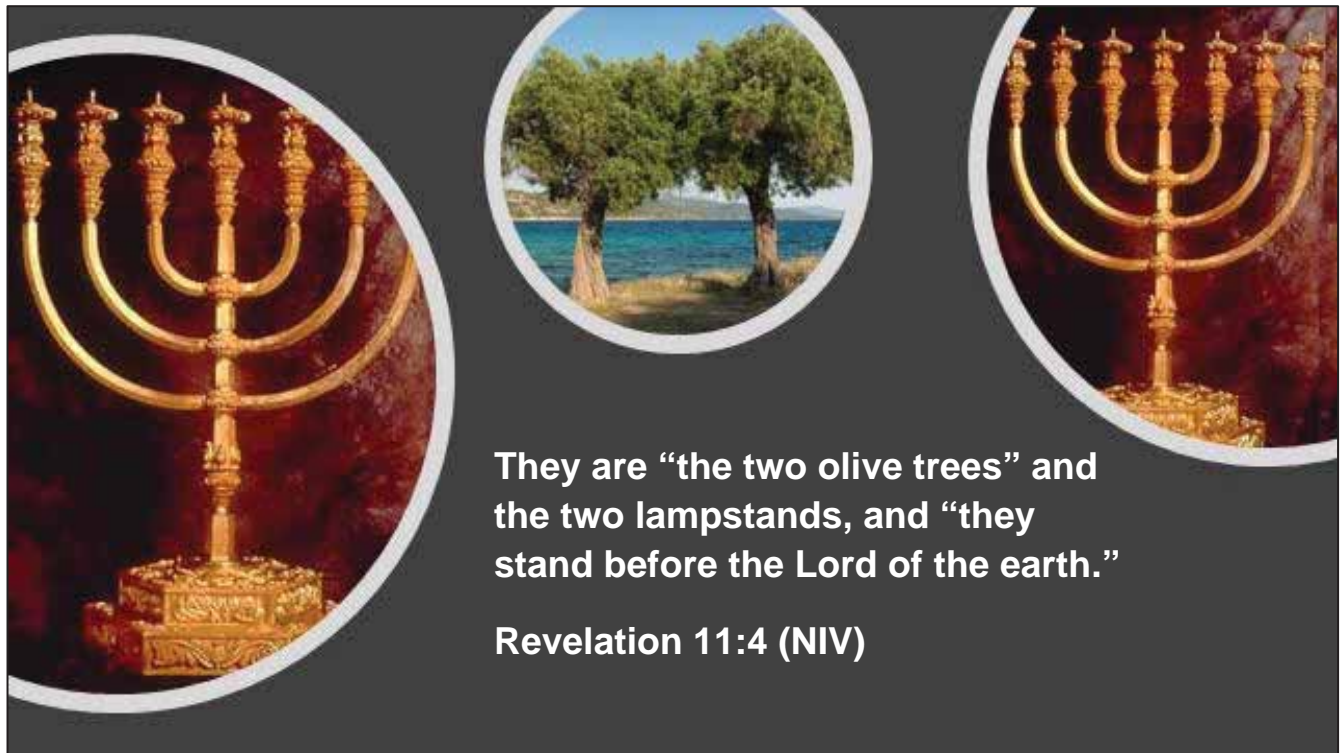
THE BEAST FROM THE ABYSS KILLS THE TWO WITNESSES JERUSALEM TRAMPLED FOR 42 MONTHS

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 11

In Revelation chapter 11 John was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.” The holy city is trampled for 42 months.

God appoints His two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days. They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”



Revelation 11:1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers.

Revelation 11:2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

To understand what John measured we must remember that there are two Greek words which are translated to “temple” in English: one (“hieron”) signifies the physical temple building, and the other (“naos”) is the sanctuary itself, the house of God, the Holy of Holies. We must also understand that John is looking into heaven, not at the physical earth. In the prior chapter, which is continuous to this present vision of John, John says he is seeing and hearing from heaven. (Revelation 10:1a “*Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven*” and Revelation 10:8a “*Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more.*”)

It is the second of these Greek words for the temple, which is used here by John. John uses “naos” to tell us the actual spiritual sanctuary of God is measured, together with the altar. We are not told which altar is intended. The reason John measured the inner court and the spiritual temple was to show that during all this period, there were true believing Christians, who conformed to the rule and measure of God’s word and worship. The “measuring rod” is the Word of God.

In Revelation 11:1, John is told to “measure” the temple of God and the altar with its worshipers. But John is told to exclude the outer court and not to measure it because it has been given to the Gentiles, or in some translations, the “nations.” The Gentiles in their Islamic worship and practice, their prayer to Baal in the Kaaba, taking the mark of the Shahada, profaned it with heathenish superstition and idolatry. God was telling John to use the Word of God as the absolute measurement to determine the true church, the spiritual temple of God, and who the false church was.



Revelation 11:2 (NIV)



But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

John was measuring the spiritual temple because John was looking into in heaven. All of Revelation prophecy after Revelation verse 4:1 is in heaven. (Revelation 4:1 *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*) John wrote Revelation in 95 AD and the physical temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.

Measuring is "judging against a standard." When we measure a thing, we take something with a fixed proportion - like a length or a weight that is known or standardized - and we compare it to whatever we are trying to quantify or measure. We see how it measures up: how long it is, how wide it is, how tall it is, how heavy it is, etc. We can also see if it fits a pattern or a template that is necessary for the item to do its part. For entrance to heaven, the Word of God is the measurement criteria. The true church acknowledges Jesus is the Son of God. The true words of Jesus will judge all humanity.

John 17:17 (NIV)

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 12:48 (NIV)

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."



"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."

John 12:48 (NIV)

Those in the false church (Islam and the Qur'an) would seize the outer court (set up the blasphemous Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque) where the old temple stood before it was destroyed in 70 AD. Islam (the "Gentiles") would then trample Jerusalem for 42 months, or 1278.4 days/years from when the Dome of the Rock (the abomination) was set up in 688 and continue until 1967. The Bible gives no time limitation on possession of the outer court, as Islam still holds the Temple Mount today.

USE THE BIBLE TRUTH AS “A REED LIKE A MEASURING ROD” MEASURE FALSE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BY THE TRUE WORD OF GOD

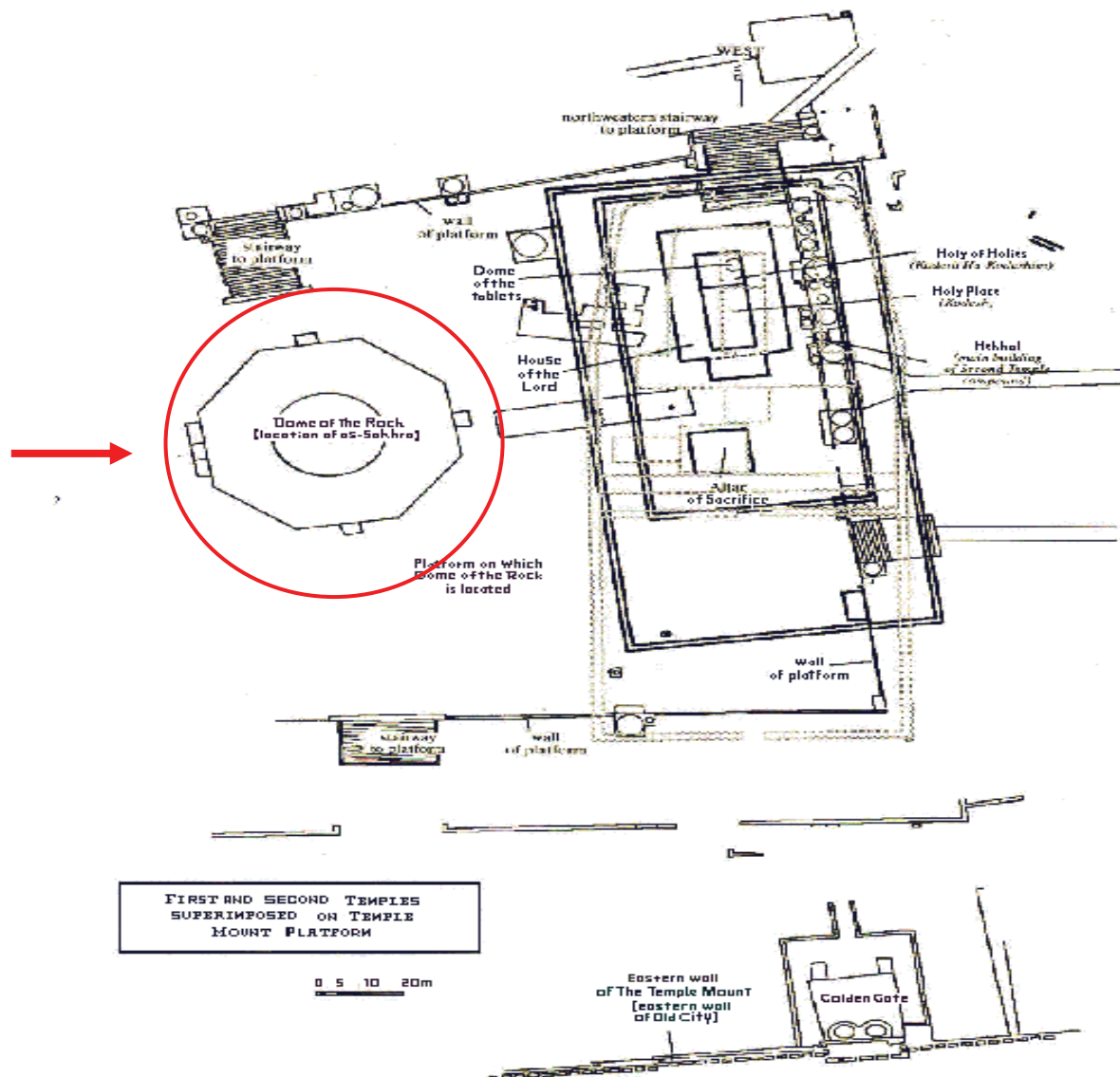
Isaiah 28:16-17 (NIV)

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.”

Islam was given the area of the outer court on the Temple Mount. We can “measure” the false teachings of the Qur’an and Islam from the false prophet Mohammad, using the true Word of God, and see that Islam is the most significant false church that Jesus warns us about in Revelation.

<p align="center">Understand the Key Truths of the Bible The Qur'an Has Conflicting and False Stories</p>				
Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Qur'an Verse	Opposing and False Qur'an Text
Jesus is the Son of God.	John 14:13	"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."	Qur'an 17:111	And say, "Praise to Allah , who has not taken a son and has had no partner in his dominion and has no need of a protector out of weakness; and glorify Allah with great glorification."
Jesus was crucified.	Matthew 27:35-37	When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	Qur'an 4:157	And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.
Jesus rose from the dead.	Matthew 28:5-6	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."	Qur'an 3:55	Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you in submission to Allah alone superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.
Jesus is the only path to heaven.	John 14:6	Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."	Qur'an 4:59	O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey his Messenger [Mohammad] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best way and best in result.
The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.	Matthew 12:31-32	"And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."	Qur'an 4:171	O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul created at a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.
God first loved us.	1 John 4:19	We love because he first loved us.	Qur'an 51:56	And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship Me.
Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.	John 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."	Qur'an 112:3	Allah begets not, nor is He begotten.
Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit- the spirit of truth.	John 14:26	"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."	Qur'an 61:6	Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! Truly I am the Messenger of God unto you, confirming that which came before me in the Torah and bearing glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me whose name is Ahmad [Mohammad]."

GENTILES GIVEN THE OUTER COURT--THE DOME OF THE ROCK ABOMINATION IS IN THE OUTER COURT OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT



The Bible says to test each spirit to see if they acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God. Islam denies Jesus is the Son of God. The spiritual temple of God is truth. Jesus is truth.

1 John 4:1-3 (NIV)

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

John 1:17 (NIV)

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

THE ABOMINATIONS: THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE AND THE DOME OF THE ROCK

The al-Aqsa Mosque (706 AD) is the third holiest site in Sunni Islam and located on the southern wing of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, along with the Dome of the Rock (688 AD). Both sites are essential prophecy markers. Revelation 11:2 says Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months.

Forty-two months is 1278.4 days/years from 688 (Dome of the Rock) until Jerusalem liberated in 1967. Revelation 11:3 and 12:6 say there will be 1260 days/years of prophecy and waiting in the wilderness. Twelve hundred sixty days was from 688 (Dome of the Rock) to 1948 (Israel restored).

Muslims believe Mohammad traveled from the Kaaba in Mecca to the site of the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount during the “Night Journey.” Mohammad led prayers towards this site until Allah re-directed prayer to the Kaaba. The change in prayer to the Kaaba was when *“The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.”* (Revelation 13:2b) The Kaaba in Mecca holds the Blackstone, and the beast of Revelation dwells in the Kaaba.

“And on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” Daniel 9:27b (NASB)

Besides the Dome of the Rock in the outer court, the al-Aqsa mosque on the wing is essential as well. The al-Aqsa Mosque sits on the southern wing of the Temple Mount. Daniel's abomination on the wing is the al-Aqsa Mosque set up by Umar. Jesus tells the disciples that in the future, an abomination spoken of by the prophet Daniel will stand in the holy place where it does not belong. When the people of Israel see it, they should head for the mountains ("wilderness"). Daniel's final seven stretches from 536 BC to 1948, with 706 the mid-point of the last seven. Jeremiah 31:2 tells us before the Jews return to Israel, they will wait in the wilderness for God to call them.



**“PRAISE BE TO ALLAH, WHO HATH NOT TAKEN UNTO HIMSELF A SON”
THE DOME OF THE ROCK INSCRIPTIONS DENY JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD
THIS IS WHY GOD EXCLUDES THE OUTER COURT**



THE BLASPHEMOUS PHRASES ON THE DOME OF THE ROCK

“In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no God but Allah. He is One. He has no associate. Say: He is God, the One God!, the eternally Besought of all! **He begets not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable unto Him.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him.”

“In the name of Allah, the merciful the compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One. **He has no associate.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah. Lo! Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet.”

“O ye who believe! Ask blessings on him and salute him with a worthy salutation. In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One.”

“Praise be to Allah, who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and Who hath no partner in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence. And magnify Him with all magnificence. Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him and the angels and His prophets, and peace be on him, and may Allah have mercy.”

THREE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE “TEMPLE” IN REVELATION 11

There are three views on the meaning of the “temple” in Revelation. The first is Preterist believing everything fulfilled by 70 AD. The second is Dispensational expecting a third physical temple built in the future, and animal and grain sacrifices will return. The third is Spiritual/Literal seeing the Islamic outer court and trampling of Jerusalem literal in the earthly realm. This commentary focuses on the Spiritual/Literal view.

Both the Preterist view, as well as the Dispensational view, interpret this as a literal, physical temple standing in Jerusalem. The Preterist view is that the temple was the one destroyed in 70 AD, while the Dispensational view is that of a rebuilt third temple. All of John’s references in Revelation are never to a physical temple. The lack of a physical temple in the Book of Revelation creates an insurmountable problem for both the Preterist and Dispensational viewpoints.

Some interpret Revelation 11:1 as a literal temple in Jerusalem. The actual factual problem is that it was not only the outer court that was trampled by the Gentiles, but they destroyed the entire temple in 70 AD. Others have sought to make this refer to a future temple, but John does not say this is a rebuilt temple. The following chart summarizes the various views of this temple:

Preterist View	Spiritual/Literal View	Dispensational View
It refers to the literal first century temple that was destroyed by Titus.	It uses the symbol of the temple to refer to God’s people, the church.	It refers to a literal future temple to be constructed for an earthly kingdom.
The second physical temple (Herod)	A spiritual temple	A third future temple
The 42 months refer to the time of the Roman War to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.	The 42 months are 1278.4 days/years in Jerusalem 688-1967	The 42 months refer to the halfway mark in a future great tribulation.

John saw the lampstand, an article of temple furniture, and explained that it represented the seven churches. Jesus promised in Revelation 3:12 to make the victorious a pillar in the temple of His God. The ones who come out of great tribulation are serving the Lord day and night in His heavenly temple (Revelation 7:15). At the end of chapter 11, the ark of the covenant appears in the temple of God, which is in heaven (Revelation 11:19). Revelation 14:17 and 15:5 use the same language. The uses of the word temple in Revelation are all in the spiritual realm.

When we see the vision of the New Jerusalem, we will read that there is no more temple because the Lord God and the Lamb are its temple. (Revelation 21:22).

Revelation 11:3 And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

Revelation 11:4 They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”

The two witnesses’ prophecies of Revelation 11 have caused much speculation. Are they humans, symbolic, or angels? Revelation, chapter 11 gives prophecies about the two witnesses, and the dead bodies came back to life. These are all connected to Daniel, chapter 12, and Ezekiel, chapter 37. There is very similar prophetic language in Ezekiel 37 (*“breathe into these slain, that they may live”*) and Daniel 12 (*“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake”*) about seemingly dead slain Jewish bodies coming back to life. Many prophecy experts have viewed Ezekiel 37 as symbolic of Jewish people returning to Israel, but see Daniel 12 as a literal resurrection. Both Bible texts are describing the same events described in even more detail in Revelation, chapter 11.

Revelation is written in two dimensions, the spiritual realm and the earthy human realm. The two witnesses’ prophecy can be only understood when viewed in both dimensions.

Prophetic fulfillment occurs twice. The human earthly realm with Jews trapped in Islamic countries for three and one-half years (Operation Ezra and Nehemiah; May 1948 to the end of 1951), and a battle in the spiritual realm with the beast from the abyss overpowering the archangels Gabriel and Michael.

Ezekiel 37:9 (NIV)
Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”

Daniel 12:2 (NIV)
Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

1933		1945	1948	1951	1967
Hitler In Power	Holocaust	WW II Ends	Israel Restored	Operation Ezra & Nehemiah	Jerusalem Liberated

The remnant of saved believing Jews comes out of this migration back to Israel is the vision of Ezekiel chapter 37. Daniel says the believing Jews have everlasting life. (Daniel 12:2b *“some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”*) These events all were fulfilled right after the Holocaust when two thirds of the Jews were killed in the land. (Daniel 12:1; *“a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time.”* And Zechariah 13:8; *“In the whole land declares the Lord, two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.”*)

SPIRITUAL REALM



Michael and Gabriel Killed by the Beast

HUMAN EARTHLY REALM



Jews Trapped in Islamic Countries 3 ½ Years

THE VALLEY OF THE DRY BONES--EZEKIEL 37



Ezekiel 37: The Lord said “come up out of your graves”

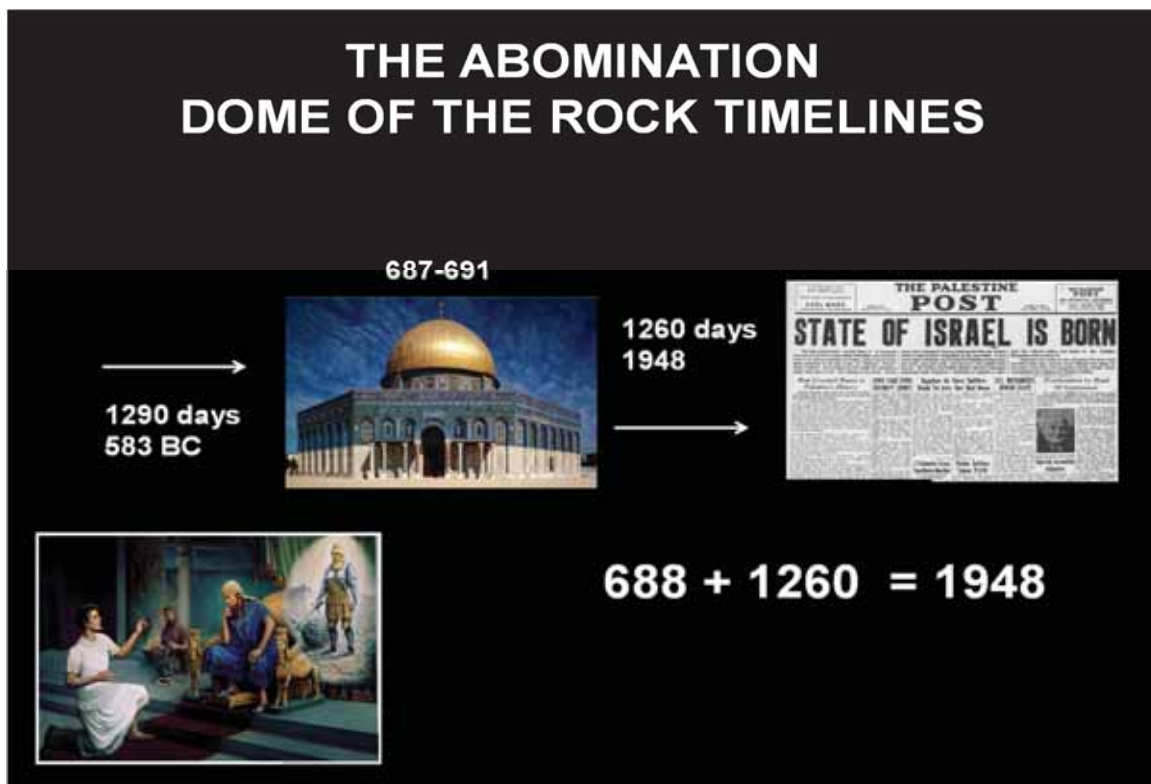
Ezekiel 37:1-6 (NASB)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.' Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.'"

Ezekiel 37:12-13 (NASB)

Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people.'"

Daniel 12:11-12 tells us it will be 1290 days/years until the abomination set up. This period was 583 BC until 688 AD. Revelation 11:2 tells us that the non-believing Gentiles hold the outer court of the Temple Mount, and this sets the timeline. The marker is the Islamic Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. Construction was between 687 and 691 AD, with a mid-point of 688/689. The Islamic writings on the Dome of the Rock blaspheme Christ by saying, "God did not have a Son" and deny the Holy Spirit. Messianic Israel was in the wilderness for 1260 days/years until 1948. Israel was born on May 14, 1948. Just one day later, on May 15, 1948, Islamic (beast controlled) countries attacked Israel.



WHO ARE THE TWO SPIRITUAL WITNESSES?

ENOCH, MOSES, ELIJAH, OR TWO GROUPS OF GOD'S PEOPLE? OR IS IT MICHAEL AND GABRIEL THE ARCHANGELS? OR IS IT BOTH SPIRITUAL AND ON EARTH?

Revelation is written in two dimensions, the earthly human realm, and the spiritual realm. The twin dimensions explain the two witnesses' prophecy. For nearly two thousand years, there has been continual speculation about the identity of the two witnesses. Early Christians, such as Tertullian, Irenaeus, and Hippolytus of Rome, concluded that the two witnesses would be Enoch and Elijah, prophets who did not die because God "took" them. Others have proposed Moses as one of the witnesses, for his ability to turn water into blood and the power to plague the earth. Whoever they are, they would not be a previous prophet reincarnated since the Bible does not teach reincarnation.

Modern theologians, such as John Walvoord of the Dallas Theological Seminary, have furthered the point of individualism by comparing the "two lampstands" and the "two olive trees" of Revelation 11 to the two golden pipes and two olive trees/branches of Zechariah 4. But Zechariah saw the two as already being active in 520 BC! The Book of Revelation was written some 600 years later!

By the identification of the two olive branches as "two anointed ones" or "two sons of the oil", in Zechariah, this reinforces the literalist interpretation that the two witnesses are two people. But the literalist would have trouble explaining why they were already active in 520 BC!! Walvoord also pointed out that because the Revelation passage does not explicitly identify who the two witnesses are, it is safer to conclude that they are not related to any previous human character.

Some believe the two witnesses represent the church or a similar concept. The 1599 Geneva Study Bible has asserted that the two witnesses are the exclusive purview of the church. Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible states the two groups are believing Jews and saved Gentiles. John Wesley in his commentary on Revelation 11 suggests a more spiritual, almost ambiguous, application. Ross Taylor's Verse by Verse Commentary on Revelation defines the church as the "two olive trees and the two lampstands."

The two witnesses in the earthly realm represent Messianic Israel and the Christian Church. The olive tree in the Scripture signifies Israel. The "witness of the Church" is signified by the two lampstands, whose identity was disclosed by the seven golden lampstands (i.e., candlesticks) revealed in Revelation 1-3 as the "churches."

Revelation 1:19-20 makes clear the golden lampstands are churches and not a single person. But there is a second dimension--the spiritual world as well. The prophecy is more complicated! We must explain how the beast from the Abyss (Baal) was able to overpower them and kill them (temporarily). This battle took place in the spiritual world, not on earth with humans.

Revelation 1:19-20 (NIV)

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

GABRIEL AND MICHAEL ARE THE "TWO WITNESSES" IN THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

The prophecies of the two witnesses have an earthy (human) component and a spiritual (angelic) component simultaneously. Gabriel and Michael are the only two named angels in the Bible (other than Satan/Lucifer and Baal). Gabriel and Michael are the only two “archangels.” The two witnesses are active at the time Israel was restored in 1948 and have an impact on earthly events during the three and one-half years of Operation Ezra and Nehemiah (1948-1951) when Jews held in Islamic countries miraculously airlifted to Israel after being trapped since 1948. Yet Zechariah (520 BC) saw the spiritual two witnesses as active even then in his vision. The two witnesses’ actions are coming from the archangels Michael and Gabriel.

We must also examine the spiritual world aspect of the two witnesses. The way the Bible describes them, they cannot be human. If we understand they are two angels greatly favored by God, the prophecies of their actions are much easier to understand.

The Bible verses describe them as clearly superhuman. Zechariah saw them in action already serving the Lord (Zechariah 4:14 *“These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth”*), and Zechariah was written some 600 years before Revelation.

Revelation 11:4 (NIV)

They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”

Zechariah 4:11-14 (NIV)

Then I asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?” Again I asked him, “What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?” He replied, “Do you not know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I said. So he said, “These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.”

By the time Zechariah wrote this about 520 BC, Enoch, Moses, and Elijah had already lived. In reality, there are no two humans that are so special that they could qualify to be spoken of as “the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.” The Bible does not teach reincarnation.

Consider not only where these two stand in front of God, but the “anointing of God” (the Holy Spirit) flows through them. How many prophets in the Bible ever qualified for a “global ministry,” and that could torment the whole earth with prophecy for 1260 days/years? It is also true that no human prophets ever had the physical fire come out of their mouths. God could give these powers to anyone He chooses. But we know of no humans that God equips this way. There have been none.

Revelation 11:5-6 (NIV)

“If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.”

A VERSE IN THE QUR'AN ABOUT GABRIEL AND MICHAEL GIVES A CLUE

The Qur'an contains many statements about Jesus that are not true. The Qur'an says that Jesus is not God, was not crucified, is obedient to Allah, Allah has all power over him, and Jesus does not take away anyone's sin. These are all lies, and the Bible contradicts all these statements completely.

The Qur'an also mentions Gabriel and Michael in a passage. The Qur'an has a passage about *"Whoever is an enemy to Allah"* (2:98) that goes on to state: *"His messengers and Gabriel and Michael."* The Qur'an passage separates Gabriel and Michael from other angels as if there is something different about them. The Qur'an seems to move them more into the category of "messengers." It is true that Gabriel and Michael are archangels, and therefore different from regular angels, but perhaps the Qur'an isolates them because of the battle with Baal, the beast, with the two witnesses. The passage falsely implies Gabriel and Michael "belong" to Allah (much like Jesus is subject to Allah in the Qur'an). The passage could also be there because Allah (really Satan, the dragon) has knowledge that the beast overpowered (temporarily) Gabriel and Michael.

Qur'an 2:98

Whoever is an enemy to Allah and His angels and His messengers **and Gabriel and Michael** - then indeed, Allah is an enemy to the disbelievers.

THE BIBLE SAYS THE BEAST IS THE MOST POWERFUL DEMONIC SPIRIT

The Bible tells us the beast is the most powerful demonic spirit. In Revelation 13:2, we learn the beast has Satan's power, throne, and great authority. In Revelation 17:12-13, we learn that the ten demonic kings also give the beast all their power and authority. In Revelation 11:7, we learn the beast now has enough power to kill the two witnesses when they finish their testimony. The Bible does not say, but perhaps the beast physically incorporates all their spiritual world powers into himself. The beast even believes he now has enough power to *"wage war against the Lamb"* (Revelation 17:14).

Revelation 13:2b (NIV)

The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Revelation 17:12-13 (NIV)

"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast."

Revelation 11:7 (NIV)

Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them.

Revelation 17:14 (NIV)

"They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

MICHAEL BATTLES SATAN; PROTECTS ISRAEL AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

The archangel Michael has battles with Satan and demonic princes. Jude tells us Michael fought with Satan for the body of Moses. When Jude wrote, *"But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses,"* Jude was referring to the Testament of Moses, which is not canon Bible text, but Jude thought it as scripturally correct. Revelation 12:7-9 tells us (in the spiritual realm) Michael played a significant role forcing Satan to be removed from heaven.

Jude 1:8-9 (NIV)

In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Revelation 12:7-9 (NIV)

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Michael stood with Gabriel to struggle against the demonic princes of Persia and Greece. These are kingdoms number four and five in the "Seven Heads" of the beast. They followed Baal of Babylon-the third head. Baal is the "prince who is to come" in Daniel 9:26-27. Baal was sent to Sheol--the Abyss. Baal was the both third and eighth head. Baal "comes out of the seven" and "has a fatal wound that is healed" (Revelation chapters 13-17).

The eight demonic kingdoms and kings are: 1) Egypt, 2) Assyria, 3) Babylon (Baal sent to Sheol when Babylon fell), 4) Persia, 5) Seleucid Greeks, 6) Rome, 7) Demonic King-rules only a short time-this was Abaddon from the Abyss, and 8) Baal released from the Abyss, who was also the third.

Daniel 10:12-14 (NIV)

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Daniel 10:20-21 (NIV)

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.)"

“TWO-THIRDS WILL BE STRUCK DOWN AND PERISH”

The holocaust was the worst time of distress for Jews in their history. Two thirds (67%) were killed in the lands controlled by the Nazis (fulfills Zechariah 13:8). The Bible (Daniel 12:1) says Michael will arise after this distress.

Country	Pre-Final Solution Jewish Population	Jewish Population Killed in Final Solution	Percent Killed
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000	91%
Baltic Countries	253,000	228,000	90%
Germany/Austria	240,000	210,000	88%
Protectorate	90,000	80,000	89%
Slovakia	90,000	75,000	83%
Greece	70,000	54,000	77%
The Netherlands	140,000	105,000	75%
Hungary	650,000	450,000	69%
White Russia	375,000	245,000	65%
Ukraine (est)	1,500,000	900,000	60%
Belgium	65,000	40,000	62%
Yugoslavia	43,000	26,000	60%
Romania	600,000	300,000	50%
Norway	1,800	900	50%
France	350,000	90,000	26%
Bulgaria	64,000	14,000	22%
Italy	40,000	8,000	20%
Luxembourg	5,000	1,000	20%
Russia (est)	975,000	107,000	11%
Denmark	8,000	--	n/a
Finland	2,000	--	n/a
Total	8,861,800	5,933,900	67%

Source : <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/killedtable.html>

Daniel 12:1 (NIV)

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

Gabriel was sent to Zechariah, John the Baptist's father to tell of John the Baptist. Gabriel was sent to Mary to tell her about the Messiah, Jesus. Gabriel was a trusted messenger of God.

Luke 1:18-19 (NIV)

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.”

Luke 1:26-28 (NIV)

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Revelation 11:5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Revelation 11:6 They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Fire coming out of the mouth is not something any humans have been able to do. But God can destroy any angels or spirits with fire if they disobey Him. This happened with the demonic spirit ruling over Tyre in Ezekiel chapter 28. (*“So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.”*)

Although Tyre is not one of the seven kingdoms, God destroyed with fire the demonic prince of Tyre. It again shows God is sovereign and may completely destroy one of the "sons of God" if it is part of His plan. This destruction allows us to contrast what happened to the prince of Babylon—who was placed in Sheol and not completely destroyed.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 (NIV)

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says:

““You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.

You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.

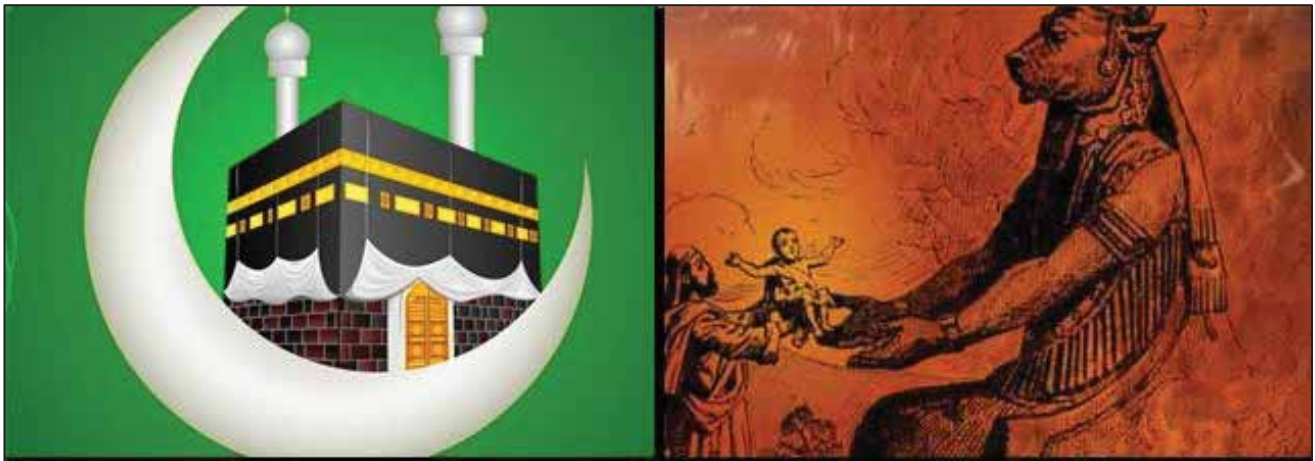
So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.”

The two olive trees have the keys of the kingdom of heaven given them, and whatever they bind or loose on earth is bound or loosed in heaven; or in other words, Michael and Gabriel have full knowledge in doctrine and spiritual discipline directly from God.

Revelation 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

“Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.” The Bible tells us the beast is the most powerful demonic spirit. In Revelation 13:2, God says the beast has Satan's power, throne, and great authority. In Revelation 17:12-13, God says the ten demonic kings also give the beast all their power and authority for one hour. Gabriel and Michael wrestled with the prince of Persia for 21 days. (Daniel 10:12-14) This is just one demonic spirit. Imagine the power of Satan, Baal, and the ten kings all rolled into the beast!

Now John tells us the beast now has enough power to kill the two witnesses when they finish their testimony. The Bible does not say, but perhaps the beast physically incorporates all their spiritual world powers into himself. The beast believes he now has enough power to wage war with even Jesus directly (Revelation 17:14).



Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Revelation 11:7 (NIV)

The prophet Habakkuk in chapter 2 warns us about the future demonic prince of Babylon *"the proud one, his soul is not right within him"* and *"He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples."* This demonic prince is Baal dwelling in the Kaaba today. Baal has gathered and been given enough power to temporarily overpower and kill Michael and Gabriel.

Habakkuk 2:4-5 (NASB)

Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, so that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.

Revelation 11:8 Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.

“Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.” When examining the meaning of *“their bodies”*, it is important to look at both the human earthly realm (Jews trapped in Islamic countries; Operation Ezra and Nehemiah 1948-1951) and in the spiritual world of the archangels Gabriel and Michael.

Many commentators make this “great city” to be Jerusalem. Jesus was physically and literally crucified in Jerusalem. But the great city of Revelation chapters 17-18 is not Jerusalem; it is Mecca. John is communicating a non-literal meaning, which is why he writes: *“which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt.”* What is meant by the “public square of the great city”? Jerusalem has a marginal public square, and only since the 20th century. The public square in Jerusalem is called Zion Square (Hebrew: כיכר ציון, Kikar Tziyon). It is a public square in Jerusalem located at the intersection of Jaffa Road, Ben Yehuda Street, Herbert Samuel Street, and Yoel Moshe Salomon Street. British Mandate officials developed the field into a triangular district bordered by Jaffa Road, Ben Yehuda Street (constructed by the British in 1922), and King George Street (constructed by the British in 1924).

In Mecca there is a public square unlike any other. Land there today sells for \$18,000 **per square foot**. Mecca holds all the demons of the spiritual realm. All Muslims in the world praying to the beast face this public square every day. This is the Kaaba in Mecca, the “wicked house” in Zechariah 5:5-11. The beast Baal dwells in the Kaaba. The great city merchants are rich.



The Bible in Revelation 18:2 tells us that the great city, Mecca, is *“a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit.”* In the spiritual world the demons and impure spirits would rejoice at seeing the dead bodies of archangels Michael and Gabriel in the public square of Mecca at the Kaaba.

Revelation 18:2 (NIV)

With a mighty voice he shouted: “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

The meaning of the word “figurative” used by John is given as follows in Webster’s’ Dictionary: departing from a literal use of words, metaphorical. Thus John wants us to not look at a literal crucifixion of Christ in the physical sense, but rather in a metaphorical sense. The first question is, who ultimately was behind the killing of Christ? Who wants to “crucify” the Gospel of Jesus? Satan was behind the killing of Christ. We know that Satan entered Judas to betray Jesus.

Luke 22:3 (NIV)

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

John 13:27 (NIV)

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.”

We also know the people who destroyed the second temple and Jerusalem in 70 AD were the people that would later worship Baal when the beast emerged from the abyss. Josephus makes clear the Roman general Titus tried to save the temple. Four main Roman legions, the 5th, 10th, 12th, and 15th, conducted the Jerusalem battle. The composition of the soldiers and auxiliaries were from the surrounding countries around Israel. These peoples are all Islamic today and nearly all worship the beast (Baal in the Kaaba) and the dragon (Satan). Baal is the “prince who is to come” of Daniel 9:26.

Daniel 9:26 (NASB)

Then after the sixty-two weeks [unit of sevens] the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

By the time the battle for Jerusalem began, all four of these legions would have consisted of a majority of Eastern soldiers; Arabs, Syrians, Egyptians, etc. Even Legion 5 Macedonia, although possibly stationed in Moesia -- or modern-day Kosovo and Bulgaria -- also would have consisted of a majority of Eastern soldiers by the time they arrived at Jerusalem. Satan and Baal (out of the Abyss) orchestrated the killing of Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem.

The “figurative” great city in Revelation 11:8 is the city of the spiritual harlot, which is Mecca. The great city is not the same as “*They will trample on the holy city for 42 months*” in Revelation 11:2, which is Jerusalem. The holy city of Jerusalem was trampled by Islam for 42 months (1278.4 years) from 688 to 1967. The “*holy city*” is not the same one as the “*great city*.” This is why John uses both.

Using the Dome of the Rock construction (687-691) as a marker in time in Revelation 11:1-2, Gentiles trampled and controlled the holy city until Jerusalem’s liberation in 1967. The 42 months of trampling (1278.4 days/years) mentioned in Revelation 11 stretches precisely from the midpoint of the Dome construction until Israeli troops liberated Jerusalem on June 7, 1967.

John gives four locations, not three. The first is the “*great city*,” the second is “*Sodom*,” the third is “*Egypt*,” and the fourth is “*where also their Lord was crucified*.” The reason the real name is not plainly stated is the mystery of God. The descriptions are applied to provide the reader with a general understanding. God will reveal His mystery at a time of His choosing.

The dragon and beast wish to “crucify” Christ a second time and destroy the Gospel. They gave Mohammad the false gospel of the Qur’an. “*Where also our Lord was crucified*” - If this is literal, it refers to Jerusalem, but if a metaphor, it means that Jesus was symbolically crucified by having His Gospel truth rejected or, even worse, changed into a false gospel with the Qur’an.

John gives a larger figurative meaning by including two named locations, “*which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt*.” “*Sodom*” was distinguished for its wickedness, and especially for that vice to which its abominations have given Sodom’s name. The harlot of Revelation 17:2 and its spiritual immorality of worship to a false god are being referenced here.

Revelation 17:2 (NIV)

“With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

The Jewish historian Josephus identifies the Dead Sea in geographic proximity to the ancient biblical city of Sodom. Thus the physical local of Sodom is in Judea or Jordan, northeast of the Dead Sea. Jordan is one of the countries that the majority of inhabitants pray to Baal in the Kaaba. Jordan is also a country in the human earthly realm with a large number of Jews held captive after the 1948 war.

“And Egypt” - The name of Egypt applied because it has characteristics like Egypt. The Scriptures describe Egypt as the land of oppression. The land where the Israelites, the people of God, were held in cruel bondage. We see this played out in Exodus chapters 1-15 and also in Ezekiel 23:8. The symbolic concept is that the “city” referred to would be characterized by acts of oppression and wrong toward the people of God.

So far as the language is concerned, it might apply to Jerusalem, Rome or Mecca, but especially Mecca. All three committed acts of oppression toward the true children of God. It is proper to compare their cruelties with those which were inflicted on the Israelites by the Egyptians. Mecca is the great city and a home for all unclean spirits.

John has effectively combined all four locations into the world-wide Islamic anti-Gospel coalition, led by Satan and Baal. This anti-Gospel system is spiritual geography on display, in addition to physical Islamic geography.

In this same geography location, more than one million Jews were trapped for three and one-half years (1948-1951) after Israel became a state in 1948. Jews were confined in nearly every Islamic country, and also even Jerusalem itself.

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE PUTS JEWS IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES IN GRAVE DANGER

Revelation 11:9 For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Revelation 11:10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

In the human earthly realm, miraculous events were also happening to the “dead bodies” as well. Jewish communities existed relatively peacefully in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf region for more than 2,500 years, in such countries as Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, and Aden. Today nearly 99% of Jews have left Islamic countries as compared to their 1948 populations. The three and one-half years between 1948 and 1951 witnessed the most significant migration ever to reach modern Israel and doubled the Jewish population.

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Hagannah men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Truce Committee would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give *de facto* recognition to the Jewish State, with

der of Jewish settlements in North-Eastern Galilee.

The Security Council met yesterday in a special session to consider action on the invasion of Palestine by member states of the U.N.

In the afternoon, Jerusalem was subjected to shelling from the northwest.

Hagannah forces throughout the country continued mopping up, and Jewish sources claimed most of Western Galilee safe against "rucks" Naharyin, near Jisr al Majmie, inside Trans-Jordan,

JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The Battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to re-occupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the western edge of Zone C, Arabs engaged the Jews in Jaffa Road. The Arabs were forced back and the Barclays Bank area was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews overran one after another the areas evacuated by the British. By last night, the quarters and

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 300 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midnight, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio reported.

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By WALTER COLLINS
U.P. Correspondent
CAIRO, Saturday. — A com-

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Fighting in the Kfar Etzion bloc continued throughout Friday, after Kfar Etzion it-

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Sunday. —Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the *de facto* authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favourable. He said this step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition

Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1939 White Paper of the late Mandatory Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civic rights and full representation. In all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which never ceased throughout the generations of their dispersal, until the Nazi holocaust proved anew the urgency of the need for a Jewish State.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations, had given explicit international recognition to the right of the Jewish people to the State of Israel.

David Ben Gurion, Prime Minister

Special Assembly Adjourns

PLUSHING MEADOWS, Saturday. — The Special U.N. Assembly, called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. propo-

Fully 1,000 years, before Satan created Islam in 610, Jews in substantial numbers resided in what are today Islamic countries. Following the Muslim conquest of the region, for centuries under Islamic rule, Jews were permitted limited religious, educational, professional, and business opportunities. But when Israel became independent in 1948, things immediately turned much worse for them.

This influx began at a time when the state was in the throes of its greatest struggle for survival, the War of Independence, and continued throughout a period troubled by both security concerns and economic hardship. The immigrants of the country's first decade radically altered the demographic landscape of Israeli society as well as the balance between Israel and the Jewish Diaspora.

OPERATION EZRA & NEHEMIAH, AND MAGIC CARPET 1948-1951



Particularly noteworthy is that while Heykal Pasha spoke at the United Nations, he continuously mentioned the Jews *“in other Muslim countries”* and *“all the Islamic Arab states,”* suggesting a level of coordination among the Islamic governments. Just four days after his statement, Iraq’s Foreign Minister Fadil Jamali declared at the United Nations that *“interreligious prejudice and hatred”* would bring about a great deterioration in the Arab-Jewish relationship in Iraq and throughout the Islamic Arab world. In less than a generation, Islam expelled Jews out of Muslim lands, where Jews had lived for some 2,500 years. Most were gone by late 1951.

The re-creation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 immediately placed all Jews in Islamic countries at great risk. During the next three years and one-half years, over one million Jews were trapped. Their citizenship was revoked. Some Jews were killed, and all were terrorized. Their property was stolen from them by many Islamic governments. In Iraq alone, nearly \$100 billion, in today’s dollars, was taken from them.

“The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts.” When Jews left Iraq, they left behind 2,000 square kilometers of land in Iraq. Islamic governments congratulated themselves and kept the wealth purportedly to reimburse Palestinians, leaving Israel. But in most cases, they kept the money and actually sent each other gifts. Iraq gave Iran \$450,000 of confiscated Jewish money in 1950.

JEWS IN GRAVE DANGER IN ALL MOSLEM LANDS

By MALLORY BROWNE
Special to The New York Times.

LAKE SUCCESS, N. Y., May 15—For nearly four months, the United Nations has had before it an appeal for "immediate and urgent" consideration of the case of the Jewish populations in Arab and Moslem countries stretching from Morocco to India.

Even four months ago, it was the Zionist view that Jews residing in the Near and Middle East were in "extreme and imminent danger." Now that the end of the mandate has precipitated civil war or even worse developments in Palestine, it is feared that the repercussions of this in Moslem countries will put the Jewish populations in many of these states in mortal peril.

Reports from the Middle East make it clear that there is serious tension in all Arab countries. The Jewish populations there are gravely worried at the prospect that an Arab-Jewish war may break out suddenly at any moment.

Feeling Runs High

Already in some Moslem states such as Syria and Lebanon there is a tendency to regard all Jews as Zionist agents and "fifth columnists." There have been violent incidents with feeling running

Nine Hundred Thousand in Africa and Asia Face Wrath of Their Foes

This plea arose to some extent from statements, made by Arab spokesmen during the General Assembly session last autumn, to the effect that if the partition resolution was put into effect, they would not be able to guarantee the safety of the Jews in any Arab land.

The memorandum of the World Jewish Congress went into considerable detail on this danger. It cited the text of a law drafted by the Political Committee of the Arab League which was intended to govern the legal status of Jewish residents in all Arab League countries.

It provides that beginning on an unspecified date all Jews except citizens of non-Arab states, would be considered "members of the Jewish minority state of Palestine." Their bank accounts would be frozen and used to finance resistance to "Zionist ambitions in Palestine." Jews believed to be active Zionists would be interned and their assets confiscated.

The memorandum gave many

details of instances of persecution of Jewish individuals and whole communities. It listed the following tabulation of the Jewish residents in Arab countries:

French Morocco	190,000
Iraq	130,000
Algeria	120,000
Iran	90,000
Egypt	80,000
Tunisia	80,000
Turkey	75,000
Yemen	40,000
Libya	30,000
Spanish Morocco and Tangier	30,000
Syria	11,000
Lebanon	7,000
Aden (including refugees from Yemen)	8,000
Afghanistan (including refugees in India)	5,000
Other countries (Hadhramuth, Sudan, Bahrein)	3,000
Total	899,000

Later information submitted to the Economic and Social Council was to the effect that:

In Syria a policy of economic discrimination is in effect against Jews. "Virtually all" Jewish civil

servants in the employ of the Syrian Government have been discharged. Freedom of movement has been "practically abolished." Special frontier posts have been established to control movements of Jews.

In Iraq no Jew is permitted to leave the country unless he deposits £5,000 (\$20,000) with the Government to guarantee his return. No foreign Jew is allowed to enter Iraq even in transit.

In Lebanon Jews have been forced to contribute financially to the fight against the United Nations partition resolution on Palestine. Acts of violence against Jews are openly admitted by the press, which accuses Jews of "poisoning wells," etc.

Danger Emphasized

Giving many other details of persecution, this report declares that "the very survival of the Jewish communities in certain Arab and Moslem countries is in serious danger unless preventative action is taken without delay."

Today, with a Jewish State an established fact, Jewish spokesmen at Lake Success do not conceal their anxiety that this danger to the survival of the Jewish populations of the Arab countries is even

The two spiritual witnesses are killed by the beast from the Abyss. They lie in the square of the great city--which is Mecca. On earth, Jews were trapped in all Islamic countries, including Jerusalem. Mecca is home to the Kaaba and where the beast has this throne. This is the spiritual world.

Michael and Gabriel had to fight the prince of Persia for 21 days, and then the prince of Greece (Daniel 10:12-21). The beast (Baal) is much stronger than the princes of Persia and Greece (Satan "gave the beast his power, and his throne and great authority"), so Baal could overpower Michael and Gabriel for three and one half years/days from 1948-1951.

In Yemen (Operation Magic Carpet) 60,000 escaped by air. In Iraq alone more than 180,000 Jews flew out of the country in 1950-1951. Thus, the Jews "went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on" just as Revelation said. God had to intervene to bring Michael and Gabriel back to life. At the same time on earth, by 1951 Operation Ezra and Nehemiah was complete, and more than one million Jews trapped in Islamic countries (and Jerusalem "where also their Lord was crucified") made it out safely to Israel.



Revelation 11:11-12 But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

In the earthly realm, in a fantastic series of miracles most of the Jews did indeed "rise up to their feet" and leave the Islamic countries despite overwhelming odds. In the spiritual realm, Gabriel and Michael were brought back to life.

Islamic Country or Territory	1948 Jewish population	1967 Jewish population	1948-1967 reduction	2015 Jewish population	1948-2015 reduction
Aden	8,000	0	-100%	0	-100%
Afghanistan	5,000	500	-90%	0	-100%
Algeria	140,000	1,000	-99%	0	-100%
Bahrain	1,000	0	-100%	0	-100%
Egypt	80,000	500	-99%	100	-100%
Iran	175,000	60,000	-66%	4,000	-98%
Iraq	180,000	500	-100%	50	-100%
Lebanon	20,000	2,000	-90%	1,000	-95%
Libya	44,000	50	-100%	50	-100%
Morocco	265,000	31,000	-88%	2,000	-99%
Pakistan	2,500	250	-90%	0	-100%
Palestine	10,000	0	-100%	0	-100%
Sudan	1,500	0	-100%	0	-100%
Syria	30,000	4,000	-87%	100	-100%
Tunisia	102,000	8,000	-92%	800	-99%
Turkey	80,000	20,000	-75%	5,000	-94%
Yemen	61,000	500	-99%	40	-100%
Totals	1,205,000	128,300	-89%	13,140	-99%



Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

Revelation 11:12 (NIV)

THE “GREAT EARTHQUAKE” WAS THE DEATH OF THE SUPREME MUSLIM COMMANDER

Revelation 11:13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 11:14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

“At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed.” That is, the tenth part of that which is represented by the "city" - the persecuting power of Islam.

Revelation prophecy says there would be a severe earthquake, and a tenth of the city would collapse. Jordan was one of the ten-nation Islamic countries surrounding Israel. The “severe earthquake” or upheaval was the assignation of the supreme Islamic Arab commander of the 1948 Islamic invasion of Israel.

Just at the peak time (“at that very hour”) as the Jews were emigrating from Islamic countries into Israel in July 1951, the King of Jordan, Abdullah I, was shot and killed on the Temple Mount by an Islamic jihadist who felt the king was secretly making a peace treaty with Israel.



MUSLIM SUPREME LEADER KING ABDULLAH

On July 20, 1951, while visiting the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, King Abdullah was assassinated by a Palestinian jihadist afraid that the old king would make a separate peace with Israel. The beast’s commander was struck down by God by the al-Aqsa Mosque, the abomination on the wing for attacking Israel. King Abdullah had the title Supreme Commander of the Arab Legion, the strongest Arab army involved in the war.

Abdullah’s role in the 1948 beast attacking Israel war was substantial. He was the supreme commander of the Arab forces and persuaded the Arab League to appoint him to this position. Through his leadership, the Arabs fought the 1948 war to meet Abdullah’s political goals.

King Abdullah, despite being the supreme commander during the 1948 war, later desired peace with Israel. He planned to sign a separate peace agreement but for the Islamic Arab League’s militant opposition. On account of this, and because of his dream for a Greater Syria comprising Jordan, Syria, and Iraq under the Hashemite dynasty, many Arab countries distrusted Abdullah.



KING ABDULLAH ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT THE DAY HE WAS KILLED IN 1951

"Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven." According to www.onwar.com, the number of Islamic soldiers killed in the 1948 war with Israel was exactly 7,000.

Islamic State	Combat Forces	Losses
Egypt + Mecca	300,000	2,000
Jordan	60,000	1,000
Palestine	50,000	3,000
Syria	300,000	1,000
www.onwar.com	Totals	7,000

It is estimated Israel lost 6,373 people, about 1% of its population in the war. About 4,000 were soldiers and the rest were civilians. Around 2,000 of the dead were Holocaust survivors.

After the initial emigration at the end of 1951, the number of Jews in Baghdad decreased from 100,000 to 5,000. Today fewer than 50 Jews remain. After the initial post World war II influx of European Jews in 1945-1948, the percentage of Jews entering Israel coming from Islamic countries increased considerably (1948 = 14.4%, 1949 = 47.3%, 1950 = 49.6%, 1951 = 71.0%). During 1950 and 1951, the special operations that were undertaken to bring over Jewish communities perceived to be in serious danger: the Jews of Yemen and Aden (Operation Magic Carpet) and the Jewish community in Iraq (Operation Ezra and Nehemiah) were a miracle. During the same period, the vast majority of Libyan Jews came to the country. Considerable numbers of Jews immigrated from Turkey and Iran as well as from other North African countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria).

God kept his promise and delivered the Jews from their Islamic enemies. These events were accurately foretold in Revelation 11, Daniel 12 and Ezekiel 37. In the spiritual world, Gabriel and Michael are the two "anointed ones" of the Lord in Revelation 11 and Zechariah 4.

Revelation 11:15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

With the seventh trumpet, the day of the Lord draws near! The war between Satan and Baal against the Lamb (Jesus) is not for the kingdoms, the separate nationalities, and varying political systems, but rather the contest is for the spiritual control of the world. Satan offered to surrender worldly kingdoms to Jesus during the temptation of Christ. Yet Satan would have possession of the kingdoms of the world. But now the endgame of the struggle is the overthrow of Satan's kingdom of evil. The establishment of the kingdom of truth and Jesus shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 11:16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Revelation 11:17 saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

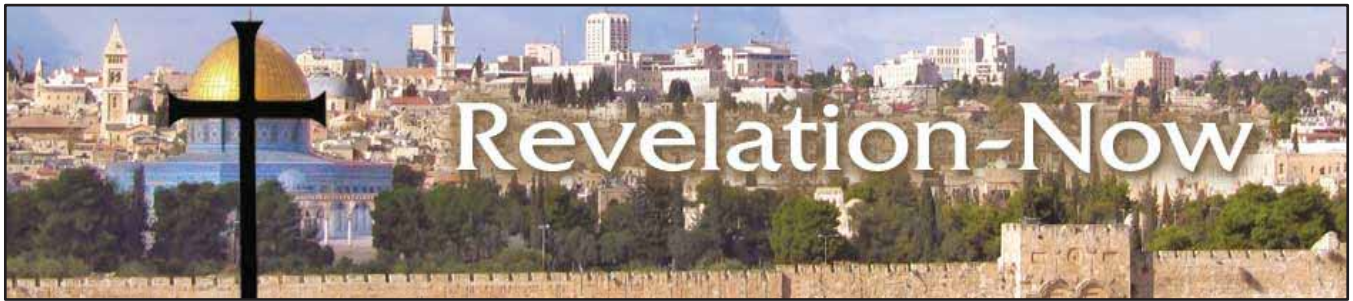
Revelation 11:18 The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

The twenty four elders are the same as in Revelation 4:4 (*“Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.”*). These elders represent the Church of God in all ages; they sit with Christ in heavenly places, even while they are toiling and sorrowing on earth; every one of the true children of the kingdom appear before God at His throne.

“The nations were angry, and your wrath has come.” The nonbelievers display ongoing opposition to his laws; by persecuting his people; and by slaying his witnesses. They make all the attempts to destroy his authority on the earth. They believed the false prophet Mohammad, his Qur'an, pray to his Kaaba, recite his Shahada, and uphold his crescent moon symbol for the beast Baal. God's law was laid aside, and made void by Hadith traditions and Sharia decrees; the Scriptures were locked up from the people, but now they are brought to the view of all.

Revelation 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

The meaning of the measuring of the spiritual temple in Revelation 11:1 seems to be that now the secret abode of the real children of God was revealed. This is the sanctuary of God. Despite the false teaching of Islam (the Dome of the Rock in the outer court), the faithful found their strength and protection in the shadow of the Almighty; God regarded them as His true living temple, and in them, He dwelt, as they, too, found their complete protection in Him. Hail in Revelation represents angels, and the severe hailstorm indicates many angels were released.



REVELATION CHAPTER 12

SATAN DEFEATED AND THROWN FROM HEAVEN NOW PURSUES AND PERSECUTES THE WOMAN

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 12

Revelation chapter 12 tells us a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. The woman was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. The dragon is Satan.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

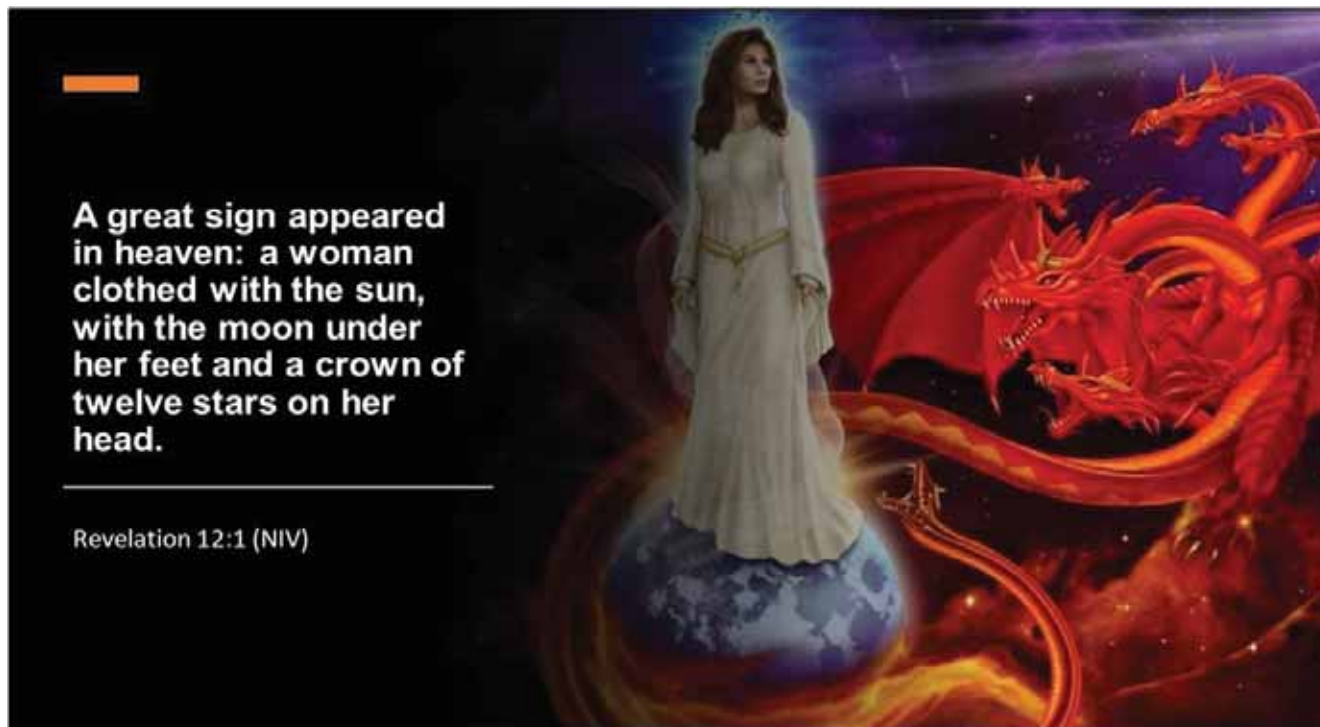


Revelation 12:1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

The Revelation Woman defeats Islam (*“with the moon under her feet”*) with the Gospel light from Jesus. Some speculate the woman in Revelation 12:1 is Mary, the mother of Jesus. But the woman of Revelation 12 is not Mary. It is both Messianic Israel and the Church—all the believers in Jesus.

She is *“clothed with the sun,”* covered perfectly with the rays of Jesus Christ, the light of the world; *“with the moon under her feet”*, victorious over the moon—the universal symbol of Islam as well as obsolete Jewish temple sacrifice; and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. The twelve stars are an emblem of her (the Church) being under the light and guidance of the twelve apostles and tribes.

With the moon under her feet, the New Covenant Gospel truth from Jesus is superior to the feeble lunar light and false teaching of the false prophet Mohammad and his crescent moon. Having on her head a crown of twelve stars, the doctrine of the Gospel, preached by the twelve apostles and to the tribes, is a crown of glory to all true believers. The moon (Baal) and the dragon (Satan) are separate.



“A crown of twelve stars on her head.” John saw there were twelve sparkling gems in the crown which she wore. The precious stone image dramatically increases the beauty of John’s vision, and the number twelve given to us is significant. If the woman is designed to symbolize the church, then the number twelve is in reference to the twelve Apostles. The church also includes Messianic Israel; the twelve also refers to the twelve tribes of Israel.

The Gospel is superior to the Qur'an. She stood with the moon under her feet, is designed to denote the superiority of the Gospel to the false Islamic teaching from Satan. Such an interpretation gives much understanding to the symbols and is consistent with other Revelation warnings about Islam.

THE ISLAMIC MOON UNDER HER FEET--THE TRIUMPH OF JESUS OVER ISLAM

Some commentators have speculated the symbol of the moon under her feet is a triumph over the ancient Jewish lunar festivals and obsolete temple sacrifices. Revelation is a warning about Islam. The universal symbol of Islam is the crescent moon. Jesus and the Church triumph over Baal and the Islamic false teaching in the Qur'an, and the woman stands in a superior position over the moon.



The universal display of the crescent moon sign on the top of every mosque is not for decoration; it is ancient false worship to Baal. Muslims have maintained the crescent symbol from Mohammad's era until this day. Do Muslims worship the moon? Muslims would say "No", but why must they honor the crescent shape of the moon, not the full moon? Baal dwells in the Kaaba, the image of the beast.

The Allah of the Qur'an (Satan the dragon) denies Jesus is the Son of God, denies the crucifixion, and denies the resurrection of Jesus. The Qur'an's purpose is to take away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Islam appeared in the middle of the final seven of Daniel. The final seven is 2,520 (7 x 360) Old Testament years from 536 BC until 1948. The sacrifice taken away is the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. The "ruler to come" is Baal released from the Abyss. Baal's followers sacked Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Daniel 9:26b-27 (NIV)

The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Revelation 12:2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

The Messianic Jewish remnant will come out of the 1260 days/years in the wilderness when Israel was reborn in 1948. A similar image occurs in Isaiah 26:17-18 and Isaiah 66:7-8. As Isaiah 26:17-18 indicates, the Jewish nation cannot save itself—it requires the blood of Jesus from God.

Isaiah 26:17-18 (NIV)

As a pregnant woman about to give birth writhes and cries out in her pain, so were we in your presence, Lord. We were with child, we writhed in labor, but we gave birth to wind. We have not brought salvation to the earth, and the people of the world have not come to life.

Isaiah 66:6-7 (NIV)

Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

Revelation 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads

Here we see the beast kingdom of Satan and Baal. Satan and Baal have fought with Jesus since the first rebellion. The image here is the picture of the Islamic beast in Revelation 17 represents, as concentrated into a single hostile form, all the varying forces and successive empires managed by Baal and Satan, which have opposed or oppressed the people of God. The rise of Islam is their harshest attempt to destroy the truth of the Gospel salvation from Jesus, the Son of God.



WORSHIP TO THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST-BAAL IN THE KAABA

Revelation 12:4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.

“Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.” These stars are not the stars crowning the woman in Revelation 12:1, but other stars. In describing the vast power of the devil, John seems to allude to the tremendous result of his rebellious conduct in heaven. In effecting the fall of other angels, Satan took one-third of the angels with him. A power that would sweep them all away would be universal; a power that would sweep away one third only would represent a dominion of that extent only. In turn, the fallen angels take one-third of souls with the false teaching of Islam. We learn more about this in the first and fourth trumpets in Revelation chapters 8-9, which give a prophecy about demonic events in the spiritual world.

Revelation 8:7 (NIV)

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Revelation 8:12-13 (NIV)

The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

The first trumpet explains one-third of the human souls taken and destroyed by Islam with the false gospel of the Qur'an. Since the seals and trumpets occur during the tribulation since the time of Mohammad, only one-third of the earth was “burned up” and taken by Islam, since believers and other non-Islamic false religions (Hindu, atheists, Buddhists, etc.) are also in the world.

In the first trumpet, John learns hail and fire mixed with blood hurled down on the earth. In Revelation, hail represents angels. In the first trumpet, the hail is symbolic of Satanic angels thrown out of heaven down to earth. The false gospel (*“bitter wormwood”*) of the Qur'an does not save anyone. The Qur'an denies Jesus is the Son of God. The Qur'an denies that Jesus was crucified.

“The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.” This gives an important picture of how central Christ was and is to the church, both Jewish and Christian, from the moment Jesus was born. This is another example of the personal history of Christ being repeated in the history of his church.

Satan, in the person of Herod, attempts to prevent the salvation of the world; through Pharaoh he tried to crush the chosen people of God, through whom the Messiah was to bless all the earth; by means of the power of Rome he labored to exterminate the infant Church of Christ; and finally in conjunction with Baal, Satan released the false teaching of Islam into the world.

SATAN INSTRUCTED MUSLIMS TO COME TO THE MOSQUE AND PRAY TO ALLAH AND THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST (THE KAABA) FRIDAY AFTERNOON AT THE TIME OF JESUS' DEATH

"The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born." In the second half of Revelation 12:4, the Bible tells us Satan has fought with Jesus since the moment Jesus was born. Even today, Satan instructs that prayer to him and the image of the beast (the Kaaba) occur at the time Jesus died on a Friday afternoon. Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday. Satan wants to destroy the Gospel of Jesus any way he can.

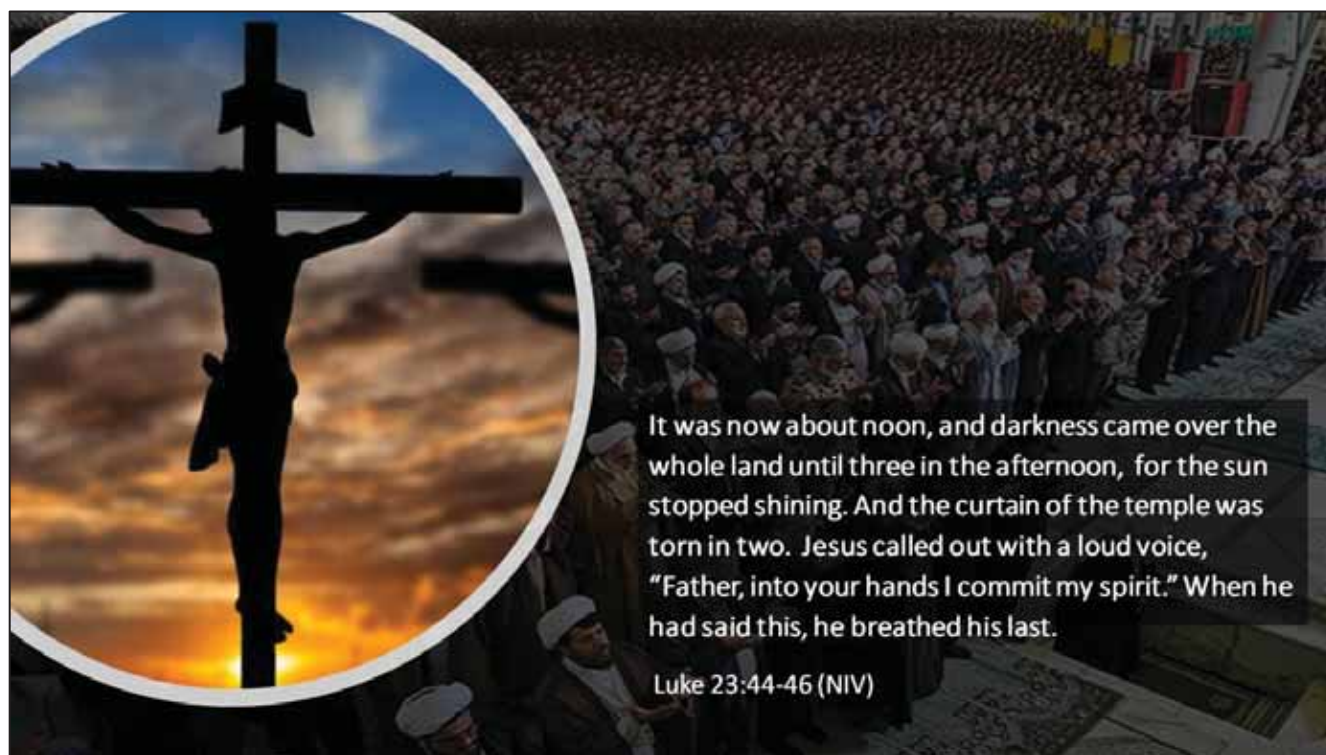
In the Qur'an (4:157) Satan denies that Jesus died for our sins. Yet Satan was integral in the betrayal, arrest, torture, and execution of Jesus. During Jesus' final meal with his disciples, Satan entered into Judas to betray Jesus.

John 13:2 (NIV)

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Luke 22:3-6 (NIV)

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.



It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:44-46 (NIV)

MUSLIMS ARE REQUIRED TO PRAY TO THE DRAGON AND IMAGE OF THE BEAST EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AT THE SAME TIME JESUS DIED

Most Christians celebrate the risen Christ on Sunday mornings. This is because the Bible tells us Jesus arose from the dead in the morning of the first day of the week (Sunday).

Luke 24:1-7 (NIV)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”

In contrast the Qur'an says Jesus was not crucified. In verse 4:157 the Qur'an denies the sacrifice of Christ. This one more way Satan fights Christ: *“The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.”*

Qur'an 4:157 And for their saying, ‘Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.’ And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.

WHY MUST MUSLIMS PRAY TO ALLAH AT THE TIME JESUS DIED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON?

Muslims do not observe the Sabbath. In contrast, Muslims must gather at the mosque and pray to Allah and the image of the beast (the Kaaba) on every Friday afternoon. The Bible tells us Jesus died around three in the afternoon on a Friday. Jesus gives the true grace.

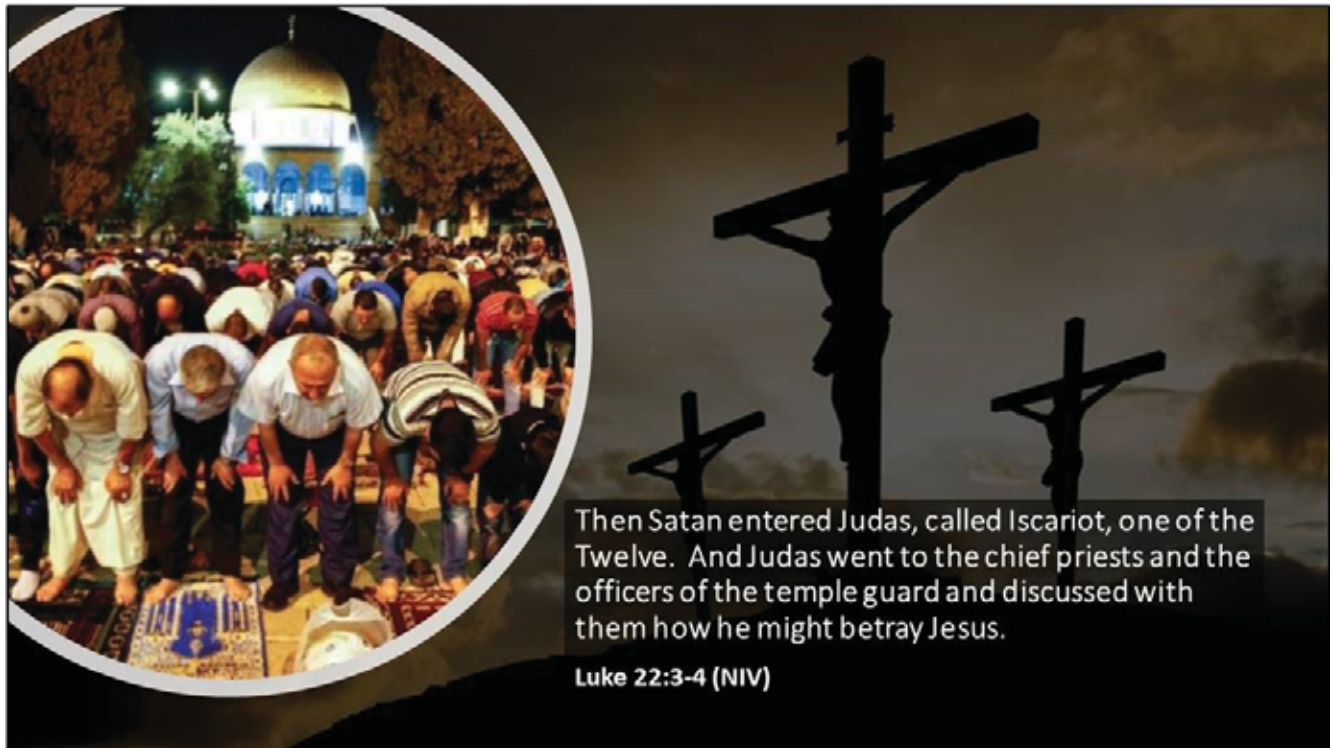
Luke 23:44-46 (NIV)

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The Qur'an has an entire chapter (62) designed to compete with the message and timing of the crucifixion of Jesus. This is the chapter requiring Friday afternoon prayer. The Qur'an (62:9-10) demands and shows the importance of Friday afternoon as a sacred day of worship in a chapter called “Al-Jumah,” meaning the day of congregation, which is also the word for “Friday” in Arabic. Since Muslims do not observe the Sabbath, this time selection by Allah is peculiar.

Directly before the Friday afternoon prayer, worshippers listen to a lecture delivered by the Imam or another religious leader from the community. The purpose of this Friday afternoon lecture is to remind listeners about Allah. Friday afternoon prayer is one of the most strongly emphasized duties in Islam.

The false prophet Mohammad said that a Muslim man who misses three Friday afternoon prayers in a row, without a valid reason, strays from the straight path and risks becoming a “disbeliever.” The false prophet Mohammad also told his followers that “the five daily prayers, and from one Friday afternoon prayer until the next, serves as an expiation for whatever sins have been committed between them, provided one does not commit any major sin.”



In Qur'an chapter 62 Satan claims to offer “infinite grace” and chastises the “miserable” Jews. Satan demands he be worshipped on Friday afternoon--at the same time the true grace from Jesus was given with His death on the cross.

Qur'an 62:4 Such is Allah's grace that He bestows upon whomever He wills. Allah is Possessor of Infinite Grace.

Qur'an 62:5 The example of those Jews who were given the Torah then failed to uphold it is like the donkey carrying great works of literature. Miserable indeed is the example of people who rejected Allah's revelations. Allah does not guide the wicked people.

Qur'an 62:9 O you who have believed, when the prayer is called on the day of Jumu'ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.

Qur'an 62:10 O you who have believed And when the prayer has been concluded, disperse within the land and seek from the bounty of Allah, and remember Allah often that you may succeed.

Do not listen to Satan in the Qur'an. Listen to the true words of Jesus: *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* (John 3:17)

Revelation 12:5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

There can be no doubt that this male child is Christ. This text is a fulfillment of Psalm 2:7-9. Jesus is the one who will feed His flock like a shepherd (Isaiah 40:12), who is to have, not His own people, but all nations as His inheritance (Psalm 2:7-9), and whose rule over them is to be absolute.

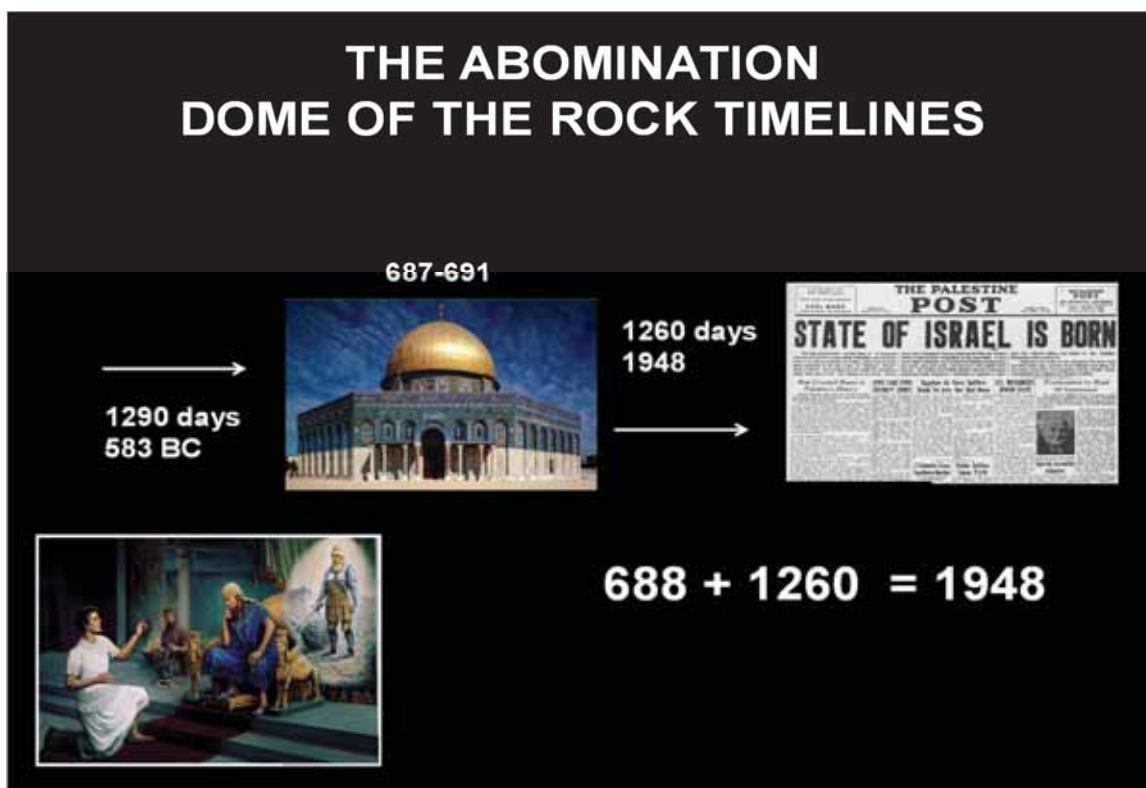
Psalm 2:7-9 (NIV)

I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

Christ in the Church is what the wicked one hates, and wherever Christ dwells in any heart by faith, and wherever the preachers of the Gospel give the Good News, Satan will try to stop it.

Revelation 12:6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Daniel 12:11-12 tells us it will be 1290 days/years until the abomination set up. This period was 583 BC until 688 AD. Revelation 11:2 tells us that the non-believing Gentiles will be given the outer court of the Temple Mount, and this sets the timeline in motion. This abomination is the Islamic Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. It was constructed 687-691 AD with a mid-point of 688/689. The Islamic writings on the Dome of the Rock blaspheme Christ by saying, “God did not have a Son” and deny the Holy Spirit. Messianic Israel was in the wilderness for 1260 days/years until 1948.



Revelation 12:7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

The beginning of this war was in heaven. It continued in the church of Christ, and with humans, the kingdom of heaven on earth. The parties were Christ, the great archangel Michael, God's faithful angels, Satan, Baal (the beast), and his demonic instruments. Yet the dragon will lose this war. The strength of the church is in having Jesus Christ for the true God of their salvation.

Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Revelation 12:7 (NIV)



Many regard Revelation 12:7 as more or less perplexing. How could God allow a war in heaven? Is the language literal or figurative? What unholy event set off the war? Apparently, the catalyst was something even greater, or more blasphemous than the original rebellion of Satan. Would Baal enter the temple of God and declare himself to be God? Would the dragon and beast be so bold in the direct presence of God? The Bible in the Book of Job says that Satan and other key angels had the ability to present themselves before God.

Job 1:6-7 (NIV)

One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.”

The conflict in heaven, though ultimately decided already against Satan from the time of Christ's resurrection and ascension, receives its actual completion in the execution of the judgment by the angels who now cast out Satan from heaven. The dragon is the foe of Jesus, and the powers of the foe are not confined to the material and historical world. Satan and Baal are powerful in the spiritual world, but they are no match for Jesus!

WHAT EVENT CAUSED A WAR IN HEAVEN? AND IN WHICH LEVEL OF HEAVEN?

A common misconception is that Satan and his demons were sent to hell after the fall of Satan and his deceptions in the Garden of Eden. It is clear from many Bible passages that Satan was not barred from heaven or the earth after his first rebellion, which apparently even predated the creation.

In Job 1:1—2:8, he appears before God to accuse Job of ulterior motives in his worship of God. In Zechariah 3:1-2, he again appears before God to accuse Joshua, the high priest. Indeed, the name Satan means the “accuser.”

Zechariah 3:1-2 (NIV)

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”

In Genesis, Satan visited the Garden of Eden and tempted Eve. He tempted Jesus in the wilderness before Jesus began His ministry, with the three incidents recorded in Matthew 4:1–11. It is not likely that if Satan rebelled and ejected from heaven before God created the world, he is still free to be in heaven and on earth after creation.

In 2 Corinthians 12:2–4, the Apostle Paul provides a major revelation that there are three “heavens.” In this passage, he talks about himself being taken up to the “third heaven” where God the Father and Jesus dwell. The second heaven is the entire universe, and the first is our atmosphere or air.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NIV)

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

Paul in Ephesians 2:1-2, indicates that Satan and some of his demons are allowed to move at least in the first spiritual realm of *“kingdom of the air.”*

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

When Baal (the beast from the Abyss, the “lawless one,” 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12) was released, he must have entered the spiritual temple of God, either in the first or second heaven. It seems impossible Baal could have entered all the way to the third heaven closest to the local presence of God—since nothing impure can enter there.

Satan very well understands the various levels of heaven. Satan and Baal (the dragon and beast) gave the false revelations about Jesus to the false prophet Mohammad that became the Qur'an.

In the Qur'an 65:12, Allah (really the dragon Satan) described various levels of heaven. Allah claims there are seven levels, and that Allah created them.

Qur'an 65:12

It is Allah who hath created seven heavens, and of the earth the like thereof. The commandment cometh down among them slowly, that ye may know that Allah is able to do all things, and that Allah surrounds all things in knowledge.

One of the false prophet Mohammad's signs was a miracle night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and back in one night. When the false prophet Mohammad went on the night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem Temple Mount (where the Dome of the Rock is today) Satan and Baal, "we", (Qur'an 17:1; *"surroundings we have blessed, to show him of our signs"*) took Mohammad into one of the lower levels of heaven. Mohammad is the first rider on a white horse with a crown. (Revelation 6:1-2)



Qur'an 17:1

Exalted is He who took his servant [Mohammad] by night from al-Masjid al-Haram [Mecca] to al-Masjid al- Aqsa, [Temple Mount Jerusalem] whose surroundings we have blessed, to show him of our signs. Indeed, he is the Hearing, the seeing.

WHEN SATAN, THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET ENTERED THE TEMPLE OF GOD— A WAR IN HEAVEN STARTED

Satan and Baal disguised themselves as the “Angel Gabriel” to Mohammad. The Islamic Hadith give more information on Qur’an 17:1, Mohammad’s night journey into the spiritual realm.

“Gabriel then ascended with Prophet Mohammad to the heaven of the world and knocked on one of its doors. The dwellers of the heaven asked, ‘Who is it?’ He said, “Gabriel.” They said, “Who is accompanying you?” He said, “Mohammad.” They said, “Has he been called?” He said, “Yes” They said, “He is welcomed.” So the dwellers of the Heaven became pleased with his arrival, and they did not know what Allah would do to the Prophet Mohammad on earth unless Allah informed them.”

Hadith of Bukhari narrated by Anas Bin Malik.

Paul makes clear in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 that the beast, the “lawless one,” will set himself up in God’s temple. We know in the Book of Revelation, every reference (15 times) to the “temple” is in the spiritual world and not a literal physical building.

The Greek word for the God dwelling temple in Revelation is “nao”, “naon”, “naou”, or “naos.” In the book of Revelation, “Nao” is used three times in 3:12, 7:15, and in 11:19b. “Naon” is used three times in 11:1, 15:8b, and in 21:22a. “Naou” is used five times in 14:15, 14:17, 15:6, 16:1, and in 16:17. “Naos” is used four times in 11:19a, 15:5, 15:8a, and in 21:22b.

The Greek word “nao” and derivatives are distinguished from the Greek “hieron,” meaning a non-holy (non-God dwelling) temple. The Greek word for the physical temple structure is hieron. The Greek word for the spiritual temple is nao. The Greek word “nao” for temple can mean the physical building in Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of holies. Otherwise, it means the sanctuary of God in the spiritual, heavenly realm. The best way to understand “nao” is to visualize an area where the true God dwells.

The Greek word in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 for temple is also “naon”, not “hieron”. Thus the lawless one went into the actual spiritual dwelling of God. This would start a war in heaven!

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV)

Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple [“naon”], proclaiming himself to be God.

The image Paul gives may at first seem to be drawn from the physical Jewish temple, but in reality, it is clear Paul did not expect the “lawless one” to take his seat in the Mercy Seat in Jerusalem. The impact is more on the church being a temple (1 Corinthians 3:17).

THE “LAWLESS ONE” WAS HELD BACK AT THE TIME OF PAUL

Paul tells us the “lawless one” was in existence at the time of his ministry, but something powerful was restraining it. Baal was sent into Sheol at the time Babylon fell. (Isaiah 14:15; *“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.”*)

When the lawless one was revealed to Mohammad, they will *“believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth”*, i.e., the Qur’an’s false gospel of Jesus only being a messenger, no atoning sacrifice, no crucifixion and no resurrection.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-12 (NIV)

Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Isaiah 14 describes the destruction of Babylon. At the first in verses 1-13, the destruction of the human king is described, (*“On the day the Lord gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon”*) but then the dialog changes to the demonic prince of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:12-17 (NASB)

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’

God was in the temple of old, and worshipped there, and is in and with his church now; so the “lawless one,” Baal, is a usurper of God’s authority and takes billions of souls away from the Christian church.

Jesus tells us the dragon (Satan) will give his authority and throne to the beast after it later re-emerges later from the Abyss, or Sheol (Revelation 13:2 *"The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."*)



THE THRONE OF BAAL IN THE KAABA

The prophet Habakkuk in chapter two warns us about the future demonic prince of Babylon *"the proud one, his soul is not right within him"* and *"He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples."* This demonic prince is Baal dwelling in the Kaaba today.

Habakkuk 2:4-5 (NASB)

Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, so that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.

The Bible tells us the beast is from the "Abyss." Another Biblical name for the Abyss is "Sheol." Sheol is where angels and souls lie before judgment day. The beast of Revelation is not human. It is a demonic prince, a specific demonic prince. It is connected to but is not itself Satan. To understand the beast of Revelation, we must look to Scripture. The beast of Revelation and Satan are opposed to Christ and the Gospel truth. Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but rather "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Revelation 12:8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

God removed Satan and his angels from all levels of heaven after the war. Satan was no longer allowed to pursue his designs in heaven. The agents of heaven cast the dragon down to the earth. God permits Satan and the beast Baal for a time to carry on their warfare against the church.

EARLIER JESUS SAID; “I SAW SATAN FALL LIKE LIGHTENING FROM HEAVEN”

In Luke 10:17-20 Jesus comments on seeing Satan fall from heaven. Was Jesus talking about the original fall of Satan at the creation, a current event, or a later event—the one in Revelation 12:8-9?

Luke 10:17-20 (NIV)

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

The status of Satan may seem unclear. According to Revelation 12:7, Satan still dwells in heaven, while according to Luke 10:18, he has already fallen from heaven like lightning. According to Ephesians 2:2, the power of the prince of darkness prevails in the air, yet according to 2 Peter 2:4, God has cast the fallen angels into the Abyss and delivered them in chains of darkness for judgment. In Jude 1:6, *“they are kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”* The answer is all are true. The demons were bound and then released from the Abyss.

Jude 1:6 (NIV)

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

In Luke, there may be references to a Jewish belief as to the fall of Satan after his creation. Still, the primary meaning of our Lord's words is that Satan was now dethroned from his usurped dominion in the “high places” which meant the spiritual region of the soul and mind of man. The imagery reappears in a final battle in Revelation 12:9.

The report in Luke was no news to Jesus. While they were working Jesus, saw Satan fall. Jesus is eternal and existed as the eternal Son of God before his incarnation. Jesus was present and saw Satan and his angels fall from the highest (third) heaven, from their first estate, their habitation of bliss and glory, down to ever lower levels. They fell with their sin and rebellion, as violently, swiftly, and suddenly, as the lightning falls from heaven to earth. Jesus sent out his disciples, and as soon as they began their work, and all along in it, he, by his divine omniscience, saw the powers of darkness falling before their ministry and miracles.

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Revelation 12:11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

John undoubtedly heard this voice as in the third heaven. It is expressive of the joy and satisfaction which the glorious angels and glorified saints had. They knew about what happened on earth and had a prophetic understanding of the great joy over all the church.

Satan does not cease to accuse, though he may not do so with effect since the “blood of the Lamb” overcomes him.” The heavenly beings are henceforth beyond his reach. He can still accuse men - our brethren - says the Apostle John, but even here, his power is limited by the victory of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Contrary to much popular teaching, continuation under the cleansing blood of the Lamb requires a response on our part. If we walk in the Light of God’s perfect will, if we steadfastly maintain our confidence in Christ to the end of our discipleship, if we do not shrink back, if we obey the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, then and only then do we remain without condemnation. The righteousness of the Law of Moses judges us, and we must remain under the cleansing of the blood of the Lamb.

Satan cannot prevail against the perfect righteousness of the blood of the Lamb. To overcome us, he must deceive us, so we are not obeying the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus, so we are living according to our sinful nature. In this manner, Satan brings us out from under the blood of the cross. Then he can prevail against us.

If there is one major error in today’s Christian teaching, it is that the blood continues to cleanse us even though we are not following the Spirit of God. Evidently, we do not realize God will not permit any creature to live without law. Either we choose to walk each day in the Spirit of God or else we default to the Law of Moses. There is no middle ground.

The second way by which we overcome the accuser is with the word of our testimony. We will be discussing the word of our testimony in a moment since it is the major topic of the present essay.

The third way of overcoming the accuser is by loving not our life to the death. This means we have chosen to enter the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and to rise with Him to walk in newness of life. We are living no longer, but Christ is living in us.

Revelation 12:13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

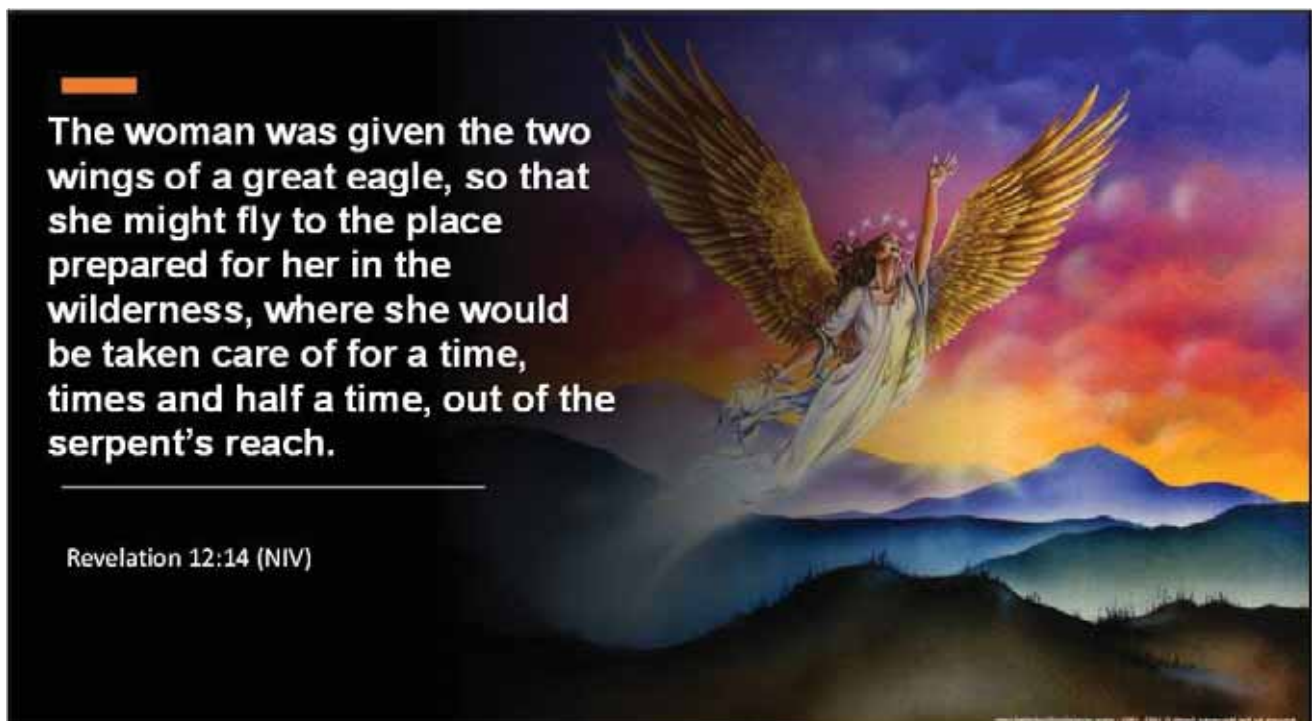
Satan, defeated in his attempts against God in heaven, and foiled in his attack upon the male child - Christ Jesus (Revelation 12:5), now directs his efforts against the woman - the Church, both Messianic Jewish and Gentiles.

Revelation 12:14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

The woman, in particular the Jewish remnant that would become the believing Messianic Jewish Church--appearing only after 1948, was protected from the Islamic warriors by being scattered outside of Israel until 1948. *"She would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach."* is a direct fulfillment of Daniel 12:7.

Daniel 12:7 (NIV)

The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."



Daniel's final seven (Daniel chapter 9) can be understood. It is a unique seven called "shavua", which is a Jubilee (shavua) year of 360 Sabbaths. Thus, the full seven is 360 x 7, or 2,520 Old Testament years. The phrase *"time, times and half a time"*, is the second half of the time period. The midpoint is 706, the year the al-Aqsa Mosque on the Temple Mount wing was completed.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE CONTINUOUSLY OCCUPIED DURING THE 70TH SEVEN

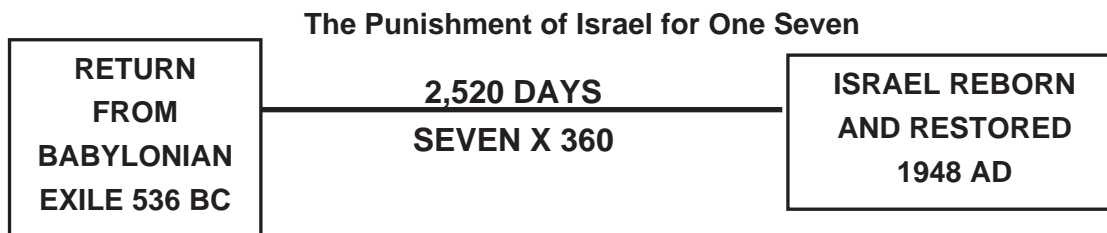
Israel was punished for exactly 2,484 modern years (2,520 Old Testament 360 day years) from 536 BC until 1948 AD. During this time, they were continuously occupied, under many different foreign powers, and subject to war after war and atrocity after atrocity. They would suffer many killed in the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, and later during World War II, two thirds (67%) were killed in the land controlled by Adolph Hitler. (This also fulfills Zechariah 13:8 "In the whole land," declares the Lord, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.") The Jews did not come out of the "wilderness" until 1948 with the rebirth of Israel. "The Covenant with Many" Israel Had 2,484 Years of Occupation 536 BC to 1948 AD

Date	Israel's Many Occupations and Wars
536 BC	Decree of Cyrus to Return to Israel from Babylon
536 BC to 331 BC	Persian Rule
331 BC to 146 BC	Seleucid Greek Rule
145 BC to 65 BC	Hasmonean Dynasty
64 BC to 390 AD	Roman Rule
390 AD to 634 AD	Byzantine Rule
634 AD to 1099 AD	Islamic Caliphate Rule
1099 AD to 1291 AD	Crusader Rule
1291 AD to 1517 AD	Mamluk Islamic Rule
1515 AD to 1920 AD	Ottoman Islamic Rule
1920 AD to 1948 AD	British Mandate of Palestine Rule

May 14, 1948 Israel Restored

The 2,520 Old Testament years/days (360 days) calculation is perfect for a whole number prophecy. The historical time period was 2,484 modern (365.24 days) years, while the prophecy calculation is 2,483.85. The "error" is a miniscule 0.006%. There is no whole number that can be more accurate than what God gave us. Any other whole number gives a greater error.

This time period stretches from the first day of return from the Babylonian exile with the decree of Cyrus of Persia in 536 BC, to when Israel was reborn in 1948. Exactly in the midpoint of this is the year 706 with the abomination on the wing of the Temple Mount with the Islamic Al-Aqsa Mosque.

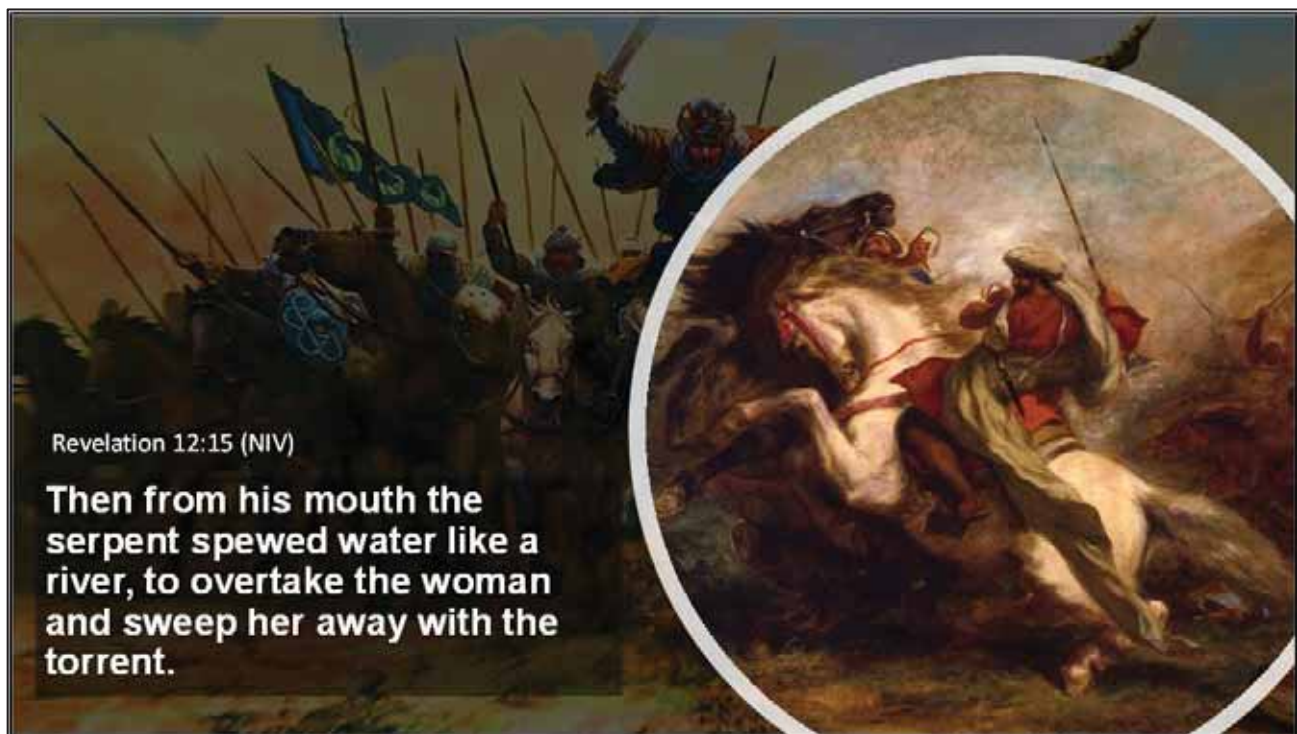


Revelation 12:15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.

"Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent." The believers of Jesus were scattered out of the Middle East. They should have been in a place of safety, as well as where one might be alone. But Satan would not give up chasing the believers in Jesus.

The swarms of locusts, the Saracens (Muslims), which infested, teased, and tormented the "eastern" empire; and after them the Turks, the four angels bound at the great river the Euphrates, were let loose, and like a mighty torrent overflowed, and utterly destroyed it. Satan instigated all this with his wrath, because the empire became Christian, and his view was to destroy the church in it: for this flood was cast

The flood of water means the invasions of the Islamic caliphate, by which the Christendom was overwhelmed. The heathen encouraged their attacks, in the hope of destroying Christianity. The devil, defeated in his designs upon the church, turns his rage against persons and places. Being faithful to God and Christ, in doctrine, worship, and practice, exposes to the rage of Satan; and will do so till the last enemy shall be destroyed.



The flood is typical of every form of destruction with which the devil seeks to overwhelm the Church of God. At the period of the writing of the Revelation, it symbolized the Roman persecution of Christians. The meaning is not to be limited to this one form of destruction. All those writers are correct, so far as they go, who interpret the flood of the Gothic invasion and the overwhelming Muslim plague of tribulation.

Revelation 12:16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

“But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.” Christian earthly power protected the Church and the future Jewish elect—the Messianic Jews, against persecution in the Islamic tribulation. Just as Persia was raised up to aid Israel after they had been swept away by the flood of Babylonian conquest, so does help come to the persecuted church from Charles Martel, and with the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II.



But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

Revelation 12:16 (NIV)

THE ISLAMIC CONQUEST OF EUROPE WAS STOPPED BY CHARLES MARTEL

The new religion founded by Mohammad and his Fortress God “Allah” seemed to be unstoppable. The second caliph after Mohammad and Abu Bakr was Umar. Umar fulfilled much Bible prophecy in both Daniel and Revelation. Umar is the rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5-6, Umar is the “little horn” of Daniel 7:8, and Umar is “the king will do as he pleases” of Daniel 11:36-45.

Daniel 11:36-39 (NIV)

The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

Islam wiped out most of Christianity in the Middle East between 610 and 685 AD. The Islamic conquest of Europe was stopped in 732 AD at the Battle of Tours. The Battle of Tours followed two decades of Umayyad caliphate (The Umayyad caliphate had authority over one quarter of the world's population, Revelation 6:8b *"They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."*) conquests in Europe which had begun with the invasion of the Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 AD.

The army of Charles Martel numbered about 20,000 and defeated an Islamic invading army of 50,000 to 80,000 troops. It is not an exaggeration to claim that Charles Martel had saved Christianity, as most historians agree that the Battle of Tours was unquestionably decisive in world history.

THE DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II STOPPED SATAN'S PLAN AL-HUSSEINI WAS KNOWN AS THE ISLAMIC GRAND MUFTI OF JERUSALEM



Adolph Hitler Meets with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem to plot the elimination of all Jews

In an important meeting with Adolf Hitler in November 1941, al-Husseini, the Islamic leader and Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, was regarded by the Nazis as their critical Arab ally. The Nazis could install him as a collaborationist head-of-state in Palestine if the German army triumphed in the Middle Eastern theater. The Germans would eliminate all Jews in Europe, and the Grand Mufti would help eliminate all Jews in the Middle East. If the United States lost the war, all Jews in America would be handed over to the victorious Nazis. No elect would exist to accept Jesus Christ.

In February 1941, al-Husseini submitted to the Nazi German Government a draft declaration of German-Arab cooperation, containing a clause: *"Germany and Italy recognize the right of the Arab countries to solve the question of the Jewish elements, which exist in Palestine and in the other Arab countries, as required by the national and ethnic interests of the Arabs, and as the Jewish question was solved in Germany and Italy"*.

“TWO THIRDS WILL BE STRUCK DOWN AND PERISH”

The Holocaust is in the Bible. Zechariah 13 tells us two thirds will be killed in the whole land. During World War II, the Nazis murdered two thirds (about 6 million) of all Jews under their control. No genocide in world history was executed by such organize, rational and pragmatic means. They would have killed more if the days of the war were not shortened with the Allied victory. The killing of the Jews ended in 1945, shortly before Israel was reborn in 1948. The year 1948 marked the fulfillment of many prophecies and timeline dates. The year 1948 marks the end of Daniel's last seven. Nothing like this ever occurred before or since.

Zechariah 13:8-9 (NIV)

In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”

Country	Pre-Final Solution Jewish Population	Jewish Population Killed in Final Solution	Percent Killed
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000	91%
Baltic Countries	253,000	228,000	90%
Germany/Austria	240,000	210,000	88%
Protectorate	90,000	80,000	89%
Slovakia	90,000	75,000	83%
Greece	70,000	54,000	77%
The Netherlands	140,000	105,000	75%
Hungary	650,000	450,000	69%
White Russia	375,000	245,000	65%
Ukraine (est)	1,500,000	900,000	60%
Belgium	65,000	40,000	62%
Yugoslavia	43,000	26,000	60%
Romania	600,000	300,000	50%
Norway	1,800	900	50%
France	350,000	90,000	26%
Bulgaria	64,000	14,000	22%
Italy	40,000	8,000	20%
Luxembourg	5,000	1,000	20%
Russia (est)	975,000	107,000	11%
Denmark	8,000	--	n/a
Finland	2,000	--	n/a
Total	8,861,800	5,933,900	67%

Source : <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/killedtable.html>

If Adolph Hitler had more time, he would have killed every Jew living in the Muslim lands. Germany would kill all Jews in the United States if the Allies lost World War II. But because the United States entered the war and won, these things did not come to pass. God indeed shortened those days.

“EVERY FACE TURNED DEATHLY PALE”



DEATHLY PALE JEWISH SURVIVORS OF WW II HOLOCAUST CAMPS 1945

Jeremiah 30:3-10 (NIV)

The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,’ says the Lord.” These are the words the Lord spoke concerning Israel and Judah: “This is what the Lord says: “Cries of fear are heard—terror, not peace.

Ask and see: Can a man bear children? Then why do I see every strong man with his hands on his stomach like a woman in labor, every face turned deathly pale? How awful that day will be! No other will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.

‘In that day,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead, they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. ‘So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel, ’declares the Lord. ‘I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.

Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

“And went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their test about Jesus.” The attempt to sweep away the Christian Gentile and Messianic Church is in vain. But Satan and Baal keep trying. The reference here is to persecutions against individuals—specifically those keeping their testimony about Jesus.

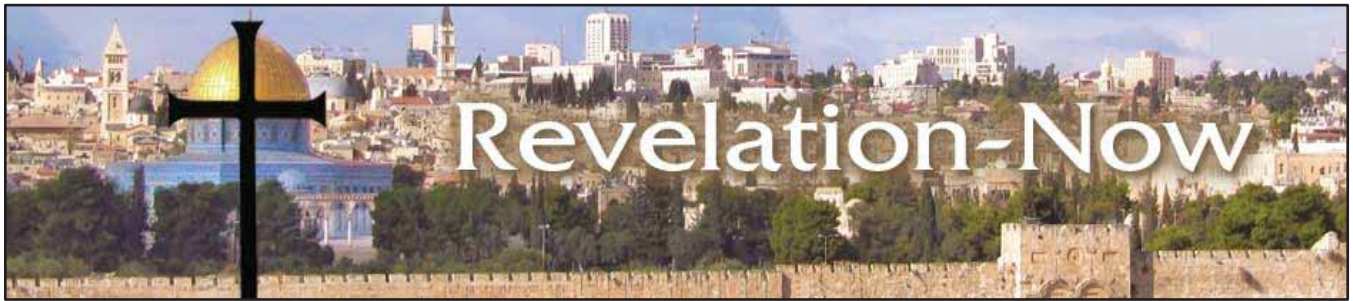
Since the time of Christ there has been a general persecution against the church itself, and all that is here said would find an ample fulfillment in Satan’s actions running from the Roman times to the current time (some 1,400 years) of Islam and the false prophet Mohammad.



The church, in her beauty and unity, including Messianic Israel, with the whole forming one perfect church, is now manifested and awaits the Son of God at Christ's second coming. All members of the church of God are referred to as brethren of Christ--as in Hebrews 2:11.

Hebrews 2:10-11 (NIV)

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



REVELATION CHAPTER 13

THE DRAGON AND BEAST ARE WORSHIPPED

THE FALSE PROPHET DECEIVES THE WORLD

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 13

Revelation chapter 13 describes the beast from the sea, the spiritual world. One of the heads of the beast from the sea seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed! The dragon (Satan) gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Next chapter 13 gives information on the false prophet that deceives the world. The false prophet seems to have some connection to Jesus because it had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. The false prophet is really speaking for the dragon—Satan. The false prophet ordered people to set up an image in honor of the beast from the sea who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.



Satan accuses Christians of worshipping multiple Gods, when in fact Christians worship One God.

Satan has deceived the followers of Mohammad into thinking they worship One God, when in fact they worship both the dragon and the beast.

Revelation 13:4 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast

Revelation 13:1 The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

In Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual world. *“The dragon stood on the shore of the sea.”* Satan was positioned at the interface between the spiritual world and the human earthly realm.

“And I saw a beast coming out of the sea.” The beast, Baal, emerges from the Abyss in the spiritual world where God had punished it since the fall of Babylon. In Revelation, the Apostle John sees in the future the beast “coming out of the sea.” In 95 AD, the Roman empire was already risen and established long before John’s time; and therefore, this beast from the spiritual sea must be something else besides Rome.

“It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.” The great city of Mecca is on seven mountains, Rome is not. The seven heads are also seven mountains, as we learn in Revelation 17:9-10. The beast is connected to Mecca.

Revelation 17:9-10 (NASB)

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Revelation 17:8 says the beast was before the time of John, presently at the time of John was not, and would rise again. The Bible is clear beast cannot be Rome since Rome was present at the time of John. The beast comes up out of the Abyss, or Hades, or Sheol, in the spiritual world. The Abyss is where God sent Baal when Babylon fell.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Baal and Satan have tried to destroy God’s creation since the beginning of time. Baal was punished at the fall of Babylon and sent into the Abyss-Sheol. Once in Sheol, it looked like Baal had a fatal wound. But the seemingly fatal wound was healed when the beast of Revelation emerges from the Abyss. A demonic spirit revealed himself to Mohammad and gave the false story in the Qur’an of Jesus being just a messenger and not the redeeming Son of God that Jesus is. The spirit that appeared to Mohammad was either Satan or Baal.

Isaiah 14:15-17 (NASB)

Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’



THE TEMPLE OF BAAL IN THE CITY OF PALMYRA, SYRIA

Few people realize that Isaiah 14 also relates to Habakkuk chapters 1 and 2. Habakkuk 1 makes clear the prophecy is about the Chaldeans (the Babylonians). Habakkuk 2 is also an interesting chapter because it references a demonic individual but does not provide the name of the individual. The Bible says the prophecy will surely come to pass in the end times.

Habakkuk 1:5-6 (NASB)

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told. “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 (NASB)

Then the Lord answered me and said, “Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.

What stands out about Habakkuk 2 is that there are several verses in the chapter that parallel Isaiah 14. This Isaiah is a chapter about the end times prince of Babylon’s downfall-- *“the proud one, his soul is not right within him”* and *“He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.”* This sounds like what Baal did in the Old Testament, and what the beast does in Revelation.

Habakkuk 2:4-5 (NASB)

Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith. Furthermore, wine betrays the haughty man, so that he does not stay at home. He enlarges his appetite like Sheol, and he is like death, never satisfied. He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.

The ten horns may be considered kings, or more accurately demonic leaders of principalities or kingdoms. They are the ten kings of revelation 17:12-13 (*"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast."*)

Since the Bible tells us beast is from the Abyss, all of the principalities described below are from the spiritual world. The demonic princes did exert control over physical earthly kingdoms and human kings, but the prophecy is about the spiritual world that is opposed to Jesus, the Son of God. The prophecy is about the battle for souls.

Revelation 17:9-11 (NIV)

"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1. Egypt | 5. Seleucid Greeks |
| 2. Assyria | 6. Rome |
| 3. Babylon | 7. Demonic King-rules only a short time {Abaddon} |
| 4. Persia | 8. Beast {Babylon Demon Baal from Sheol} |

The NASB makes this prophecy easier to understand. *"The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction."* The beast is one of the seven, not a successor to them. The first two princes or heads governed the kingdoms of Egypt and Assyria. The next three are the first three components of Nebuchadnezzar's four-part statue vision in Daniel 2:31-45, Daniel's four beast kingdoms in Daniel 7:1-18, and the beast in Revelation 13:1-4. Daniel tells us the final kingdom will be different and fierce. The "little horn" of Daniel 7:8 is Umar.

Head 3. Babylon (Daniel ch 2 gold head, Daniel ch 7 lion, Revelation ch 13 lion)

Head 4. Persia (Daniel ch 2 silver chest, Daniel ch 7 bear, Revelation ch 13 bear)

Head 5. Seleucid Greeks (Daniel ch 2 bronze thighs, Daniel ch 7 leopard, Revelation ch 13 leopard)

Daniel 7:19-25 (NIV)

"Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

“He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

Only the return of Jesus will destroy the final different (demonic) kingdom.

Daniel 7:26-27 (NIV)

“But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.”

Few people realize that Isaiah 14 also relates to Habakkuk chapters 1 and 2. Habakkuk 1 makes clear the prophecy is about the Chaldeans (the Babylonians). Habakkuk 2 is also an important prophetic chapter because it references a demonic individual but does not provide the name of the individual. The Bible says the prophecy will surely come to pass in the end times.

Habakkuk 1:5-6 (NASB)

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In Habakkuk 2:2-3 are verses that parallel Isaiah 14; a chapter that many people believe is a chapter about the end times prince of Babylon’s downfall--"the proud one, his soul is not right within him" and “He also gathers to himself all nations and collects to himself all peoples.”

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THE BLASPHEMOUS NAMES OF ALLAH; THE BLASPHEMY OF ISLAM TOWARDS JESUS

"And on each head a blasphemous name." Blasphemy is defined in two ways. In the Qur'an, "Allah" claims the attributes of the true Triune God. The first blasphemy is a non-god, such as a man, or a demonic spirit, especially Satan or Baal, the dragon and the beast seeking to be God. The second act of blasphemy is insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence for the true Triune God. In Islam, "Allah" shows contempt for the Deity of Jesus Christ.

ISLAMIC EXAMPLES OF THE FIRST TYPE OF BLASPHEMY— TAKING ATTRIBUTES OF THE TRUE TRIUNE GOD

Qur'an 59:23 [Allah claims to be God]

Allah is He, than whom there is no other god; the Sovereign, the Holy One, the Source of Peace and Perfection, the Guardian of Faith, the Preserver of Safety, the Exalted in Might, the Irresistible, the Supreme: Glory to Allah! High is He above the partners they attribute to Him.

Qur'an 62:1 [Allah is pure and exalted]

Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth is exalting Allah, the Sovereign, the Pure, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.

Qur'an 3:92 [Allah is all knowing]

You can never attain righteousness unless you spend in the cause of Allah that which you dearly cherish; and whatever you spend, surely everything is known to Allah.

Qur'an 11:73 [Allah is worthy of praise]

They said: "Do you wonder at Allah's decree? May Allah's mercy and His blessings be upon you, O residents of the household; for Allah is indeed worthy of all praise, full of all glory."

Qur'an 22:7 [Allah will resurrect the dead]

And certainly the hour is coming, there is no doubt about it. And Allah will surely resurrect those in the graves.

Qur'an 57:3 [Allah is the first and the last]

Allah is the First and the Last, the outward and the inward, and Allah has the knowledge of all things.

Qur'an 3:26 [Allah is sovereign]

Say, O Prophet [Mohammad], "O Allah! Lord over all authorities! You give authority to whoever You please and remove it from who You please; You honor whoever You please and disgrace who You please—all good is in Your Hands. Surely You alone are Most Capable of everything.

Qur'an 24:35 [Allah is light]

Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth. His light is like a niche in which there is a lamp, the lamp is in a crystal, the crystal is like a shining star, lit from 'the oil of' a blessed olive tree, 'located' neither to the east nor the west.

ISLAMIC EXAMPLES OF THE SECOND TYPE OF BLASPHEMY— INSULTING OR LACK OF REVERENCE FOR THE TRUE TRIUNE GOD.

DOME OF THE ROCK BLASPHEMOUS INSCRIPTIONS

[Allah is only God, Jesus is not God]

“In the name of Allah, the merciful the compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One. He has no associate. Unto Him belongs sovereignty and unto Him belongs praise. He gives life and He gives death; and He has Power over all things. Mohammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger.”

[Jesus was only a messenger]

“O People of the Book! [Christians] Do not exaggerate in your religion nor speak concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a Messenger of Allah, and his word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and his messengers, and say not 'Three' - Cease! It is better for you! - Allah is only one God.”

[Allah has no son]

“Far be it removed from his transcendent majesty that He should have a son.”

[Allah has no son]

It befits not the majesty of Allah that he should take unto Himself a son.”

[Allah is only God, Jesus is not God]

“Lo! Allah is my Lord and your Lord. So serve only him. That is the right path. Allah is witness that there is no god save Him. And the angels and the men of learning too are a witness.”

QUR'AN VERSES BLASPHEMING JESUS THE SON OF GOD

Qur'an 4:157 [Jesus was not crucified]

And because of their saying (in boast), “We killed Messiah Jesus, son of (Mary), the Messenger of Allah,” – but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Jesus was put over another man, and they killed that man, and those who differ therein are full of doubts. They have no knowledge, they follow nothing but conjecture. For surely; they killed him not.

Qur'an 4:171 [Jesus is not God]

O people of the Scripture (Jews and Christians)! Do not exceed the limits in your religion, nor say of Allah aught but the truth. The Messiah Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger of Allah.

Qur'an 5:75 [Jesus is not God]

The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was no more than a Messenger; many were the Messengers that passed away before him.

Revelation 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

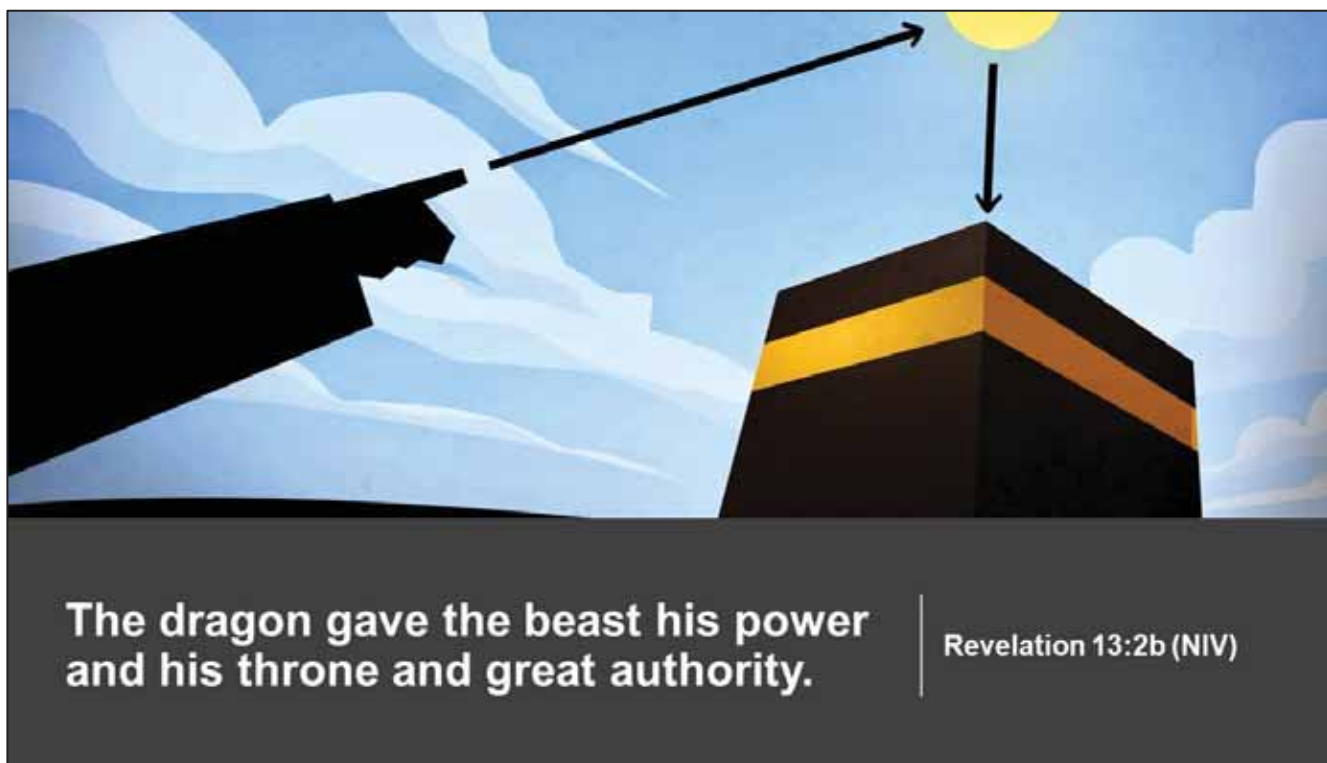
“The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.” Daniel portrays four worldly kingdoms succeeding one another (first, the Babylonian as the lion; second, the Mede-Persian as the bear, and third the Seleucid Greek as the leopard). But the fourth kingdom is represented under the form of a demonic monster and will have great iron teeth to devour the world. When Daniel has a vision of the fourth kingdom, this terrible spiritual battle, it is so vast and frightening that Daniel was sick, ate very little, and mourned for three weeks.

Daniel 10:1-3 (NIV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

SATAN GIVES HIS THRONE TO THE BEAST—ISLAMIC PRAYER MOVED TO MECCA IN 624 AD

“The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.” Satan desires to receive worship. Why would Satan, who wants to be like God, be willing to transfer his throne to the beast? Yet we know this happened because the Bible says it did! Perhaps Satan had no choice but to transfer his throne to the beast! Satan’s throne transfer occurred in 624 AD as the Islamic prayer direction was transferred from Jerusalem’s Temple Mount to the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.



The throne of Satan (the dragon) was critical. Satan would welcome prayer directed towards him (“a deity”) sitting on a throne. To give up the throne means to give up some aspect of receiving worship and prayer. Webster’s dictionary defines the word “throne” as follows:

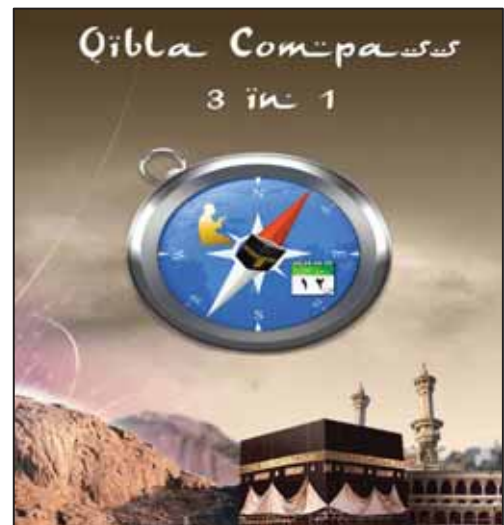
1. the chair of state of a sovereign or high dignitary (such as a king)
2. the seat of a deity
3. royal power and dignity, sovereign

SATAN FIRST ORDERS PRAYER TO JERUSALEM--AND THEN HE TRANSFERS IT TO THE THRONE IN THE KAABA

Mohammad, the false prophet, was first directed by Satan ("Allah") to pray towards Jerusalem after he traveled to the Temple Mount and landed on Mount Moriah (the excluded outer court of Revelation 11:2). This mandatory Islamic prayer direction is called the "Qibla."



**SATAN
JERUSALEM THRONE 621-623**



**BAAL
MECCA THRONE 624-TODAY**

The mandatory prayer began shortly after Mohammad’s night journey from Mecca to the Temple Mount and back again in one night (the “Night Journey”). Then, almost inexplicably, Allah in the Qur’an suddenly changed his mind and directed Mohammad to pray towards the Kaaba. The direction has remained towards Baal dwelling in the Kaaba ever since that day in 624 AD.

THE MANDATORY ISLAMIC PRAYER TO BAAL REJECTS JESUS AS GOD

“In the name of Allah, the most Gracious, the most Merciful. Say, He is Allah, the One. Allah is Eternal and Absolute. He begets not, nor was He begotten. And there is none co-equal unto Him.”

THE MANDATORY ISLAMIC PRAYER TO BAAL EXALTS THE “PROUD ONE”

“O Allah, how perfect You are and praise be to You. Blessed is Your name, and exalted is Your majesty. There is no god but You.”

MANDATORY ISLAMIC PRAYER TO BAAL, THE MARK OF THE BEAST, THE SHAHADA

"I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and bear witness that Mohammad is His servant and Messenger." Jesus warned against saying this statement of faith.

HISTORY AND MEANING OF THE PRAYER DIRECTION CHANGE--THE "QIBLA"

One of the more interesting prophetic phenomena of Islam is the changed of the direction of mandatory Islamic prayer. The directional change is so strange, and yet the Bible said it would happen. Most people do not know that the original direction of prayer, called the "Qibla," was to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Still, just a few years later, "Allah" changed his mind and told Mohammad to change Qibla direction to the Kaaba Blackstone in Mecca. Baal dwells in the Kaaba and is the beast of Revelation. Prayer direction has remained directed towards the Kaaba ever since that day. Since this demonic prayer is so important, there must be a Biblical connection to the change. This fulfills how Satan gave his throne to the beast.

HISTORICAL SEQUENCE OF ISLAMIC PRAYER DIRECTION EVENTS

610 Mohammad received first visit from demonic spirit calling itself "Gabriel."

610-620 Qur'an revelations received from spirit; prayer was unorganized

621 Mohammad's Night Journey ("Isra and Mirja") to Temple Mount on the White Horse

621 Prayer then becomes mandatory to Temple Mount

622 Mohammad forced to leave Mecca for Medina

623 Jews in Medina question Mohammad about prayer direction to Jerusalem

624 Allah tells Mohammad to change prayer direction to Kaaba in Mecca

MANDATORY PRAYER DIRECTION BEGINS WITH THE NIGHT JOURNEY TO TEMPLE MOUNT

One of the miracles of Mohammad ("signs of wonders of the false prophet") was his night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and back again. Before the miraculous night journey of Mohammad to Jerusalem Temple Mount outer court and back to Mecca (the "Isra and Miraj"), Islamic prayer was not obligatory. The prayer did not become prescribed as five daily obligatory prayers until the night journey, which took place approximately a year or so before Mohammad's migration to Medina. This demonic Islamic prayer rejects Jesus and includes the mark of the beast-the Shahada.



The first direction of prayer given by Satan in the Koran did not last long. The Jews criticized the new faith and rejected the friendly Islamic gestures; not long after, the Koran broke with them, probably in early 624. The explanation of this change comes in a Koran verse instructing the faithful no longer to pray toward Jerusalem but instead toward Mecca.

The passage in Qur'an 2:142 begins by anticipating questions about this abrupt change. The passage in Qur'an 2:144 instructs for the direction to change to Mecca.

Qur'an 2:142

The foolish among the people will say, "What has turned them away from their qibla, which they used to face?" Say, "To Allah belongs the east and the west. He guides whom He wills to a straight path."

Qur'an 2:144

We have certainly seen the turning of your face, O Mohammad, toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qibla with which you will be pleased. So turn your face toward the Kaaba in Mecca [al-Masjid al-Haram]. And wherever you believers are, turn your faces toward it in prayer. Indeed, those who have been given the Scripture well know that it is the truth from their Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what they do.

The Bible states in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that the god of this world is Satan, and that Satan has blinded their minds. Qur'an 1:2 states that Allah is the god (lord) of this world. The Qur'an says Allah leads people astray.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NASB)

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Qur'an 1:2

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

Qur'an 35:8

For indeed, Allah sends astray whom He wills and guides whom He wills. So do not let yourself perish over them in regret. Indeed, Allah is knowing of what they do.

The Allah of the Qur'an is opposed to the sacrifice of Jesus. In the Qur'an (4:157), the sacrifice of Jesus that takes away the sins of the world is disbelieved. The purpose of Islam is to take away the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Qur'an 4:157

And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.

SATAN'S THRONE IS AT THE DOME OF THE ROCK

At the time of the Book of Revelation was given to the Apostle John (95 AD), Jesus said Satan's throne was symbolically in Pergamum (Revelation 2:13). Later Satan moved his throne to Jerusalem—so that Satan could be on top of Mount Moriah.



THE FOUNDATION STONE OF MT. MORIAH UNDER THE DOME OF THE ROCK IN JERUSALEM

When Solomon later prepared to build Israel's first Temple, the spot he chose was the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite on Mount Moriah, which David had purchased for his altar (2 Chronicles 3:1–2). The “rock” Araunah used as his threshing floor is the same place where Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2, 14; 2 Chronicles 3:1); where Solomon built his Temple; and where Zerubbabel built the second Temple, later known as Herod's Temple.

Today the centerpiece of this area, known as the Temple Mount, is the Muslim Dome of the Rock. This was Satan's throne after he moved from Pergamum. Satan always wanted this holy location.

2 Chronicles 3:1-2 (NIV)

Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David. He began building on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

Revelation 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.

The Bible tells us the beast is from the “Abyss.” Another Biblical name for the Abyss is “Sheol.” Sheol is where angels and souls lie before judgment day. It is worth repeating again the beast of Revelation is not a human. Many prophecy writers look for a man, but the Bible tells us differently. The beast comes out of the spiritual world, the Abyss. This is where God sent Baal.

This is a specific demonic prince, connected to, but is not itself Satan. The beast of Revelation and Satan are opposed to Christ and the Gospel truth. Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but rather “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

The Bible does not say the healing of the death-blow causes worship. The Bible just says the fatal wound is healed. When Baal emerged from the Abyss most of the world, including those that pray five times a day to the Kaaba, were unaware Baal had his wound healed. Mohammad told his followers to pray to the Kaaba. Their wonder of the Kaaba leads to worship.



THE WHOLE WORLD WAS FILLED WITH WONDER AND FOLLOWED THE BEAST

Revelation 13:4 People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

There is a double deception in Islam. First, Christians worship one God, the Triune God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yet the Qur'an regularly accuses Christians of being “polytheists,” which they are not. The second is that the Qur'an stresses “strict monotheism,” but in fact, Satan has deceived Muslims to worship two spirits, the dragon, and beast, devoutly thinking they are just worshipping the one true God. Satan is a liar and the “father of lies.” We know this because the Bible said so.

Satan accuses Christians of worshipping multiple Gods, when in fact Christians worship One God.

Satan has deceived the followers of Mohammad into thinking they worship One God, when in fact they worship both the dragon and the beast.

In the Qur'an, Satan says Christians worship multiple Gods. In the Qur'an, Satan and Baal (“We”) say Muslims worship one God.

Quran 5:73

They have certainly disbelieved who say, “Allah is the third of three.” And there is no god except one Allah. And if they do not desist from what they are saying, there will surely afflict the disbelievers among them a painful punishment.

Qur'an 7:59

We had certainly sent Noah to his people, and he said, "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him. Indeed, I fear for you the punishment of a tremendous Day.

Qur'an 16:36

And **We** certainly sent into every nation a messenger, saying, "Worship Allah and avoid false gods." And among them were those whom Allah guided, and among them were those upon whom error was deservedly decreed.

The truth of Jesus tells us in John 10:28-30 that Jesus and the Father are the same One God.

John 10:28-30 (NIV)

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

WORSHIPPING BOTH THE DRAGON AND THE BEAST WORSHIPPING BOTH SATAN AND BAAL— UNDERSTANDING THE “WE” IN PLURAL PRONOUN VERSES IN THE QUR’AN

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?” The Bible makes clear those deceived by the false prophet Mohammad will worship both the dragon and the beast. Satan is very clever and will never identify the false prophet, show the mark “666”, nor would he identify the beast, as he knows the Bible has given these prophecies. Satan has read the full book of Revelation. Satan must fulfill all prophecy of Revelation, but he will do so in a way that is undetectable by most.

The true God is triune. The Bible gives the name of God to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. The Bible ascribes the attributes of God to all three equally. The Bible attributes the works of God to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Scripture presents the worship of God to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are not rivals. The Father loves the Son in the Holy Spirit, and the Son loves the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Satan’s purpose of Islam is to take away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God. Thus, Islam is absolutely and vehemently opposed to Jesus as the Son of God (the “Trinity”), and only describes Jesus as a messenger or prophet. The Qur’an deliberately misrepresents the doctrine of the Trinity. This is the false teaching revealed by the demonic spirit to the false prophet Mohammad. Since Islam is opposed to the Trinity, why does the Qur’an use plural pronouns (“we”, “our”) in verses?

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) SENT THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 21:107

And **We** have sent you, [O Mohammad], as a mercy to the worlds.

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”, “OUR”) GAVE A FALSE GOSPEL TO MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 37:171

Our Word has already gone forth to **Our** servants, the messengers [Mohammad].

Qur’an 15:9

Indeed, it is **We** who sent down the Qur’an and indeed, **We** will be its guardian.

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) HAVE A PLAN TO SEND ALL HUMANS TO HELL

Qur’an 19:70-71

And then **We** shall know well all those most worthy to be cast in Hell. There is not one of you but shall pass by Hell. This is a decree which your Lord will fulfill.

Qur’an 19:72

Then **We** shall deliver those that feared Allah and leave the wrong doers there on their knees.

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”, “OUR”) TOOK THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD TO JERUSALEM

Qur’an 17:1

Exalted is He who took his servant [Mohammad] by night from al-Masjid al-Haram [Mecca] to al-Masjid al-Aqsa, [Temple Mount Jerusalem] whose surroundings **We** have blessed, to show him of **Our** signs. Indeed, he is the Hearing, the seeing.

THE QUR'AN SAYS ASCRIBING THE TRINITY TO ALLAH IS AN UNFORGIVABLE SIN

Two concepts in Islamic theology make it very difficult for the Muslim to understand the true Christian doctrine of the Trinity. Those two concepts are “*tawhid*” and “*shirk*.”

Tawhid is the absolute oneness of Allah—Islam is a religion of absolute, non-negotiable, Unitarian monotheism. Muslims view other religions (except Judaism) as polytheistic. Hinduism, for example, is polytheistic, for Hindus do indeed worship many gods. Christianity, however, is not polytheistic, for Christians, worship only one God. However, when Muslims hear that Christians worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, they conclude that Christians are polytheistic.

Shirk is the unforgivable sin in Islam of associating others with Allah. Muslims fear the sin of shirk above all other transgressions. Allah can forgive adultery, murder and every other sin, but Allah will not under any circumstances forgive one who has died in the sin of shirk:

The Qur'an (4:48 and 5:72) says very clearly that anyone who ascribes a partner to Allah cannot be forgiven and will never have any future but the hellfire.

Qur'an 4:48

“Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him, but He forgives anything else to whom he pleases; to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous indeed”

Qur'an 5:72

“Whoever joins other gods with Allah—Allah will forbid him the Garden, and the fire will be his abode. There will for the wrongdoers be no one to help”

Other Qur'an verses strongly fight the Trinity and the Deity of Christ.

Qur'an 4:171

O People of the Scripture! Do not exaggerate in your religion nor utter aught concerning Allah save the truth. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was only a messenger of Allah, and His word which He conveyed unto Mary, and a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers, and say not “Three”—Cease! (it is) better for you!—Allah is only One God.

Qur'an 4:172

Far is it removed from His transcendent majesty that he should have a son. His is all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth. And Allah is sufficient as Defender. The Messiah will never scorn to be a slave unto Allah, nor will the favored angels. Whoso scorned His service and is proud, all such will He assemble unto Him.

Qur'an 5:116

And beware the Day when Allah will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allah ?'" He will say, "Exalted are You! It was not for me to say that to which I have no right. If I had said it, You would have known it."

THE “ROYAL WE” IS NOT HOW THE QUR’AN USES THE WORD “WE”

Some Christians have tried to use the “we” in the Qur’an as evidence that there is a Trinity (One God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit). But there are many Qur’an verses that strongly oppose the Trinity (the Deity of Jesus), and Muslims would not accept this argument as evidence for the Trinity. Thus, the question is what does the “we” in the Qur’an mean, if it does not mean the holy Trinity?

Islamic scholars try to explain away the “we” by making a case for the “royal we.” They claim it is a feature of literary style in Arabic that a person may refer to himself by the Arabic pronoun “nahnu” (“we”) for respect or glorification. They go to great pains to point out that in the Arabic language (the original style of the Qur’an), a speaker is allowed to use plural pronouns to address himself. Reasons include 1) to display his greatness or his splendor, 2) to display grandeur or glory of what he has done, or 3) to show that he is not the only factor in doing something.

When the Qur’an was written there was no royal we. The apologetic stories cover up that the Qur’an clearly talks about multiple spirits involved in the most crucial aspects of the false doctrine. This was the plan of Satan and Baal, the dragon and the beast! For example, Qur’an 37:171, and 15:9 say the false doctrine about Jesus given to the false prophet Mohammad came from “we” or “our.”

Qur’an 37:171

Our Word has already gone forth to Our servants, the messengers [Mohammad].

Qur’an 15:9

Indeed, it is We who sent down the Qur’an and indeed, We will be its guardian.

The Bible says both the dragon and beast will be worshipped. We should trust the Bible and understand the false doctrine about Jesus--given to the false prophet--had to come from the dragon and the beast. This is the true meaning of the “we” in the Qur’an, just as the Bible says.

WHEN THE QUR’AN WAS WRITTEN THE “ROYAL WE” DID NOT EXIST

The Qur’an was given to Mohammad by the demonic spirit from 610 to 632. The royal “we” is also referred to as the majestic plural or *pluralis majestatis*, in Latin. Despite its name, the royal “we” has been used by people other than royalty, though it is most often associated with kings and queens. This English grammatical construct has its roots in the 1100s, 500 years after the Qur’an.

The royal “we” is simply the use of the plural pronoun we in place of the singular pronoun “I.” This quirk of English grammar is rarely heard today, except in historical context or as a jibe at someone who is too assured of his own power. The British monarch Henry II (1133-1189) is credited with using the royal “we” first, referring to his connection with God, and the fact that he and God were acting in concert. Romans used the term “we” when there were two emperors—one in the Eastern and the other in the Western Empires.

In contrast, in the true Scripture, the Bible, the “royal we” is never used. It did not exist then. So, for example, in Genesis 1:26 (*Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness”*) it means the true Trinity.



Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

This expression is taken from the description of the little horn in Daniel's vision, (Daniel 7:8,) and is explained, Revelation 13:11, by the voice of the great words which the horn spoke.

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Many people have wondered who was the “little horn” in Daniel's prophecy. It was not the “antichrist.” The little horn was the Islamic Caliph Umar, who ruled from 634 to 644 AD. In one of his visions, the prophet Daniel sees a “little horn” and a terrible beast (Daniel 7:8). The emergence of the little horn and its differences from the ten kings caused Daniel to wonder much. Daniel was taken captive in 605 BC as part of the Babylonian captivity of Israel. He finished his work around the year 530 BC, shortly after the capture of Babylon by Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC.



The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:5 (NIV)

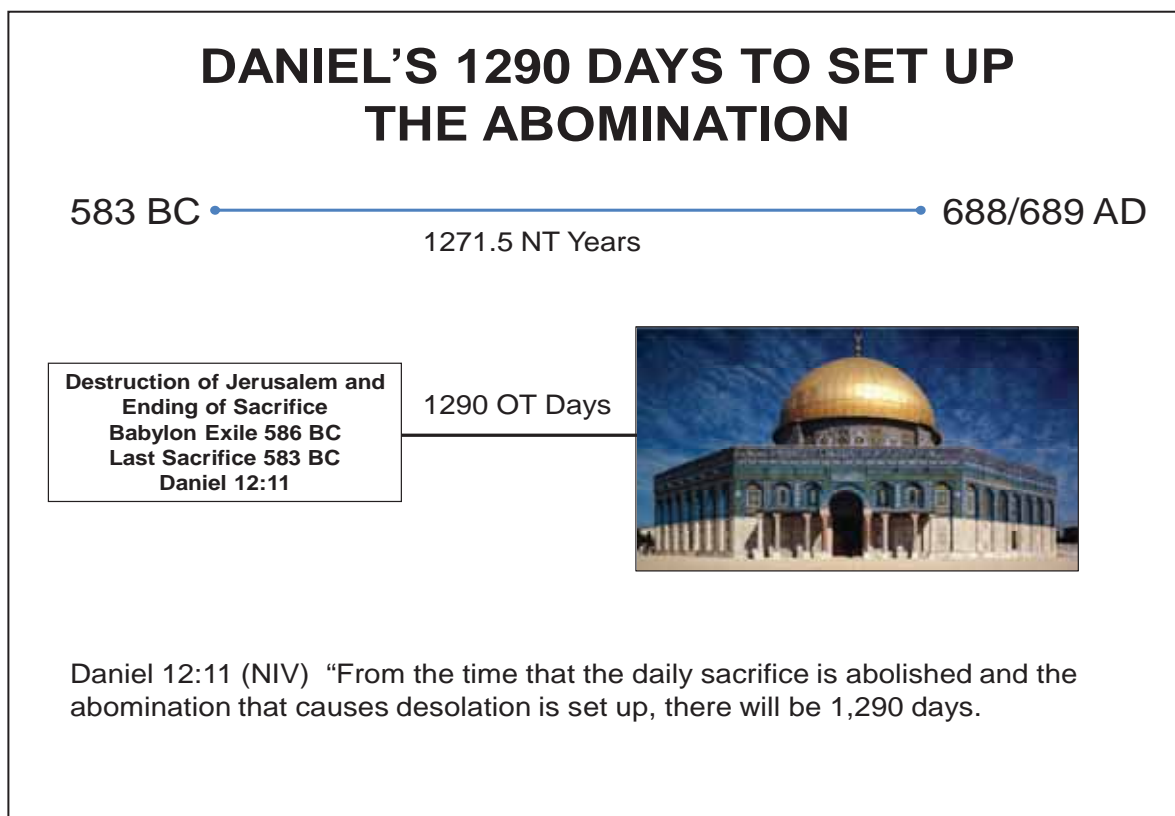
Daniel sees that the little horn has “eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully” (Daniel 7:8). The “little horn” is not one of the ten horns; he arises sometime after them, and the little horn then subdues three other human kings. He also “boasts” (verse 8) against God himself. While some think this little horn is a future “antichrist”, the little horn was Umar, the Islamic caliph. The little horn is human and different from the ten kings. The Bible tells us how he is different: (Daniel 7:8 “This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.”) This means the little horn is human, which also means the ten kings must be demonic.

ISLAM “EXERCISED ITS AUTHORITY” OVER JERUSALEM FOR 42 MONTHS

The first question is to determine the beginning point for the 42 months (1278.4 days/years). The beginning point is when Daniel’s abomination was set up by Satan and Baal on the Temple Mount.

Daniel 12:11 (NIV)

“From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.



After the fall of Jerusalem, in August 587 BC, the Babylonian general Nebuzaraddan was sent to finish its destruction. Jerusalem was plundered, and Solomon’s Temple destroyed. The elite were taken into captivity in Babylon. The city was razed to the ground. Only a small number of people were permitted to remain to tend to the land. Gedaliah became governor of the remnant of Judah.

On hearing this news, the Jews who were in Moab, Ammon, Edom, and in other countries returned to Judah. Gedaliah was assassinated two months later, and the population that had remained and those who had returned then fled to Egypt for safety. Jeremiah 41:4-5 proves Jewish sacrifices were occurring for some time AFTER the destruction of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 41:4-5 (NIV)

The day after Gedaliah’s assassination, before anyone knew about it, eighty men who had shaved off their beards, torn their clothes and cut themselves came from Shechem, Shiloh and Samaria, bringing grain offerings and incense with them to the house of the Lord.

Jeremiah 52:27-30 gives the date of the final sacrifice. Thus the last Jews were carried away in the 23rd year of Nebuchadnezzar. The 23rd year of his reign would have started about 583 BC.

Jeremiah 52:27-30 (NIV)

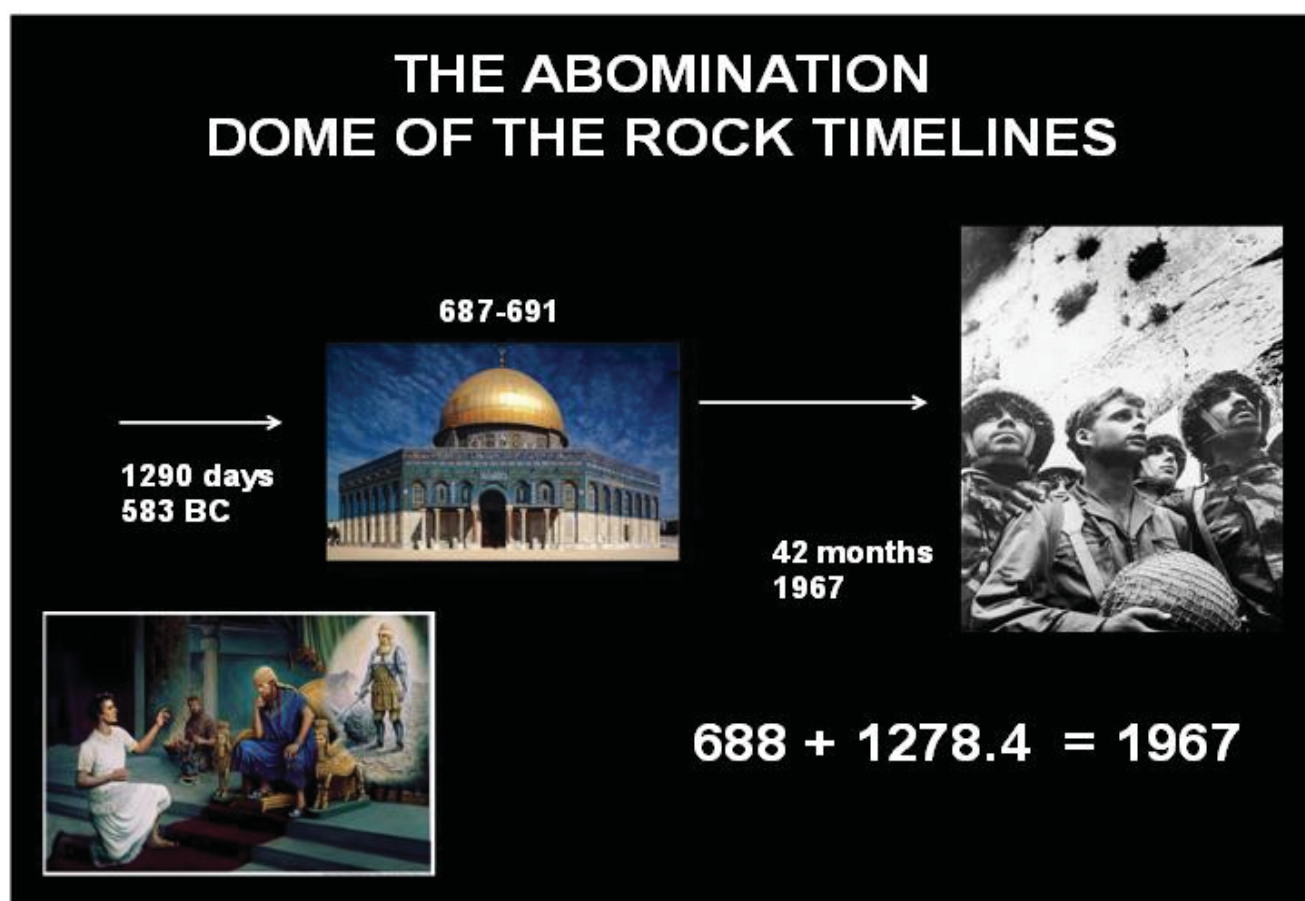
So Judah went into captivity, away from her land. This is the number of the people Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile: in the seventh year, 3,023 Jews; in Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year, 832 people from Jerusalem; in his twenty-third year, 745 Jews taken into exile by Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard. There were 4,600 people in all.

The Hebrew Old Testament year was 360 days, or $360/365.24 = .9857$ of our Roman calendar years.

$1290 \times .9857 = 1271.5$ Roman calendar years. (also add 1 since no year 0 AD)

$583 \text{ BC} + 1271.5 + 1 = 689.5 \text{ AD}$

In 687 AD the Dome of the Rock construction began, and was finished in 691, with a construction mid-point of 688/689 AD



The Muslim rule of Jerusalem ended in 1967. The beast and Satan exercised their authority over Jerusalem until 1967. This was exactly 42 months (1278.4 days/years) from when the Dome of the Rock abomination, which is Satan's throne, was set up on the Temple Mount.

THE FOLLOWERS OF THE BEAST HONOR THE SYMBOL OF BAAL

The universal display of the crescent moon sign on the top of every mosque is not for decoration; it is ancient false worship to Baal. Muslims have maintained the crescent symbol from Mohammad's era until this day. Do Muslims worship the moon? Muslims would say "No", but why must they honor the crescent shape of the moon, not the full moon? They have been deceived into honoring Baal, who dwells in the Kaaba, the image of the beast.



The Allah of the Qur'an (Satan the dragon) denies Jesus is the Son of God, denies the crucifixion, and denies the resurrection of Jesus. The Qur'an's purpose is to take away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus.

Islam appeared in the middle of the final seven of Daniel. The final seven is 2,520 (7 x 360) Old Testament years from 536 BC until 1948. The "end to sacrifice and offering" is Islam fighting against the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. The "ruler to come" is Baal released from the Abyss. Baal's followers sacked Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Daniel 9:26b-27 (NIV)

The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

Revelation 13:6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven.

Revelation 13:7 It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

A better translation of *"those who live in heaven"* is "tabernacle." That translation loses much of the beauty of the thought. The saints, to whom the name of the Lord is a strong tower, and who have a tabernacle of witness in this wilderness world, can yet tabernacle their spirits where their treasure is, in heaven with Christ.

The Qur'an is hostile regarding the true church - the dwelling-place of God on the earth - which is blasphemy. The true worshippers are the members of the true church, represented as dwelling in this holy tabernacle. An example of Islamic hostility towards those that live in heaven is the strong and universal disdain for the Apostle Paul.

ISLAMIC ATTACKS ON THE APOSTLE PAUL

There are generally four areas whereby Islam "attacks" the Apostle Paul. None of these arguments contain any merit.

- Islam believes Paul and Jesus disagreed on the importance of fulfilling the "law"
- Islam believes Paul never met Jesus
- Islam believes Paul wrote most of the New Testament and "corrupted it"
- Islam believes Paul and Barnabas fell into disagreement

The most critical Islamic argument against Paul involves the "law." The unloving Allah of the Qur'an offers no atoning sacrifice, no savior, and the only path in Islam to heaven is following sharia law. Yet no one can follow the law, as the prophet Isaiah made clear.

Isaiah 64: 5-6 (NIV)

How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

In contrast to the Bible, the Qur'an offers no workable solution for salvation, other than perfectly keeping the law—which Isaiah said no one can do!!

Qur'an 4:173

And as for those who believed and did righteous deeds, He will give them in full their rewards and grant them extra from His bounty. But as for those who disdained, He will punish them with a painful punishment, and they will not find for themselves besides Allah any protector or savior.

Jesus is the solution. Jesus said in Matthew 19:26; *"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Revelation 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

In both Daniel 7 and Revelation chapters 11 and 13, the “the saints” (i.e., the holy people of God) are to be understood as Christians (believing Jews and Gentiles), not as national Israelites. They are the ones with their names written in the Lamb's book of life. After the rapture, those unbelievers left on earth do not have their name in the Lamb's book of life.

On the Day of the Lord, no believing Christians remain on earth. After the rapture on the Day of the Lord, when only non-believers stay on earth, everyone will be forced to pray to the Kaaba or be killed. Everyone left after the rapture must worship the beast in the Kaaba or be killed.



“ALL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WILL WORSHIP THE BEAST”

The Bible says that anyone who worships the beast or takes the mark will be thrown in the lake of fire.

Revelation 14:9-11 (NIV)

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

Rev 13:9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Revelation 13:10 “If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed.” This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God’s people.

These words remind us that our weapons are of faith and patience, of truth and righteousness, and the believers must accept the tribulation, as their Lord did His cross, because it must be so. Roman persecution placed a severe test on the patience and the faith of the saints. The Islamic conquests since 610, continuing to this very day, are even worse and have taken many times more souls to the lake of fire.

**ON CHRISTMAS DAY 2019 ISLAMIC ISIS BEHEADS 11 NIGERIAN CHRISTIANS
FOR REFUSING TO SAY THE SHAHADA—THE MARK OF THE BEAST**

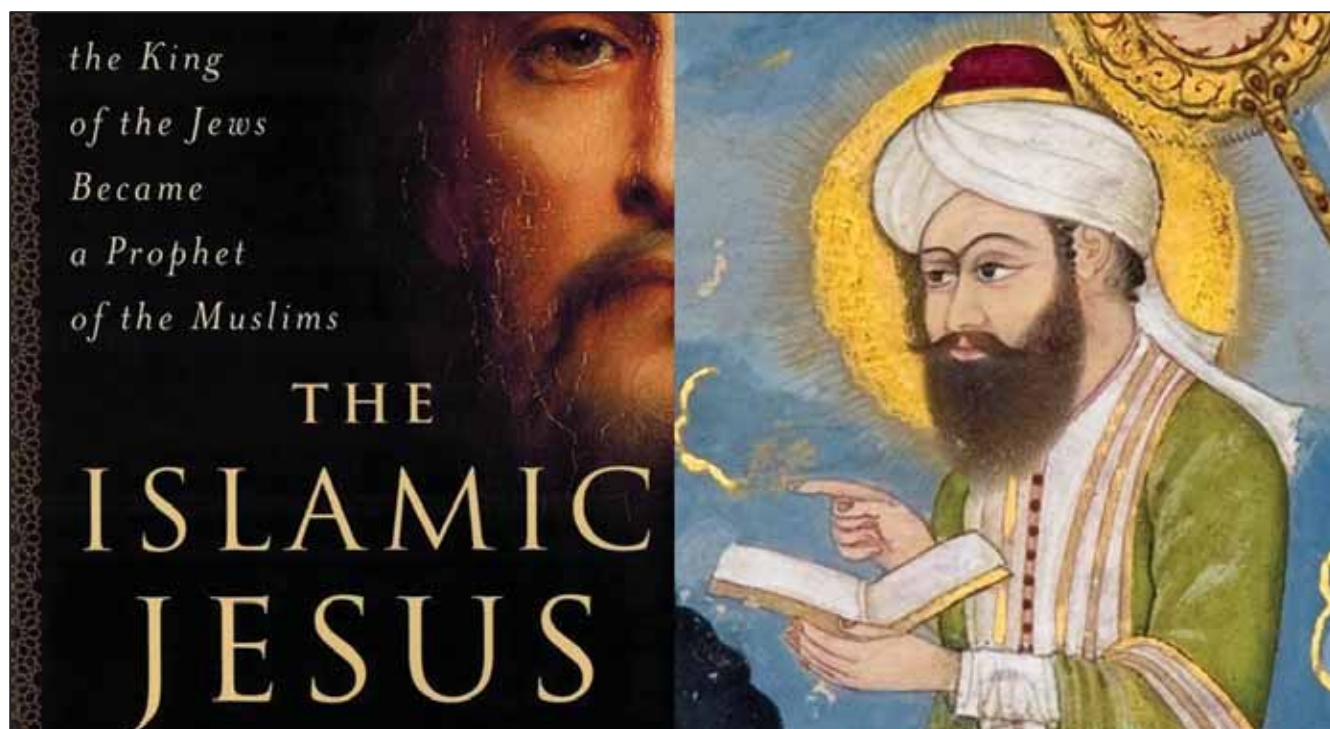


Revelation 13:11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.

“Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth.” The second beast, the false prophet Mohammad rises from the earth and not from the sea; this means he is a human and not a spirit. In Revelation, the sea is the spiritual world. The earth is the human earthly realm. We learn in Revelation 19:20 that the second beast from the earth has another name. He goes by the title “prophet,” but he is a false prophet. Mohammad gives a false narrative about Jesus that takes away the atoning sacrifice of Christ. In Islam, Mohammad’s title is simply the “Prophet.” In Arabic, Mohammad’s name means “The Praised One” or “Praiseworthy.”

Revelation 19:20 (NIV)

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.



“It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.” The false prophet knows about the Lamb of God, somehow claims to associate with him, and speaks about Him—but with deception from Satan. Concerning the second beast, the false prophet from the earth, nothing further is expressed than that it had two horns like the horns of a lamb, but we know Satan controls his speech.

Daniel describes actions of the little horn in Daniel chapter seven, is silent respecting the two-horned beast; while John, tells both about the two-horned beast, and also indirectly describes the little horn as the third rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5-6. The little horn and the two-horned beast act precisely in the same capacity; they each exercise the power of the first beast from the Abyss controlling them. Baal is the beast from the Abyss. The little horn of Daniel is Umar, the second Islamic Caliph after Mohammad. Umar is the third rider with the pair of scales on the black horse.

MOHAMMAD IS THE FINAL PROPHET—THERE ARE NO MORE PROPHETS AFTER HIM

The Qur'an and Hadith clearly state Mohammad is the last of the prophets. There is no prophet after Mohammad. Because the Islamic writings unequivocally state Mohammad was the last prophet, no Muslim will ever look for another prophet or messenger in the future. Even the possible Islamic Mahdi is not a prophet. Satan made sure there would not be another prophet because he did not want Mohammad and the Qur'an to be contradicted later. The Qur'an says to worship Allah and pray to the Kaaba. This is the dragon and the beast. The beast is Baal—the demon from Babylon.

Qur'an 33:40

Mohammad is the messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets; and Allah is ever aware of all things.

Hadith Sunan At-Tirmidhi 2219

The Messenger of Allah [Mohammad], said, "The Hour will not be established until tribes from my nation join the idolaters and they worship idols. Verily, there will be thirty impostors among my nation, all of them claiming to be a prophet, but I am the seal of the prophets. There is no prophet after me."

“IT HAD TWO HORNS LIKE A LAMB”—HOW MOHAMMAD ASSOCIATED WITH JESUS

The Qur'an claims Jesus said Mohammad's name ("Ahmad") can be found in both the Old Testament and New Testament. The claim is that Jesus said Mohammad would follow him.

Qur'an 61:6

And when Jesus, the son of Mary, said, "O children of Israel, indeed I am the messenger of Allah to you confirming what came before me of the Torah and bringing good tidings of a messenger to come after me, whose name is Ahmad."

Muslims claim Mohammad is the "prophet in Deuteronomy 18:18. (*"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."*) Muslim scholars also claim that the "Paraclete", "Spirit of Truth" or "Comforter" about whom Jesus foretold in John chapters 14-16 is the prophet Mohammad. They say that the prophecy talks of a human being, a person, who would come after Jesus.

John 14:15-17a (NIV)

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him."

But continued reading of the prophecy in John indicates the disciples would see it in their lifetimes, and that the spirit of truth would live in them. This is not a human appearing some 600 years later!

John 14:17b-18 (NIV)

"But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

MOHAMMAD IS THE “WORTHLESS SHEPHERD” OF ZECHARIAH 11:16-17

Few people understand the worthless shepherd with the bad eye and arm prophecy of Zechariah 11:16-17. This is Mohammad. One of the “miracles” attributed to Mohammad is that he received the Qur’an from the spirit calling itself the “Angel Gabriel,”; deemed a miracle in Islam because Mohammad could not read or write. Mohammad is called the “unlettered prophet” in the Qur’an.

Qur’an 7:157


Those who follow the Messenger, the unlettered prophet, whom they find written in what they have of the Torah and the Gospel, who enjoins upon them what is right and forbids them what is wrong and makes lawful for them the good things and prohibits for them the evil and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them. So they who have believed in him, honored him, supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him - it is those who will be the successful.

Mohammad is the “worthless shepherd” of Zechariah 11:16-17. Mohammad (“unlettered prophet”) could not read (a symbolic *“right eye totally blinded”*) nor could he write (a symbolic *“arm be completely withered”*.) Mohammad did not care for the lost sheep of Jesus, but rather Mohammad destroyed the Christian believers—“tearing off their hooves.”

Zechariah 11:16-17 (NIV)

For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hooves.

“Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!”



Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!”

Zechariah 11:17 (NIV)

Revelation 13:12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

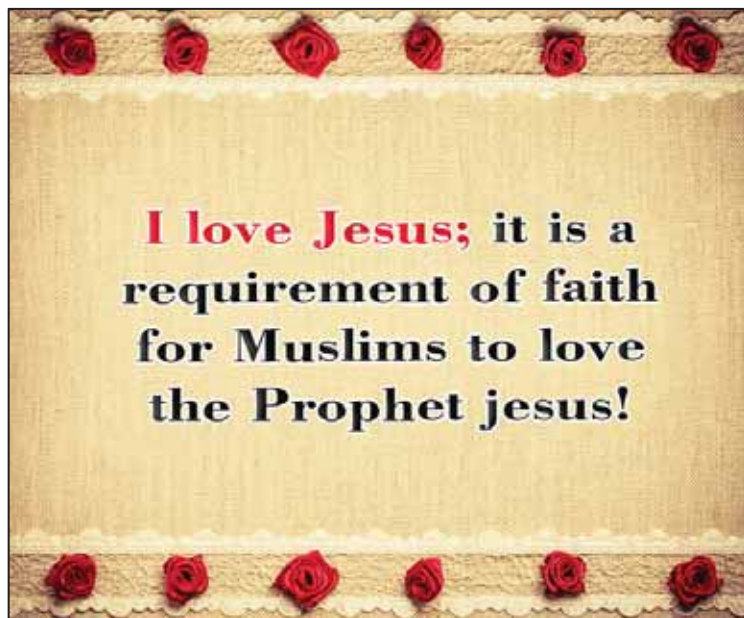
“It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf.” The spirit that revealed the Qur'an to Mohammad is the first beast. We must look upon the second beast (Mohammad the false prophet) not as a successor, but rather as a willing supporter, of the first beast, Baal from the Abyss.

“And made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.”

Here we have a more details about the actions of the false prophet. Though the false prophet Mohammad seems to be close to Jesus (the Qur'an mentions Jesus 37 times and also mentions the “Gospel”), the words spoken by Mohammad denote his deadly nature, which is shown by causing men to worship the Baal first beast by praying five times a day to the Kaaba in Mecca. Mohammad exercises the authority of the first beast, and accomplishes his work.

The Qur'an takes away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, and makes Jesus a simple human prophet of Allah. yet Muslims say they love Jesus—the prophet.

Consistent with *“the two horns like a lamb”*, in the Islamic Hadith, Mohammad claimed to be *“most close to Jesus.”*



Hadith Number 5836 Abu Huraira Narrator

“I am most close to Jesus, son of Mary, among the whole of mankind in this worldly life and the next life. They said: Allah's Messenger [Mohammad] how is it? Thereupon he said: Prophets are brothers in faith, having different mothers. Their religion is, however, one and there is no Apostle between us between I and Jesus.”

“Whose fatal wound had been healed.” The Bible says the beast seemed to have a fatal wound, and that the wound will be healed, but it doesn't say exactly how this would occur. The Bible does not say that people on earth would even understand this as they worshipped the beast. How does a demonic spirit seem to receive a fatal wound? The answer is the Babylonian demonic spirit (a god called “Bel” or “Baal”) was sent into the Abyss by the true God and later was released by the seventh demonic king--Abaddon. Sheol looks fatal to most people.

The Bible tells us the empire of Babylon, along with their worshipped spirit “Bel” was defeated and Bel himself is punished. Bel is the Aramaic form of Baal, the national god of the Babylonians (Isaiah 46:1; Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44). It signifies “lord.” Bel is more than a stone or wood idol because God specifically punishes Bel; God will “make him spew out what he has swallowed.”

God tells us in Jeremiah chapter 50 that *"Bel will be put to shame."*

Jeremiah 50:1-3 (NIV)

This is the word the Lord spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Babylonians: "Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, 'Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.' A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. No one will live in it; both people and animals will flee away."

God tells us in Jeremiah chapter 51 that *"I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed."*

Jeremiah 51:44 (NIV)

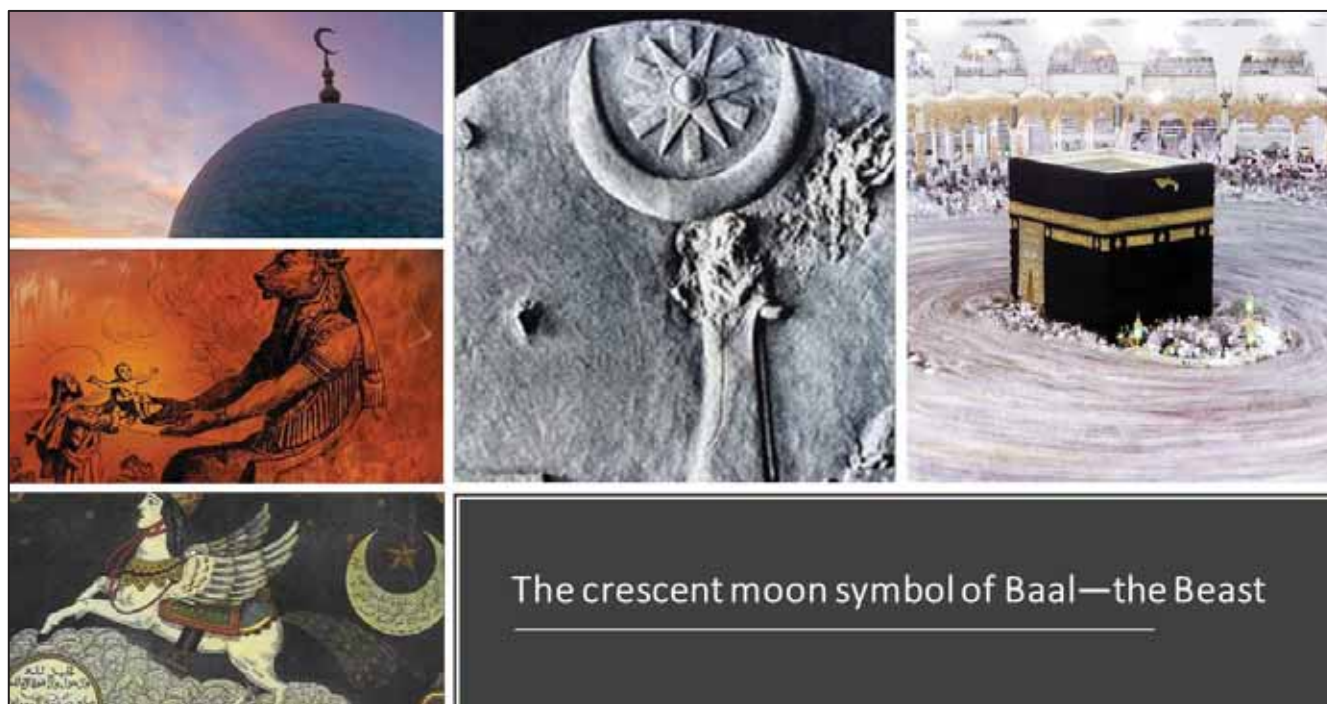
I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed. The nations will no longer stream to him. And the wall of Babylon will fall.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14 the demonic prince from Babylon (Bel) is confined to Sheol--the Abyss.

Isaiah 14:15-17 (NASB)

Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'

The symbol of Baal (Bel) was the crescent moon. The crescent moon is the universal symbol of Islam.



Revelation 13:13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.

John tells us the second beast (the false prophet Mohammad) persuades people to worship the first beast (pray to the Kaaba) by performing what seem to be miraculous signs. He is a deceiver. Mohammad might not achieve the real thing--but the people think he had the power.

The word "great" suggests that these will seem to be extraordinary miracles. The purpose of these signs is to authenticate the authority of the false religion. It makes Islam look like the real thing.

In Revelation 13:14 we learn this is a deception; *"Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth."*



And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people.

Revelation 13:13 (NIV)

Some people think that "even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth" is a literal imitation of the miracle of Elijah the Bible tells us about in 1 Kings 18:25-40. His hope is to confuse biblical miracles with satanic miracles. This is a taunt--not a fulfilled prophecy. (God loves to taunt Baal).

1 Kings 18:25-28

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

"INDEED, ALLAH IS ABLE TO SEND DOWN A SIGN, BUT MOST OF THEM DO NOT KNOW"

Mohammad performed signs so that people believed he was indeed the messenger of Allah. Yet there is no record anywhere of Mohammad calling down fire from heaven! So how do we understand the Revelation 13:13 Bible verse? Why the reference back to the failures of Baal with Elijah?

By reading the Qur'an we can understand what this Revelation prophecy really means. With regards to the signs of Mohammad and fire from heaven, there are similar verses in the Qur'an (3:183-184, 6:124, and 6:37) about "fire from heaven" type miracles. The people believed Mohammad because he could do signs--if necessary. But Elijah at Mt. Carmel already proved Baal cannot deliver "fire from heaven" for Mohammad. This is not a literal prophecy in Revelation, but rather it is God taunting Baal as in the past. Only the true God can bring down fire from heaven—as Elijah proved at Mt. Carmel.

Qur'an 3:183

They are those who said, "Indeed, Allah has taken our promise not to believe any messenger until he brings us an offering which fire from heaven will consume." Mohammad say: "There have already come to you messengers before me with clear proofs and even that of which you speak. So why did you kill them, if you should be truthful?"

Qur'an 3:184

Then if they deny you, O Mohammad - so were messengers denied before you, who brought clear proofs and written ordinances and the enlightening Scripture.

Mohammad now ignores trying to bring down fire from heaven. Mohammed does not understand he is dealing with Baal. It is not necessary that the false prophet actually brought fire from heaven. This is to be understood as included in what the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 calls *"signs and wonders that serve the lie"*, as among the things by which *"a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie"* would be promote his image as a messenger from God.

Satan has read the entire Bible, including the Book of Revelation and First Kings. Satan knows Baal cannot deliver fire. John describes the false prophet as he saw him in the Revelation vision, and he saw him laying claim to this power, and producing an illusion as if by a miracle he made a fire to descend from heaven upon the earth. The fire from heaven miracle allows the readers of Revelation to understand it must be Baal that dwells in the Kaaba, thus connecting this to the same miracle Baal could not perform for Elijah. But the deception by Satan makes it seem possible. The Qur'an (6:37) says, *"Indeed, Allah is able to send down a sign, but most of them do not know."*

Qur'an 6:37

And they say, "Why has a sign not been sent down to him from his Lord?" Mohammad Say: "Indeed, Allah is able to send down a sign, but most of them do not know."

Qur'an 6:124

And when a sign comes to them, they say, "Never will we believe until we are given like that which was given to the messengers of Allah."

Revelation 13:14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Mohammad placed the Blackstone in the Kaaba. Islamic tradition gives a detailed account of how Mohammad did this. When the Quraysh tribes were re-constructing the Kaaba, a dispute arose when the building reached the level of the Blackstone. They differed on the issue of who was eligible to restore the Blackstone to its original place. A civil war was about to break out. They had made up their minds to fight one another. Tribal elders asked the Quraysh to agree on the judgment of the first person to come through the gate, and they all agreed on this suggestion. The first to go through this gate was the prophet, Mohammad.



THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD PLACED THE BLACKSTONE IN THE KAABA

Mohammad placed the Blackstone in the middle of a piece of cloth. He asked each tribal representative to hold one of the edges of the cloth and raise it close to its place. Then Mohammad picked it up with his hands and restored it to its original place. This prophecy will be wholly fulfilled in the last days as there will be no refusal of worship to Baal. After the rapture on the Day of the Lord, when only non-believers are left on earth, everyone will be forced to pray to the Kaaba or be killed. The prophet Zephaniah said Baal worship would continue until the very last day.

Zephaniah 1:2-4 (NIV)

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. “I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.” “When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”



THE DEMONIC SPIRIT APPEARED TO MOHAMMAD AND GAVE HIM A FALSE GOSPEL

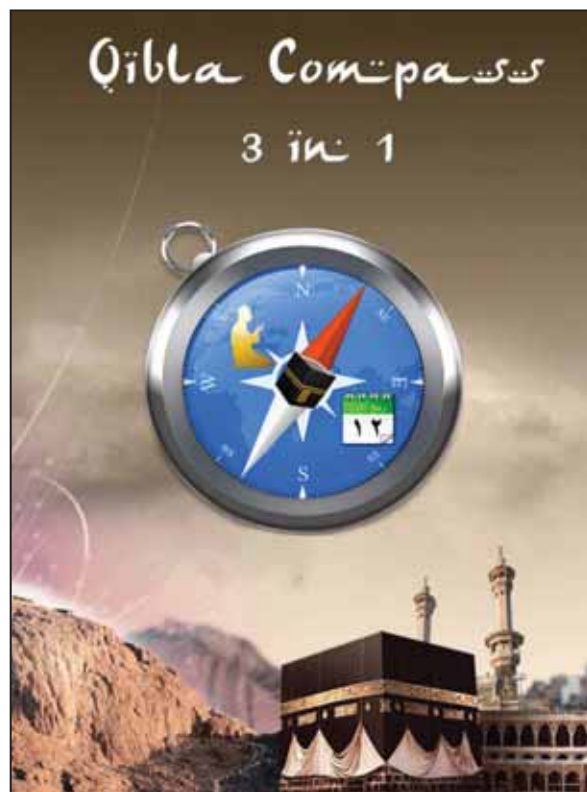


MOHAMMAD SET UP THE IMAGE TO THE BEAST—THE KAABA IN MECCA

ZECHARIAH SAYS THE KAABA HOUSE IN BABYLON IS “WICKED” MOHAMMAD SAID PRAY TO THE HOUSE

Only the Bible is true. When a Muslim prepares to pray, no matter where he is, he turns towards the Qibla, the direction of the Kaaba. The Kaaba is a small cube-shaped house in the courtyard of the mosque known as Masjid Al Haram, in the city of Mecca, in the country of Saudi Arabia. The Qibla (Arabic, "direction"), is the direction to the Kaaba when a Muslim prays to the house.

Qibla is exactly fixed as the direction of the Kaaba Blackstone in Mecca. Muslims all praying towards the same point is traditionally considered to symbolize the unity of all Muslims worldwide, under Sharia (Law of Allah). Muslims call the Kaaba the “House of Allah.” This is the same house of iniquity that the prophet Zechariah saw in his vision of the wicked women in a basket (the Blackstone) that was going to a wicked house to be built later in Babylon.



Zechariah 5:6-11 (NIV)

I asked, “What is it?” He replied, “It is a basket.” And he added, “This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land.” Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! He said, “This is wickedness,” and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its lead cover down on it. Then I looked up—and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth.

“Where are they taking the basket?” I asked the angel who was speaking to me. 11 He replied, “To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. **When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.”**

Revelation 19:20 tells us the false prophet (Mohammad) who set up this Kaaba image in the house of Allah and the Shahada mark will be thrown into the lake of fire when facing God’s judgment.

Revelation 19:20 (NIV)

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

The Qur'an incorrectly says, and most Muslims have been taught, that Abraham (or perhaps even Adam) built or at least used the Kaaba. Muslims also expect the Kaaba Blackstone to speak in the last days. Zechariah makes clear the house of wickedness in Babylon (the Kaaba) will be built sometime in the future after him. (*Zechariah 5:10 "Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. 11 He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."*)

Most scholars believe Abraham lived around 1800 BC. Zechariah lived long after Abraham around 520 BC. Baal dwells in the Kaaba today. The Kaaba house (image of the beast) was built not in the time of Abraham, but much later. In fact, it was Mohammad--the False Prophet--who set up the Kaaba house image. (*Revelation 13: 14-15 "It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed."*)

Qur'an 2:125

"We made the House a place of return for the people and a place of security. And take, O believers, from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And we charged Abraham and Ishmael, saying, "Purify My House for those who perform Tawaf and those who are staying there for worship and those who bow and prostrate in prayer."

Tawaf (literally circling) is one of the Islamic rituals of pilgrimage. During the Hajj (pilgrimage) Muslims are to go around the Kaaba (House of Allah) seven times in a counterclockwise direction.

Qur'an 3: 96-97

"Indeed, the first House of worship established for mankind was that at Mecca – blessed and a guidance for the worlds. In it are clear signs such as the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it shall be safe. And due to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House – for whoever is able to find thereto a way."

Islam Version

Abraham **Kaaba**
1800 BC-----520 BC-----610 AD

Zechariah **Mohammad**

True Bible Version

Abraham
1800 BC-----520 BC-----610 AD

Zechariah **Mohammad** **Kaaba**

Satan the deceiver appeared as an "angel" at least three different times in history to unsuspecting people and gave false or conflicting narratives about Jesus. Each time the angel acknowledged that Jesus was real, and a righteous prophet, man or angel, but generally denied completely or confused his deity

MOHAMMAD SAID “TOUCHING THE BLACKSTONE IS AN ATONEMENT FOR SINS”

Muslims are taught the Blackstone is one of the White Rubies of Paradise and it was turned black by the sins of the polytheists. It will be resurrected on the Day of Judgment as a witness (“it will speak”) to those who touched and kissed it with good faith.

Islamic Hadith (hadith are a record of the sayings of Mohammad) report the Blackstone has special powers from Allah. This is the dragon giving his power to the beast which is Baal.

Hadith report that Messenger of Allah (Mohammad) said: "The Blackstone is a white ruby from paradise, it was only blackened due to the sins of the those who touched the stone."



Mohammad said: “Touching the Blackstone is an atonement for sins.” (another Hadith recording what Mohammad said narrated by al-Tirmidhi)

"The Blackstone is the right hand of Allah most high." (another Hadith quoting Mohammad)

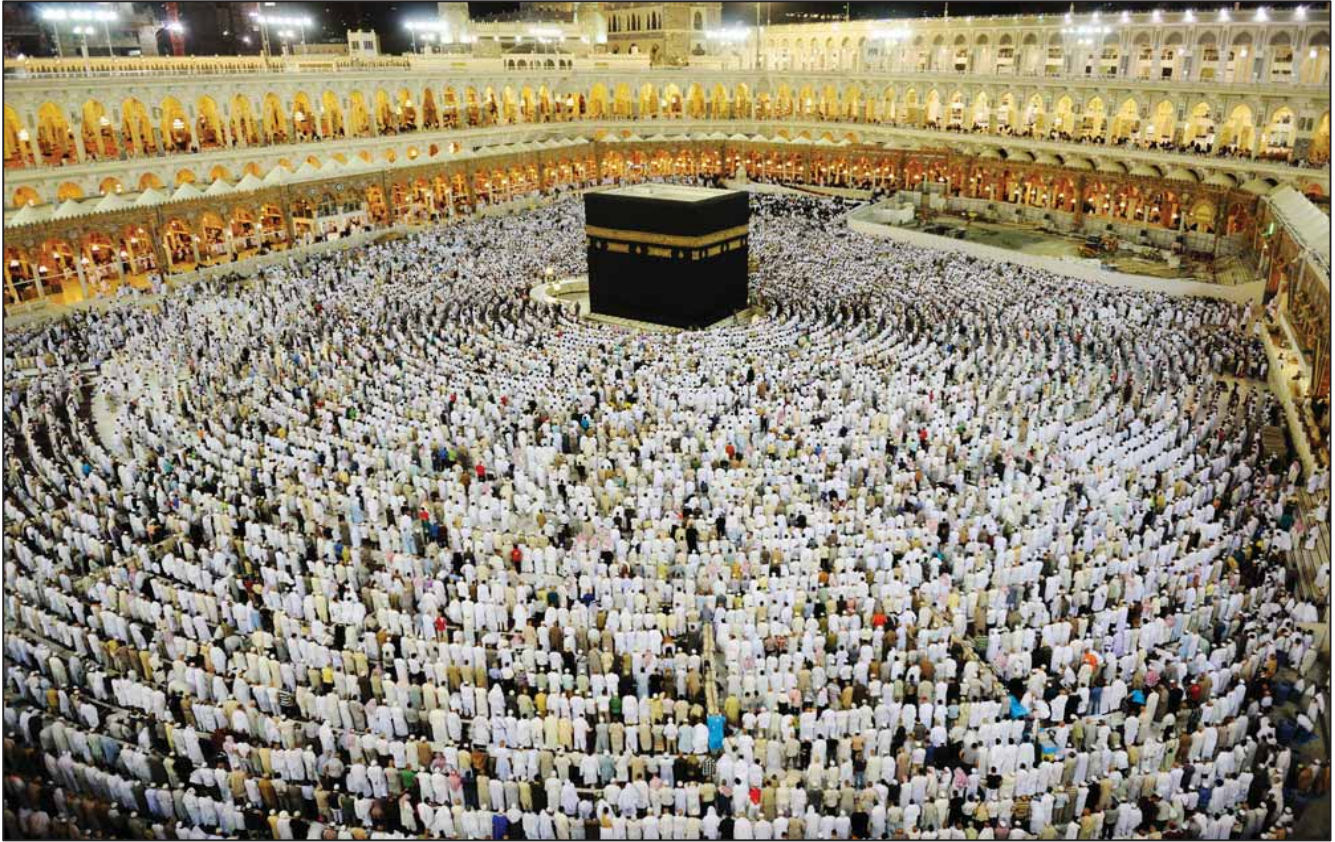
Bowing down at Mecca before the Kaaba, kissing and touching the Blackstone, and praying to Allah, are, according to the Bible, practices of idolatry. Yet, in Islam, they are practiced all the time. To understand the spiritual importance of the image and the mark, we must understand they are an abomination to the true God, and yet most important to those that worship a false god. In other words, they are important to both Christ and to Satan, the antichrist.

The Islamic Shahada (the mark) and daily prayer and pilgrimage to the Kaaba (the image) are key worship parts of the Five Pillars of Islam.

A warning about the image of the beast is given eight times in Revelation. (Rev 13:14, Rev 13:15, Rev 14:9, Rev 14:11, Rev 15:2, Rev 16:2, Rev 19:20 and Rev 20:4) The false image used to physically worship and honor Satan, and there is severe punishment from God for worshiping the image. This image is the Kaaba Blackstone set up by Mohammad in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Revelation 14:11 (NIV)

And the smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.



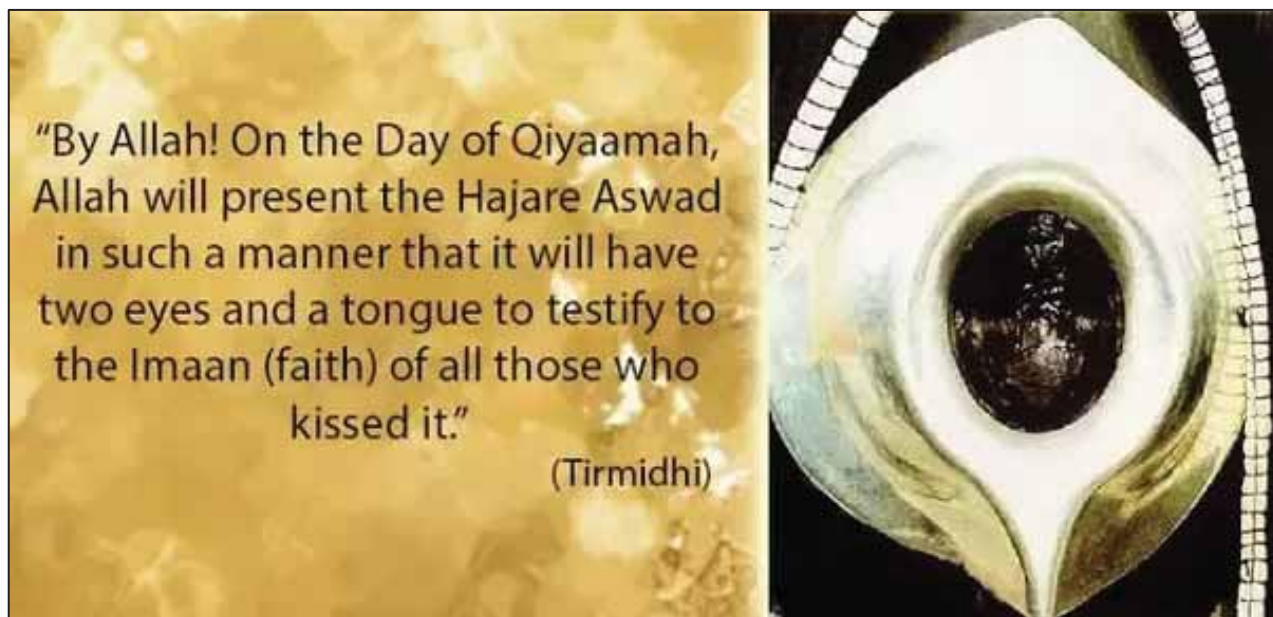
OBEDIENCE TO BAAL AT IMAGE TO THE BEAST—THE KAABA IN MECCA



INTOXICATION WITH THE WICKED GREAT CITY OF MECCA

Revelation 13:15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Mohammad has fulfilled this prophecy as well. Mohammad said the image will speak. In the Hadith, al-Tirmidhi records that Mohammad said the Blackstone will speak. When Mohammad said the Blackstone would speak--it was a direct fulfillment of additional prophecy given by Jesus in Revelation 13:14-15. The "Hajre-Aswad" is Arabic for the Blackstone, in the Kaaba courtyard of the Great Mosque of Mecca.

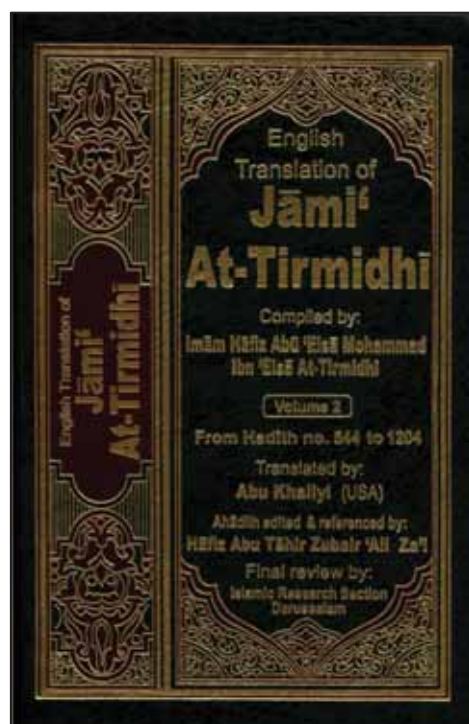


Jesus warned us that the False Prophet's image will speak. The Islamic Hadith record that Mohammad said the Blackstone image in the Kaaba will speak. This is proof Mohammad fulfilled even more warnings from Jesus about the false prophet.

WHO WAS AT-TIRMIDHI?

At-Tirmidhi was born in 824 and died in 892. He recorded much of the oral tradition of Mohammad's words, called Hadith.

At-Tirmidhi was a Persian Islamic scholar and collector of Hadith and wrote al-Jami` as-Sahih (known as Jami` at-Tirmidhi), one of the six canonical hadith compilations in Sunni Islam. He also wrote Shama'il Muhammadiyah (popularly known as Shama'il at-Tirmidhi), a compilation of Hadiths concerning the person and character of the prophet Mohammad.



In his Hadith, at-Tirmidhi records that Mohammad (the "Messenger of Allah") said the Blackstone would have eyes and a tongue, and will speak. **He said the Blackstone will testify as to those who touched in truth, or sincerity.** Muslims around the world still believe this today.

Chapter 113. What Has Been Related About The Black Stone

961. Ibn ‘Abbās narrated that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said about the (Black) Stone: “By Allāh! Allāh will raise it on the Day of Resurrection with two eyes by which it sees, and a tongue that it speaks with, testifying to whoever touched it in truth.” (*Hasan*)

Abū ‘Eīsā said: This is a *Hasan Hadith*.

(المعجم ١١٣) - بَابُ [مَا جَاءَ فِي

الْحَجَرِ الْأَسْوَدِ] (التحفة ١١٣)

٩٦١ - حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ: حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ عَنْ ابْنِ خُنَيْمٍ، عَنْ سَعِيدِ بْنِ جُبَيْرٍ، عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ فِي الْحَجَرِ: «وَاللَّهِ لَيَبْعَثَنَّهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لَهُ عَيْنَانِ يُبْصِرُ بِهِمَا وَلِسَانٌ يَنْطِقُ بِهِ يَشْهَدُ عَلَى مَنْ اسْتَلَمَهُ بِحَقٍّ».

قَالَ أَبُو عِيسَى: هَذَا حَدِيثٌ حَسَنٌ.

تخريج: [إسناده حسن] وأخرجه ابن ماجه، المناسك، باب استلام الحجر، ح: ٢٩٤٤ من حديث عبدالله بن عثمان بن خثيم به وصححه ابن خزيمة، ح: ٢٧٣٥، ٢٧٣٦ وابن حبان، ح: ١٠٠٥ والحاكم: ٤٥٧/١ والذهبي جرير هو ابن عبد الحميد.

At-Tirmidhi also makes very clear that Mohammad is the last and final prophet. This shows Satan wanted that there can be no future prophet who brings a teaching which contradicts and alters the Qur'an text. He wrote:

The Messenger of Allah [Mohammad], said, “The Hour will not be established until tribes from my nation join the idolaters and they worship idols. Verily, there will be thirty impostors among my nation, all of them claiming to be a prophet, but I am the seal of the prophets. There is no prophet after me.” Hadith Sunan At-Tirmidhi 2219

After the rapture on the Day of the Lord, when only non-believers are left on earth, everyone will be forced to pray to the Kaaba or be killed. The Kaaba Blackstone is made to speak, in order to work on the credulity and awe of the worshippers. All left on earth will pray to the Kaaba or be killed. This is why the bowl of wrath in Revelation 16:2 is poured out on everyone left on earth.

Revelation 16:2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

Revelation 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Revelation 13:16 It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads,

Revelation 13:17 so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

Revelation 13:18 This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.

Revelation 13:18 begins with *“This calls for wisdom.”* This challenging verse is introduced by this word of preface. Wisdom—indeed, the highest wisdom—is needed for those who would understand it. Many hundreds of explanations have been given for the number 666. Yet the verse surely implies that the understanding of this name and number is attainable; it warns us that wisdom and understanding are needed, and it leads to the conclusion that wisdom and understanding to a solution of the mystery will be granted.

The Shahada is the highest pillar of Islam. Many Christians are killed today for refusing to say the Shahada. Some prophecy experts have written that the mark is a bar code on your arm. God does not care about a bar code on your arm. God cares about false worship. The mark of the beast is not a bar code on your arm. It is a statement of faith to a false god. It is about worshipping a false God. Just like the image, a warning about the mark of the beast is given eight times in Revelation. (Rev 13:16-17, Rev 13:18, Rev 14:9, Rev 14:11, Rev 15:2, Rev 16:2, Rev 19:20 and Rev 20:4) There is severe punishment from God for taking the mark.

Revelation 14:9-10 (NIV)

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.



THE ISLAMIC SHAHADA—THE MARK OF THE BEAST

"To receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads." This is not literally on a forehead, but in some cases Muslims do place the Shahada on their forehead or hand. The Shahada is Satan's counterfeit copy of the Shema from Deuteronomy chapter 6. The Shahada denies Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NIV)

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The Shahada is not in the Qur'an (finished around the year 650), but it is on the Dome of the Rock (started in 687) and an Islamic coin from the year 685. It is likely the Shahada was created around or in the year 666. Thus, the Shahada may explain the number 666 in Rev 13:18.



A MUSLIM MUST RECITE THE SHAHADA AT DEATH--MEANING THEY DENY CHRIST WITH THEIR FINAL BREATH

Jesus warned us about false prophets that would deny he was the Son of God. Mohammad takes billions of souls. The false prophet gave instructions that a dying Muslim must say the Shahada as they die. Islam teaches those who are with a dying Muslim should say the Shahada and following:

"I have accepted Allah as the God, Mohammad as the Prophet, Islam as the religion, the Qur'an as the Book Allah and the Kaaba."



THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH

REVELATION CHAPTER 14 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 14

In Revelation chapter 14 John looked, and there before him was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

John looked again, and there before him was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."



Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Revelation 14:15 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 14 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 14:1 Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, stood on the Mount Zion in heaven. Zion on earth is the southern hill in the city of Jerusalem, was a name also given to the whole city; and, as that was the seat of the divine worship on earth, and in Revelation, it became in heaven the dwelling place of God. The vision here is in heaven, for it is a vision of the ultimate triumph of the redeemed. Designed to sustain the church from Roman trials they were experiencing, and of those to come from Mohammad when the seal and trumpet plagues were released.

Twice in the Book of Revelation, John describes a group consisting of a symbolic 144,000. In chapter 7:1-8 John heard of 144,000 (12,000 each from twelve different Israelite tribes) servants of God who had been sealed on their foreheads. The seal of God indicates they were redeemed people.

Revelation 7:1-4 (NIV)

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: "Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

In Revelation 7:9-17, John saw *"a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language."* These, too, were redeemed individuals who *"are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."* They had victoriously triumphed over tribulation, and they served God continuously in his temple.

There are differences of opinion among reputable Bible scholars as to the identity of the 144,000 in both Revelation 7 and 14. Some Bible scholars argue that the number referred to are those saved from the physical nation of Israel. Spiritual Israel, i.e., the church is suggested by many. Still, others believe the 144,000 are symbolic of the Messianic Jews that are part of the church. Since the second century, most Messianic Jews have come to faith only since 1967. Estimates vary, but many believe there are more than 250,000 Messianic Jews in the world today in 2020. If the 144,000 is symbolic of Messianic Jews joining the church, the prophecy is fulfilled today.

The origins of end times Messianic Jews can be traced back to the Hebrew Christian missions to the Jews in the 19th and early 20th centuries. After 1967, Messianic Judaism was gaining popularity, known by many as "the Jesus people," and eventually "Jews for Jesus." When Messianic Jews try to do outreach within the mainstream Jewish community, they are often met with resistance and outrage. Among other things, the Jewish community objects to the title Messianic Judaism, because Messianic Jews are Jesus-focused, and thus by Rabbinical definition "not Jewish."

Revelation 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

“And I heard a sound from heaven.” The same with the voices heard in heaven upon the sounding of the seventh trumpet as in Revelation 11:1.

“Like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder.” John could give no comparison that could express better than to say that it was like the roar of the ocean. The greatness of the voice is evidence of the vastness of the number.

“The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.” That is singing the praises of God, for the fall of Babylon, the destruction of the great city of Mecca with its false worship to the dragon and the beast in the Kaaba, the happy state and condition of the church, and the blessings of grace.

Revelation 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

“And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.” It is a new heavenly song, and no spirit dulled by earthly desires and sin can learn it. Those that pray to Babylon in the Kaaba with their musical call to Islamic daily prayer five times a day will never learn this new song. It is the same “new song” sung by the four living creatures and 24 elders in Revelation 5:8-10. No Jews other than the redeemed can sing this new song in heaven. It is a song to the Lamb of God. Only those with their name in the Book of Life will be able to sing the new song to the lamb.



THE NEW SONG IN HEAVEN

In Revelation 5:8-10 the “new song” is also sung by the four living creatures and the 24 elders.

Revelation 5:8-10 (NIV)

And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

NEW SONG LYRICS

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

Other Revelation Bible text tells us more about these symbolic 144,000 Jewish servants of God.

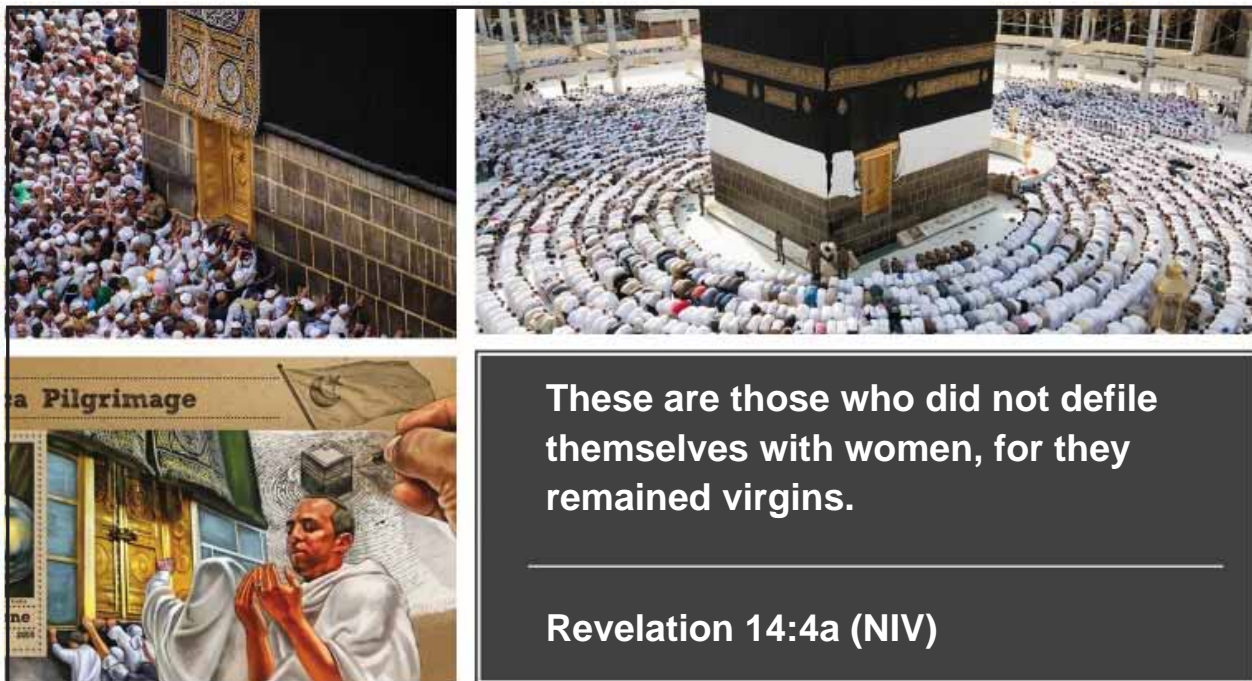
1. John calls the 144,000 *“fellow servants”* and *“servants of our God”* in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 6:11, 7:3)
2. The four angels are not allowed to *“harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God”*; until accepting Jesus Christ. (Revelation 7:3)
3. The 144,000 Jews will receive the spiritual seal of God. They accept Jesus Christ and become His disciples. (Revelation 7:3)
4. They *“were purchased from among mankind and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb.”* They are the Jews that the blood of Jesus purchased. (Revelation 14:4)
5. They will not be defiled with the harlot of Babylon. (Revelation 14:4)
6. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. (Revelation 14:4)
7. Unlike the numberless multitude of Gentiles *“from every nation, tribe, people and language”*, the 144,000 are a small enough group of Jews to be numbered. (Revelation 7:5-14)
8. The 144,000 will experience and endure the sufferings of Christ. They will be honored above all other Jews since they are the redeemed remnant. (Revelation 14:1-3)
9. They fulfill the Jews returning to Israel that accept Christ; *“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life”*. (Daniel 12:2)
10. No other Jews will sing their new song, since they are not in the Book of Life. (Revelation 14:3)
11. No lie or falsehood will be found in the mouths of the 144,000. The blood of Jesus has taken away their sins (Revelation 14:5) Jesus is a better sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:23-28)
12. The 144,000 will wear the spiritual mark of the names of the Father and Son on their foreheads throughout eternity. (Revelation 14:1; Revelation 22:3, 4)
13. Their mark is the opposite of the mark of the beast, the Shahada. (Revelation 13:16-18)
14. The 144,000 will be Messianic Jews, descendants of Abraham. (Revelation 7:4-8)

Revelation 14:4 These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb.

Revelation 14:5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

“These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins.” Some have tried to interpret this literally as celibate men that have never had sex with a woman. Revelation 14:4 is not referring to men living in a monastery. The focus on Revelation is a warning about spiritual immorality—believing the false doctrinal teaching of the harlot woman—the great city of Mecca.

The word rendered here “defiled” is a word that cannot apply to the marriage relation. It means properly to “soil, to stain, to defile.” It is used in Revelation 3:4; “Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes.” The word does not elsewhere occur in the New Testament, except in Revelation. Do not interpret it as an expression against marriage and in favor of celibacy. It is a word that is properly expressive of illicit sexual intercourse of the soul - impurity, and unchastity of life - and the statement is referring to spiritual impurity, that they who Jesus saved are not impure and unchaste in worshipping the true God.



There is little doubt that these words are intended in a spiritual sense. In the Old Testament the employment of the figure of adultery and fornication to denote spiritual unfaithfulness is common.

Jeremiah 3:9 (NIV)

Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood.

Revelation gives warnings about the spiritual immorality coming from the teachings from Mohammad and the great city of Mecca. The 144,000 remained faithful even when their lives were at risk with pressure to convert to Islam or other false religions. The 144,000 have avoided praying to the Kaaba; they did not recite the Shahada-the mark of the beast, they did not believe the Qur'an from the false prophet Mohammad, they did not worship the dragon, and did not kiss the Blackstone of Baal.

Revelation 17:1-2 (NIV)

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

Revelation 18:9-10 (NIV)

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

Revelation 19:1-2 (NIV)

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among mankind and offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb. These follow Christ in humility, patience, and love; and in the performance of their duties, and the commandments of Jesus, and in the path of sufferings; and in every way in which Christ the Lamb has gone before them, or in his word and Holy Spirit leads and directs them. Concerning the verse “*offered as first fruits to God and the Lamb,*” this seems to imply that the 144,000 do not represent the whole number of the elect, but a specially sanctified number from among them. Paul, In Romans 8:22-23, writes about the importance of the first fruits.

Romans 8:22-23 (NIV)

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

The first fruits were the best of their kind (see Numbers 18:12), selected from the rest, and consecrated to the service of God. The saved are the best of their kind; they have proved themselves faithful to God. The redeemed voluntarily separated themselves from the world and consecrated themselves to the service of God while in the world. They are thus afterward separated by him and consecrated to his service forever.

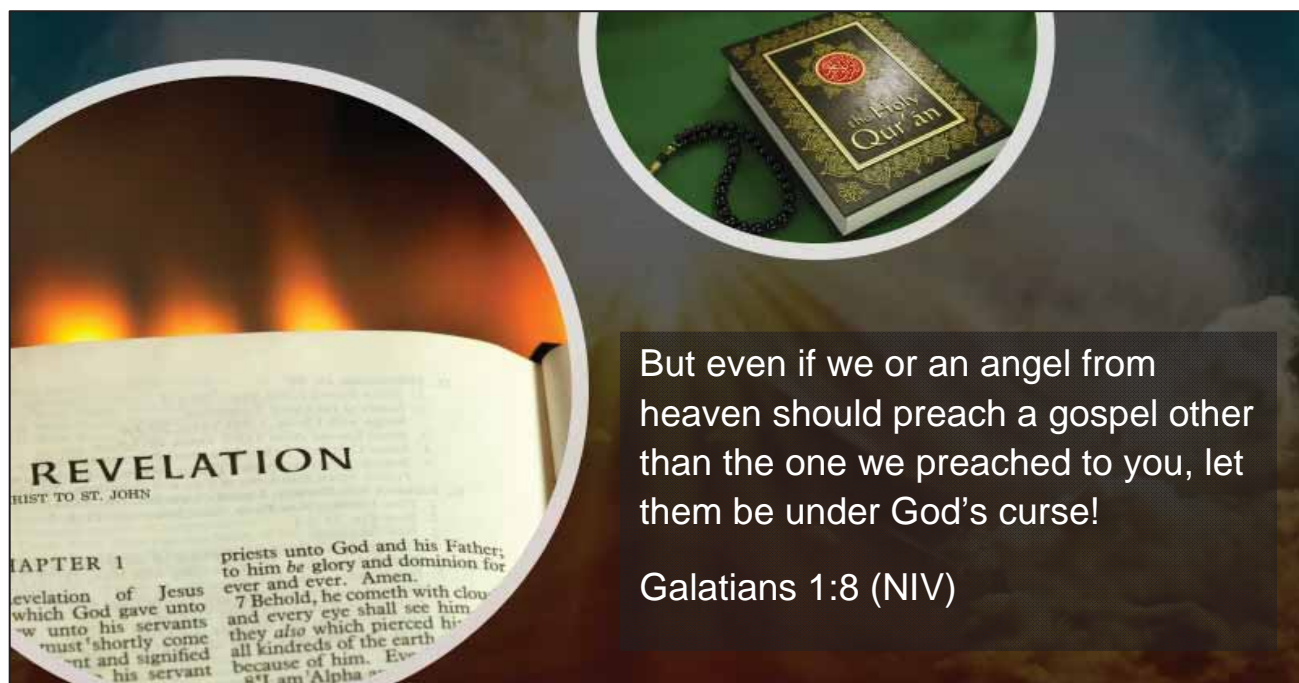
“No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.” They had not listened to Mohammad; they did not say the Shahada to be tricked into worship of the first beast.

Revelation 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

The Gospel is eternal in its unalterable nature, and in contrast to the Qur'an and power of Baal the beast, which is set for destruction. Every nation, tribe, language and people shall hear the Gospel.

Galatians 1:8-9 (NIV)

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!



But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!

Galatians 1:8 (NIV)

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has added about following the false prophet, and worship to the image of the beast (praying to the Kaaba) will face the wrath of God: *"If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll."*

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

A warning from Jesus! Do not take anything away from the text. Anyone who believes what the Qur'an has taken away from Jesus concerning the truth of His resurrection; that Jesus is the Son of God, and His atoning sacrifice will face the wrath of God: *"God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."*

Revelation 14:7 He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.” God's judgment will be severe on Baal, and on those who worship him and pray to the Kaaba five times daily. The imagery here is substantially the same as in Daniel 7:9-11, and there can be no doubt that there is a reference to the same subject.

Daniel 7:9-11 (NIV)

As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire.

God shall cause his gospel to spread through the world, and then there will be a solemn judgment on the false prophet, the false gospel of the Qur'an, and the anti-Christian power which had so long resisted his truth and persecuted his saints.

Revelation 14:8 A second angel followed and said, “**Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.**”

At the time when John wrote the book of Revelation, this power was preeminently possessed and wielded by Rome. The Roman Empire is the immediate antitype of “Babylon.” But the description is even more applicable to the 1,400 years persecution power of Islam and the great city of Mecca.

After the fall of Babylon, God banished Baal into the Abyss. Baal was “restrained” at the time of Paul and John. Once God removed the restrainer (the angel guarding the Abyss), Baal revealed himself. Baal was the demonic spirit calling himself “Gabriel” acting under orders and with authority from Satan, to give a “powerful delusion” to Mohammad. His believers “*drink the maddening wine of her adulteries*” and pray to the Kaaba, not knowing what they really do.



Revelation 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,

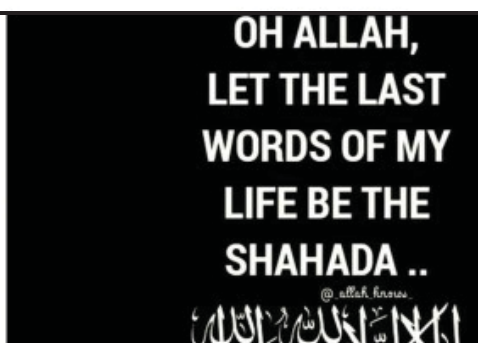
End times prophecy must be able to explain how the dragon and beast are both worshipped intentionally and simultaneously by a third of the world. Dispensationalism cannot provide an answer. Islam is the only system that does all this. Islam is the greatest paradox. Islam claims to be the leader in monotheist thinking (with the mark-the Shahada; "no God but Allah"), and yet worship both the "Allah" of the Koran (Satan), and then must pray five times a day to the Kaaba, the home of Baal the beast. They worship two distinct demonic spiritual entities, just like the Bible says they will happen. The Bible says the false prophet will lead them to do this. Mohammad was in charge of this. Jesus said they would worship both the dragon and the beast.

Revelation 13:4 (NIV)

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

Jesus said Satan is the “father of lies.” (John 8:44) In the Qur'an, Satan accuses Christians of worshipping multiple Gods, when in fact Christians worship One God. Jesus is God and monotheism is Christian truth. Satan has deceived the followers of Mohammad into thinking they worship God, when in fact they worship both the dragon and the beast.

Satan has turned the argument 180 degrees around in the wrong direction! The truth is Christians are monotheists, and those that follow the false prophet Mohammad are polytheists because they worship two spirits (the dragon and the beast). Satan deceived them with the command that they are worshipping the true God. Satan is a great liar and deceiver. The dragon is Satan, and the beast is Baal. Baal dwells in the Kaaba, the "great city" of Revelation 17-19. It is the image of the beast.



A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand,”

Revelation 14:9 (NIV)

Revelation 14:10 they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

They, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. Jesus will deliver a just punishment for their sin; they will receive the wine of the wrath because of Mecca's fornication with Satan and Baal. They have rejected the atoning sacrifice from Jesus. There is no path to the Father but through Jesus. The "Lawless One," Baal, has deceived them with a false gospel—the Qur'an. Paul said: *"they refused to love the truth and so be saved."*

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NIV)

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. They will suffer forever while still being able to see the Lamb and his angels. They will regret listening to the false prophet Mohammad and his Qur'an. The Lamb they rejected will be their Judge, and Jesus will condemn them to everlasting burnings, and pronounce the sentence on them. His angels will be the executioners of it; they will gather them out, and sever them from the righteous, and cast them into the lake of fire. The saints will be spectators of their punishment and rejoice at it, and the sight of their power and glory of the righteous will increase the torment of the sufferers.



They, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath.

Revelation 14:10a (NIV)

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

"And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever." In the Book of Revelation, smoke refers to prayers or requests to God for help. It is not literal smoke. Nonbelievers cast into the lake of fire in the presence of the Lamb, and His angels, will pray forever and ever to be released from this hell. But they made their decision to follow the false prophet Mohammad, recite the Shahada and pray to Baal in the Kaaba. In hell their prayers to Jesus will not help them.

Their torments continued and are the cause of ascending smoke. They were tormented while it ascended, and, as this is declared to be "forever and ever." The sufferings of the wicked will be eternal: and this is such language as would not have been used in the Revelation from God unless the punishment of the wicked is eternal.



"There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." "Day and night" include all time; and hence, the phrase is used to denote perpetuity - "always." The meaning here is, that they never have any rest - any interval of pain. This is stated as a circumstance strongly expressive of the severity of their torment.

On earth, some limited rest comes to the sufferer. The prisoner in his cell lies down on his bed, though hard, and sleeps; the overworked slave also has intervals of sleep; the eyes of the mourner closed as they forget their loss as they sleep. There is no pain that we endure on earth that is perpetual. The person, sooner or later, finds the luxury of sleep or will find rest in the grave. But the "second death" involving the perpetual smoke (cries for help) will be one of the bitterest ingredients in the cup of woe, in the world of despair, that even the simple luxury of death will be denied forever.

Revelation 14:12 This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

Far too often, Dispensational thinking causes Christians in the Western democracies, safe from persecution, to ignore the cries of their brothers and sisters in Christ. They are told, because they are temporarily safe, the “tribulation” must be in the future, and they will be safely raptured before the “bad stuff” happens. Here John reminds all of us that as we go through the tribulation, whether from Rome or Mohammad, the Bible encourages Christians in their trials. We have the assurance that this formidable anti-Christian power of Satan and Baal will be overthrown, and that all the enemies of God would receive their just doom in the world of despair. Fearful as that doctrine is, and terrible as is the idea of the everlasting suffering of any of the creatures of God, yet the final overthrow of the wicked is necessary to the triumph of truth and holiness, and there is consolation in the knowledge that the true religion will ultimately triumph.

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” This phrase “**from now on**” has given much perplexity to prophecy experts, and it has been variously interpreted. Most have connected it with the word “blessed” – “*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.*” The phrase “*from now on*” literally means from 95 AD onwards.

This passage gives proof that the tribulation has existed since the time of the Apostles. If the tribulation was only for 3 ½ years, and only for those believers living just before the return of Christ, the wording would have been much different. It would have read more like: “*Blessed are those that die in the future great tribulation, in the last 3 ½ years before Christ returns.*” But it does not say that because the tribulation has existed since the time of the Apostles. This is why John writes: *Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”*

This phrase of “*who die in the Lord*” is applicable to any persons that die from 95 AD onward united to Christ by a true and lively faith; all such die in the Lord. But if we consider the Revelation usage of it, it seems to particularly signify martyrs as they die for the Lord.

“Yes,” says the Spirit, “*they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.*” The first part explains a part of the “blessed” of the previous passage; in this their rest is part of their blessing. The last clause, “*for their deeds will follow them*”, explains why the blessedness consists in rest; they have no need of labors, for the effects of their former works accompany them and permit them now complete rest. In Revelation 14:11 we see the opposite fate of the wicked, those that follow Satan and Baal. They never get to rest. There will no rest day or night for those that pray to the Kaaba.

Revelation 14:11 (NIV)

And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

Revelation 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

Revelation 14:15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”

Revelation 14:14-16 describes the rapture, the harvest of the believers before the wrath of God is released. The angel acts as the messenger of the will of God to Christ in his capacity of Son of man because the command is one concerning the times and seasons which the Father hath kept in his own power. *“Seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head.”* The term “son of man” was first used in Daniel 7:13-14.

Daniel 7:13-14 (NIV)

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

The first harvest refers to the selection by Christ of the faithful at the end of the world. The second (Revelation 14:17-20) describes the ingathering of the wicked for punishment in the winepress immediately afterward. The first gathering being presided over by the Son of man, while an angel conducts the second. The two harvests follow in rapid order with no interlude between them.



Revelation 14:16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

The punishment in connection with the Revelation 14:17-20 distinguishes it from this first harvest, which is the rapture of believers. The announcements of the angels first preaching the everlasting Gospel and then afterward denounce those who serve the beast, Baal. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 and Luke in Luke 17:34-36 tells us the first harvest (the rapture) will be sudden, loud, and seen by all. The Bible says the rapture is not a secret.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 (NIV)

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Luke 17:34-36 (NIV)

I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."



So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Revelation 14:16 (NIV)

UNDERSTANDING THE PAROUSIA OF CHRIST

The second harvest immediately follows the first. The wrath of God immediately follows the rapture of Christians. The Parousia is a theological concept that comes from the Greek word Parousia, meaning “official coming” or “presence.” In the study of Bible prophecy, the term Parousia is used in reference to the Coming of Jesus Christ. Paul uses the same word “Parousia” for both the rapture and second coming of Christ. The Parousia is sudden and will be seen by all. There is no “secret” rapture in the Bible.

PAROUSIA VERSES

The rapture and Second Coming are simultaneous events--the "Parousia." (2 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 16:17; 2 Corinthians 7:6,7; Philippians 1:26, 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1,8; James 5:7,8; 2 Peter 1:16; 3:4,12; 1 John 2:28)

The return of Christ is called “His Parousia” by Matthew and Mark in Matthew 24:3 and in Mark 13:3. Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:23, James in James 5:7-11, Peter in 2 Peter 3:4 and John in 1 John 2:28-29 all call the return of Christ a Parousia. The Parousia of Christ will be seen and heard universally according to both Matthew and Paul

Matthew 24:27 (NIV)

“For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord is associated with the parousia of Christ.

Matthew 24:29 (NIV)

“Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.””

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NIV)

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

Revelation 14:17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

Revelation 14:18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”

Revelation 14:19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.

Revelation 14:20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

In Revelation 14:17-20, the wrath of God is poured out right after the rapture—the first harvest of the earth. *“Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”* The seven bowls of wrath in Revelation chapter 16 are now poured out on the non-believers left on the earth. Those that follow Mohammad read the Qur’an, say the Shahada, and pray to Baal in the Kaaba. *“Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar.”* Both in Revelation 6:9 and Revelation 8:3, the altar is connected with judgment. The angel here described is he who is referred to in those places; the fire is the fire of the altar, the fire of judgment. The “sickle” and the “winepress” are both from Joel 3:12-13.

Joel 3:12-13 (NIV)

“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow—so great is their wickedness!”

**The angel swung his sickle
on the earth, gathered its
grapes and threw them into
the great winepress of
God’s wrath.**

Revelation 14:19 (NIV)



**WHERE IS “THE CITY?” IS IT JERUSALEM OR THE WICKED GREAT CITY OF MECCA?
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF 1,600 STADIA DISTANCE?**

“They were trampled in the winepress outside the city.” John describes God’s wrath (Revelation chapter 16, the seven bowls) as occurring outside of the city. Is this city Jerusalem or the wicked great city of the harlot described in Revelation chapters 17-19? Since it involves punishment of those following the beast in the Kaaba, this is most likely the wicked great city of Mecca in Babylon. Mecca is represented as the abode of the wicked demons; *“She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit”* (Revelation 18:2). The wine-press was usually in the vineyard - not in the city - and this is the representation here. As appearing in the vision of John, it was not within the walls of the city, but standing outside of the city.



IN 622 MOHAMMAD TRAVELED FROM OUTSIDE MECCA TO MEDINA—1,600 STADIA

“And blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.” The distance of 1,600 stadia is slightly less than 200 miles. This is the distance from outside Mecca to Medina. It is the exact distance of Mohammad’s first Hajj to honor the beast Baal. This date, 622, marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar. Daniel 7:25; (*“try to change the set times and the laws.”*)

John also tells us the blood was as high *“as the horses’ bridles”*, or about six feet. But John does not tell us any more dimensions. We do not know how wide the lake of blood is. We only know distance and height. Thus we cannot calculate the volume of blood, or by inference, the number of people involved. Without the width, any calculation about volume is pure speculation. This is designed to represent a great slaughter, but why the 1,600 stadia distance is given is a mystery to most Bible prophecy experts. Perhaps John wants us to focus only on the distance--the 1,600 stadia.

MOHAMMAD'S 1,600 STADIA DEPARTURE JOURNEY OR "HIJRA"

The Hijra, meaning "departure" is the migration or journey of the false prophet Mohammad and his followers from Mecca to Yathrib, later renamed by him to Medina, in the year 622. In June 622, after being warned of a plot to assassinate him, Mohammad secretly left his home in Mecca to emigrate to Yathrib, 310 km (about 1,600 stadia) north of outside Mecca, along with his companion Abu Bakr. Abu Bakr is the rider on the red horse in Revelation 6:3-4. Yathrib was soon renamed to "Medina", meaning "the city of the prophet."

The Muslim year during which the Hijra occurred was designated the first year of the Islamic calendar by Umar in 638 or 17 AH (anno hegirae = "in the year of the Hijrah"). The Islamic calendar was invented by Umar, the rider on the black horse in Revelation 6:5-6. Umar also is given credit for inventing Islamic Shariah law, thus fulfilling Daniel 7:25. (*"try to change the set times and the laws."*) Umar started to build the al-Aqsa Mosque. The final seven is 7×360 , or 2,520 Old Testament years. The middle of the seven is 706, the year the al-Aqsa Mosque was finished on the wing of the Temple Mount. The three and one times, or the second half of the seven, ended in 1948.

Daniel 7:25 (NIV)

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.



**FROM OUTSIDE THE WICKED GREAT CITY OF MECCA TO MEDINA
THE DISTANCE MOHAMMAD TRAVELED WAS 1,600 STADIA**



REVELATION CHAPTER 15

SEVEN ANGELS WITH SEVEN PLAGUES

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 15

In Revelation chapter 15 John saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. John also saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name.

After this John saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.



REVELATION CHAPTER 15 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 15:1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God.

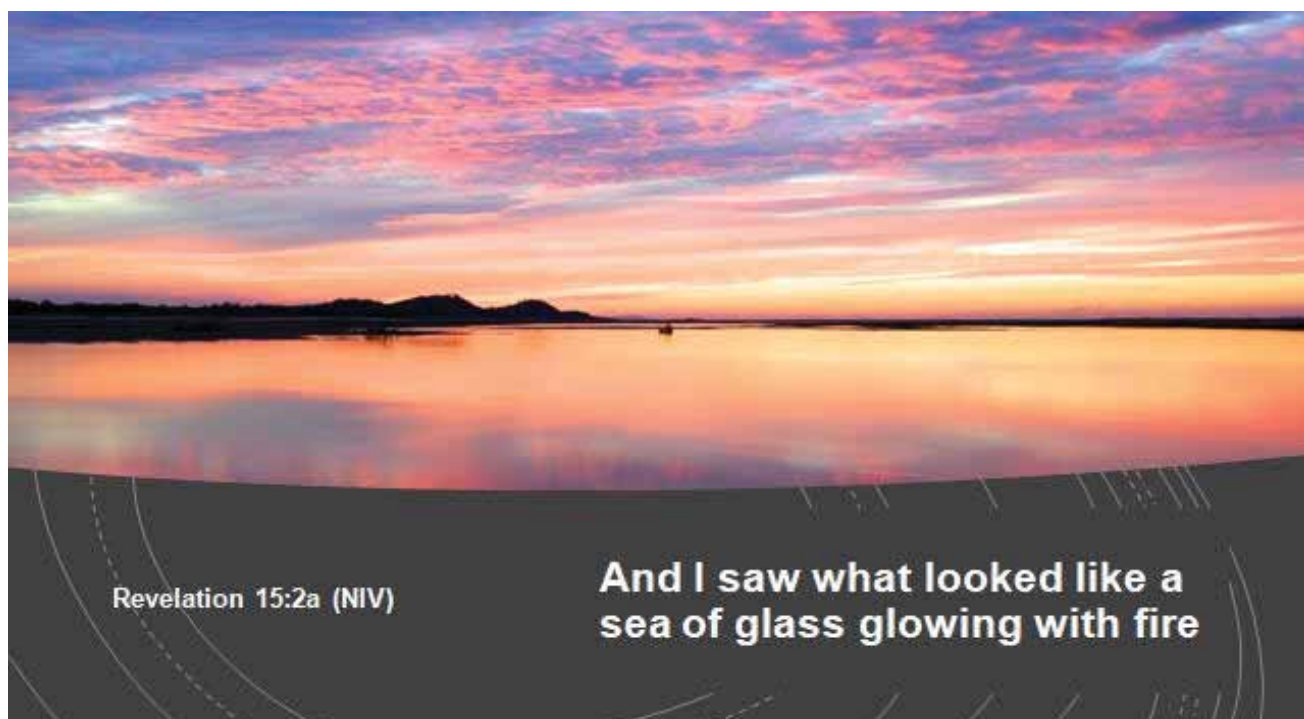
“I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.” John sees seven angels given a special status and task. These are the last plagues, poured out on all the non-believers left on earth after the rapture.

They are plagues, and this prophecy carries us back to Egypt. In the days of the pharaohs in Egypt, God gave the ten plagues, which showed His righteous power and exposed the false pretensions of the magicians and their gods. Now in Revelation, the beast Baal in the Kaaba and the false prophet Mohammad are brought to light and exposed.

“And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire.” In Revelation, the sea represents the spiritual world. There is no more rebellion in the spiritual world that John sees. The sea is glass smooth and glowing with the glory of God the Father and the Lamb. The spirits are in complete harmony with God. The war in heaven (Revelation 12) is over. Jesus won. This is the same sea of glass in Revelation 4:6. In front of God, there is no rebellion, and His will is done in heaven.

Revelation 4:6 (NIV)

Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.



Revelation 15:3-4 and sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

"And sang the song of God's servant Moses and of the Lamb." This song is probably the song of deliverance after the passage of the Red Sea in Exodus chapter 15.

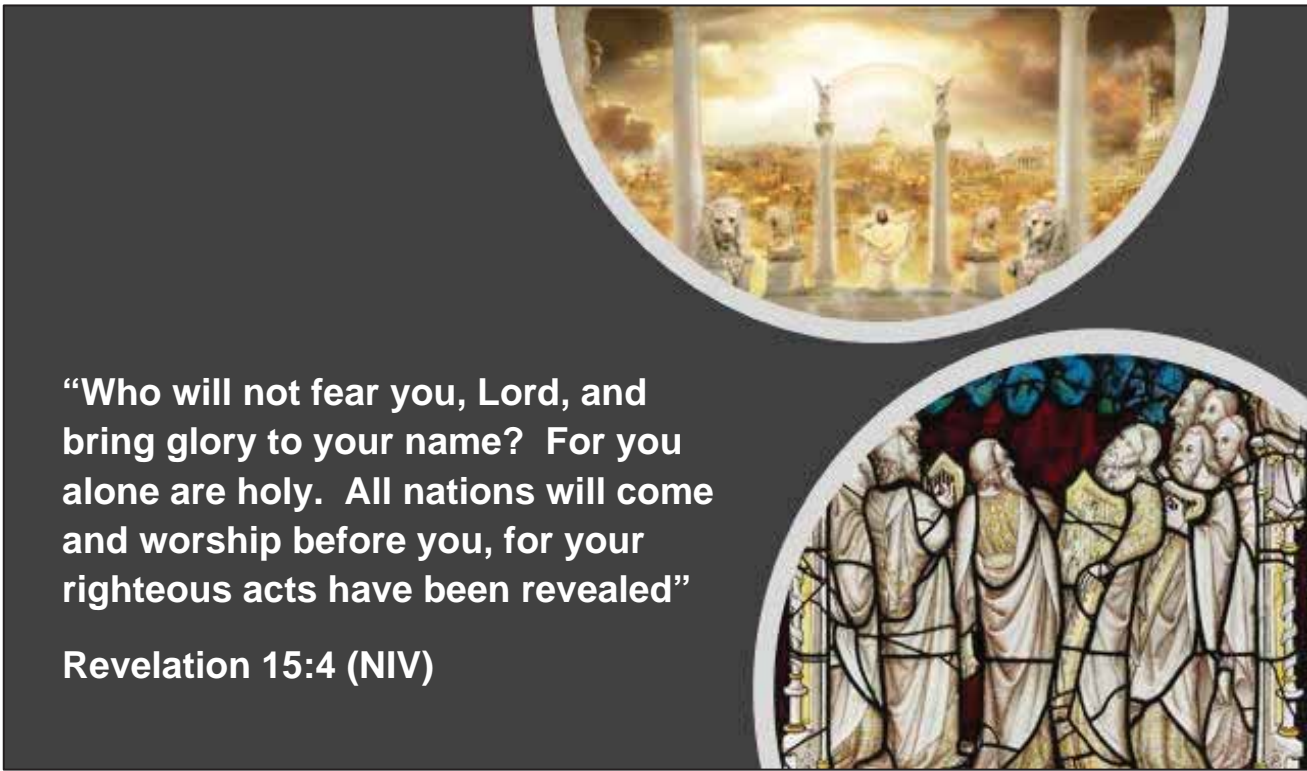
Exodus 15:1-2 (NIV)

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea. "The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

The Lamb of God, slain for the sins of men, a similar song is described in Revelation 5:9 the song of redeeming love, a song of praise for the blessings of grace which come through him, and of deliverance by Jesus. *"Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."* This is largely drawn from Jeremiah 10:6-7.

Jeremiah 10:6-7 (NIV)

No one is like you, Lord; you are great, and your name is mighty in power. Who should not fear you, King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise leaders of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.



"Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed"

Revelation 15:4 (NIV)

THE TEMPLE IN REVELATION CHAPTER 15

Revelation 15:5 After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened

The Book of Revelation uses the word “temple” 15 times. Jesus first uses the word temple while addressing the Philadelphia church in Revelation, chapter 3. The word temple appears in chapters 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 21. Some wonder if the word “temple” refers to a future earthly rebuilt third physical temple in Jerusalem or the heavenly temple in the spiritual realm? The meaning of the word temple in the Book of Revelation is always in the spiritual realm.

The Greek word “nao” and derivatives are distinguished from the Greek “hieron,” meaning a non-holy (non-God dwelling) temple. The Greek word for the physical temple structure is hieron. The Greek word for the spiritual temple is nao. The Greek word “nao” for temple can mean the physical building in Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of holies. Otherwise it means the sanctuary of God in the spiritual, third heavenly realm. The best way to understand “nao” is to visualize an area where the true God dwells—the third heaven.

The translation to English of the Greek word for “temple” can be confusing. The term employed in the original (“nao”) does not mean the physical building structure (“hieron”), but only the God dwelling “Holy of holies,” which was separated from every other part of the sacred structure by the second veil.

The Greek word in Revelation 15:5 is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:6 is “naou”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8a is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8b is “naon”

In Revelation 15:5, this spiritual temple is called the temple of the tabernacle of the covenant law; the expression sounds cumbersome, but it is descriptive. Stephen (Acts 7:42-44) spoke of the “*tabernacle of the covenant law*” in the wilderness, which he also described Baal and Molek worship—the beast of Revelation and “Mystery Babylon” is Baal released from the Abyss and worshipped in the Kaaba today. The tabernacle was well called the tabernacle of covenant law, for it contained the ark of the testimony with the Law of God, and was a perpetual witness of God’s presence among His people.

Acts 7:42-43 (NIV)

“But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: ‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’”

Acts 7:44 (NIV)

“Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.”

Revelation 15:6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

Revelation 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

“Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues.” The spiritual heavenly temple is the inner shrine, or sanctuary; it was this which was measured in Revelation 11:1, and it was also out of this that the angel with the sharp sickle came for the harvest of the earth in Revelation 14:17-18.

Revelation 14:17-18 (NIV)

Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.”

Now out of this come the seven angels with the seven plagues. These angels are different from others because they have a special status. They handle the seven plagues.

“They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.” They were wearing emblem of holiness, the common representation in regard to the heavenly inhabitants. This is an image similar to how Jesus appeared in the transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-3. The golden sashes meaning is they were attired in a manner befitting their rank and condition.

Matthew 17:1-3 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

“Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.” The Bible does not tell us which one of the four living creatures. It would appear John is telling us that the great principles (and Mystery) of God’s divine government would be illustrated in the bowl events which are now to occur. The four living creatures are closely associated with God and are often in His presence.

Ezekiel also had a vision of the four living creatures that John saw. The entire Ezekiel chapter 1 is devoted to describing the magnificent images of the four living creatures surrounding God.

Ezekiel 1:10 (NIV)

Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle.

Revelation 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

“And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power.” In Revelation, smoke refers to prayers or pleadings of human souls to God. Here the spiritual temple in heaven is full of smoke--the prayers of the saints that have been heard by God. This is completely different from the *“smoke of their torment”* in Revelation 14:11. The prayers of those tormented in the lake of fire will go on forever, but God will not hear them.

Revelation 14:11-12 (NIV)

“And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

“And no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.” The description shows us the phenomenal sacredness of God's presence. No one that follows Mohammad, believes the Qur'an, recites the Shahada or prays to Baal in the Kaaba will be able to enter God's temple in heaven. Warnings now cease as plagues fall on those deceived; they mocked Jesus as “just a messenger” or said: “Jesus is the slave of Allah.” Moses could enter into the tabernacle, nor the priests into the temple when the glory of the Lord filled those sacred places. Until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled there will be no entering into the temple. No one can fully understand them, which is meant by going into the sanctuary of God. The mystery of God prevails until God reveals the meaning.



And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Revelation 15:8 (NIV)



REVELATION CHAPTER 16

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 16

Revelation 16 tells of the seven bowls of God's Wrath on the Day of the Lord. The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

An angel said: "You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"



Seals, Trumpets and Bowls of Revelation

REVELATION CHAPTER 16 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY


Revelation 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels,” In the judgment that God executes upon Satan, Baal, and their followers, He fulfills the prophecies and promises of His word. The Mystery of God and all things now prepared, the angels next receive their instructions by one of the four living creatures mentioned in Revelation 15:7, dwelling in the temple, to deliver the seven bowls filled with the wrath of God.

Revelation 15:7 (NIV)

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

“Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.” The seven bowls of wrath are poured out on the Day of the Lord. This has been foretold by many prophets.



**The sun will be turned
to darkness and the
moon to blood before
the coming of the great
and dreadful day of the
LORD.**

Joel 2:31 (NIV)

Zephaniah 3:8 (NIV)

“Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger.”

FIRST TRUMPET AND FIRST BOWL OF WRATH ONE THIRD OF SOULS ON EARTH DAMAGED BY ISLAM

Rev 16:2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

The first bowl matches to the first trumpet in Revelation 8:7.

Revelation 8:7 (NIV)

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The first trumpet explains one-third of the human souls taken and destroyed by Islam with the false gospel of the Qur'an. Since the seals and trumpets occur during the tribulation since the time of Mohammad, only one-third of the earth was "burned up" and taken by Islam, since both believers and other non-Islamic false religions (Hindu, atheists, Buddhists, etc.) are also in the world. With the first bowl, all will have the sores, because believers are not subject to the wrath of God.

In the first trumpet, hail and fire mixed with blood were hurled down on the earth. In Revelation, hail represents angels. In the first trumpet, the hail is symbolic of Satanic angels thrown out of heaven down to earth. In the first bowl, all people left on earth after the rapture receive the festering sores on their souls. The false gospel of the Qur'an does not save anyone. The Qur'an denies Jesus is the Son of God. The Qur'an denies that Jesus was crucified. The physical skin of the non-believers that pray to the Kaaba will also have festering sores as well, but the soul is most important.

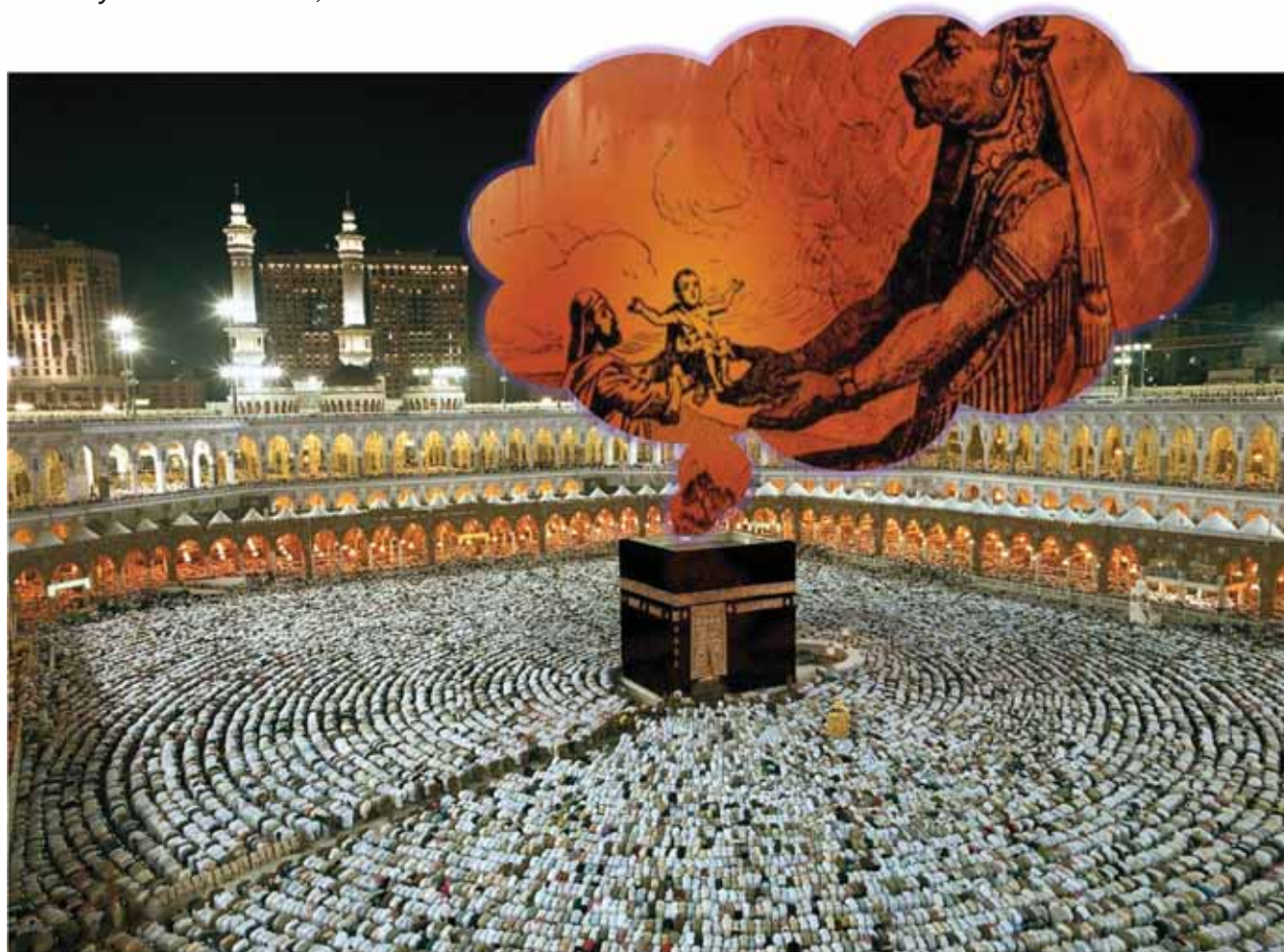


The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.
Revelation 16:2 (NIV)

SECOND TRUMPET AND SECOND BOWL OF WRATH THE “SEA”, THE SPIRITUAL WORLD, DAMAGED BY SATAN AND BAAL

Revelation 16:3 The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

The second trumpet (Revelation 8:8-9) and second bowl deal with the “sea.” In Revelation, the “sea” is the spiritual world. In the second trumpet, a huge mountain (Baal, the beast sent down to Sheol) is sent into the sea. A mountain is used in the Old Testament to symbolize Babylon and Baal. The prophet Jeremiah (51:25) says to Babylon; *“I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord.*”



THE BEAST IS BAAL DWELLING IN THE KAABA

Babylon is like a burned-out mountain thrown down. With the second trumpet, one-third of the sea “dies” from one-third of angels following the dragon Satan and the beast Baal.

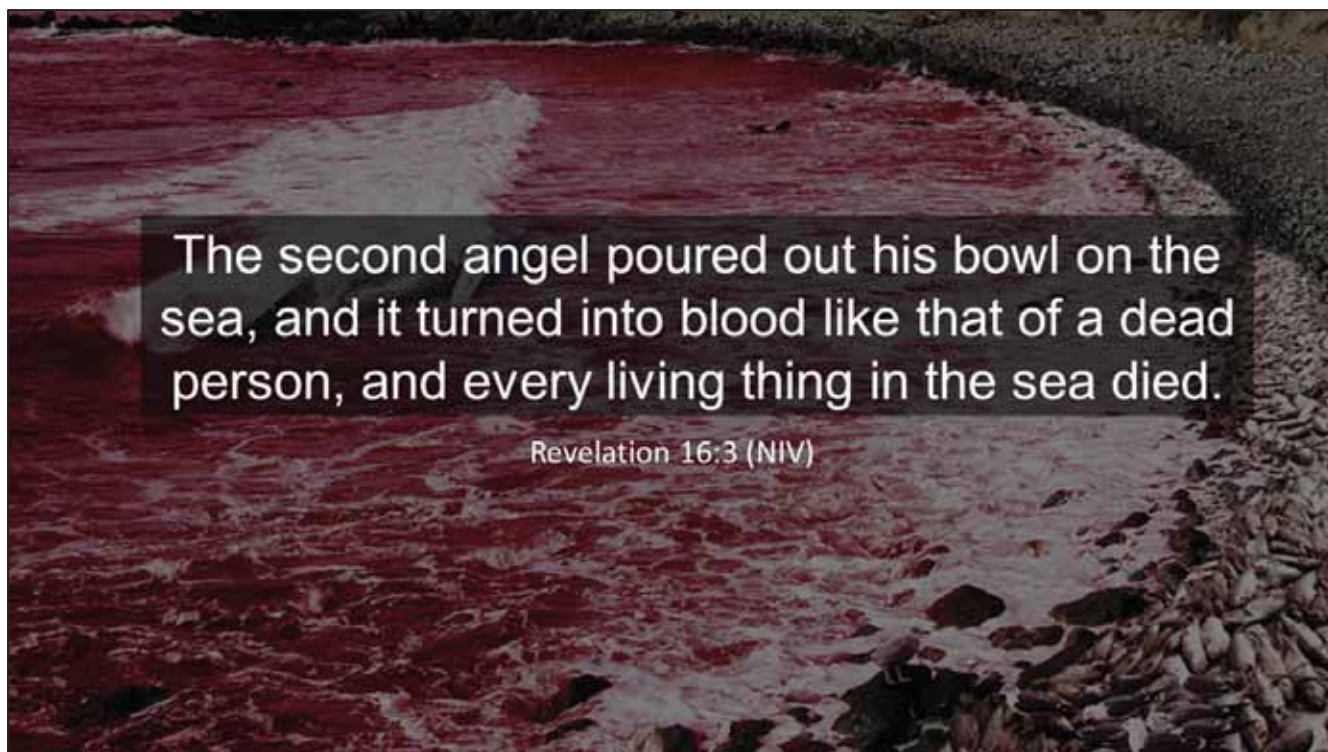
In the second bowl, all of the sea “dies” as God withdraws all angels loyal to Him back to heaven, and the only demonic fallen angels remain in the “sea” are loyal to the dragon and the beast.

God withdraws His Spirit and angels, leaving the “sea” controlled by the dragon and beast. All of the sea “dies.” The sea dies spiritually—which is the worst form of death. Recall that the trumpets point to the spiritual damage done to human hearts by the presence and preaching of false doctrine—the Qur’an.

Nonbelievers holding to Qur’an false teachings results in the further darkening of minds and obscuring of God’s truth, his law, and Gospel. Satan and his allies work tirelessly to darken the counsel of God, depriving humanity of the one thing needful. Finally, God, in judgment, allows people to have more and more of what they show they want—something other than the true Gospel.

Revelation 8:8-9 (NIV)

The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.



Job 34:14-16 (NIV)

If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, all humanity would perish together and mankind would return to the dust. “If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I say.”

The Holy Spirit is given to those in the body of Christ and to all who are willing to accept his influence. On the day of the Lord, after giving ample warning, instruction, and invitation, God will, as a just judgment on the unbelieving and the impenitent, withdraw his Spirit and let them alone. Thus everything in the sea will die, as well as all non-believer’s souls.

THIRD TRUMPET AND THIRD BOWL OF WRATH SATAN POISONS THE “LIVING WATER” FROM JESUS WITH THE FALSE GOSPEL OF THE QUR’AN

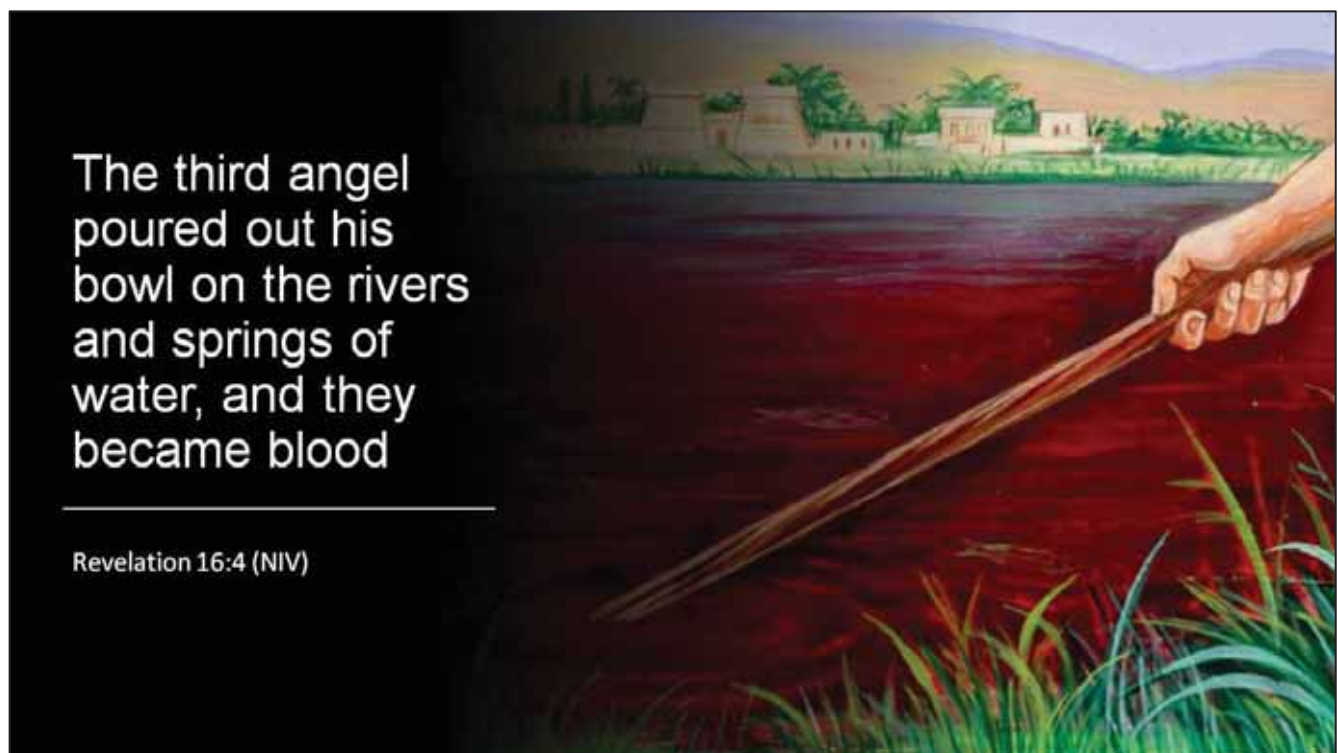
Revelation 16:4 The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Revelation 16:5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were;

Revelation 16:6 for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

Revelation 16:7 And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

The third trumpet and bowl explain Satan hurled to earth (a great star falling into the rivers of springs of fresh water) and his false gospel--the Qur'an given to Mohammad. In the third trumpet, Islam kills one-third of souls with the “bitter wormwood” of the false Qur'an. The bitter false doctrine is lies about Jesus only being a messenger, not God, and not crucified. In the third bowl, all are lost to the false gospel; none who follow the Qur'an will be saved. In the Day of the Lord, during the third bowl, all believers have been removed from the earth, so only Satan's false gospel is seen.



SATAN TAKES AWAY THE LIVING WATER GOSPEL OF JESUS WITH A FALSE STORY

JESUS GIVES LIVING WATER OF TRUTH

The prophet Zechariah spoke of living waters from Jerusalem after the Day of the Lord (Zechariah 14:6-9).

Zechariah 14:6-9 (NIV)

On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Ezekiel had the fullest vision when he beheld the stream which deepened and broadened in its onward progress from under the threshold of the house of God, and carried life in its train: everything lived where the water traveled (Ezekiel 47:1-6).

Ezekiel 47:1-6 (NIV)

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

In Revelation 22, we see in the new heavenly Jerusalem the complete fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy of flowing water of salvation written about in Joel, Zechariah, and Ezekiel. The Prophet Joel saw a fountain out of the house of the Lord (Joel 3:17-18).

Joel 3:17-18 (NIV)

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.

Only those with their name in the Book of Life from the Lamb of God will drink of this heavenly water.

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

THE QUR'AN IS THE BITTER WORMWOOD WARNING IN REVELATION

Revelation 8:10-11 (NIV)

The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

The Qur'an was revealed by a demonic spirit to Mohammad and gave him a false doctrine about Jesus. During the time period prior to the day of the Lord, Islam killed one-third of all souls with the bitter wormwood of the Qur'an. On the day of the Lord, no one will be saved as all believers have been removed from the earth.

EXAMPLES OF THE “BITTER WORMWOOD” OF THE QUR'AN

1. **Allah falsely claims to offer “infinite grace.”** The only grace is from Jesus. Qur'an 62:4; Such is Allah's grace that He bestows upon whomever He wills. Allah is Possessor of Infinite Grace.

2. **Allah requires congregational worship on Friday afternoon—at the time Jesus died for our sins.** Qur'an 62:9; O you who believe, when the Congregational Prayer (Salat Al-Jumu'ah) is announced on Friday, you shall hasten to the commemoration of Allah, and drop all business. This is better for you, if you only knew.

3. **Allah says Jesus was not crucified.** Qur'an 4:157; And for their saying, 'Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah.' And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.

4. **Allah (Satan and Baal, the “we”) sends everyone to hell.** Qur'an 19:70-71; And then We shall know well all those most worthy to be cast in Hell. There is not one of you but shall pass by Hell. This is a decree which your Lord will fulfill.

5. **Allah offers no Son.** Qur'an 10:67; They have said, "Allah has taken a son." Exalted is He; He is the one Free of need. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. You have no authority for this claim. Do you say about Allah that which you do not know?

6. **Allah offers no helpers.** Qur'an 3:56; And as for those who disbelieved, I will punish them with a severe punishment in this world and the Hereafter, and they will have no helpers."

7. **Allah says Jesus is not God.** Quran 4:171; O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one God: Glory be to Him: far exalted is He above having a son.

FOURTH TRUMPET AND FOURTH BOWL OF WRATH

ONE THIRD OF ANGELS DECEIVED BY SATAN; THE REST ARE FAITHFUL TO GOD

Revelation 16:8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire.

Revelation 16:9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.



**The fourth angel poured out his bowl
on the sun, and the sun was allowed to
scorch people with fire.**

Revelation 16:4 (NIV)

Revelation 8:12-13 (NIV)

The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

In the fourth trumpet in the spiritual world, Satan took one third of the angels with him. Their lights went dark. On earth the false doctrine of the Qur'an took one third of souls with the bitter wormwood deceit.

In the fourth bowl, all souls left on earth are scorched from the heat accompanying Jesus as He returns to earth. Their souls were seared by the intense heat as they prayed to the false god Allah of the Qur'an. While this is primarily a spiritual war, there is a physical human component as well.

GOD PROMISES TO MOVE THE EARTH ON THE DAY OF THE LORD DOES THIS ALLOW THE SUN TO SCORCH HUMANS IN THE FOURTH BOWL?

The fourth and fifth bowls can be literally fulfilled if the earth moves close to the sun and then far from the sun. Jesus tells us (Matthew 24:29-30 NIV) the sun will be dark, the moon will not give its light, heavenly bodies will be shaken, and stars will fall to earth on that day when he returns.

Matthew 24:29-30 NIV

“Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven.”

GOD PROMISES TO VIOLENTLY MOVE THE EARTH, AND ONCE AGAIN TO SHAKE THE HEAVENS

The prophets Isaiah, Haggai, and Job all say the on the Day of the Lord the earth will be moved and the heavens will change.

Isaiah 13:9-13 (ESV)

Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light.

I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the Lord of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.

Haggai 2:6-8 (NIV)

“This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty.

Job 9:6-8 (ESV)

He shakes the earth from its place and makes its pillars tremble. He speaks to the sun and it does not shine; he seals off the light of the stars. He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

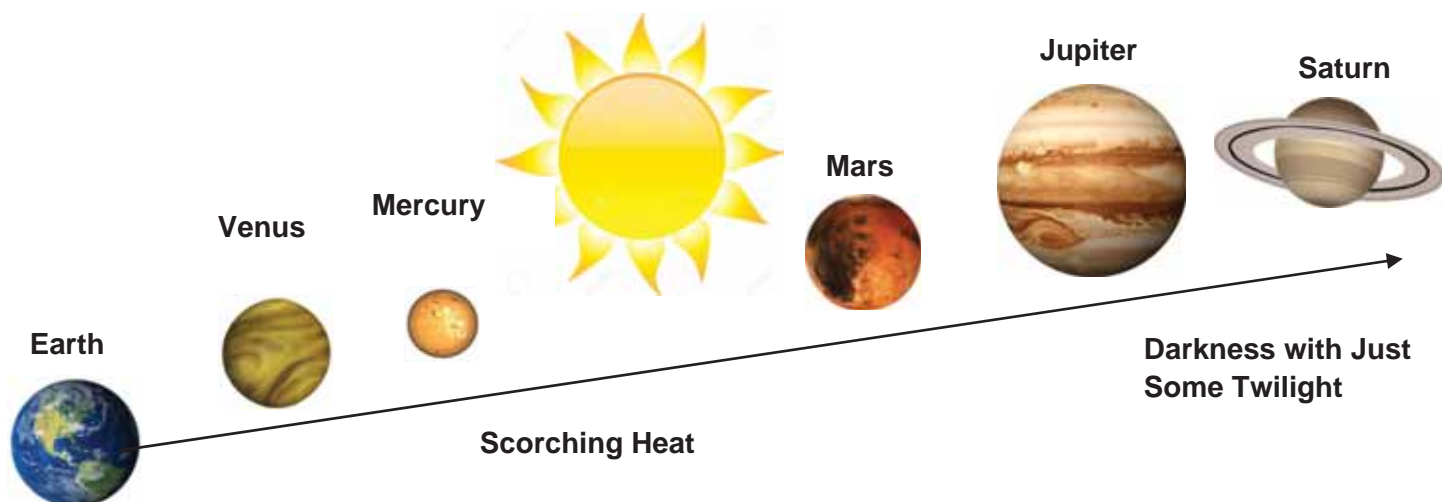
Isaiah 24:19-23 (NIV)

The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is violently shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls—never to rise again.

THE SUN WILL SEAR WITH INTENSE HEAT, AND THEN DARKNESS OVER THE EARTH

The prophecies literally say that the earth will move. Knowing this, we can see in Revelation 16:8-11 the earth will first approach closer to the sun as nonbelievers are seared by its intense heat, and then move away from the sun into deep space as the nonbelievers are plunged into darkness.

The earth will first move closer to Venus and Mercury towards the sun and then away from the sun towards the other side of the solar system to draw Mars, Jupiter and Saturn into the earth's huge gravitational field. This would exactly fulfill the twin prophecies of Revelation 16:8-11, and in the correct order.



THE SUN AND MOON WILL NOT GIVE THEIR LIGHT

The Bible tells us on this unique day the sun and moon will not give their light. (Joel 2:31, Matthew 24:29, Isaiah 24:23, Mark 13:24, Isaiah 13:10, Joel 2:10, Ezekiel 32:7-8, Luke 21:25, Zechariah 14:6) The earth's gravitational field would easily pull the moon into the earth, or the earth will just speed away from the moon--first inward towards the sun and then outward away from the sun.

In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.

The moon will be dismayed, the sun ashamed; for the Lord Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders—with great glory.

Venus is always brighter than any star. It is at its brightest when the Venus distance from earth is the smallest. The planet can be easy to see when the sun is low on the horizon, it always lies about 47° from the sun. The planet orbits faster than the earth, so overtakes it every 584 days. When this happens Venus is more easily seen in the morning, just after sunrise. That is why Venus is called the bright morning star.

HOW FAST WOULD THE EARTH NEED TO TRAVEL? CAN ONE DAY EQUAL 1,000 YEARS?

We can use the equations of Albert Einstein to solve for a precise calculation of space and time. We can calculate the exact speed required for 1,000 year to equal 1 day. Albert Einstein's special relativity, a way of relating the motion of objects in the universe, led scientists to re-evaluate their assumptions about things as fundamental as time and space. And it led to important revelations about the relationship between energy and matter.

Time is not absolute, for example. A moving clock ticks more slowly than a stationary one. Travel exactly at the speed of light and, theoretically, the clock would stop altogether. Travel very close to the speed of light and 1,000 years is the same as 1 day!!!

When God moves or shakes the earth from its foundation (meaning out of its orbit fixed around the sun since the time of creation), and if God then moves the earth past the sun and sets the velocity at 0.999999999962519 times the speed of light, exactly 1,000 years will pass for those stationary believers in heaven with Christ, exactly 1,000 years will pass for Satan in his stationary abyss prison, and yet exactly only one 24 hour day will pass on the fast moving earth. In addition, at this speed the earth would have near infinite mass and a near infinite gravitational field. It would pull all objects along its path--including planetary stars--into itself and yet suffer little damage.

Since the earth is moving at near the speed of light for 1,000 years, the earth will travel about 1,000 light years from its original reference point during the day on earth.

The average distance from earth to Venus is about 70 million miles. At the new speed it would take earth about 6 minutes to reach Venus. Mercury is about 31 million miles from Venus. It would take earth another 3 minutes to reach Mercury. When the earth is briefly near Mercury and Venus the temperature on earth would be very hot for those minutes, thus causing the searing heat of Revelation 16:8-11. Then the earth would be plunged in darkness as it sped away from the sun moving to the other side of the solar system.

The distance from Mercury to Mars is about 105 million miles. It would take 9 minutes to reach Mars. Next from Mars the earth would fly past Jupiter. The distance from Mars to Jupiter is 342 million miles. This travel would take 29 minutes. Finally, as the earth flew past Saturn the distance from Jupiter to Saturn is another 401 million miles. This part of the trip would take 33 minutes. Thus in 80 minutes, the earth would move about 950 million miles. In little over an hour on this unique day the moon would not give its light, the sun would not give its light and the stars would fall to earth. By the time the earth was at Saturn, the amount of sunlight would be 1% of that at normal earth orbit, so the earth would be plunged in darkness, with just a bit of twilight. Just as the Bible says.

The amount of energy required to move the earth this fast on this trip is near infinity---meaning almost as much as that which exists in the full universe. It would be like a second creation by the hand of God. This would be a miracle, but consistent with God's promise; "In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land." (Haggai 2:6-8 NIV)

FIFTH TRUMPET AND FIFTH BOWL OF WRATH THE DEMONIC ANGELS RELEASED FROM THE ABYSS, BAAL AND MECCA

Revelation 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony

Revelation 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

The fifth trumpet and bowl deal with demonic spirits released from the Abyss with Baal the beast and inhabit the great city of Mecca. In the fifth trumpet, millions upon millions of demons are freed from the Abyss along with Baal. When Baal is released from the Abyss, this is the “fatal wound that was healed” of Revelation 13:3. In the fifth bowl, the entire kingdom and throne of Baal in Mecca and the Kaaba is turned dark on the Day of the Lord as their punishment begins.

Revelation 9:1-6 (NIV)

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Entombed with the beast in Sheol were hundreds of millions of demons. Now they are all free. They darken the skies with their lies and power. Yet if you believe in Jesus, they cannot hurt you spiritually, regardless of what the Islamic troops did to humans. Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 6 that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but rather “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

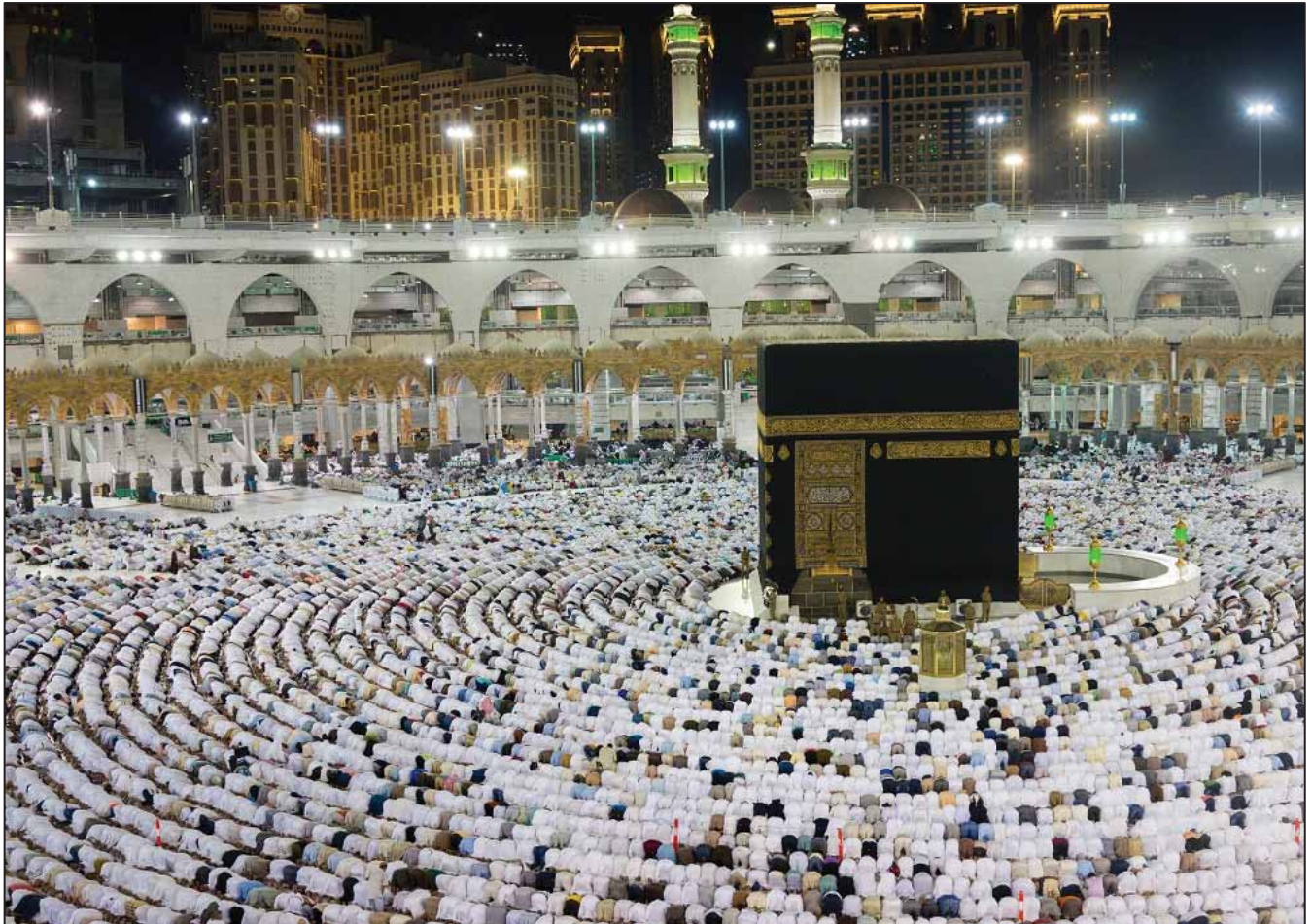
Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

John tells us in Revelation chapter 17 that the beast will come from the “Abyss” meaning the spiritual realm. Since the beast is also described as coming out of the sea in Revelation chapter 13, this means the “sea” in Revelation must mean the spiritual realm and not the visible earthly human population. The dragon is Satan and is controlling or closely connected to the beast. Satan gives *“his power and his throne and great authority”* to the beast.

Revelation 13:1-3 (NIV)

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.



IN THE FIFTH BOWL THE THRONE OF BAAL WILL BE PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS

In the fifth bowl the non-believing humans left on earth will not recognize the true God. In vain, they will pray to Allah (the dragon) and direct their prayers to the Kaaba, where the beast Baal dwells. They will be plunged into two types of darkness. Their souls will be dark without the Holy Spirit and love of Jesus. As the earth moves away from the sun their physical throne in Mecca will be dark from lack of sunlight as well.

SIXTH TRUMPET AND SIXTH BOWL OF WRATH

DEMONS PREPARE FOR THE FINAL BATTLE ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

Revelation 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

Revelation 16:13 Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Revelation 16:14 They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 16:15 “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

Revelation 16:16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The sixth trumpet references the river Euphrates. The sixth trumpet and bowl deal with demonic spirits moving past the “Euphrates River” spiritual boundary as they get ready for the final battle with Jesus Christ. In the sixth trumpet, demonic spirits kill one-third of souls. In the sixth bowl, the Euphrates river spiritual boundary is “dried up” and wide open for demons to cross. Jesus signals that his return is imminent.

Revelation 9:13-21 (NIV)

The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

HOW DOES A DEMONIC SPIRIT COME OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD? THE WORDS OF THE QUR'AN ARE FROM THE FALSE PROPHET'S MOUTH

The false doctrine of the Qur'an was given to Mohammad by a demonic spirit calling himself "Gabriel" from 610 to 632 AD. Mohammad died in 632, so how does a demonic spirit come out of his mouth on the Day of the Lord?



Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Revelation 16:13 (NIV)

During the sixth bowl, the demonic kings will follow Satan and the beast, and will be controlled by their demons. Unaided by the influence of the Holy Spirit because they committed the unpardonable sin, they will join with the devil and attempt to destroy Jesus when He appears. This is a fact: The sinful nature would rather destroy God than surrender to His authority. They will quote the Qur'an.

THE QUR'AN MEANS TO "RECITE"

The word "recite" means repeat aloud from an open mouth a poem or passage from memory before an audience. The Qur'an is a word to be heard; in fact, the word Qur'an means "recitation." Islam believes the angel Gabriel commanded Mohammad to recite the words he was given. Before the written verses were collected into the book called the Qur'an, the passages were preserved in the memory of those that could recite the words that first came out of the false prophet's mouth.

Today, one can also learn and hear Qur'anic recitation online, from a variety of different sources. Youtube, in particular, has proven to be an extremely useful medium for transmitting the Qur'an, allowing listeners around the world to hear celebrated recitations by notable figures as the Egyptian singer, Abdel Halim Hafez, and sincere renderings by unnamed followers and students of the Qur'an. Since this is a false doctrine about Jesus, every recitation from the Qur'an is accompanied by a demonic spirit controlled by the dragon and beast.

WHERE IS ARMAGEDDON IN REVELATION 16:16? BAAL AND MOUNT CARMEL

"Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."

Armageddon is in the Jezreel Valley near Mt. Carmel and Megiddo. Once we understand that Baal is the beast we can see why the Bible says where Armageddon is located. Baal is coming back to his favorite place! Mount Carmel is on the southern side of the Valley of Jezreel. This is the place where Elijah challenged the Baal worshipers to a contest establishing the fact the "Lord, He is the God, the Lord, He is the God."

1 Kings 18:18-21 (NIV)

"I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the Lord's commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."



ELIJAH CALLS DOWN FIRE FROM HEAVEN AT MT. CARMEL—BAAL COULD NOT

1 Kings 18:38-39 (NIV)

Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

The text of Revelation 16:16 explicitly says that this word is Hebrew and thus must be read as "Har magedon" which is literally, "Mountain of Megiddo". As any map or geography of Israel shows, the town of Megiddo is on a plain in the Jezreel Valley but its closest mountain is Mount Carmel.



JEZREEL VALLEY LOOKING FROM NAZARETH RIDGE

The most probable allusion is to the incident in 1 Kings 18, where Elijah and Ahab created the great contest of the Gods, and the one who answered by fire was the true God. It was here that the people turned back to God, and the prophets of Baal were defeated. This is a good parallel to the material under the sixth bowl of Revelation. Since Baal is the beast, this makes perfect sense. Mount Megiddo refers to Mount Carmel, at the foot of which lay the Plain of Megiddo, which was well known to every Jew as a gathering place for hostile hosts and as the scene of many battles.



JEZREEL VALLEY LOOKING FROM MOUNT CARMEL--SATAN AND BAAL WILL RETURN

“IT IS DONE”; JESUS RETURNS AND JUDGMENT DAY BEGINS

Revelation 16:17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!”

Revelation 16:18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.

Revelation 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Revelation 16:20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

Revelation 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air.” Unlike the other bowls, the seventh is poured into the air. The seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the atmospheric heavens. Atmospheric heavens (“air”) are the abode of Satan and his demons, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:2.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

“The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.” The great city is Mecca. Mecca now received the punishments described in more detail in Revelation chapters 17-19. Mecca is destroyed in one hour. (Revelation 18:10)

“Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.” Literal fulfillment of Isaiah 24:19-23; (*The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is violently shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls—never to rise again.*)

“From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.” As God levels the earth large rocks will fly. In Revelation, hail represents angels. The most powerful angels are from God, so they weigh 100 pounds.

THE NATIONS (DEMONS) ARE ANGRY THAT THEIR TIME HAS COME

The seventh bowl is similar to the seventh trumpet. In the seventh trumpet we see that the spiritual world is angry that their judgment has come. The humans are angry—but so are the demons! When being cast out by Jesus in Matthew chapter 8, the demons wondered if their time had come.

Matthew 8:29 (NIV)

What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

Now the appointed time that the demons were asking Jesus about has come to fulfillment.

Revelation 11:15-19 (NIV)

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

"The nations were angry, and your wrath has come." In Revelation 11:18, the Greek word "ethne" was used and translated as "nations."

Likewise, in Revelation chapter 20 the Greek word used twice for "nations" is "**ethne**." But in Revelation chapter 22, (22:2b *"And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."*) the Greek word for "nations" is "**ethnon**." The clear meaning in Revelation 22 is for the healing of humans, really their souls. Since all unsaved humans are killed at the end of chapter 19, who does Satan deceive in chapter 20 when he is released from the Abyss after the thousand years? **In Revelation 20, and Revelation 11, does the word "nations" mean humans, insects, beasts or other detestable creatures (demons) in a vast multitude?**

"Ethne" and "ethnon" Greek words are derived from "ethnos", and this gives rise to the English word "ethnicity." But in Greek, the words related to "ethnos" can have multiple meanings. These are lost when simply translated to the English "nations", whereby "nations" means a collection of humans.

There is a much broader use of the Greek words "ethnos" and "ethne" than what is usually taught. It can mean much more than just groups of people or human populations with similar characteristics. Often in the Bible the words "ethnos" and "ethne" can have a derogatory and sinful meaning as well. "Ethne" can mean a host of men; also of animals, swarms, herds, flocks, beasts, demons or insects.

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

When the seven bowl judgments are released, no more believers are left on earth. The believing Christians have been raptured prior to the bowl judgments. The believers were in the tribulation under the seals and trumpets. The seals and trumpets show the impact of Islam on the world. Because the Christians have been raptured, all the bowl judgments are on 100% of the human population.

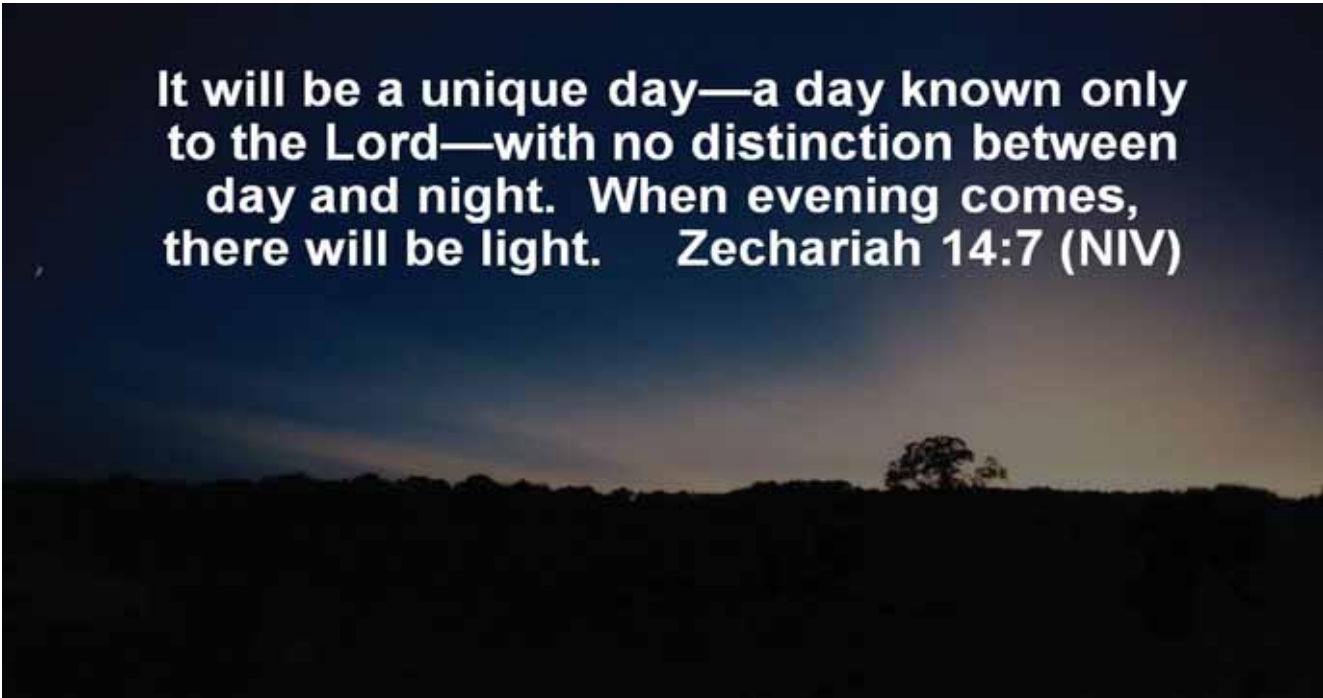
The “Day of the Lord” occurs after the rapture of believers. The phrase is used directly in the Old Testament some 25 times, and another 40-50 or so by indirect reference. The prominent theme of every *Day of the Lord* prophecy is God’s judgment of unbeliever’s sin. It is God’s day—not Satan’s day. God already knows this unique day. But it will not be a happy day for the unbelievers left on earth. Between the Old and New Testaments, the Day of the Lord is referred to directly or indirectly at least 70-80 times by many different authors. This event will be a complete surprise.

Amos 5:18-20 (NIV)

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

Zechariah 14:5-7 (NIV)

Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light.



It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. Zechariah 14:7 (NIV)

Matthew 24:29-30 (NIV)

Jesus said: “Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man.”

Luke 17: 26-35 (NIV)

Jesus said: “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left.”

PAUL INDICATES THE DAY OF THE LORD, RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS AND RAPTURE OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME

Jesus is returning soon. The Christians have endured the tribulation of the seals and trumpets since the Qur’an was revealed to Mohammad the false prophet. But believing Christians will not endure the wrath of God in the bowl judgments. Many events will occur on this special day the Bible calls “The Day of the Lord.” Most of the world is distracted today, but Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5; *“you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”* All must be prepared for the Day of the Lord. It will be sudden and unexpected.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

BELIEVING CHRISTIANS WILL NOT SEE THE WRATH OF GOD

The wrath of God is not the same as the tribulation. Jesus said we would all face tribulation (the seals and the trumpets), but not to worry as Jesus has overcome the world. The Bible also says Christians will not face the wrath of God (the bowl judgments).

John 16:33 (NASB)

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."



Many dispensational prophecy experts teach a rapture will occur before the tribulation, confusing the tribulation with the wrath of God. The "Pre-Tribulation Rapture" view is a source of comfort for many Christians who are nervous about what is taking place in the world. It's comforting to think about how all our troubles could end at any moment with the rapture.

Some of the most persuasive items that seem to favor the pre-tribulation rapture view are several verses that state that Christians are not appointed to "wrath." For instance, Paul, in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 states that Christians are not appointed to wrath:

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 (NIV)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

There are at least two other Bible verses which promise that Christians will not endure “wrath”.

Romans 5:8-11 (NIV)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NIV)

for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Many followers of the pre-tribulation rapture believe that the tribulation is same as God’s wrath on the wicked. Therefore, the rapture must take place before the tribulation since Christians are not subject to wrath. But this line of thinking is not Biblically correct.

Many people assume that the three passages listed above mean that Christians are not subject to any wrath. This is true. Christians are not subject to the wrath of God. However, few are aware that the Greek language distinguishes between different types of wrath mainly using the words “orge” and “thumos.”

The difference between the two terms is the nature of the wrath. Thumos represents a temporary surge of anger that will rise and quickly subside. Orge represents anger that lasts for a prolonged period. Thumos is the wrath that God will exhibit against the wicked as they refuse to respond to efforts encouraging them to repent. Orge is God’s longstanding wrath against the wicked, who He will punish with lasting consequences (i.e. eternity in the lake of fire).

The word orge appears in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, Romans 5:8-10, and 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, so orge is the type of wrath that Christians are not subject to. Therefore, Christians are not subject to God’s deliberate, longstanding wrath against the wicked.

The tribulation is not the orge wrath of God. Instead, the tribulation, (trials, trouble, persecution, or affliction) is “*thlipsis*” in Greek.

1 Thessalonians 3:3-4 (NIV)

so that no one would be unsettled by these trials [“*thlipsis*”]. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

This is also used in Mark 13:19; “*For in those days shall be affliction [thlipsis], such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*”

THE WRATH OF GOD IN THE BOWL JUDGMENTS

Revelation 15:1 indicates that the bowl judgments (or vial judgments) will finish or complete the wrath of God.

Revelation 15:1 (NIV)

I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.

This verse causes some to think the bowl judgments and, by default, the events that take place before them (seals are in the human realm and trumpets are in the spiritual realm) are part of the wrath of God that Christians will not see. However, the seal and trumpet prophecies have been fulfilled by the outbreak of Islam.

God will unleash orge wrath at the onset of the day of the Lord, a period most people view as synonymous with the wrath of God that Christians will not experience. The Apostle Paul wrote that Christians are not appointed to orge in a passage where he discussed the day of the Lord:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

WHEN DOES THE DAY OF THE LORD BEGIN? AFTER THE SIXTH SEAL

Joel tells us that the sun and the moon’s appearance will change just before the coming of the Day of the Lord. Revelation 6 adds that these signs will appear after the opening of the 6th seal. Also, Revelation 6 recognizes the coming of God’s “orge” wrath.

Joel 2:31 (NIV)

The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Revelation 6:16-17 (NIV)

They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath [orge] has come, and who can withstand it?”

None of these passages support the idea of a pre-tribulation rapture. There is a rapture, but it occurs after the tribulation of Christians. But the rapture does protect Christians from the day of the Lord. We can also conclude from this that the day of the Lord and the orge wrath of God will not begin until the 6th seal. Thus, there is not a Biblical promise to remove Christians from the tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, and Romans 5:8-10. The Bible does promise to spare Christians from the pouring of “orge” wrath at the onset of the day of the Lord.



REVELATION CHAPTER 17

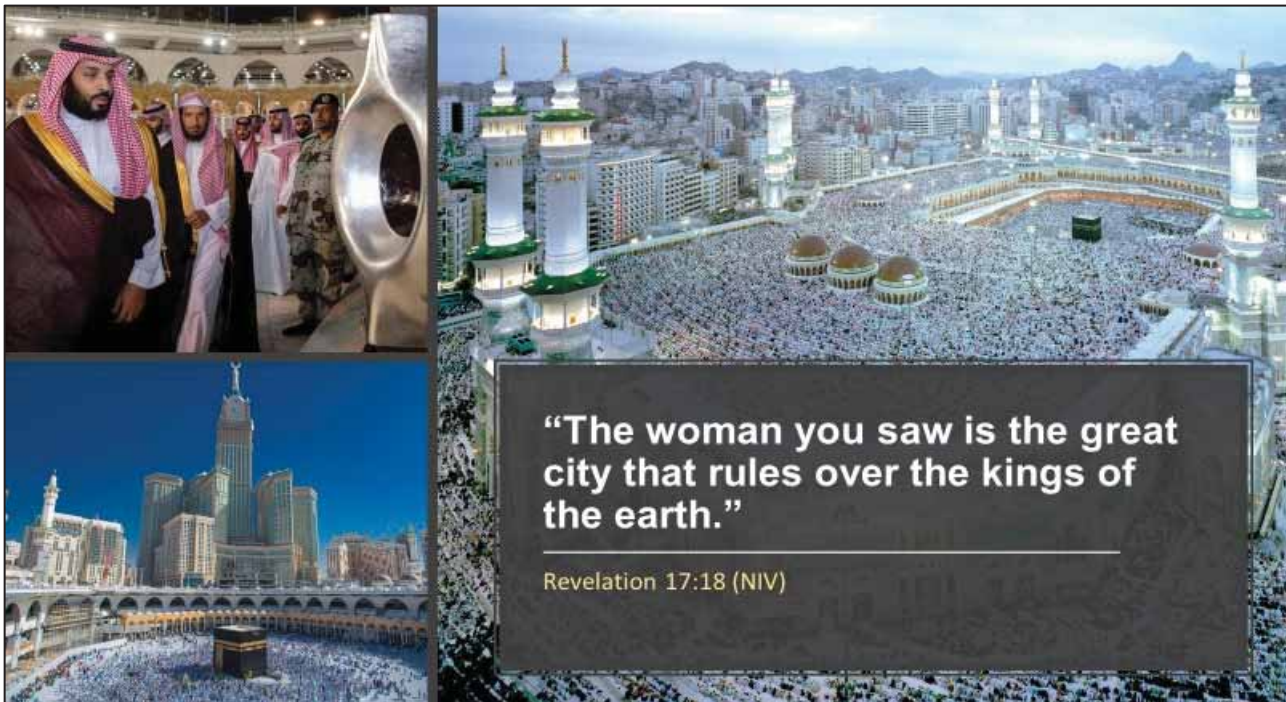
THE WICKED “GREAT CITY” OF REVELATION

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 17

In Revelation chapter 17, one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls said to John, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters.” The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

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

Then the angel carried John away in the Spirit into a desert wilderness. There John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. Revelation 17 says the seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. The woman John saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.



REVELATION CHAPTER 17 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters.”

About one-eighth of the entire book of Revelation, some 50 verses out of a total of 404, is devoted to the subject of God’s judgment upon “Babylon.” The worship of the false god paired spirits (the dragon and the beast, meaning Satan and Baal) gives way to severe punishment from the true God. Satan is the “Allah” of the Qur’an, and the beast is Baal from ancient original Babylon, now dwelling in the Kaaba after Baal was released from the Abyss. In Revelation chapter 16, the seven bowls of wrath are the judgment of God on the Day of the Lord. The wrath is poured out on every unsaved person left on the earth on that day. The “great prostitute,” Mecca, does not partake of the first six fearful bowls of wrath poured by God upon the beast worshippers but does participate in the seventh bowl.

Revelation 16:19 (NIV)

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.



PRAYER TO BAAL THE BEAST IN MECCA IN THE “GREAT CITY” OF REVELATION

A prostitute is usually associated with sexual immorality and adultery. But God is warning about vast spiritual immorality, infidelity, and adultery. The image of the “great prostitute” is a metaphor for vast spiritual infidelity consisting of prayer and worship by billions of people (“many waters”) deceived to worship demonic spirits (Satan and Baal) by the false prophet Mohammad, and not to God.

BAAL WORSHIP WAS WIDESPREAD IN ANCIENT CANAAN

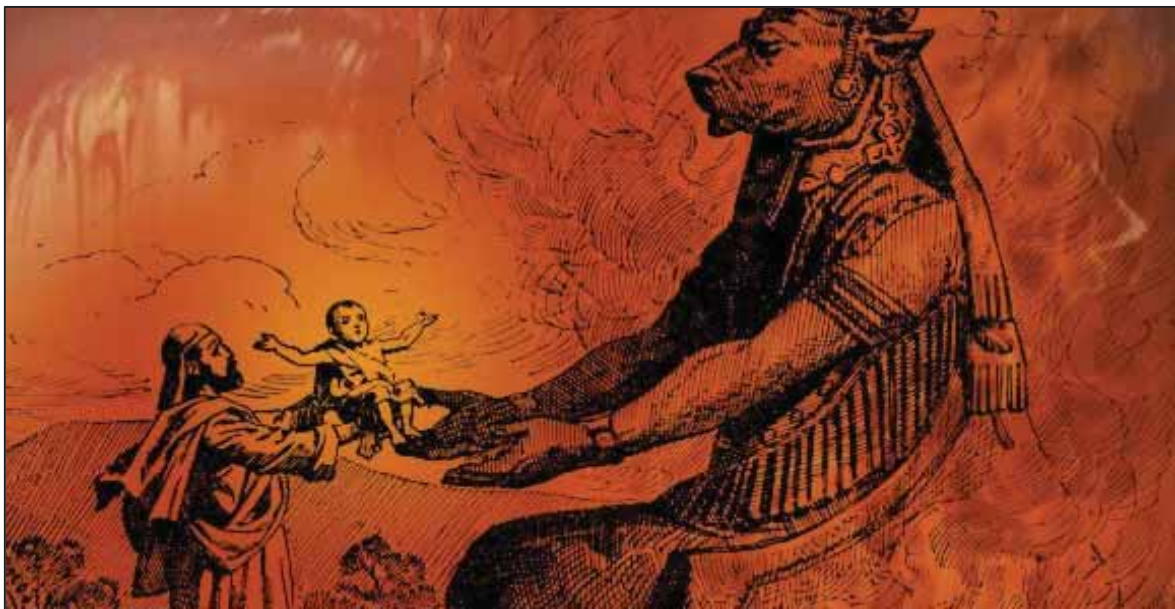
The true God is angry at Islamic prayer and worship to spirits that are not the true God. Idolatry is not new. Baal and Satan attempted to take worship from God since the beginning of creation. The Israelites adopted Baal worship very early in their history, and God severely punished them.

Numbers 25:1-5 (NIV)

While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them. The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord's fierce anger may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

Many ancient Middle Eastern communities worshipped Baal, especially among the Canaanites, who considered him a fertility deity and one of the most important gods in the pantheon. Widespread Baal worship is described in texts, other than the Bible, in a group of texts from Ugarit, in northern Syria. These are chiefly concerned with the emergence of Baal as the leader of the gods. Baal was the storm god, the bringer of rain, and thus fertility, to the land.

According to the Syrian texts, Baal defeated other lesser gods including the dragon of the sea (see Isaiah 27:1 *"In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword—his fierce, great and powerful sword—Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea."*). The Syrian texts say lesser spirits began to build a magnificent house for Baal so that he could be at rest and provide abundant rain for the earth. But Baal was challenged by "Mot," the Syrian god of death and the underworld. Mot temporarily triumphed, and Baal disappeared into the underworld. Baal was brought back to life and restored to his house.



ANCIENT ISRAELITES OFFERED CHILD SACRIFICES TO BAAL

Since the spirit claiming to be “Gabriel” appeared to the false prophet Mohammad over 22 years between 610 and 632 AD, billions of people have been deceived into thinking they are praying to God. But they are not. Satan is very cunning. Satan was never going to announce a human “antichrist.” Satan is the antichrist and has deceived many prophecy experts into looking in the wrong direction. Satan is far too clever to allow the prophecies to be easily understood, spotlight his actions, and thus avoided.

Revelation chapters 16,17,18 and 19 are all closely related. The angel who invites John to see the judgment of the great prostitute is “One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls.” This is one of the very angels in chapter 16. God’s judges the Islamic spiritual infidelity, meaning the worship and prayer to Satan and Baal, the dragon and beast. These sins and just punishments are told as a detailed description of the last bowl wrath judgments on the Day of the Lord that destroy Babylon the Great.

In chapter 16, John was shown the seven angels having the seven last plagues—the seven bowl judgments. John sees the seven bowls poured forth, including the last bowl wherein a voice from the temple declares, “It is done!” The effects of the previous chapter, at the pouring forth of all the bowls, including all aspects of God’s wrath poured out on the earth. Now, one of those angels shows John a detailed perspective which precedes the events he saw in the previous chapter.

Chapters 17-19 give additional information given to John concerning the destruction of Babylon and the final consummation of the wrath that John saw prophetically poured forth. Beginning with Revelation 17 and continuing through Revelation 20:3, John gives us additional detail concerning aspects of the bowl judgments and their recipients. This includes the destruction of Babylon, the beast and his armies, and the binding of Satan.

Revelation 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

The angel tells John the kings of the earth have committed adultery with the great prostitute and the inhabitants of the earth, the many waters, have become intoxicated or drunk with the wine of her adulteries. Many prophets of the Old Testament accused Israel of committing adultery when they worshipped Baal and served pagan idols. See Jeremiah chapter 2 (Jeremiah 2:23 *“How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals’? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done.”*).

Mecca rules over the kings of the Islamic world. All Islamic kings must be submissive and are obliged to travel to Mecca for the Hajj. In full submission, they must take off their fine clothes and appear as ordinary as every other person. The kings have no special privileges in Mecca. Mecca rules over them. As kings circle the Kaaba, they pray to the false god “Allah” and against Jesus, the Son of God.

“Here I am at Thy service O Allah, here I am.”

“Here I am at Thy service, and Thou hast no partners.”

“Thine alone is All Praise and All Bounty, and Thine alone is The Sovereignty.”

“Thou hast no partners.” “All Glory is to Allah! All Praise is to Allah!”

“There is none worthy of worship but Allah!”

“Allah is the Greatest. There is no power, nor strength except that from Allah, The Most High, The Greatest!”

“Blessings and Peace be upon the Prophet of Allah, Mohammad.”



Satan never tells you he is Satan. Baal never tells you he is the beast. Mohammad never tells you he is the false prophet. Mecca has influenced not only kings but an entire global populace. In Mecca, people are deceived into “spiritual intoxication.” In Mecca, in the presence of the Kaaba, they are deceived into believing the spirit they sense is God’s presence.

They are tricked into having trust and confidence and think they are worshipping God. The spiritual force (the beast Baal and his demons) they perceive, feel, and sense is not God. All who follow the false prophet Mohammad have been made drunk from the false spiritual wine Mecca serves up.

Because neither she nor the inhabitants of the earth chose to respond to the light which all men are given concerning God (no Christians are officially allowed in Mecca), God used her rebellion to make all the nations commit even further to their errant path. Everyone who is allowed to enter Mecca may take the mark of the beast—they must say the Shahada.

Jeremiah 51:7 (NIV)

Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.

It was Babylon and Baal who first made them drunk, but in their consistent rejection of God and their drunken stupor they returned for more which God allowed Mecca to continue serving up.

Revelation 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns

The first part of 17:3 (*then angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness*) is the most overlooked verse in chapter 17 by most prophecy experts. They miss the vitally important information about where John was taken to see the woman. **John was taken to the desert wilderness.**

WHY THE CITY CANNOT BE ROME

Too many Bible prophecy experts skip over the beginning of Revelation 17:3, which tells us where John sees the woman--the great city. The experts repeat each other and conclude the woman must be "Rome." The Bible makes clear the woman cannot be Rome. Proper exegesis indicates the woman is Mecca. Mecca is in the desert wilderness, and Mecca physically sits on seven mountains.



THE "GREAT CITY" MECCA IS IN THE DESERT WILDERNESS

There are three indisputable reasons why the woman cannot be Rome. First, John reports that the angel carried him away in the Spirit into a desert or wilderness. Rome was considered the center of the world by most, and never in the desert wilderness. This wilderness location alone rules out Rome. Jeremiah also tells us the true Babylon is a desert.

Jeremiah 50:12-13 (NIV)

Your mother will be greatly ashamed; she who gave you birth will be disgraced. She will be the least of the nations—a wilderness, a dry land, a desert. Because of the Lord’s anger she will not be inhabited but will be completely desolate. All who pass Babylon will be appalled; they will scoff because of all her wounds.

Second, the term “Babylon” as a reference for Rome does not occur until the second century AD. Rome, given the name “Babylon”, did not begin until long after Revelation was written in 95 AD. Babylon in the Old Testament meant the physical kingdom of Babylon in Mesopotamia. Old Testament prophecies concerning Babylon would have to have been given using a “code word,” which did not obtain its final meaning (Rome) until hundreds of years later. This violates the basic rules of Bible interpretation, where its original context establishes the meaning of language.

Third, as will be discussed in more detail under Revelation 17:9, the woman sits on seven mountains, which are said to also represent seven kings. The mountains are symbols of a demonic kingdom in physical Babylon (Jeremiah 51:25 *“I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth,” declares the Lord. “I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.”*)

THE SCARLET BEAST THAT WAS COVERED WITH BLASPHEMOUS NAMES

Islam believes they are a pure monotheistic religion, but have been deceived into worshipping two spirits, the dragon (“Allah” of the Qur’an) and the beast (Baal in the Kaaba receives all Islamic prayer from every location in the world). The beast is one of the two worshipped spirits of the Islamic empire (Revelation 13:4 *People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”*)

The harlot woman represents the blasphemous city that seduces the nations and Mecca’s economic system (Hajj pilgrimage) that draws them into its earthly luxury. That the beast is “scarlet” most likely points to the incredible luxury of the empire, seen in the “purple and scarlet” clothing of the woman and the Kaaba. The cloth covering the Kaaba costs \$6 million dollars and is replaced each year.

Many prophecy experts view the prostitute as an exclusively religious figure. Some think it is the “antichrist.” But the Bible says the prostitute is a city in the desert wilderness on seven mountains. People do not worship the harlot; rather, the beast in the city is worshipped. The city uses the beast to gain fame and fortune. Mecca “rides” the Kaaba to fame and fortune with the mandatory Islamic Hajj. Mecca’s position that of riding the beast indicates, on the one hand, is that the religious power of the beast supports her through the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage, and on the other that she seems to control and directs the beast outwardly. But Mecca does not control the beast.

The beast controls Mecca. For without the Kaaba there would be no Mecca. The woman sits on the beast, but it is the beast that has the power and travels where it wants.

The woman is seated on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns. The beast of Revelation 13 that emerges from the sea also has seven heads and ten horns. In Revelation the "sea" represents the spiritual world. The beast, which came out of the sea, also came out of the Abyss, which is Sheol. Sheol is the place of darkness to which all the dead unsaved souls go, and God casts rebellious spirits into Sheol as well.

Revelation 13:1 (NIV)

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Remember again that in the book of Revelation the "sea" is the spiritual world. The beast comes out of the sea, or the spiritual world. The beast must be spiritual, since only spirits dwell in the Abyss. Baal (Bel) was sent into the Abyss when Babylon fell. (Jeremiah 51:44 *"I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed"* and Isaiah 14:15 *"Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."*) We see this again in Psalm 88.

Psalm 88:2-7 (NASB)

Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry! For my soul has had enough troubles, and my life has drawn near to Sheol. I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I have become like a man without strength, Forsaken among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And they are cut off from Your hand. You have put me in the lowest pit, In dark places, in the depths. Your wrath has rested upon me, And You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

Our English word "blasphemy" comes to us from the Greek word "blasphemia". This Greek word "blasphemia", in turn, is formed from the two Greek words "blapto" and "pHEME". The Greek verb "blapto" means "to hurt, harm, injure". "PHEME" means to say or report.

Webster's Dictionary defines this word as "to speak of or address with irreverence". We generally think of the word "blasphemy" in relationship to God. There are two types of blasphemy. One is to insult or injure God. An example would be cursing or using God's name in vain. The second is to give characteristics or titles ('God', 'Holy', 'Consecrated', 'Righteous', etc) that only belong to God to something other than God. This is the blasphemy of Mecca and the Kaaba. They give titles to Allah and Baal that only belong to God.

The Kaaba uses many names that only belong to God. In Islam, the Kaaba (where the beast dwells in Mecca) is called Qâdis, Arabic: القادس **"HOLY"**, and Nâdhir, Arabic: الناذر **"DEDICATED"**, **"CONSECRATED"**. The Kaaba is also called Bayt Allah Arabic: بيت الله, **"THE HOUSE OF GOD"**. In the Qur'an, the Ka'ba has been also mentioned as "al-Bayt" Arabic: البيت, the house, "al-Bayt al-Haram" Arabic: البيت الحرام, **"THE SACRED HOUSE"**, and **"THE OLDEST HOUSE OF WORSHIP."**

The Kaaba blasphemous names also include **“THE ONE WHO PURIFIES”**, coming from at-taqdīs **“SANTIFICATION”** or **“PURIFICATION”**, from there came the name of Allah al-Quddūs: **“THE PURE ONE”**. The Kaaba includes the word muqaddas: the purified. Al-Qādis is the pure or **“THE ONE WHO PURIFIES”**, as the Kaaba is claimed to purify from sins. The name ‘atīq was given because in its Mosque, “Allah” is preserving the sinners from punishment and hellfire. The word al-‘atīq also means **“THE ONE WHO RELEASES THE SINNERS.”** Thus, the beast is covered in many blasphemous names, just as John said.

"AND HAD SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS"

The symbolism is analogous to that found in Daniel 7, which helps greatly in the correct interpretation. First, the heads signify dominion. The head is naturally looked upon as the chief, the controlling and guiding part of the body; that part to which all the members of the body are subject. This is the idea conveyed in Daniel 7:6. The third beast there is distinguished by the possession of four heads, and (we are immediately told) "dominion was given to it."

The beast of the Revelation bears a strong resemblance to the fourth beast of Daniel 7:7-8. Common terminology between Daniel and John include the very title, "the beast", which is conspicuous. In addition, the ten horns; great power; duration even until the kingdom of Christ and the Day of the Lord are common terms. Daniel gives additional details of the war with the saints, and of the "time, times and half a time" (3½ times). We learn from Revelation 17: the seven heads

There are some things which Daniel alone mentions: its formidable appearance, great strength, teeth of iron, different from the former beasts, the little horn, its eyes which are those of a man, the three horns were torn out, and nails of brass. Now in Revelation, John gives new details. John includes the seven heads, the names of blasphemy; the resemblance of the beast itself, its feet and mouth to the third, the second, and the first beast in Daniel; the assistance given by the dragon; the “deadly wound” and its “healing;” the “wondering” of the earth; the “worship” of the inhabitants of the earth; the woman seated upon it; the ascent from the Abyss--the spiritual bottomless pit.

These are the same ten spiritual demonic kings which Daniel saw in his night vision (Daniel 7:8-8, 7:24-25). Daniel's ten kings are “different” from Daniel's little horn king. The human little horn king was Umar, the Islamic caliph and the same person in Revelation chapter 6 rider on a black horse with a pair of scales. The scales are used to calculate Umar's Islamic taxes imposed on the conquered people--mostly Christians. For a day's wages the tax would be 10%, which amounts to *"two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages."*

There is no need to guess about the seven heads. We learn from Revelation 17:9-10 the exact meaning of the seven heads. The seven heads have a dual meaning. Revelation 17:9 *"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits."* Revelation 17:10 *"They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while."*

That Mecca is prostitute--the "great city" is now confirmed. Mecca sits on seven mountains and Rome does not. Mecca is in the desert wilderness and Rome is not.

Revelation 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

All of Mecca's wealth is an abomination to God since it enhances her spiritual immorality. The woman not only practices spiritual harlotry (idolatry), she gains from the beast materialism and wealth. Baal collects all the prayer sent to the Kaaba, which glitters with gold.

The prostitute shares these characteristics with Umar (taught by the false prophet Mohammad) who found the fortress god "Allah", and disregarded all other gods, including the God of gods' all gods, exalts himself above them, and in their place shall honor another god with gold, silver, and precious stones (Daniel 11:38-39 *Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him.*)

The Harlot wears identical attire as the city. "That great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls" (Revelation 18:16). This indicates that the Harlot and the city are one and the same (Revelation 17:18).



THE KAABA "GLITTERING WITH GOLD, PRECIOUS STONES AND PEARLS"

Revelation 17:5 The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

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

Ancient Babylon was notorious for its idolatrous worship. When Daniel and his three friends were taken into captivity from Jerusalem, they found themselves surrounded by idolatrous customs in Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, tried to indoctrinate them in the worship of Baal by feeding them unclean food, by inducting them into a three-year education program, and by changing their Hebrew names to pagan names. But every effort failed. The young men remained true to the Lord (Daniel 1). These three friends miraculously survived a blazing furnace after refusing to worship a statue of the king (Daniel 3). When King Darius took the Babylonian throne, he forbade prayer to anyone other than himself for thirty days. Standing true to God, Daniel continued daily prayers to the Lord. He was arrested and thrown to the lions, but God rescued him (Daniel 6).

Babylon is the mother of harlots and of abominations of the earth (Revelation 17:5). Thus, she birthed the abominations which are found in the cup which she serves. From this, we know that the woman is not just a figure of the time of the end, but has her roots stretching back to early history. Thus, both the harlot and the seven heads on the beast which she rides stretch back to early history. This always includes the two main enemies of God, Baal and Satan.

The woman has a title written on her forehead: "Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth." Mystery refers to that which is revealed by God alone and cannot be understood apart from his revelation. It does not refer to a puzzle to be solved by human ingenuity.

The Gospel is often called a mystery in Paul's writings. See Ephesians 1 & Romans 16. In Jeremiah 50-52, the prophet outlines God's judgment against Babylon for destroying God's city, Jerusalem, and taking his people into exile. Even though God used the Babylonians to execute his judgment upon Judah, God still held them accountable for their conquest and murder of his people. In Jeremiah 51:7 and following God says Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand, and she made the whole world drunk on her wine. The nations drank from her and went mad, but she will suddenly fall, and people everywhere will weep for her. John uses that same image here in Revelation 17 to describe Babylon, which is regenerated when Baal emerged from the Abyss and was revealed to Mohammad.

Babylon became a byword in Scripture for godless culture as opposed to God and his people. It was the pagan culture of the world fueled by idolatry and wickedness, full of sexual immorality and greed, built upon human slavery. Even though Rome had many impressive accomplishments at its heart, it was wicked and sinful, oppressing people and using them for its own profit. Yet Rome does not fulfill the prophecy of Revelation. Satan has allowed many prophecy experts to be misled by repeatedly focusing on Rome and too prideful to see their errors. God calls Mecca, the great city, the mother of prostitutes who entices all the nations to sin and corrupts them. In God's view, Babylon is an abomination. That word means "the hated thing" and is anything that arouses God's wrath and his rejection.

ZECHARIAH AND JOHN: BACK TO BABYLON

Another passage which is often overlooked in establishing the identification of Babylon is the puzzling passage which occupies the last half of Zechariah chapter 5. An angel shows Zechariah a basket containing a woman covered with a lead disk. The angel identifies the woman: *"This is Wickedness!"* (Zechariah 5:8). The basket is then transported away by two winged figures. When Zechariah asks where the basket is bound, the angel responds (Zechariah 5:11), *"He replied, 'To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.'"*

The future house is the Kaaba--the "House of Allah." Baal the beast dwells in the Kaaba. The city of Mecca is inside the boundaries of the ancient Babylonian Empire, while Rome is nowhere close to the boundary of the old Babylonian Empire.

ZECHARIAH AND JOHN SAW THE SAME BABYLON WOMAN	
Zechariah 5:5-11	Revelation 17-18
Woman sitting in a basket of wickedness	Prostitute woman sitting on the beast, seven mountains and many waters
Severe wickedness ("This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land.")	Severe wickedness ("She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries")
Basket going to a house built sometime later in Babylon	The Kaaba in Mecca is called "the House of Allah"
False Worship	False Worship

The strongest evidence that Babylon is Mecca has to do with the beast from the Abyss. Revelation 17:3 tells us the beast comes from the Abyss. The Bible tells us the empire of Babylon along with their worshipped spirit "Bel" was defeated and Bel himself is punished. Bel is the Aramaic form of Baal, the national god of the Babylonians (Isaiah 46:1; Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44). It signifies "lord." Bel is more than a stone or wood idol, because God specifically punishes Bel; God will *"make him spew out what he has swallowed."*

Jeremiah 51:44 (NIV)

I will punish Bel in Babylon and make him spew out what he has swallowed. The nations will no longer stream to him. And the wall of Babylon will fall.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14 the demonic prince from Babylon (Bel) is sent to Sheol--the Abyss. Baal then left the Abyss and entered the Kaaba. Baal is the beast with the fatal wound healed.

Isaiah 14:15-17 (NASB)

Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?’



ANCIENT BAAL SYMBOL



MODERN KAABA BAAL SYMBOL

Babylon in the book of Revelation is not the literal city on the banks of the Euphrates River. Ancient Babylon was not on seven mountains. The key is to understand that the worshipped spirit in ancient Babylon was Baal. Baal was released from the Abyss (the fatal wound was healed) and now dwells in the Kaaba. The ancient symbols of Baal (the crescent moon) are all over the Islamic world and especially in Mecca. Recognize the symbols of Baal, and you will understand Babylon.

Revelation 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Babylon, the beast, the dragon and the harlot are associated with “*all who have been slaughtered on the earth*” and “*shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets*” (Revelation 18:24, Revelation 16:5-6). The Bible says all the slain people of God over time. This is another strong reason why the city is not Rome. While Rome killed many Christians, it certainly did not kill all believers and saints. Who killed all the prophets and saints in the Old Testament? The answer is Satan and Baal were behind killing the saints and prophets throughout time since the creation.

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

Revelation 16:5-6 (NIV)

Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

Throughout the book of Revelation, John is shown numerous martyrs of Jesus. Antipas in the church of Pergamos was a faithful martyr (Revelation 2:13). At the opening of the fifth seal, John sees *“the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held”* (Revelation 6:9). God’s two spiritual witnesses (Gabriel and Michael the two archangels), empowered to prophesy for 1260 days/years (688 to 1948), are martyred as a witness by Baal the beast from the Abyss (Revelation 11:7 and Zechariah 4).

SATAN AND BAAL BLAME THE JEWS FOR KILLING THE PROPHETS

Always the liars, Satan and Baal blame the killing of the prophets on the Jews. In the Qur’an, Baal (who was revealed as the spirit “Gabriel” to Mohammad) says it was the Jews that killed all the prophets. A prominent repeated story of the Qur’an’s material on the Jews is its report that the Israelites killed prophets sent to them in nine different passages.

Qur’an 2:61 So they [the Jews] were struck with abasement and poverty, and they earned Allah’s wrath. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgressions.

Qur’an 2:87 Certainly, We gave Moses the Book and followed him with the apostles, and We gave Jesus, the son of Mary, manifest proofs and confirmed him with the Holy Spirit. Is it not that whenever an apostle brought you that which was not to your liking, you would act arrogantly; so you [the Jews] would impugn a group of them, and kill another group?

Qur’an 2:91 And when they are told, “Believe in what Allah has sent down,” they [the Jews] say, “We believe in what was sent down to us,” and they disbelieve what is besides it, though it is the truth confirming what is with them. Say, “Then why would you kill the prophets of Allah formerly, should you be faithful?”

Qur’an 3:21 Those Jews who deny Allah’s signs and kill the prophets unjustly and kill those who call for justice from among the people, inform them of a painful punishment

Qur’an 3:112 Wherever they [the Jews] are found, abasement is stamped upon them, except for an asylum from Allah and an asylum from the people. They have earned the wrath of Allah, and poverty has been stamped upon them. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgression earned Allah’s wrath. That, because they would deny the signs of Allah and kill the prophets unjustly. That, because they would disobey and commit transgressions.

Qur'an 3:181 Allah has certainly heard the remark of those [the Jews] who said, "Allah is poor and we are rich." We will record what they have said, and their killing of the prophets unjustly, and We shall say, "Taste the punishment of the burning"

Qur'an 3:183 Tell those [the Jews] who say, "Allah has pledged us not to believe in any apostle unless he brings us an offering consumed by fire," "Apostles before me certainly did bring you manifest signs and what you speak of. Then why did you kill them, if you are truthful?"

Qur'an verse 3:183 also begins the process where the false prophet Mohammad deceives those around him into thinking he can call down fire from heaven on an offering like Elijah did with Baal, fulfilling Revelation 13:13-14. *(And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.)*

Qur'an 4:155 Then because of their [the Jews] breaking their covenant, their denial of Allah's signs, their killing of the prophets unjustly and for their saying, 'Our hearts are uncircumcised'... Indeed, Allah has set a seal on them for their unfaith, so they do not have faith except a few.

Qur'an 5:70 Certainly We took a pledge from the Children of Israel and We sent apostles to them. Whenever an apostle brought them that which was not to their liking, they would impugn a part of them and a part they would kill.

It is true the Jews killed prophets. Jesus himself said so in Luke 13. But the Jews were acting on behalf of the dragon and the beast. Revelation 18:24 makes this clear: *"In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."* Satan and Baal's guilt for shed blood extends throughout all history.

Luke 13:34-35 (NIV)

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Thus, Babylon cannot be Rome. Rome did not kill any of Old Testament Biblical prophets, nor even most Christians over time. Baal dwells in the Kaaba-- the image and the Islamic Shahada is the mark of the beast. John sees the dragon and beast killing the saints: *"the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands"* (Revelation 20:4).

Babylon is the outward expression of Satan and Baal's system of evil. The evil flows from the Tower of Babel onwards after the Flood. It includes all those various systems of idolatry and Baal worship, which have had their spring, or root, or direct teaching in Babylon. You will see in the picture presented to us in Revelation 17 and 18 a clear portrayal; otherwise, readers must leave out vast populations of martyrs that Rome never touched.

Revelation 17:7 Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

The angel asks John: “*why are you astonished?*” or “*filled with wonder and perplexity,*” catching the double meaning of the verb. This also is rhetorical, for most Revelation readers have the same feelings. The message in a sense is, “God is sovereign over all this, and Satan and Baal’s temporary triumph has already been told in Revelation chapter 13. So, there is no reason to be perplexed.”

The Book of Revelation uses the image of a harlot woman to illustrate a great city that blasphemes the true God. Where is this “great city”? The Bible says the city rules over the kings, “rides the beast” to great wealth and fame, holds many demons and sits on seven mountains. It is not Rome, Jerusalem, nor New York City.

The angel provides revelation concerning aspects of the woman (Revelation 17:15-18) and the beast with the seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 17:8-14, and 17:16-17). The remainder of the chapter is devoted to these two topics. Thus, the angel now promises to interpret for John the details of “the mystery” (see on 17:5) regarding the details of the vision in 17:1–6: “the woman and the beast that carries her having seven heads and ten horns.” The explanation that follows, however, focuses on the beast, and the woman with a false religion, false prophet, image and mark is identified throughout Revelation as located the desert wilderness (Revelation 17:3), ruling over the kings (Revelation 17:18) and on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9). This is enough information to clearly identify Mecca.



**BAAL’S HOME IN MECCA: “THE GREAT CITY, DRESSED IN FINE LINEN,
PURPLE AND SCARLET, AND GLITTERING WITH GOLD”**

Revelation 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

This is the same beast which John saw earlier in chapter 13: *“One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.”* (Revelation 13:3) Now, the angel shows John the beast's place of origin (from the Abyss) and his relationship to the woman (Mecca). Those who marvel are humans on earth, but not over his recovery from his deadly wound. They marvel at his power as they were deceived by Mohammad.

The beast is revealed and is worshipped along with the dragon until Christ returns. This is an important verse because it gives us information concerning the four phases of the life of the beast who is the eighth head and also out of the first seven (Revelation 17:10).

1. **ONCE WAS** – Baal was once worshipped by the Israelites (Numbers 25:1-5).
2. **NOW IS NOT** – Some time before the Revelation to John, the beast appeared to have died and was sent down into the Abyss (Jeremiah 51:44, Revelation 13:3, Isaiah 14:15-17)
3. **YET WILL COME UP OUT OF THE ABYSS** – Baal the beast had a seemingly miraculous recovery out of the Abyss (Revelation 13:3).
4. **GO TO ITS DESTRUCTION** – Baal and Satan's destruction at the hands of Christ at the Second Coming is certain. (Revelation 19:19 and Revelation 20:10)

Many believe the beast is worshiped because they see his astonishing recovery. This is not what the Bible says. People worship the beast because of his apparent overwhelming power. The Bible says they worship the beast because they say: *“Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”* John tells us about his astonishing recovery to help us identify the beast from the Abyss. The people worshipping the beast do not know anything about his recovery. The Muslims praying to the Kaaba where Baal resides have no idea that Baal emerged from the Abyss. **Satan is too clever to reveal this and allow the prophecy to be easily understood.** Satan is too clever to put the mark “666” on someone's forehead. Satan is too clever to set up a human who is called the “Antichrist.”

Revelation 13:4 (NIV)

People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

In Islam no one can wage war against Allah, and Allah must be worshipped. In the Qur'an 5:33, no one can wage war against Allah nor his false prophet Mohammad.

Qur'an 5:33 Indeed, the penalty for those who wage war against Allah and His Prophet [Mohammad] and strive upon earth to cause corruption is that they be killed or crucified or that their hands and feet be cut off from opposite sides or that they be exiled from the land. That is for them a disgrace in this world; and for them in the hereafter is a great hellfire.

The mystery of the beast is first explained to John, and the beast is considered first in general, under a threefold state or succession, as existing, and then ceasing to be, and then reviving again, to become another and the same. This helps us identify the beast as Baal, since Baal “was” and “now is not” at the time of John because Baal (Aramaic “Bel”) was sent into Sheol at the time Babylon fell.

God tells us in Jeremiah chapter 50 that *"Bel will be put to shame."*

Jeremiah 50:1-3 (NIV)

This is the word the Lord spoke through Jeremiah the prophet concerning Babylon and the land of the Babylonians: “Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.’ A nation from the north will attack her and lay waste her land. No one will live in it; both people and animals will flee away.”

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 14 the demonic prince from Babylon (Bel) is confined to Sheol--the Abyss. Isaiah 14 describes the destruction of Babylon. At the first in verses 1-13, the destruction of the human king is described, ("On the day the Lord gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon") but then the dialog changes to the demonic prince of Babylon.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NASB)

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.

The last king of Babylon was Belshazzar—whose name literally means **"Bel guards the king."** The demonic spirit Baal (“Bel” in Aramaic) was guarding the king that night. Most people know part of the story of the “handwriting on the wall.” Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall the last night the king of Babylon was alive.

Marduk, in the Mesopotamian religion, was the chief god of the city of Babylon and the national god of Babylonia; as such, he was eventually called simply Bel, or Lord. Jeremiah 50:2 *“Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘Babylon will be captured; Bel will be put to shame, Marduk filled with terror.’ Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.”*

When Babylon fell in 539 BC to the Persians, the false god of Babylon called "Baal" or "Bel" was sent into the Abyss by the true God (Isaiah 14:15 *"You will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit."*) Once in the Abyss it certainly appeared that Baal was dead. But his seemingly fatal wound was later healed (Revelation 13:3 *"One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed."*)



“BEL GUARDS THE KING” BELSHAZZAR SEES “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN”

Daniel 5:25-28 (NIV)

“This is the inscription that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN. “Here is what these words mean: Mene: God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. Parsin: Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

Baal would later be released from the Abyss by an angel and is worshipped in the Kaaba. Satan gave Baal his great power (Revelation 13:2 *“The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.”*) The Bible tells us both the beast and the dragon (Satan) will be jointly worshipped. Only Islam conducts this dual worship, both to Allah and the Kaaba. (Revelation 13:4 *“People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”*)

The battle Jesus warned about in Revelation is a spiritual battle. The real antichrist is Satan, and the beast is his second in command-Baal. This is not about some human leader that might be worshipped someday--as most prophecy writers wrongly believe. Satan is far too clever to announce a human “antichrist”. This is about Christ and the antichrist spiritual forces that oppose him--Satan and his angels. Paul said *“this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil”* in Ephesians 6:12.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

“THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH WHOSE NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE FROM THE CREATION OF THE WORLD WILL BE ASTONISHED”

John is not told that their names are not presently found in the book, as if they were at one time but were later blotted out. Instead, in the foreknowledge and election of God, their names were never recorded there (Revelation 13:8). Since their names have not been written in the Book of Life, they are guaranteed eventually to be cast into the Lake of Fire because “anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12). Only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life find entry into the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27).

The most important place your name could ever be written is in this book. How can you make sure your name is included in the Book of Life? This takes place by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). No amount of works can earn a spot in the Book of Life. It is a gift that only comes through faith in Jesus.

There are eight references in New Testament to the “book of life,” and two of them refer specifically to the book of life that belongs to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Seven of the references appear in the book of Revelation. Those whose names are written in the book of life are those who belong to God, those who have attained eternal life.

Paul refers to those who have labored alongside him as those whose names are in the book of life (Philippians 4:3), again identifying the book of life as a record of the names of those who have eternal salvation. In the same way, Revelation 3:5 refers to the book of life in which the names of believers in the Lord are found. These are those who overcome the trials of earthly life, proving that their salvation is genuine.

This verse also makes it clear that once a name is written in the book of life, Jesus promises that He will never blot it out, proving once more the doctrine of eternal security. The Lord Jesus, who is speaking to the churches in this part of Revelation, promises to acknowledge his own before His Father. Conversely, Revelation 20:15 reveals the fate of those whose names are not written in the book of life—eternity in the lake of fire.

Revelation 17:8 clarifies when the names of the redeemed are written in the book of life: “The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast” (emphasis added). The names of those who approve of the Antichrist are not found in the book of life, and the names that are in the book of life were written there before the world was created. Thus, Revelation 17:8 teaches both eternal security and election.

In Revelation 13:8 and 21:27, we find the references to the “Lamb’s book of life,” in which also are the names of all those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. The Lamb who has been “slain from the creation of the world” has a book in which are written all those who have been redeemed by His sacrifice. They are the ones who will enter the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10) and who will live forever in heaven with God. The book of life and the Lamb’s book of life are one and the same.

Revelation 17:9 “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

While the NIV translation says “hills”, most New Testament translations say “mountains.” The KJV, NASB, RSV, ESV and most others say “mountains.” The actual Greek word used is “oros”, which means “mountains.” In the New Testament, the word oros means “hill” 2 times, “mount” 18 times, “mountain” 31 times and “mountains” 12 times. Rome is not in such a situation. Saudi Arabia’s Mecca fulfills this condition, not Rome.

When John wrote the Book of Revelations during his exile on the Island of Patmos, Pagan Rome was the enemy of God's people. Many Christians were martyred there and so the center of the Catholic Church also moved there after Jerusalem was destroyed. It is easy to see why some commentators concluded the Whore of Babylon was Rome. Rome did try to destroy Christ and then persecute the Christians. Rome has a Vespasian imperial coin with a woman seated on seven hills!



The seven hills of Rome are just barely hills. They are an integral part of the Roman ancient culture. The names of these seven hills are, The Esquiline Hill, Quirinal Hill, The Aventine Hill, The Viminal Hill, The Caelian Hill, The Palatine Hill and The Capitoline Hill. Each hill has its own history and plays a significant part in the cultural heritage of Rome. These seven hills are located in the east of Tiber River. Shown below is Palatine Hill, the largest hill. But it is not a mountain! For these and several other Biblical reasons, the great city cannot be Rome.



ROME IS ON SEVEN SMALL HILLS-NOT MOUNTAINS

The connection between mountains and kings must be deeper than the mere outward fact to which incidental allusion is made that Rome (the then world city) is on seven small hills. Everything that describes the harlot better fits the Kaaba in Mecca: dress, pearls, jewels, gold, silver and even the blasphemies etched in silver threads with golden inlays across her attire. Just the doors of the Kaaba alone have 280 kilograms of pure gold.

Mecca is in the desert wilderness and sits on seven actual mountains. Arabia is "Kedar" in the Old Testament. The Bible says Baal worship was involved with Kedar: *"Yet they are not gods at all"* (Jeremiah 2:8-11). The "glory of Kedar" is recorded by the prophet Isaiah, (Isaiah 21:13-17); and its importance may also be inferred from the "princes of Kedar" mentioned by Ezekiel, (Ezekiel 27:21). They appear also to have been, like the wandering tribes of the present day, "archers" and "mighty men." (Isaiah 21:17)

Jeremiah 2:8-11 (NIV)

The priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. Therefore, I bring charges against you again," declares the Lord. "And I will bring charges against your children's children. Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar [Arabia] and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols.



THE GREAT CITY MECCA SITS ON SEVEN MOUNTAINS

Revelation 17:10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while.

There has been an endless stream of speculation as to who are the seven kings or kingdoms!

THERE WERE A DOZEN BIBLICAL ROMAN EMPERORS—NOT SEVEN

The book of Revelation was written shortly after the reign of Domitian in 95 AD. Thus, the Biblical Roman emperor chain would stretch from Caesar Augustus to Nerva, the emperor after Domitian. John is told five of the seven kings have fallen or have perished. The word “fallen” is a synonym for “died” in this context. One king “is”, or now rules and one is yet to come. This is a very difficult phrase to interpret. Because Rome is on seven hills (not mountains), many scholars tried in vain to synchronize the Roman emperors with the seven kings. The problem is the numbers don't match up in any accurate way. The Roman emperors up to Domitian were: 1) Augustus, 2) Tiberius, 3) Caligula, 4) Claudius, 5) Nero, 6) Galba, 7) Otho, 8) Vitellius, 9) Vespasian, 10) Titus, 11) Domitian and 12) Nerva. Which of the 12 Roman emperors? **Thus, John is not talking about Roman emperors!**

Even if Rome doesn't fit, is John telling us there will be a literally revived future Roman Empire with an emperor? No! Most importantly, Rome cannot possibly fulfill Revelation 18:24. Rome did not kill all the Old Testament prophets!! Actually, Rome killed no prophets, other than Jesus, if the Son of God can also be considered a prophet. Certainly Rome did not kill all of God's holy people! Even a revived future Rome could not go back in time and do this. But Baal and Satan have orchestrated the war against all prophets and God's holy people since the creation!

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

Revelation 18:24 (NASB)

“And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

Looking at the prophecies of Daniel can help us understand. Daniel saw four wild beasts in his dreams; they represented the then great world-power Babylon, and its three successors, Persia, Greece, and eventually Islam. We must also include the two great world-powers, Egypt and Assyria, that preceded Babylon. These two figure in the ancient prophecies as forces hostile God's holy people. John's visions took the range of the world's drama, could not see the ever rising spirit of demonic spiritual hostility to God's chosen without understanding Egypt and Assyria were included.

The voices of Moses and Isaiah called to him across the centuries that in these the world principle of their day found its clearest and strongest manifestation. In various empires the world-power showed itself: in Egypt, the house of bondage (Exodus 20:2); in Assyria, that exalted herself against God (Isaiah 37:23); in Babylon, the hammer of the whole earth (Jeremiah 50:23); in Persia, and in Greece; and in succession these kingdoms fell, only to be succeeded by another—Rome. Five fell; the one is. The one that was present at the time of John was, of course, Rome. But what is the seventh? What is the eighth?

ABADDON THE DESTROYER--THE SEVENTH KING, AND THE BEAST—THE EIGHTH KING ARE BOTH RELEASED FROM SHEOL!

Remember the Bible says that Daniel's fourth kingdom is *"different from all the other kingdoms."* When we understand the spiritual world of the Abyss, we can see the Abyss is where the next two kings (number seven and number eight) come from. They are both from Sheol. The same as Baal.

Daniel tells us the next (fourth) kingdom is *"different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth."* The ten kings from this kingdom are unlike the little horn (Umar). The little horn *"had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully."* Umar had human eyes and a mouth! This means the ten kings do not! They are not human. They exist at the time of Daniel, because the little horn is after them (Umar ruled as caliph 634-644 AD) but the ten are not released until the end times.

Daniel 7:23-24 (NIV)

"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.'"

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully."

Now, back to Revelation, John tells us in Revelation 9:1-2 the demons, the king Abaddon and the beast are all released from the Abyss. So many spirits were released the sky darkened.

Revelation 9:1-2 (NIV)

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

Next, John tells us the demonic king Abaddon was released from the Abyss.

Revelation 9:11 (NIV)

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

"They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon." The seventh king that only "rules a short time" is Abaddon. Abaddon is the "destroyer" and releases hordes of demons. He also releases from the Abyss the demonic spirit from Babylon. Now the seemingly fatal wound has been healed! Abaddon the king only operates a short time. Revelation 9:5 *"They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months."*

Finally John tells us the beast (Baal) was released from the Abyss.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Michael stood with Gabriel to struggle against the demonic princes of Persia and Greece.

Daniel 10:20-21 (NIV)

So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

These are kingdoms number four and five in the "Seven Heads" of the beast. They followed Baal of Babylon--the third head. Baal is the "prince who is to come" in Daniel 9:26-27. Baal was punished by God and sent to Sheol--the Abyss. Baal was the both third and eighth head. Baal "comes out of the seven" and "has a fatal wound that is healed" (Revelation chapters 13-17).

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon >> Sheol >> Baal the Beast
4. Persia
5. Seleucid Greeks
6. Rome
7. Demonic King--rules only a short time {Abaddon from the Abyss}
8. Beast {Babylon demon Baal released from the Abyss}

So, just as the Bible says there are seven kings. And just like the Bible says there are eight! That is, seven in all, as they are enumerated in this verse and the next. An eighth coming out of the seven is mentioned in Revelation 17:11, but it is, at the same time, said that this one so pertains to the seven, or is so properly in one sense of the seven, though, in another sense, to be regarded as an eighth, that it may be properly included as the seventh. Baal was Babylon the third, and with the "fatal wound healed" also the eighth.

The demon from Babylon has been released from Sheol. Demonic monsters and false doctrine about Jesus ("smoke") are released which fly like locusts (Exodus 10:12-20; Joel 1:4, 2:4-14) and sting like scorpions (Ezekiel 2:6, Lk 11:12). The power comes from their mouths. That is the false doctrine in the Qur'an that takes away the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus.

God grants these evil "locusts" from the Abyss the power which scorpions have – the power to inflict pain of the souls of non-believers. God tells these paroled demons and fallen angels not to harm the earth or those humans who have His seal on their foreheads. The false doctrine of the Koran cannot harm true believers of the Gospel.

Revelation 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

After the fall of Babylon, Baal was sent into the Abyss. He was “restrained” at the time of Paul and John. Once the restrainer was removed (the angel guarding the Abyss) Baal was revealed. Baal was the demonic spirit “Gabriel” acting under orders and with authority from Satan, to give a “powerful delusion” to Mohammad.

End times prophecy must be able to explain how the dragon and beast are both worshipped intentionally and simultaneously by a third of the world. Islam is the only system that does this. Islam is the greatest paradox. Islam claims to be the leader in monotheist thinking ("no God but Allah"), and yet worship the "Allah" of the Koran (Satan) and then must pray five times a day to the Kaaba, the home of Baal the beast. They worship two distinct entities, just like the Bible says will happen. The Bible says the false prophet will lead them to do this. Mohammad led them.

Those that look for a human antichrist cannot explain how the dragon and beast are both simultaneously worshipped as two distinct entities, while interacting with the third entity the false prophet. Only Islam does this--without even knowing they are worshipping two! The Bible is clear--people will simultaneously worship both the dragon and the beast.



FALSE WORSHIP TO THE BEAST IN THE KAABA IN MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA

Revelation 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast."

These are the same ten spiritual demonic kings which Daniel saw in his night vision (Daniel 7:8-8, 7:24-25). Daniel's ten kings are "different" from Daniel's little horn human king. The human little horn king was Umar, the Islamic caliph and the same person in Revelation chapter 6 rider on a black horse with a pair of scales. The scales are used to calculate Umar's Islamic taxes imposed on the conquered people--mostly Christians. For a day's wages the tax would be 10%, which amounts to *"two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages."*

Revelation 6:5-6 (NIV)

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"

Umar is *"different from the earlier ones"* because he had *"eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth."* Umar was human. This means the 10 kings are demonic are from the spiritual world. They do not speak but try to control people's minds and thoughts. Umar is also *"the king will do as he pleases"* in Daniel 11:36-45. Umar converts to Islam from polytheism of his Quraysh tribe ancestors in Arabia and finds the new fortress God named "Allah." *"Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts."*

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

"While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Daniel 7:24-25 (NIV)

The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

The angel tells John the ten horns are ten demonic kings that have not yet received a kingdom, meaning their reigns are in the future, specifically during the end times on the Day of the Lord. Since they give their power to the beast, they must be spirits as well. No human can give their power to a spirit. Their actions are futile on the day of Wrath. In Revelation, the "sea" is the spiritual world. It is the same place as the "Abyss" and "Sheol." The beast out of the sea in Revelation 13 has seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns on its ten horns. The scarlet beast here in chapter 17 is the same. In the lament over Babylon in chapter 18 three times, it is mentioned that Babylon was destroyed or fell in one hour. This is the same time period.

Revelation 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

The angel tells John these kings have but one purpose; they will make war against the Lamb, meaning the Lord Jesus. Only spirits would try to make war on the Lamb. Although many in number, the ten demonic kings have one mind, and all give their power and strength to Baal the beast; they give (present tense) their power and authority to Baal. Satan also gave his authority to Baal.

That is, though apparently split up into many sections, they form practically one, acting by and for the beast on whose side they range themselves. They have waited over time in the Abyss for the chance to give power to the beast for this short and futile time period on the Day of the Lord. They represent the allies of the spiritual beast from the Abyss who gathers them to fight a final decisive battle for control of the world against the returning Lord Jesus Christ, and His judgment on them.

Revelation 17:14 They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

The reference *"and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers"* is to the persecuted saints who have adhered to him as his faithful followers in all these protracted conflicts of the tribulation since the time of the Apostles. This connects the war against the Lamb description to Revelation 16:12-21, and with Revelation 19:11-21. This war between the Lamb and the spiritual world powers of evil is that which has run throughout the history of the world (Baal and Satan); it finally occupies the "one hour" of the end times history of the world on the Day of the Lord.

God dealt with Satan in the garden of Eden. God dealt with Baal in the Land of Canaan. The Canaanites were people who lived in the land of Canaan, an area which according to ancient texts included parts of modern-day Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Baal in Babylon and the Canaanites constantly fought with God, Baal then was punished and placed in Sheol, only to emerge again from the Abyss, (the fatal wound appeared to be healed). Baal was revealed as the "Angel Gabriel", while revealed to Mohammad to give the false gospel of the Qur'an.

John 16:33 (ESV)

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Christ must reign till all enemies be put under his feet. The reason of the victory is, that he is the King of kings, and Lord of Lords. He has supreme dominion and power over all things; all the powers of earth and hell are subject to his control. His followers are called to this warfare, are fitted for it, and will be faithful in it.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (NIV)

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Revelation 17:15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

Until now far the angel has described the beast rather than the harlot. Now the angel describes both the identity and fate of the great prostitute. First, the angel defines the “*waters on which the prostitute sits*” (see Revelation 17:1). This phrase used by the angel refers to the “*peoples and multitudes, nations and languages.*” This collection of words is used seven times in Revelation, both meaning the people of God (Revelation 5:9 and Revelation 7:9) and of the earth-dwellers (Revelation 10:11; Revelation 11:9, Revelation 13:7, and Revelation 14:6).

As John will show us in chapter 18, the wealth and power of the world flows into Mecca from the Saudi oil transported on the sea. The "languages" brings into mind the original Babel, the confusion of languages, the beginning of Babylon, and the first commencement of idolatrous apostasy after the flood, as the tower was dedicated to Baal in the deified heavens. Thus, Babylon is the appropriate name of the harlot.

This use of the phrase in Revelation 17:15 for the sinners means that the great city and beast rule over the peoples from every corner of the world. And Mecca does this very thing. In Islam, every Muslim from every corner of the world must pray five times a day, and always exactly in the direction of the Kaaba in the great city. Thus 1.5 billion Muslims generate 7.5 billion prayers per day to the beast and prostitute. This precise Islamic prayer direction is called the “Qibla.” A compass or iPhone app is used to provide the precise Kaaba geo-coordinates from every place in the world.



ALL THE NATIONS MUST TRAVEL TO THE GREAT CITY

The great city Mecca requires travel. Rome never required the entire world to travel to Rome. Even when Caesar Augustus held a census, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem, not Rome.

Luke 2:1-4 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

In addition to daily prayer, one third of the world is obligated to physically travel at least once to the great city Mecca during the Hajj. The Hajj in Islam is the pilgrimage to the “holy city” of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime. The hajj is the fifth of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage rite begins on the 7th day of the last month of the Islamic year and ends on the 12th day. There is a black stone set up by the false prophet Mohammad enclosed in a silver ring in the eastern corner of the Kaaba. Muslims believe that the stone was given to Abraham by the angel “Gabriel.” Participants touch or kiss the stone to end the ceremony around the Kaaba. Jesus warned about this worship to the beast all throughout the book of Revelation.



Revelation 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

The beast and the ten horns *“will hate the prostitute.”* Why would they hate their great city? Do they hate the nations as well? On the surface there seems to be a huge disconnect between this statement and what was previously made. In the former text of Revelation 17:12-14, these ten kings are acting in alliance with the beast; *“They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast”*, and as uniting with it in making war with the Lamb.

If the 10 kings were human kings, it might not make sense for them to attack their great city. But the 10 kings are demonic kings and they unite with the beast Baal to attack the Lamb. They oppose Jesus. This is a spiritual war and the physical great city means nothing to them. It is only useful in conjunction with the false prophet to deceive the nations. That is because human souls mean nothing to “Allah” of the Qur’an. In fact, in the Qur’an Allah enjoys sending people to the hellfire.

IN ISLAM ALL MUSLIMS WILL FIRST ENTER THE HELLFIRE

Islamic Hadith and the Qur’an assert that a host of Muslims will end up in hell, and even experience torment while there, even though they genuinely believed that there is no god besides Mohammad’s spirit deity. How long the faithful Muslim will wait in hell is not specified. The Qur’an indicates it is Allah goal to fill hell with humans and angels (“jinn”).

Qur’an 19:71 It is the inevitable decree of your Lord that every one of you will be taken to hell.

Qur’an 11:119 Except those on whom your Lord has mercy—for that reason He created them. The Word of your Lord is final: “I will fill Hell with jinn [angels] and humans, altogether.”

Thus, the beast and the ten demonic kings have a love-hate relationship with Babylon-Mecca. They really do not care about the city. They only care about control over souls around the world. Thus they are willing to sacrifice the great city as they engage in their war with the Lamb.

The beast destroys its Kaaba shrine in Mecca! The angel says they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. The beast and his allies will consume Mecca and leave her desolate. The angel says this is the work of God because God has put it into their hearts to do this and thereby accomplish his purpose to judge Babylon-Mecca. It shows that Baal will do anything for power, even destroying his beloved house in Mecca.

In Jeremiah 50-52 Jeremiah prophesies about the ultimate destruction of Babylon. It would be laid waste and become a haunt for jackals never to be settled again. The great enemy of God’s people will be judged by God and brought down by the very kings and peoples that worshipped it and built it up. God’s purposes will not be thwarted. The implication here is that in the final hour of history the beast and his allies will destroy Mecca. This is exactly the description given of the harlot Israel (by worshipping false gods) in Ezekiel 16:37 and Ezekiel 23:22.

Revelation 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled.

God's sovereign control of the affairs of history is a constant theme behind the events of the book of Revelation. The ten kings are demonic, because the kings are *"agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority."* This is the same spiritual realm power transfer as when Satan gave the beast his authority. (Revelation 13:2 *"The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority."*) This shows how powerful Baal the beast is.



Baal is receiving a double dose of demonic authority. Baal has received authority from Satan and will also receive authority from the ten spiritual demonic kings who are active for one divine hour. We see in Matthew 8:28-31 that God is always in control because all demons are under his sovereign will.

Matthew 8:28-31 (NIV)

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

Just as in the encounter of Jesus at Gadarenes, the true God so ruled the hearts of these spiritual kings, by his power over them, and by his providence, that they did those things, without intending it, which he purposed and foretold. They shall see their folly, and how they have been bewitched and enslaved by the harlot and will be made instruments in her destruction. The spiritual kings may influence human kings on earth, but the power given to the beast from the ten kings seen by John is demonic power in the spiritual realm.

Everything occurs by God's sovereign permission. From the riding forth of the first horsemen who was given a crown (Mohammad), to rising of the beast Baal from the sea (Abyss) who is given authority over Jerusalem for 42 months (Revelation 13:5 the 1278.4 days/years from 688 to 1967) and as Baal ("man of lawlessness") was previously restrained in the Abyss until revealed to Mohammad.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 (NIV)

Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Revelation 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

Chapter 17 concludes giving more information about the woman on seven mountains, the great prostitute. In the last verse the Bible tells us she is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth. It is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth (NRSV), reigns over the kings of the earth (NASB), that has dominion over the kings of the earth (ESV) and has an empire over the kings of the earth (HCSB). No city in history has more control over the kings of the world than Mecca! Mecca has ruled over the Islamic kings of the world for 14 centuries. All Islamic kings even shed their royal clothes in humble submission for the obligatory pilgrimage to the Kaaba.



Nearly one third of the world, all Muslims throughout the world, view the city of Mecca as *“the site of divine, angelic, prophetic, and repentant human activity since the moment of creation.”* According to Islam, Mecca is where creation began, where Abraham built the first house of worship, and where he took his concubine Hagar and their son, Ishmael.

This shrine is the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure normally covered by a large curtain of fine silk cloth embroidered with gold and silver and containing the sacred Blackstone. This stone, which Muslims believe was given to Adam for the forgiveness of sins upon his expulsion from Eden, was then supposedly white.

In Muslim tradition the original Kaaba perished in Noah’s Flood, but the Black Stone was preserved and later given to Abraham by the angel Gabriel, after which Abraham rebuilt the Kaaba and the false prophet Mohammad restored the Blackstone to its proper place. It is in the direction of the Kaaba—according to Islam the holiest place on earth—that billions of Muslims in every country (Revelation 17:15 *“peoples, multitudes, nations and languages”*) orient themselves in prayer five times a day.

ONLY THOSE THAT HAVE TAKEN THE MARK, THE SHAHADA, CAN ENTER THE GREAT CITY

Today Mecca is a wealthy and cosmopolitan city, even though only Muslims may reside there. Only those who have taken the mark, recited the Shahada, can travel there. The signs on the road leading to Mecca warn non-Muslims to exit the road if they are not Muslim and have not said the Shahada.

Mecca receives all its wealth from the sea trade (Saudi oil) and Hajj revenue. Other than the Kaaba where the beast Baal resides, Mecca has absolutely nothing to offer the world. Before Islam Mecca was a desert wilderness—just as John saw.

During the Hajj, the holy month of pilgrimaging, millions visit to fulfill their religious duty of Hajj. While in Mecca pilgrims visit the Sacred Mosque, where they walk seven times around the Kaaba shrine located near the center of the mosque's roofless courtyard. They think they are praying to God but have been deceived by a powerful delusion.



In verse 18 John is told that the woman is the "great city that rules over the kings of the earth." In 16:19 at the pouring out of the seventh bowl there was a great earthquake that split the "great city" into three parts. Some argue for identifying the phrase "that great city" here with Jerusalem: One of the stronger arguments used by Jerusalem proponents involves the identification of the phrase "the great city" as used in Revelation 17:18.

Jerusalem advocates contend that the only way to properly identify this city is to observe how the phrase "the great city" appears earlier in Revelation. There are only two references to "the great city" prior to Revelation 17:18. These references include Revelation 11:8 and Revelation 16:19. Jerusalem advocates believe that both are references to Jerusalem. Thus, Revelation 17:18 must refer to Jerusalem as well. But such a Jerusalem identification ignores extensive and close ties between the woman and the city of Babylon.

Consider that chapter divisions are not part of the original inspired text and take chapters 17 and 18 as one unified passage, the similarities between the woman and the city are compelling. Add to this the fact that Jerusalem is destined to be restored (Isaiah chapter 62), whereas Babylon is never to be inhabited again, and the idea that the phrase "that great city" describes Jerusalem is not possible.

Most other prophecy experts have concluded this city is Rome. But it is not Rome. Rome might be a logical conclusion in the time of John, and all the circumstances, as we have seen, combined to show that Rome, is not the final fulfillment of the prophecy. The city is Mecca--the city on seven mountains in the desert wilderness--just as the Bible said.

The great city exercises royal power or rule over the kings. Again, we see the impossibility of assigning Jerusalem as the Harlot. How can Jerusalem, of all cities the most trampled and occupied, with the least political influence and material resources, be said to have historically reigned over the kings of the earth? Many others suggest Rome as a candidate for “the great city.” Rome is not on seven mountains and not in the desert wilderness. It is true Rome had influence over kings of the earth in more recent history, Rome provides neither the necessary historic scope nor proper fulfillment for the many Old testament passages which speak literally to Babylon. As old as many may consider Rome to be, Rome is a relative upstart on the stage of Biblical history which spans back to the tower of Babel (Genesis 10-11).

Rome cannot fulfill Revelation 18:24. Rome did not kill all the Old Testament prophets!! Actually Rome killed no prophets, other than Jesus, if the Son of God can also be considered a prophet. Certainly Rome did not kill all of God’s holy people! Even a revived future Rome could not go back in time and do this. But Baal and Satan did, and they fulfill Revelation 18:24!

Revelation 18:24 (NIV)

“In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

If we thus consider Babylon as an expression of the whole Satanic system from the earliest times since the Flood onward, we are quite prepared to understand the position of the harlot, “mystery Babylon,” in Revelation 17. Some may object that it is difficult to see how literal Babylon could be considered as reigning over the kings of the earth. These people only have a Western myopic view of recent history, and know little about Islam, the Qur’an, and almost nothing about the Kaaba. The Bible identifies the woman with a specific historical city of prominence (Babylon) in the past, and once Islam is understood, with prominence again over the past 14 centuries.



Baal and Satan have controlled an initial rebellion as Babel, ancient Babylon all the way to the current demonic worship masquerading as the true God. The prophet Zechariah warned about the wicked basket heading to a house to be built later in Babylon (Zechariah 5:8-10-11 “*Where are they taking the basket?*” *I asked the angel who was speaking to me. He replied, “To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.”*) The Kaaba is the house. Mecca is the great city, not Rome or Jerusalem. Neither Rome nor Jerusalem are on seven mountains nor in the desert wilderness. Mecca constantly blasphemes the true God. Mecca is on seven mountains and far in the desert wilderness. Rome did not face anything like imminent attack by its vassal kings (Rome cannot fulfill Revelation 17:16), and Jerusalem did not have any control whatsoever over the rest of the world.



REVELATION CHAPTER 18

JESUS PUNISHES THE “GREAT CITY” OF REVELATION

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 18

In Revelation chapter 18 John saw another angel coming down from heaven. This angel had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.”

John heard the angel say: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

The saints and angels in heaven rejoiced. John heard another voice from heaven say: “Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.”



Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Revelation 18:8 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 18 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven.” The usual form of introduction to a new vision to John (see Revelation 4:1 and Revelation 7:1). The "mystery" of the beast (Baal released from the Abyss) and the harlot (Mecca the great city) having been declared, the angel now describes the doom in store for them. The angel is from heaven, as carrying the news of the judgment which is sent from heaven. The judgment is from God against Satan and Baal, the dragon and the beast.

“He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.” The “great authority” refers to the judgment which follows, which, however, is not acted out before the seer, but only described. The last clause records the visible manifestation of the great power. This is very much like the description in Ezekiel 43:1-2.

Ezekiel 43:1-2 (NIV)

Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.

The angel's description seems to be a reference to the vision of Ezekiel when he beheld the glory of the God of Israel, and the earth, it is said, shined with his glory. A bright and shining light, it seems, usually attended the appearance of angels; and the splendor of the presentation used in proportion to indicate the angel appearing was more honorable.

Revelation 18:2 With a mighty voice he shouted: “‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’ She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

The angel in 18:2 cries out with a “*mighty voice*”—found only here but compare to “a loud voice” in Revelation 5:2; 10:3; and 16:1. In keeping with his authoritative pronouncement and repeats the message of the second angelic herald in 14:8, “*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great.*” Here the angel emphasizes the absolute certainty of the event. God has already seen the event.

This passage refers to Babylon and the demonic spirit Baal. This connects back to Isaiah 21:9, where Isaiah prophesied the destruction of Babylon via a messenger in a chariot who cries, “*Babylon has fallen, has fallen!*”, followed by “*all the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground.*”

Isaiah 21:9 (NIV)

Look, here comes a man in a chariot with a team of horses. And he gives back the answer: ‘Babylon has fallen, has fallen! All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!’

Thus, the judgment on the empire includes the destruction of its idols, specifically the beast Baal, who has set up an idol of himself (Revelation 13:14–15). Moreover, it is not seen as a new announcement but one foretold by Isaiah himself, grounded in God’s eternal decree.

Revelation 17:3 (NASB)

And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

It is possible that Mecca, in the desert wilderness and no water was the reason Jesus said in Matthew 12:43-45 that an unclean spirit *“passes through waterless places seeking rest.”* Some think this means avoiding the Holy Spirit. But in Revelation, John tells us Mecca is the home of impure spirits.

Matthew 12:43-45 (NASB)

“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.”

There is no more waterless place than Mecca. That’s why John saw the prostitute woman in the desert wilderness. The harlot Mecca is a dwelling place (home) for all kinds of unclean spirits.



Revelation 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

“For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries.” Every nation on earth has Muslims that all must face the Kaaba when they pray five times a day. A Qibla compass (sometimes also called qibla/qiblah indicator) is a modified compass used by Muslims to indicate the exact direction to face to perform ritual prayers. In Islam, this direction is called qibla, and points towards the city of Mecca and specifically to the Kaaba.

“The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.” Merchants since the time of Mohammad have enriched themselves by sending their commodities to Mecca to sell to the Hajj pilgrims, through the vast consumption and luxuriousness of the place, they have obtained a good price.

It should also be interpreted to include spiritual merchants—they are selling the false gospel of the Qur'an and destroying the souls of one third of the earth.



“THE KINGS OF THE EARTH COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH HER”

The image of Mecca is one of a great, rich, splendid, proud, and luxurious religious city. The features denote the Islamic anti-Christian power at its height. Mecca is doomed to utter desolation, and those connected with her, far and near, would be involved in her ruin. All enriched by Mecca will mourn loudly.

Revelation 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “‘Come out of her, my people,’ so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

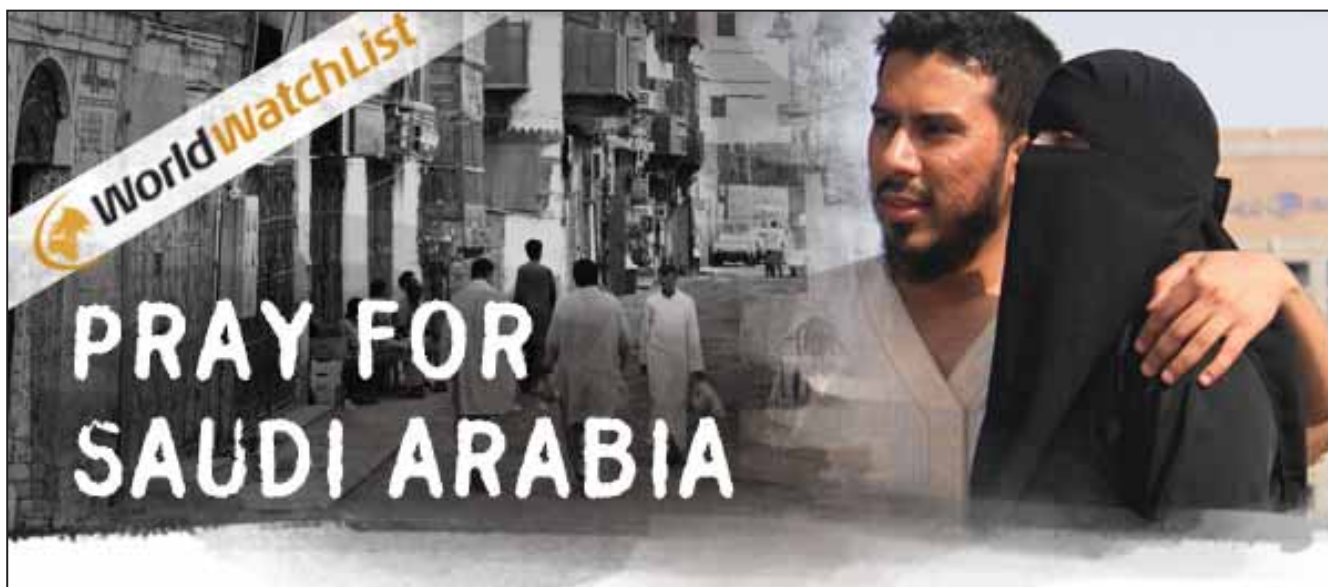
“Then I heard another voice from heaven say:” Other instances of “voice from heaven” have occurred in Revelation 10:4, 10:8, 14:2, and 14:13 and always refer to a direct message from the throne itself. This is God or Jesus Christ directly speaking.

“‘Come out of her, my people,’ so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.” Only here and in Revelation 21:3 are believers called God’s “people,” a semi-technical term in the Old Testament and New Testament indicating a special relationship with God.



The command from God to separate oneself from depraved society is frequent in the Old Testament (Isaiah 48:20; 52:11; Jeremiah 50:8; 51:45, 51:50; and Ezekiel 20:41). It also occurs in the New Testament (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).

The theme is more than just physically fleeing the city lest they be destroyed with the pagans. In the narrative picture of Revelation 18, it means to get out of the dark shadow of the image of the beast, the Kaaba where Baal dwells. Anyone who prays to the Kaaba image or the beast spirit inside it will not enter heaven. (Revelation 14:11 *“And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”*)



Since the harlot, who is identical with Babylon, is representative of those that have taken the mark (the Islamic Shahada) and prayed to the image (the Islamic Blackstone in the Kaaba set up by the false prophet Mohammad), these words also form a direct warning to Christians. "Don't mix the Qur'an teachings with the Gospel truth."

The parallel warnings in Jeremiah 51:6; Jeremiah 51:45, and Zechariah 2:6-7, should be read; but the story of Lot in Sodom best illustrates the spirit of the passage (Genesis 19), for it is participation in sin which is to be primarily guarded against.

Isaiah 48:20-22 (NIV)

Leave Babylon, flee from the Babylonians! Announce this with shouts of joy and proclaim it. Send it out to the ends of the earth; say, "The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob." They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock; he split the rock and water gushed out. "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked.

Jeremiah 51:6-9 (NIV)

"Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the Lord's vengeance; he will repay her what she deserves.

Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad. Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken. Wail over her! Get balm for her pain; perhaps she can be healed.

"We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed; let us leave her and each go to our own land, for her judgment reaches to the skies, it rises as high as the heavens."

Revelation 18:5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

John tells us God “remembered” the transgressions of Babylon. When God “remembers,” he performs a specific action. When he remembered his people, he works on their behalf (Psalm 105:8–11; 111:5–6; Ezekiel 16:60); when he remembers sin (Psalm 109:14; Jeremiah 14:10; Hosea 8:13; Hosea 9:9), he acts in judgment. In Revelation 16:19 *“God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath”*.

This is continuation of God's judgment on Babylon-Mecca in Revelation 16:19 and Jeremiah 51:9.

Revelation 16:19 (NIV)

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Jeremiah 51:9 (NIV)

“We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed; let us leave her and each go to our own land, for her judgment reaches to the skies, it rises as high as the heavens.”

“For her sins are piled up to heaven.” That is, the accumulation of Baal and Satan's sin is so great as to reach up to the heaven. The idea is more than that of the cry of sin reaching heaven, as in the case of Sodom (Genesis 18:20-21); the sins themselves, many and blasphemous, have touched the face of heaven.

Revelation 18:6 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

“Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done.” Mecca and Islam have taken billions of souls astray with a false gospel (the Qur'an) through the revelations received by the false prophet Mohammad from Baal (the beast), the revealed spirit. This is spoken to the people of God, who are before called out of Babylon; and the chief of them are the seven angels with the seven last plagues of the wrath of God, and the same with the ten demonic kings that will burn the harlot city with fire. These are called upon to take vengeance, by way of retaliation, for what she had done to them, in allusion to what is said of old Babylon, Jeremiah 1:15.

This judgment from God is not of what she will have done to them personally, but to their predecessors in the faith of Christ in former ages; that as she had hated them, and made war with them, so now they should hate her, and make war with her; and as she had stripped them naked of their clothes, and spoiled them of their worldly goods and substance.

The *“pay her back double”* must not be taken to mean double her sins; her sins are themselves called double, and her judgment is according to her sins. The meaning is not to inflict upon her a punishment doubly greater than her sins, for this would be contrary to the justice of God. Any earthly punishment from God must be just. Mecca, Satan, Baal and Mohammad will be punished hereafter, and therefore will not have her full punishment now, but will receive full punishment on the day of judgment and cast into the outer darkness--away from the loving and glorious presence of Jesus.

Revelation 18:7 Give her as much torment and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.'

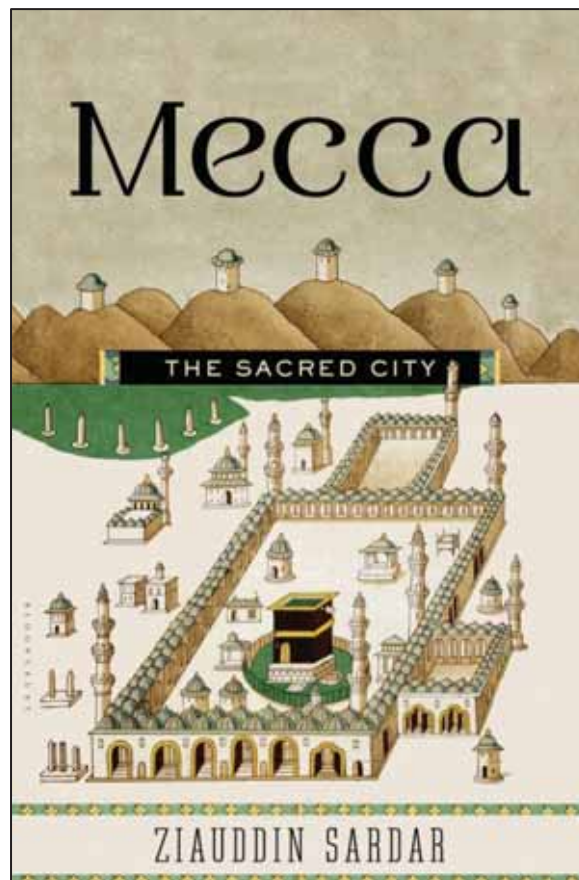
"Give her as much torment and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself." No city is more glorified than Mecca. On just the Kaaba and a single adjacent hotel, more than \$115 billion has been invested during the last decade. Muslims call Mecca the "Sacred City", "Mecca the Honored", and "The Holy City of Mecca."

Mecca is glorified by pride, and the pomp of the annual Hajj, and arrogant boasting; and lived deliciously — In all kinds of elegance, luxury, and wantonness; so much torment and sorrow give her — Proportioning the punishment to the sin; for, or because, she saith in her heart — As did ancient Babylon, Isaiah 47:7-10; I sit — Her usual style. Hence those expressions, the "wicked house", the Kaaba in Mecca.

Mecca sat for more than 14 centuries as a queen, over many kings, holding final revelation from Allah--the Qur'an--a false gospel about Jesus that has taken billions of souls astray. But the false prophet Mohammad and the great city Mecca shall see much sorrow. In the room of luxurious plenty; the very things from which she imagined herself to be most safe; and she shall be utterly burned with fire.

"In her heart she boasts, 'I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.'" The consequence of this proud security; shall her plagues come in one day —

All at once, in full extremity; death — The death of her children, with an incapacity of bearing more; mourning — , sorrow, or lamentation, instead of carnal pleasure and delights; and famine. God may have a people even in Babylon. But God's people shall be called out of Babylon, and called effectually, while those that partake with wicked men in their sins, must receive of their plagues.



Isaiah 47:7-10 (NIV)

You said, 'I am forever— the eternal queen!' But you did not consider these things or reflect on what might happen. "Now then, listen, you lover of pleasure, lounging in your security and saying to yourself, 'I am, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children.' Both of these will overtake you in a moment, on a single day: loss of children and widowhood. They will come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and all your potent spells. You have trusted in your wickedness and have said, 'No one sees me.' Your wisdom and knowledge mislead you when you say to yourself, 'I am, and there is none besides me.'

Revelation 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

“Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine.” Mecca is destroyed in one day, in one hour, on the Day of the Lord. This is the retribution for her boasting in Revelation 18:7; *“I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.”*

The description of Mecca’s destruction indicates a sudden and overwhelming reverse that which will occur at the last judgment day. *“She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.”* This is the fulfilment of the predicted punishment of the harlot (Revelation 17:16).



The downfall and destruction of the mystical Babylon are determined in the judgment of God. This seems to be Christ himself, coming to destroy his enemies, and to shed abroad the light of his gospel through all nations. The wickedness of this Babylon was very great; she had forsaken the true God, and set up worship to Baal in the Kaaba, and had drawn all sorts of men into spiritual adultery. The true and mighty God has passed sentence. Mecca enjoyed much wealth from the Hajj pilgrims coming in the tens of millions to worship the non-god spirit in the Kaaba. This is Baal the beast. Mecca thought herself strong; she forgot the strength of the Almighty.

Mecca will be consumed by fire. So completely destroyed as if she were entirely burned up. The certain and complete destruction of that formidable anti-Christian power is predicted under a great variety of horrific images.

Revelation 18:9 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.

The kings of the earth are the first to grieve over Babylon-Mecca's fall. They grieve because they committed adultery with her, meaning they shared in her idolatry and worshipped her, and they shared in her luxury. The kings participated in her greed and wealth that resulted from her idolatry and wickedness.

From the context of chapters 17 & 18 the kings who mourn her here in chapter 18 are not the ten spiritual demonic kings who are close allies of the beast Baal in chapter 17. These are human earthly kings who have profited from the Hajj traffic to Mecca. These are human kings who have performed the Hajj themselves, taken off their fine clothes, and been completely ruled by the great city. They thought the true God dwelled in the Kaaba. They prayed to the Blackstone.



The Islamic kings of the earth weep and mourn over Babylon-Mecca's fall. They stand far off and are terrified by her torment. They have participated in her idolatry and greed and now try and contemplate what life will be like without her. They have worshipped Babylon-Mecca at the Kaaba rather than worship God and their "goddess" is now in flames! It shakes them to their core.

Revelation 18:10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”

Few cities are geographically close to Mecca because it is in the desert wilderness. It is easy to understand why they stand far off today and can still see what happens to Mecca when you take into account Internet and television.



The spirit of antichrist (Satan) is a worldly spirit, and that sorrow is a mere worldly sorrow; they do not lament for the anger of God, but for the loss of outward comforts. The magnificence and riches of the people in Mecca will avail them nothing but will render the vengeance harder to be borne. The spiritual merchandise is here alluded to, when not only slaves, but the souls of men, are mentioned as articles of commerce, to the destroying the souls of billions. This is the outcome of the Qur'an and its false stories about Jesus, the Son of God, being only the “mere messenger” of Allah.

Revelation 18:11 “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore—

“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore.” Now the merchants, the wholesale dealers and travel agents made rich through Mecca Hajj trade weep and mourn over the destruction of Mecca and the Kaaba. Just in the past decade the Saudi government has invested \$115 billion into one Mecca hotel and the Kaaba. The various goods are placed in groups. The treasures come first—gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls.



The reason for their sorrow is both for their religious love for the Kaaba, and the loss of trade. While their loss is monetary, the spiritual loss causes them the most sorrow.

Beside its centrality to Muslim spirituality, the Hajj pilgrimage is a collective Islamic rite that represents an opportunity for socializing, trade, conviviality, interaction, and international commerce. Moreover, long before the rise of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, the pilgrimage represented an occasion to do business as it coincided with a large annual fair to which established Mecca residents welcomed visiting pilgrims. Thanks to the enlargement of the Kaaba that allows for millions pilgrims to visit all the holy sites of Islam, economic and business activities contributed to the intensification of trade between Meccan merchants and visitors.

The typical profile of a status Hajji was that of the rich businessman who saw performing the pilgrimage as a highly prestigious act that crowned his economic success and established his status among his ethnic community. This profile of the pilgrim merchant has greatly changed over the past twenty years as ever more wealth has flowed into Mecca. The economic impact of these “new merchants” is now noticeable in three main sectors of Mecca activity, namely currency exchange rates, electronics and telephony, and the market for luxury goods.

Revelation 18:12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;

Much of the laments here in chapter 18 are summaries or restatements of the prophecies in Jeremiah and Isaiah concerning Babylon's fall. John uses those prophecies as his template to express the grief of the world over Mecca's demise. John lists some of the cargoes the merchants would bring into Babylon-Mecca or traded with her. There is everything from precious stones and metals to fine silks and cloth needed to cover the Kaaba. Almost all the things here named are still in use at Mecca, both in their idolatrous service and in common life for the Hajj pilgrims.



GOLD MERCHANTS IN MECCA SELL MINIATURE KAABAS

“Cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble.”

The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet. Such was the attire of the harlot (see Revelation 17:4). The Muslim pilgrimage and the trade that is inherent to it makes it possible to understand and evaluate their impact on the new manifestations of Islam in Mecca. The organization of the Hajj has been managed by the Saudi Government, which greatly controls its strategic, financial, and diplomatic interests. The huge wealth involved in the various transactions also contributed to the commercial strategies employed by the organizers of the pilgrimage, as well as for the Muslim pilgrims and merchants.

Revelation 18:13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

The great city mourners had shared Mecca's "special status" wealthy sensual pleasures and gained by her wealth and trade. There is no city like Mecca. One third of the world is required to travel to it at some time in their lifetime. The Islamic kings of the earth, whom she flattered into worshipping the beast Baal at the Kaaba, allowing them to be tyrannical over their subjects, while obedient to her; and the merchants, those who trafficked for her indulgences, pardons, and honors now mourn.

Mecca-Babylon's friends partook her sinful pleasures and profits but are not willing to share her plagues. They stand far off and watch the destruction on the internet because Mecca is in the desert wilderness and there are no large cities near Mecca. The spirit of antichrist (Satan) and the beast (Baal) are worldly spirits, and that sorrow is a mere worldly sorrow; they do not lament for the anger of God, but for the loss of outward comforts. The magnificence and riches of the ungodly will avail them nothing but will render the vengeance from Jesus harder to bear. The spiritual merchandise is here alluded to, when not only slaves, but the souls of men, are mentioned as articles of commerce, to the destroying the souls of billions through the false teaching of the Qur'an.

INCENSE, MYRRH AND FRANKINCENSE

The frankincense tree, *Boswellia Sacra*, only grows in one area in the world—that is in southern Arabia. Both frankincense and myrrh start as a resinous sap inside a special family of trees that grow almost exclusively in the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. At certain times of year, the trees are cut with special knives, and the sap oozes out. Once the sap has dried in the sun, it is ready to be used.

Frankincense and myrrh were so expensive in Europe that southern Arabia became known as Arabia Felix, "Arabia the Blessed." Frankincense and myrrh can be collected from multiple *Boswellia* and *Commiphora* species, several different varieties are available. The shrubby trees that produce them are native to the Arabian Peninsula and regions of northeast Africa.



Harvested frankincense and myrrh are burned as incense because of their pleasing aromas, but historically they have a number of other uses as well.

They were carried north by camel caravans across the Arabian Desert through Mecca and Medina to Petra, Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra, and beyond; or shipped by sea from the now ruined Omani port of Sumhuram to Africa, China and India. During the trade's heyday, 1000 BC to 300 AD, more than 3,000 tons were traded annually along these pathways.

For hundreds of years the 'Frankincense Routes', surrounded by a halo of secrecy and fable, were jealously guarded. The merchants of southern Arabia took no chances – they kept them totally hidden. For over 2,000 years, these pathways were the foundation of Arabia's fame and prosperity.



FRANKINCENSE RESIN FROM ARABIA

Both frankincense—also known as olibanum—and myrrh have been traded in the Middle East and North Africa for upwards of 5,000 years. It is believed that the Babylonians and Assyrians burned them during religious ceremonies. The ancient Egyptians bought entire boatloads of the resins from the Phoenicians, using them in incense, insect repellent, perfume and salves for wounds and sores; they were also key ingredients in the embalming process.

Myrrh oil served as a rejuvenating facial treatment, while frankincense was charred and ground into a powder to make the heavy kohl eyeliner Egyptian women famously wore. Sacks of frankincense and potted saplings of myrrh-producing trees appear in murals decorating the walls of a temple dedicated to Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled Egypt for roughly two decades until her death around 480 B.C. The Roman historian and botanist Pliny the Elder, who recommended frankincense as an antidote to hemlock poisoning, wrote in the first century A.D. that the pricey dried sap had made the southern Arabians the richest people on earth.

At the time Jesus was born, frankincense and myrrh may have been worth more than their weight in the third gift presented by the wise men: gold. But despite their significance in the New Testament, the substances fell out of favor in Europe with the rise of Christianity and fall of the Roman Empire, which essentially obliterated the thriving trade routes that had developed over many centuries. In the early years of Christianity, incense was expressly forbidden because of its associations with pagan worship; later, however, some denominations, including the Catholic Church, would incorporate the burning of frankincense, myrrh and other aromatic items into specific rites.

ISLAM FORBIDS WINE-WHAT DID JOHN MEAN BY “CARGOES OF WINE AND OLIVE OIL”?

In Saudi Arabia, alcohol is officially “banned.” But the country behaves more like the United States during Prohibition during the 1920s. Mecca and Saudi Arabia strictly interpret Islamic law and alcohol is illegal in Saudi Arabia. The punishments can be harsh--anyone caught in possession of wine or other alcoholic beverages runs the risk of time in jail and flogging. Despite this, there are wealthy people within the country who like to drink alcohol – and there are wealthy merchants willing to come up with elaborate methods of getting the alcohol into the country.

Merchants can supply the wealthy with fine wine. A bottle of smuggled wine costs about 800 Saudi riyals (\$215). The diplomatic quarters of Riyadh—a gated neighborhood filled with embassies—plays host to barely concealed parties. Some Saudi homes are so well-stocked that a host would ask which kind of white or red wine his guests would like. Saudi Arabia's custom officials have been sharing some of the failed attempts to smuggle wine into the country on social media.

There are other Islamic countries in the Middle East that also ban alcohol, like Iran, Sudan and Kuwait. In many of those that don't, there are significant restrictions even if they're sometimes overlooked. In Dubai, alcohol can only be served at a licensed establishment, and violations can be punishable by jail time. In Egypt, hotels can't serve Egyptians alcohol during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The wine is then smuggled into the Great City.

THE ANNUAL SACRIFICE OF MORE THAN A MILLION ANIMALS IN THE GREAT CITY

Between one million and two million animals are slaughtered annually during the pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and throughout the Islamic world in observance of the Feast of the Sacrifice (Id al-Adha). Concurrently, Muslim population growth has created a demand for animals beyond the potential production of some Islamic countries.

Only the sacrifice of Jesus takes away our sins. Animal sacrifice is pointless.

Hebrews 10:4-6 (NIV)

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.”

From domestic and foreign sources, the transportation of about one million animals to Mina (near Makkah), their slaughter there according to strict ritual, and the disposal of carcasses—all within several days—is an extraordinary exercise in logistics and management.

Knowing the futility of animal sacrifice, the false god of the Qur'an then demands it. Satan has read the Bible; he knows this is futility.

Qur'an 22:36

And the cattle and especially the camels – We have appointed their sacrifice as among the public symbols and rituals set up by Allah for you, in which there is much good for you. When they (the cattle and camels) are lined up in standing position for sacrifice, pronounce Allah's name over them.



Concurrently, Muslim population growth has created a demand for animals beyond the potential production of some Islamic countries, so animals are imported from far away to the great city.



HUMAN SLAVERY STILL EXISTS IN THE GREAT CITY MECCA

In 1962, under pressure from the US and Great Britain, Saudi Arabia abolished slavery officially; however, unofficial slavery is still known to exist.

According to the U.S. State Department as of 2005: Saudi Arabia is a destination for men and women from South and East Asia and East Africa trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation, and for children from Yemen, Afghanistan, and Africa trafficking for forced begging. Hundreds of thousands of low-skilled workers from India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya migrate voluntarily to Saudi Arabia.

Some fall into conditions of involuntary servitude, suffering from physical and sexual abuse, non-payment or delayed payment of wages, the withholding of travel documents, restrictions on their freedom of movement and non-consensual contract alterations. The Government of Saudi Arabia does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so.

see <https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46616.htm>

Revelation 18:14 “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’

The splendor and wealth of Mecca are beyond comparison. By far, the two most expensive structures in the world are in Mecca. With a total construction cost of over \$100 billion (and still more is planned) the Great Mosque of Mecca can accommodate up to four million people and surrounds the Kaaba, which holds the beast, Baal. It contains 100 acres and has vast outdoor and indoor praying spaces. The mosque is also home to the Blackstone, set into the Kaaba by the false prophet Mohammad.

Mecca also holds the second most expensive building in the world. The \$15 billion Abraj Al Bait Towers in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, holds the records for the world's tallest clock tower and the world's tallest hotel. The clock face is also the world's largest, at 43 meters in diameter. It has 10,000 rooms and 70 restaurants. It is the third tallest building in the world, standing 1,972 feet high. For comparison, the newly rebuilt World Trade Center building in New York City cost \$3.5 billion.

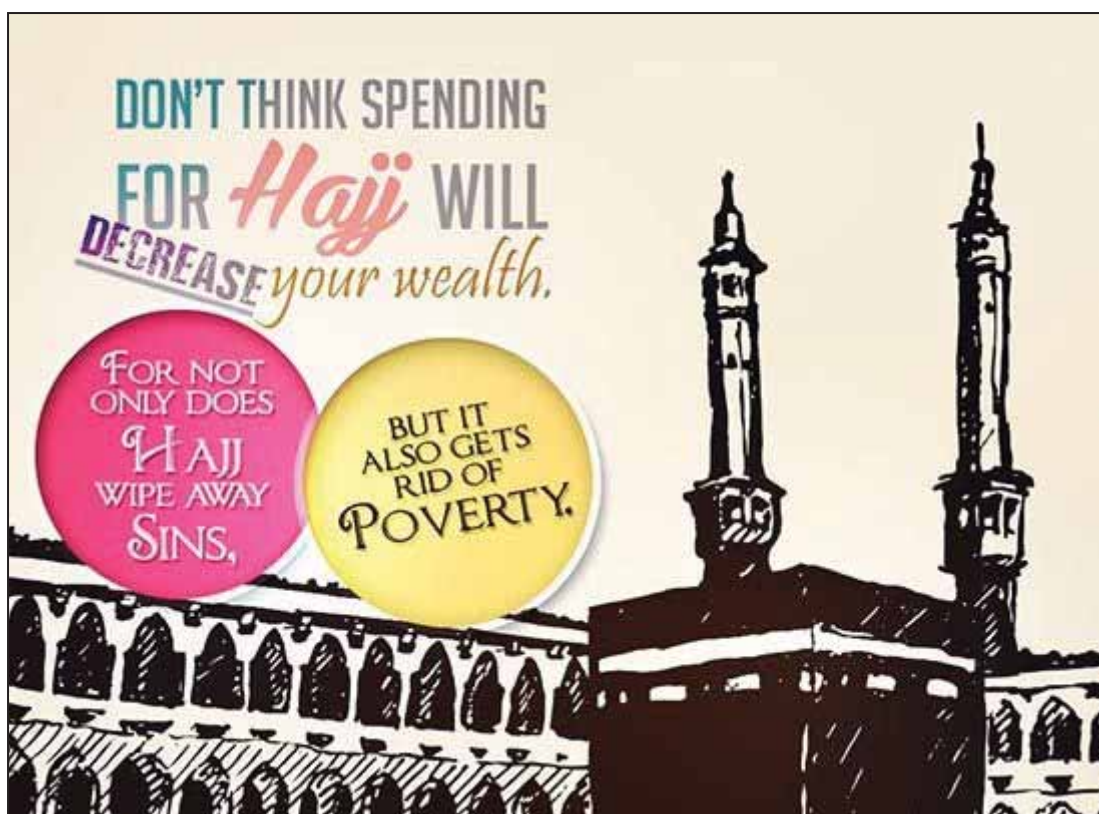


Babylon-Mecca represents not only the religious and political power of Islam and Mecca, but her economic power from the Hajj as well. The woman seated on the seven mountains symbolizes materialism and worldly wealth, as well as worship to a false pair of gods, Satan and Baal. Satan is so clever they believe that only one god is worshipped! That is why the merchants mourn over her.

Revelation 18:15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn

In verse 15 John returns to the merchants of 18:11 (*"The merchants of the earth"*), and they are described as those merchants *"who sold these things and gained their wealth from her."* These are the merchants, gold dealers, laborers and travel agents who gained much wealth facilitating the Hajj travel to and from Mecca to worship Baal in the Kaaba.

The annual pilgrimage of Muslims to Mecca is a massive logistical challenge for Saudi Arabia, which has been making significant investment in infrastructure. The pilgrimage is performed from the 8th to the 12th of the last month of the Islamic lunar calendar and coincides with the holiday of Eid al-Adha, which follows Ramadan, the month of fasting. The pilgrims (or hajjis, as they are called) usually arrive several days in advance and often stay on for a week or more, generating more than \$10 billion in revenue and makes the Hajj Saudi Arabia's second largest income earner after oil.

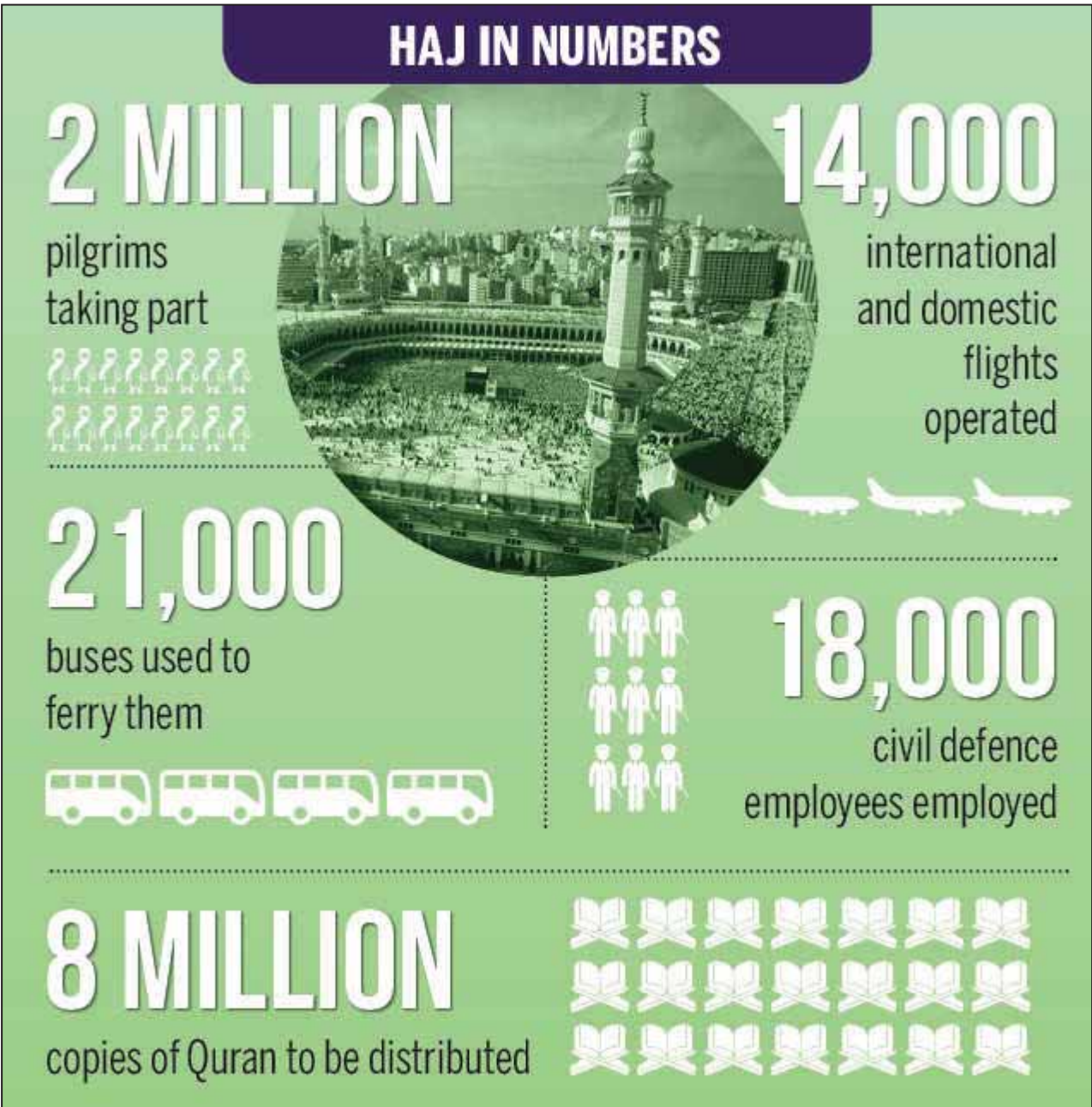


According to the national real estate committee at the Council of Saudi Chambers, the hajj and umrah are expected to generate \$150 billion of income in the country over the next five years, creating a further 100,000 permanent hajj-related jobs. The kingdom also plans to set up specialized research centers to develop a Hajj economic index.

Experts believe that revenue from pilgrimage will top \$150 billion by 2022. Many luxury hotels have sprung up in Mecca, offering, among other amenities, the view of the Grand Mosque; a suite can be as costly as \$7,000 a night.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAJJ INVESTMENT FUNDS

Muslims in the West are privileged and generally can go on demand. Governments around the world help fund the trip to Mecca. Indonesia is home to more than 220 million Muslims. Indonesia is one of the Muslim-majority countries where a government agency (BPKH – the Hajj Fund Management Agency) handles hajj pilgrimages by holding deposits on behalf of future pilgrims (who may wait 30 years or more for a hajj visa). The deposits are held in a fund used to help subsidize poorer pilgrims. Set up in 1963, Malaysia’s equivalent, Tabung Haji (the Pilgrims Fund), had assets of nearly \$20 billion under management in 2019.

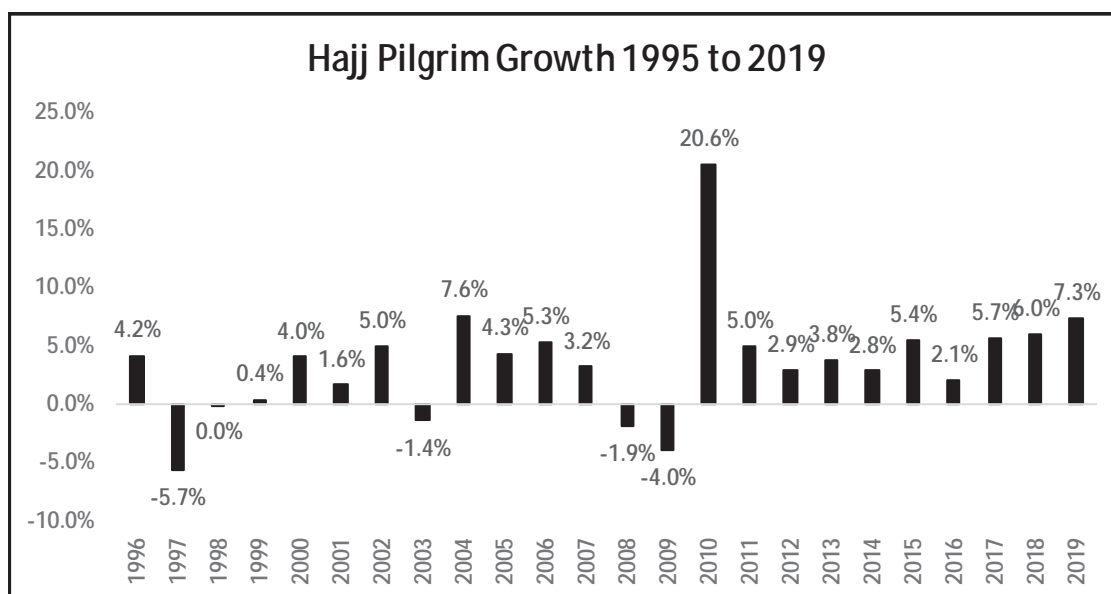


THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA IS A HIGH GROWTH SECTOR FOR SAUDI ARABIA

The discovery of one of the world's biggest oil reserves in the Eastern Province of the Saudi Kingdom in 1938 helped fuel the development of the country at an unprecedented rate. Especially since 1975 Saudi Arabia has been transformed into one of the most prosperous and dynamic of world economies. Funded by its vast oil wealth traded on the oceans, Saudi Arabia has pumped more than \$150 billion of investment into Mecca the past decade. The level of pampering offered by some of the hotels in Mecca is beyond description.

The king of Saudi Arabia is first and foremost, the guardian of the Holy Mosques and has a special duty to maintain the Holy sites, enable the Faithful to perform their Hajj obligation and keep those sites from the view of unbelievers and non-Muslims as required by the Qur'an. Unlike most other pilgrimages, Hajj is not an option for Muslims but a fundamental obligation, and this element of compulsion makes it difficult to define as tourism proper. Men and women who are physically capable and economically able have a religious obligation to perform Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

According to data provided by the Saudi Office of General statistics and information, the total number of pilgrims reached 2.9 million in 2011. By 2019 that number had reached an estimated 4.2 million. Over the past decade the average annual growth rate was 6.0%.



Besides this annual Hajj ritual, which is one of the largest gatherings on earth, there is a lesser Hajj known as "umrah" that can be performed by a Muslim at any time during the year. The economic impact of religious tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is substantial and increasing in importance every year.

Tourism worldwide is a risky business. Nevertheless, religious motives of Muslim pilgrims have never been noticeably vulnerable to any circumstances. Furthermore, religious tourists are the highest spenders compared with other types of tourists in Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, annual pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for Hajj and Umrah plays an increasingly vital role in economic growth and development.

THE DESERT WILDERNESS PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA HAS GOTTEN MUCH EASIER

Most of Saudi Arabia has a harsh desert climate, with frequent dust and sand storms and little rainfall. From May to September, the weather is very hot and dry. Temperatures drop rapidly after sunset, and the nights are relatively cool. The Hajj travel through the desert was dangerous and difficult for more than 13 centuries. Oil wealth has made the travel much easier, and Mecca even more wealthy.

Now the merchants can sell Asprey toiletries, 24-hour butler service, and \$270 chocolate selections. The vast number of wealthy Hajj merchants around the world are some of the richest people in the whole Islamic empire. But this also means that they share the guilt of Mecca, for they have also participated in it themselves.

The arid landscape hugging the Mecca highway used to hold little appeal. But now travelers can marvel at the fantastical structure rearing out of the otherwise unforgiving landscape, clearly visible from 25 miles away.



The kingdom is boosting its infrastructure spending and expanding its railways, including with a \$22.5 billion metro system as it seeks to diversify its oil-dependent economy. In 2011, Saudi Arabia signed a deal for a Spanish consortium to build the rail track, supply 35 high-speed trains and handle a 12-year maintenance contract.

The rail project, dogged by several delays, was built at a cost of more than \$16 billion, according to Saudi media.

The Haramain high-speed railway, also known as the Western railway or Mecca–Medina high-speed railway, is a 453-kilometre-long (281 mi) high-speed inter-city rail transport system in Saudi Arabia. It links the Muslim holy cities of Medina and Mecca via King Abdullah Economic City, using 450 kilometers (280 miles) of main line and other local connecting lines.

Revelation 18:16 and cry out: "Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!"

No building is more beautifully outlined and decorated than the Kaaba in Mecca. The door of the Kaaba contains more than \$6 million of gold. The kiswah cloth covering the Kaaba costs \$6 million, and is replaced every year. Nearly 670 kg (1,477 pounds) of silk, enough to cover a structure estimated to measure about 50 feet (15 meters) high and 35 to 40 feet long, is imported from Italy. Hundreds of pounds of silver and gold thread from Germany are woven in the cloth.



Revelation 18:17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

Like a bustling superhighway, the Saudi Arabia oil transport sea-road serves the world's traffic today just as she did in the days of the Phoenicians. The money from the sale of the oil flows into Mecca, as the Saudis have poured hundreds of billions of dollar into Mecca over past decade.



A great Saudi oil tanker, a thousand feet long, moves imperiously up a Red Sea shipping lane. Not far away an Arabian fishing trawls for the large blue fish which abound there. Because the sea lanes are narrow and the traffic is as heavy as that on Fifth Avenue at high noon, an American naval ship, capable of 35 knots, idles along at ten knots an hour. There are yet other ships on this watery thoroughfare.

To the east, pleasure steamers cruise serenely along the coast, their passengers lining the rails to enjoy the view of flat tablelands set unbelievably close to the shore. And to the north and south, freighters, holds stuffed with the world's goods, wait patiently for the sea lanes to clear.

John introduces the lamentation of the mariners, who would, of course, be deeply interested in the destruction of this favorite city. They were accustomed to its' trade, and by carrying merchandise to which they had been enriched.

Death, at any rate, will soon end their commerce, and all the riches of the ungodly will be exchanged, not only for the coffin and the worm, but for the fire that cannot be quenched. They will pay the price for believing the false gospel of the Qur'an.

Revelation 18:18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

The ship masters and sailors live by carrying merchants' goods and the black gold of crude oil. All who get their living by serving this mystical Babylon, whether goldsmiths that make shrines for miniatures Kaaba replicates for Hajj pilgrims, or travel clerks, or notaries, or any officers that Mecca employs will cry when they see the smoke of her burning.



The mourners had shared Babylon's sensual pleasures and gained by her wealth and trade. The kings of the earth, whom she flattered into idolatry, allowing them to be tyrannical over their subjects, while obedient to her; and the merchants, those who trafficked for her indulgences, pardons, and honors; these mourn.

Babylon's friends partook her sinful pleasures and profits but are not willing to share her plagues. The spirit of antichrist is a worldly spirit, and that sorrow is a mere worldly sorrow; they do not lament for the anger of God, but for the loss of outward comforts.

The magnificence and riches of the ungodly Mecca will avail them nothing but will render the vengeance harder to be borne. The spiritual merchandise is here alluded to, when not only slaves, but the souls of men, are mentioned as articles of commerce, to the destroying the souls of millions.

Revelation 18:19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”

“They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out.” When they see the smoke of her burning, they will be shocked to the core. Since they believe God lives in the Kaaba, they will not understand how God could have destroyed the great city.



BECAUSE IN ONE HOUR SHE WAS MADE DESOLATE!

The prosperous traders learn, that even with all their gains, to get the unsearchable riches of Christ; otherwise; even in this life, they may have to mourn that riches make to themselves wings and fly away, and that all prayer to the Kaaba they said in great piety, are departed from them. Death, at any rate, will soon end their commerce, and all the riches of the ungodly will be exchanged, not only for the coffin and the worm, but for the fire that cannot be quenched.

Revelation 17:8 (NIV)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Revelation 18:20 “Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.”

John has been recording the grief of the world over Babylon-Mecca’s fall and the laments of those who grew rich through her wealth. The scene now suddenly shifts to God’s people who worship and serve the Lord Jesus.

The voice from heaven in 18:4 which warned God’s people to come out of Babylon-Mecca (al all Islamic teaching) and not to fellowship with her now speaks again. It calls all of heaven, the saints, apostles and prophets to rejoice over God’s judgment of Babylon-Mecca.



“Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets.” The second portion of the chapter closes with this invitation to the saints to rejoice: they are summoned to rejoice because the law of retribution has worked on her. Your judgment (it is said to the saints) is judged on her. This does not mean a judgment which the saints have decreed, but the judgment which Babylon wrought on the holy is now exacted from her by Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Revelation 19:13 (NIV)

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.

John sees a mighty angel or powerful angel pick up a boulder the size of a large millstone and throw it into the sea. He then declares that with such violence Babylon will be thrown down.

All that made Islam and Mecca attractive to people will be taken away. The things the angel lists are not evil in themselves. Musicians, tradespeople, a millstone grinding grain, the light of a lamp, a wedding with bridegroom and bride; all these things will be silenced or extinguished. These are signs of normal human life. They will perish.



John intensifies Jeremiah's prophecy of Babylon's fall in Jeremiah 51:59-64. Baruch's brother Seraiah, a staff officer in King Zedekiah's army was to go to Babylon and read Jeremiah's prophecy of Babylon's fall in Babylon. The prophecy was all that Jeremiah had said about Babylon in chapters 50-51. He was then to declare, "O Lord, you have said you will destroy this place, so that neither man nor animal will live in it; it will be desolate forever." Then he was to take the scroll and tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates River and say, "So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her people will fall." The angel is clearly remembering Jeremiah's words. God will fulfill his prophet's words in the last days and will apply them to eschatological Babylon-Mecca.

Revelation 18:22 The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

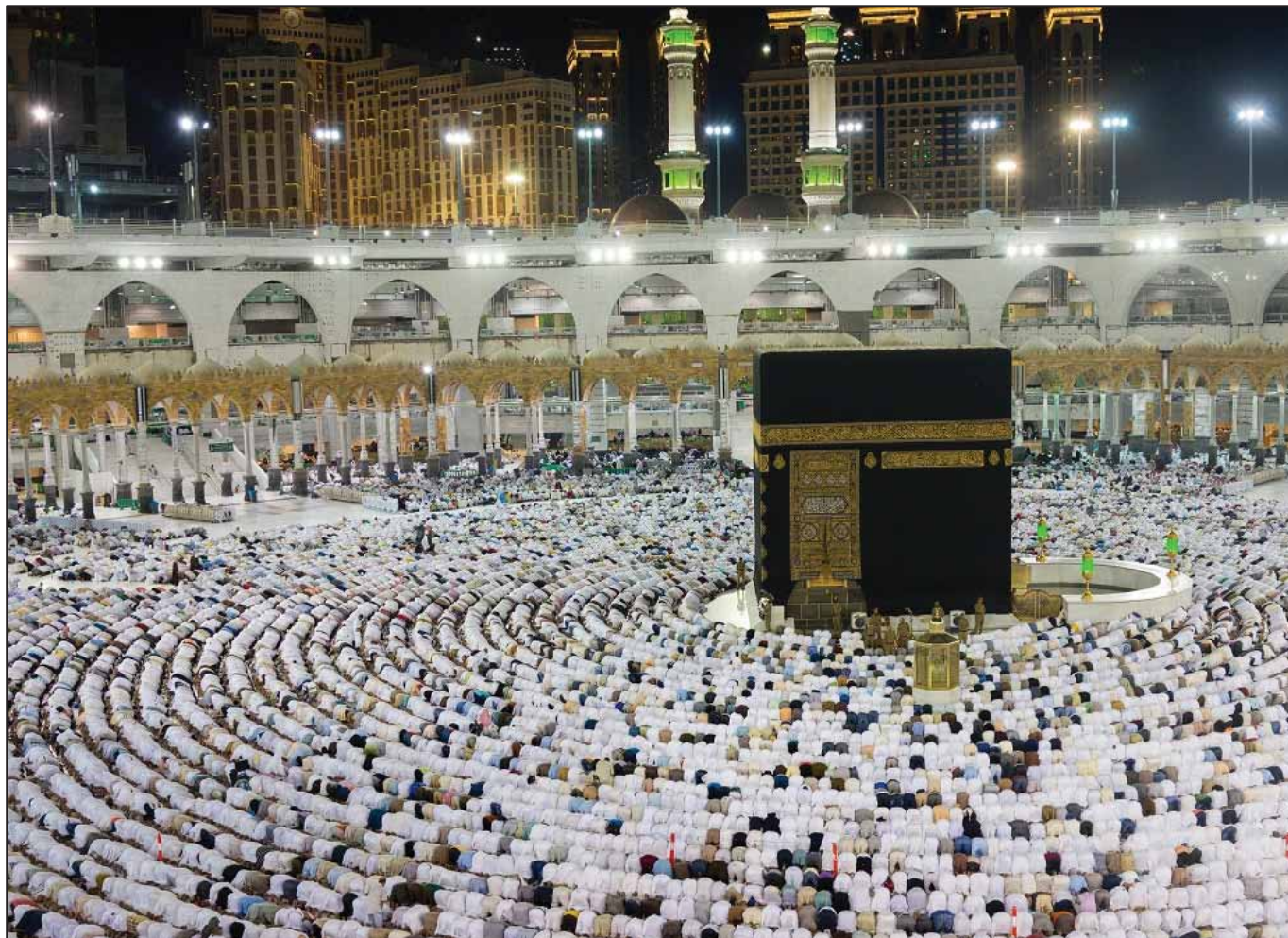
John's picture also points out to us that not everything human beings do is sinful and evil, even those who follow the beast. Total depravity does not mean we are as evil as we can be. It means every part of human life has been tainted and corrupted by sin. We can still do good things but because of sin we are separated from God and prone to do evil. The beast is as depraved as he can be because Baal has received authority and power from the dragon-Satan. What about the flute player or workman or bride and bridegroom in Mecca? They were following the beast yet still doing normal human things. It is their choice of who to worship that determines their eternal future and destiny.



They chose poorly and rejected the Lord Jesus Christ! The angel declares that the merchants of Babylon-Mecca were some of the world's great men but they were deceived and led astray by the "magic spell" of Babylon. The word for "magic spell" is pharmakeia, which the ESV translates sorcery. The word means magic arts or sorcery. The verb form means to mix potions and cast spells and is related to our English word pharmacy. They could not break away from the Kaaba's seduction and so were led astray to the evil of Satan and the beast. Worldly power and intelligence is no defense against the deception of Satan. Only the Holy Spirit in the Christ-follower is a defense against the attacks of spiritual evil. Without him all human beings are vulnerable!

Revelation 18:23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

"By your magic spell all the nations were led astray." The Saudi government estimates the number of people circling the Kaaba—Islam's holiest site—is 115,000 people an hour!



The fall of Babylon was an act of God's justice. And because it was a final ruin, this enemy should never molest them any more; of this they were assured by a sign. Let us take warning from the things which brought others to destruction, and let us set our affections on things above, when we consider the short-lived nature of earthly things. God's judgment does not fall because the merchants were too wealthy. It is spiritual worship, which is the true cause of her fall. The merchants who traded, as well as those who lived in Mecca, are facing the wrath of God.

Her magic spell is the Islamic circumambulation (seven times around the Kaaba forgives your sins), her artful policy, her attractiveness, and the seductions by which she drew in people from every nation. *"Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived."* (Revelation 13:14) They worship not knowing Baal was wounded by the sword. God tells us this fact so we can identify the beast is Baal from the Abyss.

Revelation 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."

"In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth." This passage is another reason why Rome cannot fulfill Revelation prophecy. Rome did not kill all the Old Testament prophets!! Actually Rome killed no prophets, other than Jesus, if the Son of God can also be considered a prophet. Certainly Rome did not kill all of God's holy people! Even a revived future Rome could not go back in time and do this. But Baal and Satan did, and they fulfill Revelation 18:24 as stewards of Babylon-Mecca.

John 8:44 (NIV)

"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Baal and Satan have controlled an initial rebellion as Babel, ancient Babylon all the way to the current demonic worship masquerading as the true God. The prophet Zechariah warned about the wicked basket heading to a house to be built later in Babylon (Zechariah 5:8-10-11 *"Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me. He replied, "To the country of Babylon to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."*) The Kaaba is the house. Mecca is the great city, not Rome or Jerusalem.

Neither Rome nor Jerusalem are on seven mountains nor in the desert wilderness. Mecca constantly blasphemes the true God. Mecca is on seven mountains and far in the desert wilderness. Rome did not face anything like imminent attack by its vassal kings (Rome cannot fulfill Revelation 17:16), and Jerusalem did not have any control whatsoever over the rest of the world.

The angel's final pronouncement against Mecca (Satan and Baal) Babylon-Mecca is the most chilling. In her was found the blood of God's prophets and saints, along with the blood of all who have been murdered or slaughtered.

At first sight it seems difficult to understand that these words are spoken not only of Babylon, but of Baal and Satan leading a rebellion since the time of the prophets. What other world Empire could be convicted of killing all the prophets and the saints?

Similar words are addressed by Jeremiah to Judah (Jeremiah 2:34): "Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents" (see on Revelation 17:1). Here is concluded the pronouncement of the judgment of Babylon; which may be said to answer the prayer in Revelation 6:10; and which forms the conclusion of the revelation commencing at Revelation 17.

The false prophet Mohammad, and the beast Baal at the Kaaba in the great city of Mecca are the two specially mentioned among those doomed to the lake of fire.

Listen to the warnings from Jesus.



REVELATION CHAPTER 19

THE SPIRITUAL WAR AGAINST THE LAMB

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 19

In Revelation chapter 19 John heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

John saw heaven standing open and there before him was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

The beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.



But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Revelation 19:20 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 19 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 19:1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

In chapters 17-18, John is looking at Mecca on earth and its luxury, blasphemy, and sudden destruction in one hour on the Day of the Lord. In chapter 19, John is now looking in heaven, and now the true God is praised and glorified. Revelation chapters 17-18 compare the wickedness and punishment of those who follow the beast Baal and Babylon-Mecca with God's people, those who follow the Lord Jesus. John told us about the judgment and grief of those who follow false prophet Mohammad, pray to the Kaaba, worship the beast, Baal, take the mark of the Shahada, are compelled to travel to Babylon-Mecca.

THE TWO OPPOSING FORCES	
Jesus Christ	The Antichrist
1. Man cannot keep the law	1. Man must keep Allah's law (Sharia)
2. God first loved us while we were still sinners	2. Allah only created you to worship him
3. Jesus came to save by fulfilling the law and giving his atoning sacrifice	3. Allah offers no savior nor atoning sacrifice
	

THE FOUR HALLELUJAHS—REVELATION 19:1, 19:3, 19:4, AND 19:6

They cry out the first of four choruses all beginning with "Hallelujah" or praise God. These are in direct contrast with the three laments over Babylon-Mecca's fall.

Hallelujah is the Hebrew expression frequently occurring in the later Psalms and meaning "*praise to Jehovah.*" Only in these four verses of Revelation 19 does this mighty praise-word occur in the New Testament. Hallelujah; the salvation and the glory and the power belong only to our God. They do not belong to the Kaaba, Mecca, the Blackstone, nor Baal, nor Satan nor the false prophet Mohammad and his Qur'an.

Revelation 19:2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

The judgment of God is faithful and just. The Lord God has condemned Babylon-Mecca, here referred to as in chapter 17, as the great prostitute. God's just judgment is two-fold. He has condemned Babylon-Mecca for corrupting the whole earth with her adulteries, false gospel of the Qur'an, prayer to Baal in the Kaaba, meaning her idolatry and greed, demonic worship, blasphemy of the true God, and the wickedness that followed from it. And God has avenged the blood of his servants, the prophets, and martyrs.

A God who did not care about the difference between right and wrong and did not judge humans for acting one way or the other would not be an admirable being worthy of our love or trust. The fact that God is just and will judge between right and wrong gives ultimate moral significance to our lives and makes us accountable for our actions.

The judgment of God is just because every word, thought, and deed are recorded in the books. Only those with their names in another book, the book of life from the Lamb of God, will be able to move past their sin and be eternally with Jesus.

Revelation 19:11-15 (NIV)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

On Judgment Day--it is the very last thing that happens before God destroys the old heaven and the old earth, which are corrupt on account of sin. Before He creates His new heaven and new earth, He has to do away with anything that could bring sin into the new creation. On Judgment Day every person will bow down before Christ.

That God is a judge who holds every human being accountable to His law is a theme repeated again and again in the Scriptures. The apostle Paul elaborates on this theme in his letter to the Romans.

Romans 14:10-12 (NIV)

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.’” So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

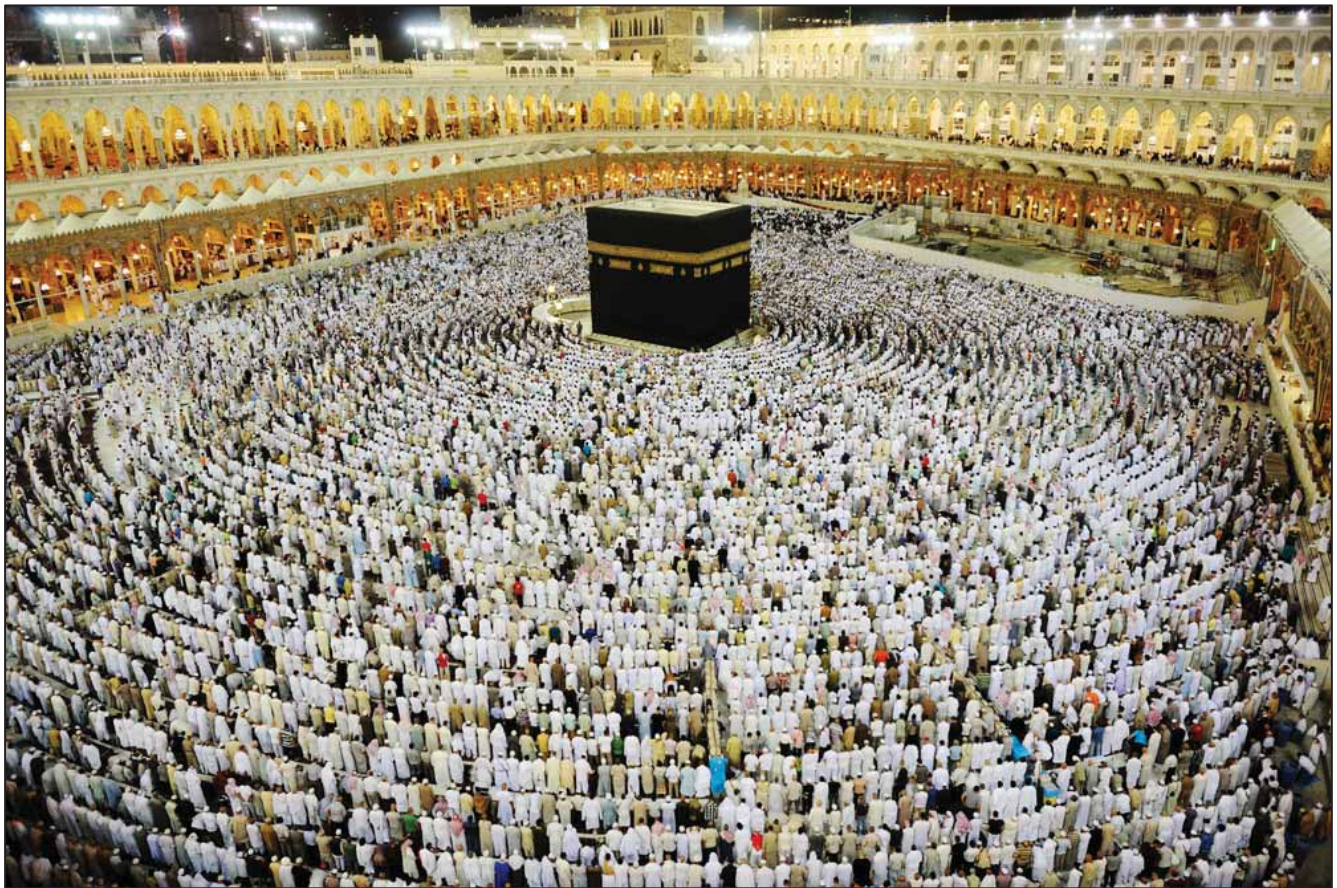
Revelation 19:3 And again they shouted: Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

Here is the second "Hallelujah" of the four in Revelation 19. The event was so glorious and so important; the final destruction of the great enemy of the church was of so much moment in its bearing on the welfare of the world, as to call forth repeated expressions of praise.

"The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." This is like Revelation 14:11-12. This is an image of final ruin. The punishment is for worshiping the false god.

Revelation 14:11-12 (NIV)

"And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.



THE SMOKE FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF MECCA "GOES UP FOR EVER AND EVER"

The manifestation of God's power is in the deliverance of His children from the evil of Satan and Baal, from the great harlot Mecca, from the false prophet Mohammad, and in the avenging the blood of His servants out of her hand, forcing, as it were, out of her hand the price of their blood.

Revelation 19:4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!”

The 24 elders and the four living creatures — After the preceding chorus had ended their hymn, the representatives of the Jewish and Christian Churches that have faith in Jesus the Son of God prostrated themselves before Jehovah, saying, Amen — So be it: let God be ever praised for the displays now made of his infinite perfections. The 24 elders and four living creatures are mentioned in Revelation 4:4-8 and who represent the churches of Christ and ministers of the Gospel in the several periods of time, these join in the chorus, and praise the Lord on the account of the destruction of Mecca, and ruin of Baal and Satan; so they are often heard of in this book, when any remarkable thing is done.

Revelation 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!”

A voice seemed to come from the very midst of the throne. It is not said by whom this voice was, but since the command was: *“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!”*, it seems that the voice was not from God. Likewise, it seems improbable that it was the voice of the Messiah, unless it be assumed that he here identifies himself with the redeemed church and speaks of God as his God and the church.

It would seem rather that it was a responsive voice that came from those nearest the throne, calling on all to unite in praising God in view of what was done. The meaning then will be, that all heaven was interested in the triumph of the church, and that one portion of the dwellers there called on the others to unite in offering thanksgiving.

Revelation 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

This is the final “hallelujah” of the series, and it provides an especially important praise theme. Once more the supreme title of the book, “Lord God Almighty,” appears, and as before it centers on his omnipotence, holiness, glory and sovereignty. Upon this order from the oracle, the whole church, in obedience to it, began to praise God with loud voices; which might be compared to the sound of many waters, or of mighty thundering, saying, *“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.”*

Let us rejoice and praise the Lamb of God! Given Jesus glory which is so justly due; for the marriage of the Lamb is come — Is near at hand and will be speedily concluded. His true church, his faithful servants, are now about to receive public and peculiar marks of his affection in a state of happiness and dignity suitable to their relation to him.

Christ gave himself for his church, that he might sanctify and cleanse it, and present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing. There is harmony between the angels and the saints in this triumphant song. Christ is the Bridegroom of his ransomed church.

Revelation 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready

We praise God for what we have, and we pray for what is yet further given to us. There is harmony between the angels and the saints in this triumphant song. Christ is the Bridegroom of his ransomed church, and our second union will be completed in heaven. Then the church of Christ, being purified from errors, divisions, and corruptions, in doctrine, discipline, worship, and practice, will be made ready to be publicly owned by him as his delight and his beloved.

The church appeared, not in the wealthy gold thread cloth of the Kaaba in Mecca, the mother of harlots, but in fine linen, clean and white. In the robes of Christ's righteousness, imputed for justification, and imparted for sanctification. The promises of the Gospel, the true sayings of God, opened, applied, and sealed by the Spirit of God, in holy ordinances, are the marriage-feast. This seems to refer to the abundant grace and consolation Christians will receive in the happy days which are to come. The relation of God, and especially of the Messiah, to the church, is often in the Scriptures represented under the image of marriage. See Isaiah 54:4-6; Isaiah 62:4-5, 2 Corinthians 11:2, and Ephesians 5:23-33.

Isaiah 54: 4-6 (NIV)

For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected,” says your God.

Believers in Jesus Christ are the bride of Christ, and we wait with great anticipation for the day when we will be united with our Bridegroom. Until then, we remain faithful to Him and say with all the redeemed of the Lord, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Revelation 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

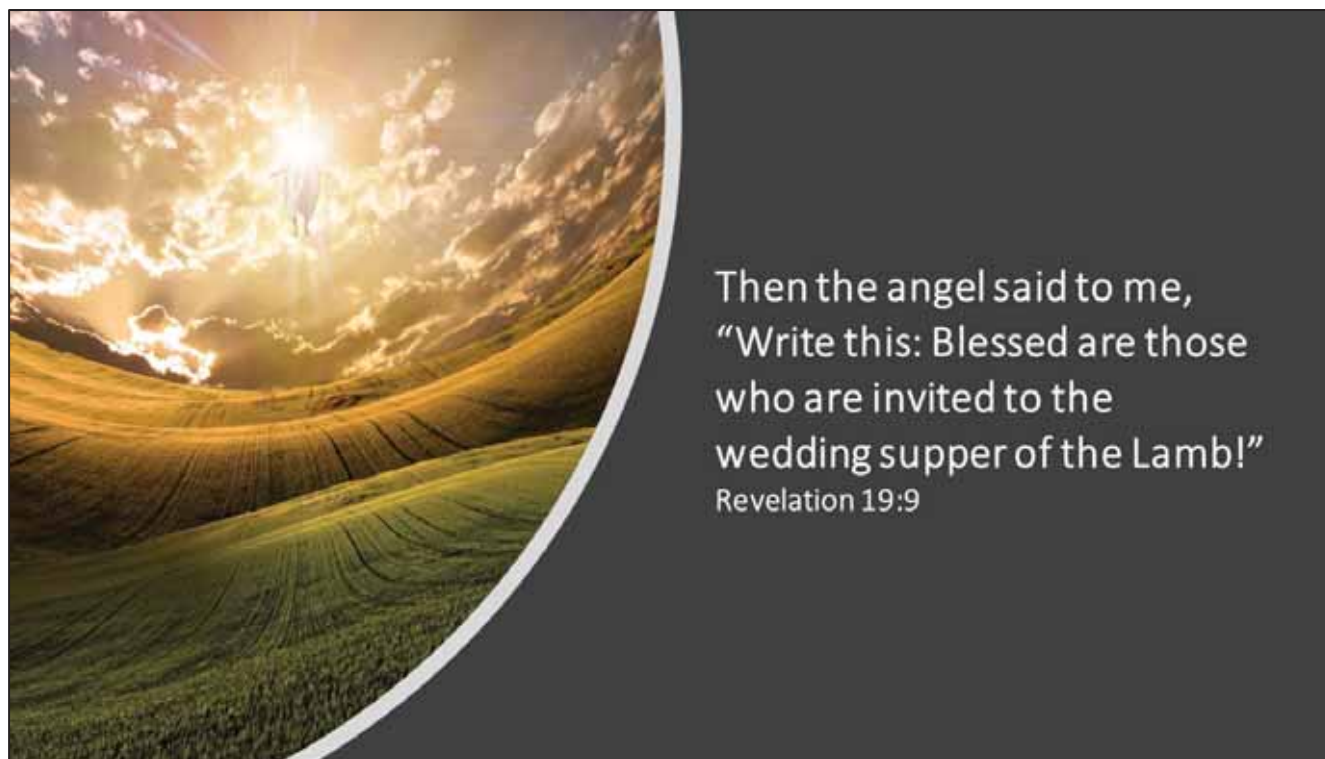
“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” The song closes with the announcement that the Lamb’s wife has made herself ready. Then follows the explanation of this readiness: she is adorned in fine linen. Her apparel is in contrast to the harlot: it is not purple, gold and scarlet. The double nature of the process is here told to John’s readers. The power comes from God, and yet the action is still voluntary. Loving the true God is only meaningful if it is voluntary.

“(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)” The raiment is that which strikes the eye: it has its character, and it indicates the character of the wearer. For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints; the righteous acts of the saints. That is, their former righteousness, exhibited in fidelity to God and hostility to the world, obtained and retained by the grace of God, now forms their chief glory. See Revelation 14:13 (*Then I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.”*).

Revelation 19:9 Then the angel said to me, **“Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”** And he added, **“These are the true words of God.”**

Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” The idea of the wedding supper here is similar to the beatitude of Luke 14:15, *“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”*

All are blessed who can dine with Christ forever. We did not invite ourselves (nor could we demand it—we who are in sin) or earn an invitation. This is a gift of grace. *And he added, “These are the true words of God.”* God's invitation is so amazing and so incomprehensible that an angel must tell John it's true! Yes, Jesus is truth and He is the Word of God. The Word is eternal.



John 1:1-5 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The “Word” is used three times in John 1:1 carries us into the depths of eternity, before time or creatures were. Genesis and John both start from ‘the beginning,’ but, while Genesis works downwards from that point and tells what followed, John works upwards and tells what preceded—if we may use that term in speaking of what lies beyond time. Time and creatures came into being, and, when they began, the Word ‘was.’ Jesus is eternal. Surely no form of speech could more emphatically declare absolute, uncreated being, outside the limits of time.

Revelation 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”

John’s experience of intense heavenly praise (Revelation 19:1–5) and the glorious marriage supper of the lamb certainly made an impression. Apparently overwhelmed, he collapsed, ready to worship the angel who disclosed those things. However, the angel immediately resists this worship. He explained that he, too, was a servant of God. Like human beings, angels are created beings. Jesus, on the other hand, created all things, whether in heaven or on earth, “visible and invisible...all things were created through him and for him” (Colossians 1:16). John 1:3 says concerning Jesus, “*Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*” The same thing happens again in Revelation 22:8-9, and this makes it improbable that John imagined the angel to be Christ himself, as some think. It is more likely he was overwhelmed by what he was seeing.

Revelation 22:8-9 (NIV)

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

JESUS ACCEPTS WORSHIP

In contrast to the reaction from the angels (Revelation 19 and 22), this further demonstrates that Jesus claimed divinity during His earthly ministry. Though this angel refuses worship, Jesus did not—Jesus accepted it as legitimate (Matthew 14:32-33; 28:9-10; John 9:37–38; John 20:28–29).

Matthew 14:32-33 (NIV)

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Matthew 28:8-10 (NIV)

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

John 9:37-38 (NIV)

Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

John 20:26-29 (NIV)

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True." John now describes the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth! This is one of the essential doctrines of the New Testament. Both the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds affirm the Second Coming. Key New Testament scriptures that reference the Second Coming are: Matthew 24:30-31, Mark 13:26-27, Luke 21:27-28, John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11, 1 Corinthians 15:20-25, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Hebrews 9:27-28, and 2 Peter 3:3-10.

Key Old Testament prophecies that refer to the events of Jesus' Second Coming are: Psalm 2:7-9, Psalm 110:1-7, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-9, Daniel 7:11-14, Zechariah 14:1-9.

In all these passages the Bible sees the Second Coming of Jesus as the climax of human history and the final establishment of the Kingdom of God and the rule of the Messiah

This rider on the white horse is not the rider in Revelation 6. Those four (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman) are the evil riders under the control of Baal, Satan and the demonic spirits.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

"His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns." Again, as in Revelation 1:14-15. "Fire" is the type of purity and judgment. (see Psalm 97:3; Isaiah 47:14; Isaiah 66:15; Amos 5:6; 1 Corinthians 3:13, and Revelation 3:18). Now Jesus comes as King of Kings to judgment. The plurality of "crowns" points to his character as King of Kings (see Revelation 17:14). Jesus wears many crowns—diadems—crowns rather of royalty than of simple military victory.

Revelation 1:14-15 (NIV)

The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

"He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself." Jesus has five names in Revelation, including this one only Jesus knows. This is the mystery of God! Evidently the "new name" of Revelation 3:12, the significance of which John is unable to comprehend, or was still maintained as a mystery even while John was receiving his revelations. (see Revelation 2:7; 3:12).

From the connection with the preceding clause, we naturally infer that this name was written upon his forehead, but John does not explicitly state this. The contrast between Christ and the false trinity (Satan, Baal and Mohammad) is quite evident. Satan, Baal And Mohammad are again guilty of the "great imitation." Jesus is the truth and light, and the only path to the Father.

Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

The blood is most likely that Christ shed on the cross. Some believe it is the blood of the slain followers of the beast. The idea here is derived from Isaiah 63:3, "I have trodden the wine press alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury: and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment".

In the original passage in Isaiah, the blood is doubtless the blood of his enemies; but it is here a reference to the blood of Christ himself, which he shed in his warfare with Satan.

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:13 (NIV)



Revelation 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Some would limit these to angels. The apparel which they wear—the fine linen “which is the righteousness of saints” (see Revelation 19:8)—should allow us to include the saints. The saints who have fought the good fight here, and who loved not their lives unto the death, will share the triumph of their king. The horses upon which they are seated are white.

The linen they wear is white, pure. These hosts of the redeemed on white horses accompany him to be witnesses of his victory, and to participate in the joy of the triumph, not to engage in the work destroying the ungodly.

Revelation 19:15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

“Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’” The description is like that given in Revelation 1:16 and 2:12.

Revelation 1:16 (NIV)

In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

Revelation 2:12 (NIV)

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”

The sharp sword in Revelation 19:15 is the same sword in Revelation 1:16. The Word of God is the conqueror and the judge. The sword is now wielded for but one work—the word that Christ spoke will judge men at the last day (John 12:48).

The power of this word found an illustration in the falling back of the hostile band which came to take Him in the day of His humiliation (John 18:5); yet more gloriously will the power of His word be felt. We see this in Isaiah 11:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:8 and in Psalm 2:9-12. Christ comes as King; His is a rule in righteousness; those who oppose this kingdom of righteousness find the shepherd’s staff as a rod of iron; the stone

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Psalms 2:9-12 (NIV)

“You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.” Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. Kiss his son, or he will be angry, and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Isaiah 11:4-5 (NIV)

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

In Revelation, John gives us five names for Christ. This is the truth of Jesus, the true Son of God. The first name is Faithful and True. The second is the unknown name written on him that only he knows. The third is the Word of God. The fourth, written on his robe and thigh, is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The fifth, is that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.

1. THE NAME OF JESUS IS "FAITHFUL AND TRUE"

Jesus is named the faithful and true witness in the letter to Laodicea in 3:14. Jesus is referred to as the *"faithful witness"* in Revelation 1:5. Jesus told Pilate he came into the world to bear witness to the truth in John 18:37. He names himself *"the way and the truth and the life"* in John 14:6. Paul lists faithfulness as part of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22.

Revelation 3:14 (NIV)

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.

2. THE NAME OF JESUS IS "NO ONE KNOWS BUT HE HIMSELF"

The second name in Revelation is written on the Lord Jesus and no one knows it but him. John is telling us that even though the Lord Jesus truly reveals who God is there will always be something of God that we cannot know. God is beyond human understanding and Jesus will remain a mystery to us. We think in human terms, and not spiritual realms.

Revelation 19:12 (NIV)

His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

We are creatures and though we will be united with him in a relationship that is like a marriage there will always be a part of Christ that we will never fully understand. In the letter to Pergamum in Revelation 2:17 the Lord tells those who are faithful to him that he will give them a new name that only they themselves will know.

The concept is similar yet different because the faithful believer is given that new name by the Lord whereas his name that only he knows was not given him but it is his alone. The true believers of Jesus are given a truthful white stone, in stark contrast to the blackstone in the Kaaba set up by the false prophet Mohammad.

Revelation 2:17 (NIV)

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

3. THE NAME OF JESUS IS THE "WORD OF GOD"

The third name is the Word of God. John 1:1 (*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"*) begins with a picture of the Word or logos in Greek. John describes Jesus the Son, the Word become flesh, the incarnate one. In John 1 John describes the first revelation of the Son, the Word of God, when he became a human being and lived among us. His mission was to die and rise again for the sins of the human race and draw all people to himself.

Revelation 19:13 (NIV)

He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

John in Revelation 19:13 describes the second revelation of the Son, the Word of God. Now he comes to judge the world in righteousness and to finally and completely defeat Satan and Baal and all who oppose the Lord God. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:17 that he did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save it. (*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*) At the second coming of Jesus there is no more chance for salvation. Jesus comes to judge!

4. THE NAME OF JESUS IS THE " KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"

Here in Revelation 19:16 the fourth name is *"King of Kings and Lord of Lords."* This name is written on the Lord's robe and on his thigh. Paul names God himself as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in 1 Timothy 6:13-16. Now John gives that title to Jesus. The Lord Jesus is God! King of kings and Lord of lords is a title given to God in the Old Testament. In Deuteronomy 10:17 says God is God of gods and Lord of lords. In Psalm 136 people are told to give thanks to God, the Lord of Lords. In Daniel 2:46-47 Nebuchadnezzar tells Daniel *"Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries."*

1 Timothy 13-16 (NIV)

In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

5. THE NAME OF JESUS IS " THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA"

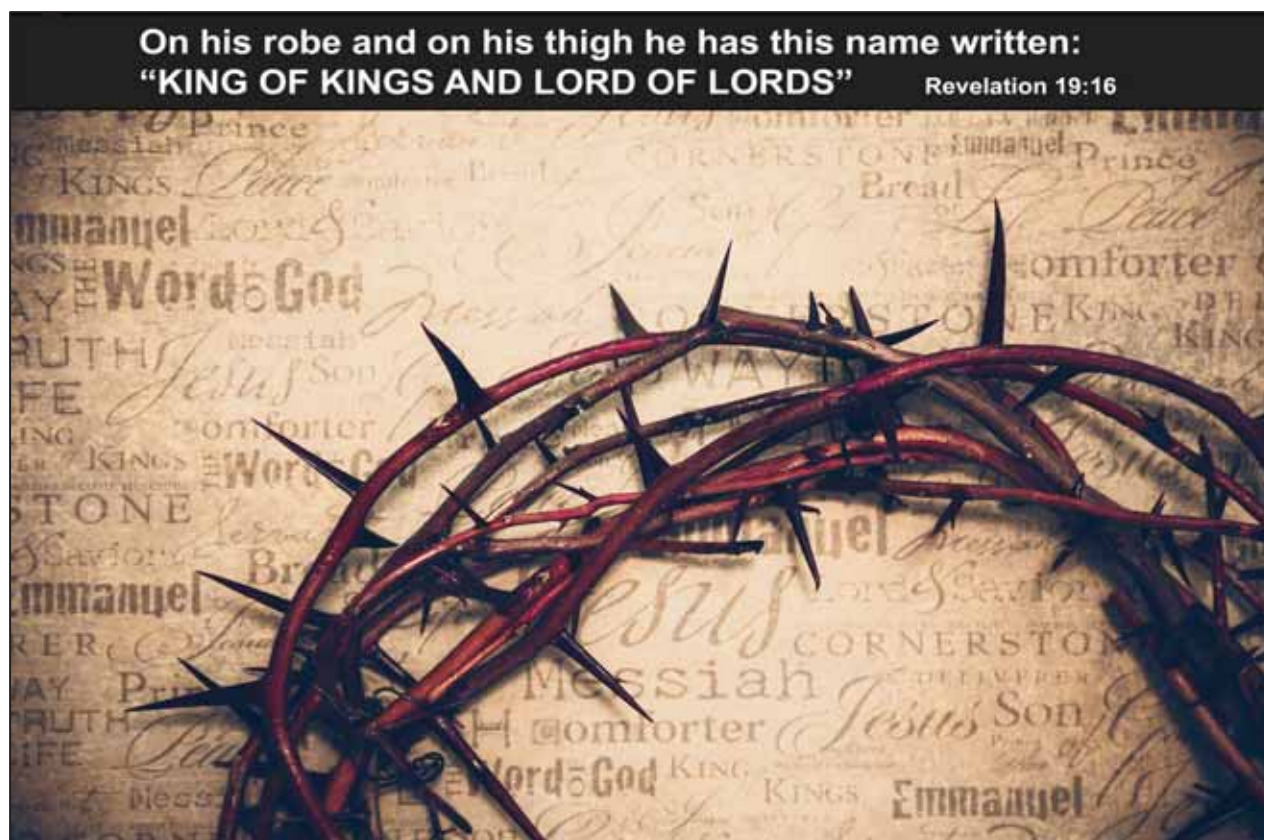
The idea here is, that Jesus will thus show that he is the first and the last - the beginning and the end. Jesus is eternal--not created. Jesus is God, not a messenger. Jesus originated the whole plan of salvation, and he will determine its close; he formed the world, and he will wind up its affairs. In the beginning, the continuance, and the end, he will be recognized as the same being presiding over and controlling all.

Revelation 22:13 (NIV)

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

IN ISLAM BAAL AND SATAN FEAR AND LOATHE THE NAME “KING OF KINGS”

Baal and Satan are terrified of Jesus, the true Son of God. John says Jesus is to be worshipped as the “King of Kings.” In Islam the *“King of Kings”* is a name that carries a much different connotation. “Allah” threatens to severely punish anyone who takes that title and draws praise away from Allah.



The term *“King of Kings”* is not in the Qur'an itself, it does appear in the Hadith, the traditions of Mohammad. In Sahih Bukhari, the most trusted and reliable Hadith collection within Islam, we learn something about Allah. Here is what Mohammad said about Allah and the name “King of Kings”.

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah [Mohammad], said, **“The most vile man to Allah on the Day of Resurrection, the most filthy and the most wretched, is a man who was named ‘King of Kings,’ yet there is no king but Allah.”**

Hadith Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī , Narrated by Abu Huraira Volume 8, Book 73, Number 224

Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī (Arabic: صحيح البخاري) is one of the six major hadith collections of Sunni Islam. Out of all these six major books, the collection of prophetic traditions, or hadith for Sahih al-Bukhari, was performed by the Muslim scholar Mohammad al-Bukhari. It was completed around 846 AD. Sunni Muslims view this as one of the two most trusted collections of hadith along with Sahih Muslim. From the true Biblical Christian point of view, Satan is the enemy of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is God who alone who holds the title “King of Kings.” Satan and Baal (the dragon and beast) bluff and claim to target their wrath at the “King of Kings”, who is God. This tells us with certainty the spirits worshipped in Islam are not the true God.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun.” John is indicating the angel is in heaven (as in Revelation 8:13); in a place befitting his glory. The angel cried with a loud voice, which is usual in all the heavenly proclamations in revelation. There is nothing timid coming from the angels of God. From this grand and exalted position, unreachable by any earth-born being and by the demonic spirits of Satan and Baal, goes forth the proclamation, and reaches all the earth.

“Who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair.” Many interpret these to be predatory living physical birds, such as vultures and eagles, and eat the carrion of the dead bodies. But this event will hold several billion human corpses. There would not be anywhere near enough predatory birds to eat these corpses on the Day of the Lord. We know from Revelation 18:2 that Mecca holds all unclean spirits and unclean birds from the demonic world. Here John most likely means the unclean birds are synonymous with devils and evil spirits. They are in midair and not heaven because they are unclean.

Revelation 18:2 (NIV)

**With a mighty voice he shouted:
“‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’
She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.**

We can better understand the sinister use of birds in parables to represent demons given to us by Jesus in Matthew 13 in the parable of the sowing seed.

Matthew 13:3-5 (NIV)

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.”

Matthew 13:18-21 (NIV)

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.”

Here we see very clearly that when Jesus said: *“the birds came and ate it up”* in verse 3, Jesus explained in verse 19 that it means: *“the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart.”* The evil one (Satan and his demons) comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart.

“Come, gather together for the great supper of God.” The demons and unclean spirits take the souls of the dead bodies to their harvest in Sheol. They have no interest in feeding on the actual human flesh they are only interested in collecting souls. Those that have taken the mark of the beast (said the Shahada) and prayed to the Kaaba image will now realize their mistake.



THE GREAT SUPPER OF GOD ON THE DAY OF THE LORD

Revelation 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.”

How vain will be the plea of many sinners at the great day! “We followed our guides; we did as we saw others do” they might plead. These people include everyone who has rejected the Gospel of Jesus. This ranges from the most important people of the world to the humblest. No one is exempt. The whole account indicates the widespread and complete nature of God's judgments, which none shall be able to escape. The dead human bodies have their souls collected by the demons.

Anyone who has rejected Christ will be punished on the Day of the Lord and their soul taken by the unclean birds to Sheol. The “slaves” are those that have taken the mark of the beast, the Shahada.

The demons and unclean spirits *“eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small”* when they harvest their souls of the dead bodies to their gloomy darkness in Sheol. These are not actual birds feeding on the human flesh. This is a spiritual war and they are only interested in collecting souls.

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.

"Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together." Notice how conspicuous the absence of the false prophet is. John does not see the false prophet Mohammad. This is because Mohammad is already dead (Mohammad died in 632 AD) and can only influence people by what comes *"out of the mouth of the false prophet."* (Revelation 16:13-14) What comes out of the mouth of the false prophet Mohammed are the writings in the Qur'an that Mohammad recited out of his mouth after they were given to him by the demonic spirit Baal.

Revelation 16:13-14 (NIV)

Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Here Baal directly tries to fight with Christ. This is a spiritual battle. Satan has given his power and authority to Baal the beast. The battle with Satan and his complete defeat by Jesus comes a bit later.



The Lord Jesus and his heavenly army defeats the Baal the beast and his army of the ten demonic kings. These are the same ten kings who were before the Little Horn of Daniel chapter 7. Since the little horn is Umar, who died in 644 AD, the ten kings must be demonic.

In addition, Daniel tells us the little horn is "different" because he has a mouth and human eyes. Umar defeated three kings and gave the Islamic calendar and the Islamic Sharia law. (*"try to change the set times and the laws."*)

Daniel 7:8 (NIV)

While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

Daniel 7:23-25 (NIV)

“He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

The beast Baal is captured along with the false prophet who performed signs and wonders to deceive the nations so that they would worship and follow the beast. The two of them are thrown into the lake of fire or the lake of burning sulfur. In chapter 20 Satan is thrown into the lake of fire after his final defeat. The dead whose names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life are also thrown into the lake of burning sulfur at the last judgment.

The lake of burning sulfur or lake of fire is John’s picture of hell, the place of eternal separation from God and punishment for rebelling against him. Jesus in Matthew 25 said hell was prepared for the devil and his angels but those who rebel against God are also consigned there at the last judgment. This is a spiritual battle notice in all the Bible translations below they make war against Jesus who is portrayed as sitting on the horse, and then also his army of saints

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

Revelation 19:19 ESV And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

Revelation 19:19 NIV Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Revelation 19:19 NASB And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

The false trinity began preparing for Armageddon in the sixth bowl judgment of 16:13–16, sending out their own (fallen) angelic heralds to call “the kings of the whole world” to “gather together” for the final battle. This is a direct continuance of Revelation 16:14, and 16:16, for we first see “the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered.” Note again how the false prophet is physically missing because Mohammad is already dead.

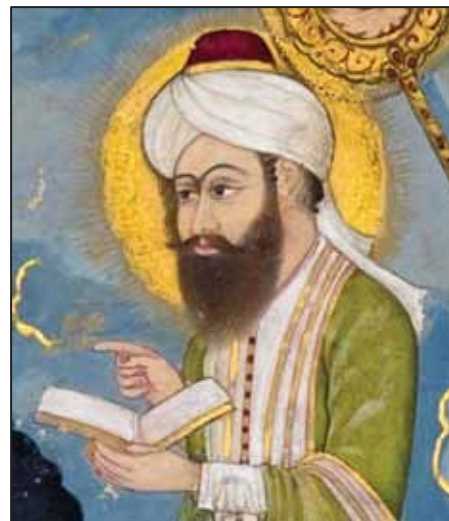
Revelation 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

"But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf."
The false prophet and the beast are not physically killed by Christ, but instead are captured. This is the same fate as Satan in Revelation 20:10. This is because all three are in the spiritual world, and do not have a physical body that could die. Mohammed is not seen in Revelation 19:19 because he is dead, but he is "captured" in Revelation 19:20 because Jesus captures his soul.

Revelation 20:10 (NIV)

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Mohammad, the false prophet, died in 632 AD. The beast Baal is from the Abyss is Baal. Both are in the spiritual world when defeated by Christ. Baal the demonic spirit and the soul of Mohammad are thrown "alive" into the lake of fire. *"In the presence of the beast."* In the book of Revelation, only the false prophet is in the physical presence of the beast. This is Baal, released from Sheol, who was revealed to Mohammad claiming to be the angel "Gabriel." Baal appeared to Mohammad for 22 years from 610 to 632 AD and gave him the false gospel of the Qur'an. The NASB, ESV and NRSV translations state the false prophet is in the presence of the beast.



Revelation 19:20 NIV But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Revelation 19:20 NASB And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 19:20 ESV And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Revelation 19:20 NRSV And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed in its presence the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Only the false prophet is in the "presence" of the beast. We see the same language in Revelation 13:14. The idolatrous persecuting Islamic power represented by Baal in the Kaaba after release from Sheol and the false prophet Mohammad that deceived the world with fraudulent miracles before him.

The pretended miracles and false doctrine of the Qur'an had supported the apostasy; that is, the antichristian tyranny, and the corrupt clergy, were taken, were made prisoners, and condemned to suffer the most exemplary punishment by the hands of justice. These both were cast alive - since they no longer had physical bodies - into the spiritual lake of fire burning with brimstone

Revelation 13:14 (NASB)

And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.

Revelation 19:20 (NASB)

And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone

The "man of lawlessness" was Baal, being restrained at the time of Paul in the Abyss-Sheol. Once released, he was revealed to Mohammad. Mohammad was in the physical presence of the beast.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 (NIV)

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

These both were cast alive into a lake of fire - The beast Baal and the false prophet Mohammad. That is, the overthrow will be as signal, and the destruction as complete, as if the leaders of the combined hosts should be taken "alive" and thrown into a pit or lake that burns with an intense heat. There is no necessity for supposing that this is to be literally inflicted - meaning that the false prophet is still a living human. The soul and spirit are thrown into the spiritual dimension lake of fire.

Revelation 19:21 The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

"The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse." This is not a literal sword coming out of the mouth of Jesus. The Lord Jesus will speak the Word of God and without firing a shot, all these armies will be destroyed in an instant of time! This is all the unbelievers left on the earth that are praying to the Kaaba in Mecca, and worshiping Baal the beast.

In John 12:47-50 Jesus tells us he will judge and punish the nonbelievers by the words he has said. *"The very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."* The word of God coming from the mouth of Jesus judges all men on the Day of the Lord. Spiritual death is inflicted upon those who have proved themselves hostile to God.

John 5:21-23 (NIV)

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

John 12:47-50 (NIV)

"If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

"And all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh." This last sentence emphasizes the nature of the punishment by the reference to the indignity offered to their souls after death. The demonic spirits gorge themselves on the ungodly souls killed by rejecting the Word of God--Jesus the Son of God. The demonic spirits take the souls of those humans that rejected Christ down into Sheol to await the final judgment.

God's army is a heavenly army. This is a spiritual battle. See Revelation 19:14 to first see where the army comes from. No humans can fight spirits.

19:14 NASB And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

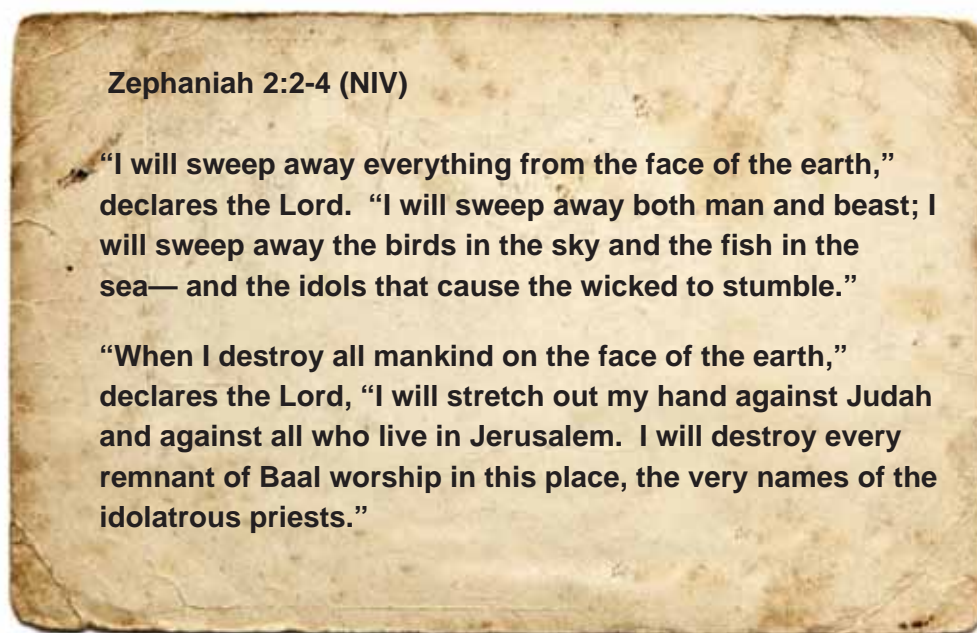
19:14 ESV And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

In Revelation 19:14-19:21 the Lord's judgment and final spiritual war are accomplished. In Revelation 19:19 the beast (Baal) and his ten kings armies (demons) try to fight the Lamb one last time.

BAAL IS FINALLY DESTROYED AND THROWN IN THE LAKE OF FIRE

"I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests."
Which sword was coming out of his mouth? That is, they were cut down by the Word of God. They fell before him as Jesus spoke, as if they were slain by the sword.

Will unsaved humans follow the remaining human kings--led by 10 demonic kings--led by Baal (beast) into battle that day? Yes, every remaining human on earth will be killed on that day. At this time Zephaniah says Baal is finally defeated!



The victory by Jesus is so plainly designated as one to be gained by purely spiritual means. The confederacy of the Islamic powers of the world, under the leadership of Mohammad and Baal in the Kaaba will be primarily intellectual and spiritual. The powers of earth and hell make their utmost effort. The "beast" Baal and the "false prophet" Mohammad are disposed of, and there remains only the subjugation of the great dragon - the source of all this evil - to prepare the way for the long-anticipated triumph of the Gospel.

2 Peter 3:10 (NIV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Christ, the glorious Head of the church, is described as on a white horse, the emblem of justice and holiness. He has many crowns, for he is King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is arrayed in a vesture dipped in his own blood, by which he purchased his power as Mediator; and in the blood of his enemies, over whom he always prevails. His name is The Word of God; a name none fully knows but himself; only this we know, that this Word was God manifest in the flesh; but the glory of Jesus and his perfection cannot be fully understood by any human creature



REVELATION CHAPTER 20

THE THOUSAND YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN

THE WRATH OF GOD ON THE DAY OF THE LORD ON EARTH

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 20

In Revelation chapter 20 John sees an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

John saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. John saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

John saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. John saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.



REVELATION CHAPTER 20 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.” Chapter 20 begins with John seeing into the spiritual realm. The Book of Revelation describes a great battle between Jesus, the triumphant Lamb of God, and Satan and Baal, who are demonic spirits and have rebelled against God since the Garden of Eden. They oppose Jesus the Son of God and His Gospel message of salvation. This story is told from two metaphysical perspectives, or two realms. Revelation tells us of events in the spiritual realm, and also events in the human realm. In the Book of Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual realm, and the “earth” is the human realm. The seals in chapter 6 are about human events, and the trumpets in chapters 8-9 are in the spiritual realm.

Revelation 9:1-3 (NIV)

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

Many of the events in the spiritual world and human world overlap and occur at the same time. When Bible prophecy experts try to explain the entire Book of Revelation from only the human viewpoint, they miss the majority of the information God is giving us about His Mystery.

Revelation 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

“He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” Satan was placed in the Abyss during the thousand year heavenly kingdom, which was also the literal Day of the Lord on earth. Baal was placed into the Abyss at the fall of Babylon. The Abyss is the same spiritual prison as Sheol, and Baal was placed into the Abyss and later “revealed” to Mohammad. The angel is given authority by God to control the Abyss. This is likely the same angel that God allowed to open the Abyss for Baal and his demons to escape in Revelation chapters 8-9. The “man of lawlessness” was Baal, and Abyss was “holding him back” at the time of Paul.

2 Thessalonians 2: 6-10 (NIV)

And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.

Revelation 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

"He threw him into the Abyss," John sees another angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss, or also called Sheol, holding power over Satan. The Abyss is a special "demonic holding cell" in the spiritual realm for "kings" and "princes" and spirits. The beast Baal was sent into the Abyss after the fall of Babylon and was later released and revealed himself to Mohammad the false prophet.



THE ABYSS IS A SPECIAL PLACE OF CONFINEMENT IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

John previously described the Abyss in chapter 9 as the home of the demonic locusts of the fifth trumpet. The trumpets are prophecies of spiritual realm events. The demons were released by the angel with power from God over the Abyss. They had as king over them the seventh king, named, Abaddon or Apollyon, meaning the "destroyer." Islamic teaching and the Qur'an have spiritually killed one third of the world. See the Revelation chapter 9 commentary for more details.

Revelation 9:13-15 (NIV)

The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

"and locked and sealed it over him," This intensifies the idea of "locking" the abyss and connotes a secure situation, guaranteed by the sovereign authority of the true God. Satan is completely bound in the abyss and cannot escape. The Abyss in Jewish thought was the prison or holding cell for important demons before the last judgment. Now Satan will be imprisoned in the Abyss for a thousand years in that spiritual realm. It occurs during the Day of the Lord on physical earth--a different time dimension than the Abyss in the spiritual realm.

THERE ARE MANY ROOMS AND TIME DIMENSIONS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

Christians tend to think of heaven and earth as just two different places. They also think there are in the same time dimension--which is certainly not true. A simplistic view is that heaven is way up there, and earth is way down here, and both are in the same time zone. There is a huge gap between. The gap between heaven and earth is real, but the assumption that they are far apart is misleading. A better way to think about the earth is to see heaven as one of the spiritual dimensions that exist alongside, or within our physical world. In the spiritual realm are many, if not infinite, time and space dimensions. In fact, Jesus said in John 14:2-3 there are many rooms in the spiritual realm. Much of this is beyond human understanding.

John 14:2-3 (NIV)

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Not all of these spiritual rooms are pleasant. The Bible says there are also the Abyss and the lake of fire. These rooms are unpleasant. Jesus gives us a parable picture of the many rooms (good and bad) in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Jesus said souls cannot cross from one to the other.

Luke 16:25-26 (NIV)

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'"

The Apostle Peter says God has various time dimensions. God is not limited by the same constraints of time because *"with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."* Time is simply not an issue with God because He has an unlimited amount of it. And God can place different time attributes in the different dimensions. God can generate an infinite number of spiritual world time dimensions, not just even the two types of time dimensions Peter mentions.

2 Peter 3:8 (NIV)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

An even better way might be to see the physical world as three additional dimensions added on to a multi-dimension spiritual world. The spiritual world is more real than the physical world, so this latter view is most likely correct, but it is too hard for us to handle, because our minds are calibrated for a physical world. Seeing heaven as multiple spiritual dimensions attached to our physical world provides some useful insights. Angels and evil spirits live in the different spiritual world dimensions. They can touch our physical world at only one place at one time. This limits what they can do on earth. In contrast, the Holy Spirit is present everywhere on earth at any time. This gives him unlimited power. He is far greater than any angel and has much greater reach than the devil.

"They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb." Note that in Revelation 14:9-11, **the lake of fire is in the presence of the angels and the Lamb**. Just like the rich man in Luke 16, those in the lake of fire will be able to see the Lamb of God and the holy angels. The spiritual rooms are not that far apart. Those in heaven will not be able to see them.

Revelation 14:9-11 (NIV)

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name."

The second coming is Jesus opening the spiritual realm. The Greek word used for the second coming is "*Parousia*". It means a royal appearance. It speaks about our seeing. What is actually going to happen is an opening up of the spiritual realm, so that people on earth can see into the spiritual dimensions of reality. The Greek word used is "*epiphaneia*", which means "manifestation." The spiritual dimensions will be blown open for everyone on earth to see. Paul tells us about this in 2 Thessalonians 2:8. The lawless one being revealed was when Baal was released from the Abyss and revealed to Mohammad. Then after this Jesus will return at the time appointed by the Father.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Everyone will see Jesus seated on the throne at the right hand of God. Those who have not been born again will be destroyed by the sight and the Word of God coming out of His mouth. Those who are evil will be totally powerless before his glory.

The spiritual realms will be so glorious that the physical world will shrivel in comparison. It will seem like earth and sky are collapsing and disappearing, just as the Apostle Peter told us. When we can see clearly into the spiritual realm, everything in earth and space will fade away under the comparison. We will watch the elements being dissolved with intense heat. The stars will seem to be rolling up like a scroll, and it will seem that they will be disappearing. The beauty and wonder of the spiritual realms will be so wonderful, that the earth and sky, as we know them, will fade into insignificance as God recreates the new heavens and new earth. Be prepared as the Day of the Lord will surprise most people.

2 Peter 3:10-12 (NIV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

“ETHNE”? WHO ARE THE “NATIONS” DECEIVED BY SATAN IN REVELATION 20?

The English translation “nations”, taken from the Greek word “ethne”, is used twice in Revelation 20. The word “nations” is used in 20:4 as *“To keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”* The word “nations” is used again in 20:8 as *“and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.”*

In Revelation chapter 20 the Greek word used twice for “nations” is “**ethne**.” But in Revelation chapter 22, (22:2b *“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*) the Greek word for “nations” is “**ethnon**.” The clear meaning in Revelation 22 is for the healing of humans, really their souls. But what meaning is intended for us to understand the prophecy of Revelation 20? Since all unsaved humans are killed at the end of chapter 19, who does Satan deceive in chapter 20 when he is released from the Abyss after the thousand years? **In Revelation 20, does the word “nations” mean humans, insects, beasts or other detestable creatures (demons) in a vast multitude?**

“Ethne” and “ethnon” Greek words are derived from “ethnos”, and this gives rise to the English word “ethnicity.” But in Greek, the words related to “ethnos” can have multiple meanings. These are lost when simply translated to the English “nations”, whereby “nations” means a collection of humans.

There is a much broader use of the Greek words “ethnos” and “ethne” than what is usually taught. It can mean much more than just groups of people or human populations with similar characteristics. Often in the Bible the words “ethnos” and “ethne” can have a derogatory and sinful meaning as well.

1. ἔθνος τό: (ethnos to)— a number of people accustomed to living together, a company, body of men, etc.;
2. ἔθνος λαῶν (ethnos laon) a host of men; also of animals, swarms, herds, flocks, beasts, insects
3. τὰ ἔθνη (ta ethne) the non-believing nations (humans), Gentiles, i.e. all but Jews and Christians.
4. a special class of undesirable men, a low caste, tribe, military unit

Revelation tells of events in both the human realm and the spiritual realm. Revelation chapter 19 tells of the human events on earth when the unsaved meet Jesus on the Day of the Lord. All saved believers are safely off the earthly realm on the Day of the Lord and reign with Christ a thousand years in heaven—in the spiritual realm. Revelation chapter 20 explains events almost entirely in the spiritual realm.

Revelation 19 ended with all unsaved humans left on earth killed by the return of Christ on the Day of the Lord. (Rev 19:21 *“The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”*) There are no more living humans on earth at this point. **Only the demonic angels and Satan are left.** Baal the beast has been captured, and the soul of Mohammad has been captured. Now Jesus must deal with Satan and his angels.

In Revelation 20, which is in the spiritual realm, the Greek word “ethne” should be understood as a herd or swarm of sinful insects or detestable demonic creatures, not a “nation” of humans. These are the demonic spirits aligned with Satan that Jesus must now punish for their rebellion.

"To keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended." On the Day of the Lord everyone (all unsaved nonbelievers) left on earth after the rapture of believers will know all the activity is from Jesus, the Son of God. Satan will not be able to deceive those being destroyed by the Word of God coming from the rider on the white horse. This fulfills the sixth seal, which is the final view of the activity of humans in the earthly realm.

Since all humans left on earth were killed at the end of Revelation chapter 19, the only groups ("ethne") left for Satan to continue to deceive are the group of Satan's fallen angels.

All of the seal prophecies are about humans on earth, and all of the trumpet prophecies are about events in the spiritual realm. On this literal unique day on earth (one thousand years in the spiritual realm where Satan is bound in the Abyss) Satan cannot deceive. It is truly "the Day of the Lord."

Revelation 6:12-17 (NIV)

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us[f] from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their[g] wrath has come, and who can withstand it?"

That it is literally one unique day on earth ("*On that day*") is also given us by the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah 14:6-9 (NIV)

On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

SATAN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DECEIVE BELIEVERS AGAIN

"After that, he must be set free for a short time." This passage generates the most difficulty for the premillennialist literal view. Their theory claims Jesus will reign on earth in full glory for a thousand years and then passively step back and allow Satan to be released in his presence. Satan then is allowed to deceive the believers once again and create a vast rebellion. This contradicts dozens of Scripture passages about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus returns Satan will have no power to disrupt His kingdom. Satan cannot contact the believers. The believers will remain pure. **The thousand years of believers with Jesus is in the spiritual realm--while the unique Day of the Lord punishment occurs on earth.**

**SCRIPTURES SHOWING SATAN HAS NO POWER ON BELIEVERS WHEN CHRIST RETURNS;
“BUT WE KNOW THAT WHEN CHRIST APPEARS, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM”**

1 John 2:2-3 (NIV)

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Jude 1:14-15 (NIV)

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NIV)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Zephaniah 1:2-4 (NIV)

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord. “I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.” “When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”

Hebrews 9:28 (NIV)

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Revelation 16:15 (NIV)

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

Revelation 19:19-21 (NIV)

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Robert Gundry's book, *The Church and the Tribulation*, was released in 1973. This book used sound Biblical Scriptures to support a post-tribulation perspective on the timing of the Rapture. Several Godly authors, such as Sam Storms, Anthony Hoekema, and Kim Riddlebarger have recently published detailed works outlining the many ways that Scripture does not teach millennial earthly kingdom dispensationalism as first espoused by John Darby. Yet these thoughtful amillennialist all have a problem explaining the Revelation 20 "thousand years" in a literal sense.

Sam Storms, Anthony Hoekema, and Kim Riddlebarger make a compelling case, based upon **literal exegesis of Bible Scriptures**, for ten key eschatology concepts. These ten Scriptures create insurmountable obstacles for classic dispensational earthly kingdom millennialism. More details to support their arguments are found at a Revelation-Now website paper entitled: *"Bible Scriptures that Create Significant Obstacles to Darby's Dispensationalism."*

- 1. THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING ARE SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS**
- 2. THE CHURCH CAN BE SHOWN TO BE FULFILLING PROMISES MADE TO ISRAEL**
- 3. THE CHURCH WILL EXPERIENCE THE TRIBULATION**
- 4. THE WRATH OF THE LAMB AND TRIBULATION FROM SATAN ARE DIFFERENT EVENTS**
- 5. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE A COMPLETE SURPRISE TO MOST, AND BE SEEN BY ALL**
- 6. THE CHURCH AND ISRAEL ARE UNDER THE SAME NEW COVENANT**
- 7. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BOTH IN THE PRESENT AND IN THE FUTURE**
- 8. JESUS MUST REIGN IN HEAVEN UNTIL HE DEFEATS ALL HIS ENEMIES—including DEATH**
- 9. FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**
- 10. GENERAL AND SEPARATE RESURRECTIONS AS SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS**

Let us assume the amillennialist writers are Biblically correct on the above ten points. The most important being: 1) the rapture and second coming ("parousia") are the same sudden event, the church will (has) gone through the tribulation, 3) the Wrath of the Lamb is not the tribulation, 4) Jesus is currently reigning from heaven, and 5) living flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

But how can the thousand years of binding Satan be interpreted literally along with these Scriptures the amillennialist writers cite for their ten valid points? When the Book of Revelation is viewed from both the spiritual realm and the human earthly realm, the difficulties can be explained.

THE BINDING OF SATAN IN THE SPIRITUAL ABYSS IS REAL

The amillennialist writers believe that Satan has been at least partially bound since Jesus rose from the dead. In contrast, classic earthly kingdom premillennialists are convinced Satan has been freely roaming the earth *“looking for someone to devour.”* On this argument the premillennialist view is most likely correct. The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:8 and the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 make clear Satan is still highly active after the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NIV)

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Satan has not been bound in any sense remotely consistent with the strong language of Revelation 20:3 *“He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”* Thus, the New Testament evidence concerning the extent of Satan’s activity in this present age is incompatible with the description of the restrictions imposed upon him by the angel in Revelation 20:1-3. Since Satan is most certainly not strongly bound now, the events of verses 1-3 must be future. Here the premillennialists are correct.

WHY WAS SATAN BOUND AFTER THE FINAL HUMAN REBELLION?

The Bible tells us Satan is bound so that he cannot deceive the nations. (Revelation 20:3 *“to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”*.) But this straightforward Biblical explanation suddenly creates many insurmountable problems for the premillennial view. Are the “nations” humans or a collection of demons?

First, if after the thousand years are ended and Satan goes out to deceive the nations to attack the Lord Jesus and his people in Jerusalem, **who are the people Satan is deceiving and where did they come from?** Using the premillennial view of human chronological sequences in Revelation chapters 19-20, a serious problem arises in that 20:1–3 would describe events designed by God to prevent Satanic deception of the nations who had already been deceived in Revelation 16:13-14. Further, they were already all destroyed (*“The rest were killed”*) in Revelation 19:21.

Revelation 16:13-14 (NIV)

Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

Understand the Revelation text “nations” signifies a common collection or group of wicked creatures (“ethne”), “*the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog*” whom Satan deceives. In Revelation 20:7-9 Satan leads demonic angels into battle against Christ, after the soul of the false prophet Mohammad and Baal the beast were captured by Jesus in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:19-21 (NIV)

Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Revelation 20:7-9 (NIV)

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

WHY IS SATAN "SET FREE FOR A SHORT TIME"?

The premillennialist must account for where the people come from who comprise the “nations” whom Satan will deceive at the close of the millennium. If all unbelievers are killed at the time of the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:21 is clear on this point), only resurrected and glorified believers will populate the millennial kingdom. The premillennialist must believe that Satan is released to deceive millions of humans in the earthly millennial kingdom of God—as Jesus stands by and merely watches.

Thus, by the beginning of the millennium, there should be no unbelievers left according to a literal reading of Revelation 19:21. The premillennialist must account for where the people come from who comprise the “nations” whom Satan will deceive again at the close of the millennium. Since all unbelievers are slain at the time of the second coming of Christ, only resurrected and glorified believers reign with Jesus in the millennial kingdom. **Are the “nations” at this point humans or spirits?**

Strangely, most premillennialists try to evade this problem by insisting that not all unbelievers die at the second coming. This is inconsistent with many clear Scriptures--as written above. Somehow those who survive and enter the millennium in their physical bodies will then bear children, who in turn will bear children, and so on, many of whom at the close of the millennium, having never come to faith in Jesus, will comprise the unbelieving nations who rebel one final time at the behest of Satan. No!

Once it is clear the millennial kingdom thousand years is in the spiritual world, and not on earth, the prophecies of Revelation all line up consistently. Satan must be released so that God can demonstrate to all the world the veracity of His covenant promises, completely and precisely fulfilling them in minute and specific details—all the way to the arrival of the eternal state. Satan deceives only the remaining demonic angels on the Day of the Lord, after it is clear Jesus has returned.

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

"I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge." There is a prominence given to the thrones, because the thought of the reign of the saints is uppermost in the mind of the seer. The thrones are seen, and those who sat on them. Many have asked, "Who occupies these thrones?" This is an important question to answer.

John sees the souls of the martyrs who had been executed for their testimony to Jesus coming alive and reigning with Christ for 1000 years. They are those who did not receive the mark of the beast (Islamic Shahada) or worship his image (those that pray to Baal in the Kaaba in Mecca) during the reign of the beast from the spiritual Abyss that appeared to Mohammad the false prophet.

What then does John mean *by "had been given authority to judge"*? The ultimate judgment of the human race takes place at God's White Throne in Revelation 20:11-15. The judgment John mentions here must therefore be different. The word for judge is the normal word for a judge rendering a decision in a court case. Thus the Bible is clear they will be given some authority to judge.

In the context of reigning with Christ in the heavenly millennium, this judging refers to ruling or deciding, along with Christ, over rewards or heavenly treasures for the saved people—perhaps the various levels of "rewards" in heaven that Jesus described many times. This is not the final judgment for sin which God reserves for himself. This is the judgment of promised levels of rewards that take place in people's lives. Each believer will testify as a witness as to what another believer did for them.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Some have taken literally it is only those believers who were beheaded are resurrected at this time, and when verse 5 refers to the rest of the dead being resurrected after the thousand years, John is referring to the rest of believers. That viewpoint has major problems, not the least of which is Jesus' promises to the seven churches (see Revelation 3:11-12) that believers who overcome and persevere will reign with him and be resurrected like him.

A far better interpretation of those who sit on the thrones alongside the Lord Jesus is they are all God's people, his saints. They will share in his Kingdom. Only a minority of believers have been martyred for their faith. Even fewer were beheaded. Jesus told his disciples in John 6:39-40 *"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."*

Revelation 3:11-12 (NIV)

“I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”

John 6:39-40 (NIV)

“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

“They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.” These are the believers who did not recite the Shahada nor pray to Baal in the Kaaba in Mecca, the great city.

“They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Those that pray to Baal in the Kaaba will not participate in the first resurrection. Those that reign with Jesus are in the millennial kingdom for a thousand years in the spiritual world, but NOT on earth. On earth the nonbelievers are punished on the Day of the Lord by the return of Jesus.



ANYONE PRAYING TO BAAL IN THE KAABA WILL NEVER REIGN WITH CHRIST

Revelation 20:5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

“The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.” Here is an account of the reign of the saints, for the same amount of time as Satan is bound. Those who suffer with Christ, shall reign with him in his spiritual and heavenly kingdom, in conformity to him in his wisdom, righteousness, and holiness: this is called the first resurrection. Only those who have faith in the Lamb of God, and their name in the Book of Life, shall be so favored.

In the spiritual heavenly thousand year kingdom they are free from sin, death, war and rebellion. In the spiritual realm they are protected from the wrath of God poured out on the unbelievers on earth on the Day of the Lord. Satan is in the Abyss, and will deceive his fallen angels when he gets out.

Event	Unbeliever	Believer	Description
First Birth	Yes	Yes	The first birth is physical birth.
Second Birth	No	Yes	The second birth is spiritual and occurs when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ. Only believers are “born twice.”
First Death	Yes	Yes	The first death occurs at the end of one’s physical life.
First Resurrection	No	Yes	The first resurrection is a category and occurs in stages, beginning with the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:20) and ending with the resurrection just prior to the spiritual realm (non earthly) millennial kingdom. Only believers participate in the first resurrection and reign with Christ 1000 years in heaven. (Revelation 20:6)
Second Resurrection	Yes	No	The second resurrection occurs at the end of the spiritual realm millennial kingdom at the Great White Throne Judgment. (Revelation 20:11-13)
White Throne Judgment and Second Death	Yes	No	Only unbelievers participate in the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:14-15). As there is eternal life beyond this present life for the faithful, so there is eternal death beyond the death of the wicked-anyone whose name is not in the Lamb's Book of Life. The second death is commonly known as hell and results in eternal separation from God.

The happiness of these servants of God is declared. None can be blessed but those that are holy; and all that are holy shall be blessed. The many blessing promised by God occur during the thousand year reign with Jesus in the spiritual kingdom realm. (*“The kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”*)

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Matthew 25:34 (NIV)

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

“Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection.” This is one of the benedictions of the John’s vision in the Book of Revelation. This blessing is only on those who have part or share in the first resurrection. On these the second death has not power (or authority). The second death stands in contrast with the first resurrection. The second death is not the mere physical dying; it is rather that more awful spiritual death which lies outside the region of the things seen and temporal. It is the eternal separation from Jesus, the Son of God, in the spiritual realm lake of fire.



Revelation 20:6 (NIV)

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

“The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.” The second death has weeping and gnashing of teeth. Whatever it means to the human soul, and the conditions which surround it, it is spiritual rather than physical. It is not the life of the body which protects the life of the spirit; it is the living and believing in God which protects from the second death; according to Christ’s word! (John 10:27-28 and Luke 13:28). The believers will be in the spiritual millennium for one thousand years. The spiritual realm millennium fulfills Isaiah 65-66, the Abrahamic Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and the Covenant with Israel.

John 10:27-28 (NIV)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Luke 13:28 (NIV)

“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.”

ONLY THE SPIRITUAL REALM MILLENNIAL KINGDOM FULFILLS ISAIAH 65-66

God tells us in Isaiah chapter 65:19 there will be no more weeping in the millennial kingdom. Thus there can be no death in this Scripture--since death at any age still causes weeping from the person's loved ones. Yet Isaiah 65:20-22 is a source of much controversy. Is there death in the millennial kingdom? Is there yet another worldwide war after the millennial kingdom? Dispensational earthly millennial kingdom theory heavily depends on the idea of ongoing sin and death in the millennium to make their theory even partially viable. This is not the correct interpretation of Isaiah's Scripture.

“THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH” CONTAIN NO DEATH, WEEPING NOR WAR

In Isaiah 65:25 God tells us there will be no more wars or fighting, nor rebellion. Paul tells us clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 that when Jesus appears (the “*Parousia*” is the same word for both the rapture and Second Coming) there will be no more death or suffering for believers.

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (NIV)

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”



“The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.

Isaiah 65:25 (NIV)

Literal interpretation of Isaiah chapters 65 and 66 proves there can be no death in the millennial kingdom. Why? Isaiah chapter 65, and also all of Isaiah chapter 66, is telling us about a “new heavens and new earth.” Both Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22 literally say “new heavens and new earth.”

Isaiah 65:17-19 (NIV)

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.”

Isaiah 66:22 (NIV)

“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the Lord, “so will your name and descendants endure.”

NO MORE WEeping IN ISAIAH CHAPTER 65

"I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more." (Isaiah 65:19) There is no weeping. Isaiah writes those 100 years old will be considered mere youth. In the new heavens and new earth, people will no longer be cut off by death, and the injustices of life will vanish. The verse doesn't imply death will be present, but simply underscores that one of the great blessings of the eternal kingdom will be longevity and eternal joy.

The only theoretical death mentioned in Isaiah 65-66 at age 100 is from someone "cursed": Isaiah 65:20 **"The one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed."** No one is cursed in the kingdom of God. But the point of the passage is that there is neither curse nor death in the new heavens and new earth. Isaiah's metaphor in 65:20 tells us that in the new heavens and new earth there will be no more untimely deaths. In the millennial and then eternal kingdom, children will not die in days of nursing, nor men in days of youth, nor even at 100. At the time of Isaiah more than 50% of children did not live to age five. Now all will have longevity of days. Isaiah is explaining eternity in a way people of that time could understand. No weeping means no death whatsoever!!

Isaiah 65:20-22 (NIV)

"Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands."

The spiritual millennium will begin with a devastating earthquake and hailstorm and Jesus will return in the clouds for His people. The dead in Christ are resurrected - this is the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5-6) and all the saints are caught up into the air to meet Jesus (Revelation 1:7; Revelation 14:14-16; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The return of Jesus is not a "secret" rapture—every eye will see him!

Revelation 1:7 (NIV)

"Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen.

The Bible is clear that during the millennium will be no more suffering, sin or death. All living wicked are slain by the very presence of Christ at the Second Coming and die as if hit by lightning. Also, Revelation 22:14-15 makes it clear that during this millennial time period no one can be saved, the case of every person is closed. The wicked are all dead, and the righteous are all in heaven.

Revelation 22:14-15 (NIV)

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood."

GOD'S PEOPLE FACE NO MORE DEATH—THERE IS NO MORE CURSE IN HEAVEN

The premillennialist earthly kingdom view (New Scofield Reference Bible from 1967) does not consider what God just told us in Isaiah 65:17; namely that we are looking at a new heavens and earth. They try to interpret verses 65:20-22 as back on the sinful earth to fit a dispensational theory from John Darby. But the Bible says this is the new heavens and earth.

There is no sense of a time shift between verses Isaiah 65:17 and 18. In fact, there is a true sense of divine continuity between the two in terms of timing: In verse 17, God proclaims, *“I will create a new heavens and a new earth,”* and then in verse 18 God twice employs the same language encouraging his people to be glad over that which *“I will create”* and, in particular, that *“I will create Jerusalem.”*

Isaiah 65-66 (including 65:20-22) is precisely consistent with the new heavens and new earth vision in Revelation 21:1, Revelation 21:4 and Revelation 22:3-4.

Revelation 21:1 (NIV)

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 22:3-4 (NIV)

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

“NOR WILL THEY BEAR CHILDREN DOOMED TO MISFORTUNE”

Isaiah is clear none of these will fall away to sin or death, nor rebel against Jesus in the kingdom.

God says in Isaiah 65:23 no one will bear children doomed to misfortune. This Scripture completely refutes the dispensational theory that millions will rebel and fall away in the earthly millennial kingdom. The millennial kingdom is in the spiritual realm. There is no sin, misfortune or death in this realm.

Isaiah 65:23 (NIV)

They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them.

The Isaiah 65-66 passages describe a new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17), calling upon the faithful to be glad and rejoice forever (65:18) because it will be a condition where there is no weeping, or distress (65:19). There will be no death in heaven (65:20), or any kind of violence (65:25).

Why is there both a thousand year millennial reign in heaven, and also the eternal kingdom? Why not just one? The thousand year millennial reign protects both the living believers (raptured) and the resurrected believers from the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord on earth. God is pouring out His just wrath on the living earthly unbelievers, while His people are protected in the spiritual realm.

THE SPIRITUAL MILLENNIAL KINGDOM FULFILLS THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The Abrahamic Covenant Bible story is from the book of Genesis and begins with chapter 12 as God calls upon Abraham to go the land of Canaan where God gives three covenant promises. First to *“make you into a great nation”* and second, *“all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* Third, in Genesis 17, God promises to Abraham *“the whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you.”*

Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

This verse is quoted by Paul in Galatians.

Galatians 3:7-9 (NIV)

Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

The Abrahamic covenant is God's promise to Abraham (approximately 2000 BC) to give him land, descendants, and that through him all the nations would be blessed. It is the foundation for Israel's covenant relationship with God.

Genesis 17:7-8 (NIV)

I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

It is not necessary for an earthly millennial kingdom to fulfill the Abrahamic covenant. The covenant is fulfilled today, and Israel will hold the land until the Second Coming of Christ. Today many in Israel are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. More Jewish people have found Christ in the last 30 years than in the prior 1900 years combined. The Scriptures clearly state that Israel in unbelief is blinded, that this hardening condition is temporary not final, that the blindness will be lifted when the period of Gentile blessing is concluded, as Paul wrote in Romans 11:25-27. We now live in these times.

Romans 11:25-27 (NIV)

I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT IS FULFILLED TODAY

In one part of the covenant, God promises land to Abraham. This is fulfilled as Israel is restored today. A literal interpretation of the Abrahamic Covenant involves the permanent existence of Israel as a nation and the fulfillment of the promise that the land should be their everlasting possession.

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Hagana men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Truce Comsuls would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give *de jure* recognition to the Jewish State, with

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Jews Take Over Security Zones

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to re-occupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the western edge of Zone C, Arabs engaged the Jews in Jaffa Road. The Arabs were forced back and the Barclays Bank area was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews overran one after another the areas evacuated by the British. By last night, the quarter and

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 300 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midday, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio reported.

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By WALTER COLLINS
U.P. Correspondent
CAIRO, Saturday.—A com-

U.S. Recognizes Jewish State

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the *de facto* authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favourable. He said this step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition

Proclamation by Head of Government

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1939 White Paper of the late-Mandate Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civic rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which never ceased throughout the generations of their dispersal, until the Nazi holocaust proved anew the urgency of the need for a Jewish State.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations, had given explicit international recognition to the right of the Jewish

David Ben Gurion, Prime Minister

Special Assembly Adjourns

FLUSHING MEADOWS, Saturday.—The Special U.N. Assembly, called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. propo-

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Fighting in the Kfar Etzion bloc continued throughout Friday, after Kfar Etzion li-

Galatians 3:29 (NIV)

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1. God Gave him the land, (Genesis 13:14-17)
2. God Gave him descendants, (Genesis 22:17; Genesis 49:3-28, Galatians 3:29)
3. All nations are blessed in Christ, (Galatians 3:8; 3:13-14)

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM AND NATIONS BLESSED?

The Law brought a curse, but the Christian is delivered from that curse. Paul tells us Christ has taken it upon Himself. The Crucifixion brought Him under the curse of the Law. At the same time, it abolished the dominion of the Law, and threw open the Messianic blessedness to Gentiles as well as Jews. It is to all who gave their belief in the Messiah by faith.

Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written:

"Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

THE SPIRITUAL MILLENNIAL KINGDOM FULFILLS THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

Once the text of Isaiah 65-66 and the Abrahamic covenant are fulfilled, the Davidic covenant must be considered. This is the promises of God to David that his seed, throne, and kingdom would endure forever. The question is not will the Davidic Covenant be fulfilled—Jesus said no Scripture can be set aside—but whether it is fulfilled in an earthly kingdom still plagued with sin, unbelief, death and a final rebellion, or whether it is better fulfilled literally in a thousand year reign in the spiritual realm on the Day of the Lord. The premillennialism earthly kingdom view is that there will still be sin, rebellion and death. Yet this is in no way consistent with *“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”* The spiritual realm thousand year kingdom with Jesus--free from sin, rebellion and death--better fulfills this prophecy.

The promises Jehovah (from Jesus as well since Jesus is eternal) made in the Davidic Covenant are numerous. The provisions of the Davidic covenant include, then, the following items: (1) David is to have a child, yet to be born, who shall succeed him and establish his kingdom. (2) This son (Solomon) shall build the temple instead of David. (3) The throne of his kingdom shall be established forever. (4) The throne will not be taken away from him (Solomon) even though his sins justify chastisement. (5) David's house, throne, and kingdom shall be established forever. In 2 Samuel 7:11-16 we learn that the promises to David are: *“My love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”*

2 Samuel 7:11-16 (NIV)

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

We know from verse 12 that God intends for David to die (*“When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you.”*) Yet verse 16 says: *“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”*

This must mean that the kingdom of David would be established and secured by a descendant. But Solomon is depicted as a sinner who has to be chastened. The kingdom can never be secure in the hands of a sinner. Look at what God does in 1 Kings 11:11–13 after Solomon marries foreign women and worships their gods: *“The Lord said to Solomon, ‘Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.’”*

This shows that the promise to establish David's kingdom cannot happen as long as the descendants of David are rebellious and disobedient. Only Jesus could fulfill this part of the prophecy.

Psalm 89:3-4 (NIV)

You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, ‘I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.’

There is no doubt that Jesus fulfills this prophecy. The Bible tells us so in Luke chapter 1 as the angel Gabriel speaks to Mary.

Luke 1:31-33 (NIV)

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

The problem of fulfillment does not consist in the question of whether Jesus is the one who fulfills the promises, but rather on the issue of how Christ fulfills the covenant and when He fulfills it. Thus the amillennalist and premillennialist views propose two different answers. The amillennalist view postulates Christ fulfills the promise by His present sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven; while the premillennialist believes Christ fulfills the promise still in the future with His return and righteous reign on earth during the millennium.

Neither considers the true power of God. The answer is Jesus fulfills this prophecy BOTH while reigning in heaven in the present age, AND while reigning in heaven with resurrected and raptured believers during the thousand year millennium in heaven. This is a different time dimension than earth, and occurs at the exact same time of wrath on earth during the Day of the Lord. That Jesus reigns in heaven both during the current age and after the rapture for a thousand years exactly fulfills Psalm 110:1-6 and Paul’s writing in 1 Corinthians 15:24-27. **The victory of Jesus is overwhelming and complete—not partial with sin and death still existent in his kingdom.**

Psalm 110: 1-6 (NIV)

The Lord says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb. The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.’” The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.”

1 Corinthians 15: 24-27 (NIV)

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For he “has put everything under his feet.”

These issues may be reduced for discussion to the following: (1) Does the Davidic covenant require literal fulfillment? (2) Does the partial fulfillment already a matter of history permit a literal fulfillment? (3) Is the interpretation of this covenant in harmony with other covenant purposes of God? (4) What does the New Testament teach regarding the present and future reign of Christ?

The clear answer is that each covenant from God requires a literal fulfillment. Only by understanding that the millennial reign is in heaven at the same time of the Day of the Lord on earth allows a literal fulfillment of all covenant prophecies.

The Davidic covenant makes clear the Son of David (Jesus) will possess the throne of His father David. To make His person literal but His throne a spiritualized concept is to nullify the promise. Likewise, the view of an earthly kingdom of sin and death does not literally fulfill the covenant either.

Thus the question is not whether or not there is a millennium. Rather the question is: "where will the millennial kingdom take place? And: "How does it take place on the Day of the Lord?"

The Davidic covenant fits perfectly into the picture. It is the covenant for the heavenly (not earthly) thousand year rule of Christ on the Day of the Lord. **Keep in mind there is no sin or death in the heavenly realm.** There is no need to bizarrely postulate that millions of people will fall away while being in the physical presence of Christ in an earthly millennial kingdom--while Satan is bound in the Abyss. Who then would deceive the believers in the presence of Jesus? Where do all the unsaved come from (the "ethne", or nations) for a second rebellion of Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:7-10)? In fact, the meaning in this case of "ethne" is not human nations, but rather a collection or herd of detestable creatures—the demons.

The answer is that no one in the millennial kingdom of Christ could possibly fall away. Do not be misled by those who write that Jesus is so weak that he would just watch this happen and do nothing! No, to the contrary, Jesus tells us he will lose none of those he is given in John 10:28-30, John 18:9, Hebrews 7:24-25, Colossians 3:1-4, Isaiah 45:17, Psalm 37:28-29, and Isaiah 55:3.

John 10:28-30 (NIV)

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 18:9 (NIV)

This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

Hebrews 7:24-25 (NIV)

But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Isaiah 45:17 (NIV)

But Israel will be saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation; you will never be put to shame or disgraced, to ages everlasting.

Psalms 37:28-29 (NIV)

For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish. The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever.

Isaiah 55:3 (NIV)

“Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.”

The promise of a land (the territorial limits of which were defined) to the posterity of Abraham, as also the promise of a son of David's own line to occupy David's throne forever, were unconditional promises, ratified by covenant and oath. All the earthly promises regarding the restoration of the nation Israel, the possession of the land, the spirit being poured out blessings on the Jewish remnant, and the return of Christ to reign in heaven are in perfect harmony with a literal heavenly fulfillment of the covenant. The final purpose of God in the Davidic and New Covenants is fulfilled in the heavenly thousand year reign of Christ. This has a single continuous spiritual realm aspect: **Jesus millennial reign and the continued rule of God in the new heavens and earth for eternity.**

“For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.” (Hebrews 9:15) The message of the Davidic Covenant extends beyond the implications of the Old Testament. God promises a glorified Christ and His perfect heavenly millennial kingdom (free from war, sin, violence, weeping, illness, misfortune, death and rebellion) to all who will come into a covenant relationship with Him.

Hebrews 9:14-15 (NIV)

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

These promises flow to us through Christ's death and resurrection. Just as David was guaranteed the blessings and benefits of the initial covenant, both Jews and Gentiles experience a covenant of grace that is made with us through the promised Messiah.

THE SPIRITUAL MILLENNIAL KINGDOM FULFILLS THE NEW COVENANT

The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:27-33, Ezekiel 11:16-20; 36:24-28) was a sovereign covenant which guarantees the restored post 1948 Jewish remnant surviving the holocaust a converted heart. It replaced the Old or Mosaic Covenant which Israel failed to keep. Instead of the Law being written on tablets of stone (as the Mosaic Law), the Law will be written on the minds and hearts of the people.

Jeremiah 31:27-33 (NIV)

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Ezekiel 11:17-19 (NIV)

“Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.’ “They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 (NIV)

““For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.”

Jesus initiated the new covenant in the upper room on the evening prior to His arrest and crucifixion (Matthew 26:27-29). The death and resurrection of Christ form the basis of blessings for the Church as well as the covenantal blessings promised to Israel. It will be completed in the heavenly millennial kingdom with Jesus (*“that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”*) Paul tells us in Ephesians 2 we have *“been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

Matthew 26:27-29 (NIV)

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

Ephesians 2:13 (NIV)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Revelation 20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison

“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison.” The binding of Satan in the Abyss, or Sheol, where the beast Baal was imprisoned after the fall of Babylon, put a complete restraint upon his power and freedom of action; the loosing means the removing of these restraints. Now Satan is released in both the spiritual realm and the earth realm for the final battle.

All humans were killed in the of Revelation 19:21; *“The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”* There are not two final battles of humans. The second battle is where Jesus punishes Satan and his demonic angels. Satan is thrown in the lake of fire, and the demons are burned up with fire from heaven.

Isaiah tells us this all occurs on the Day of the Lord, a terrible day on earth.

Isaiah 24:1-3 (NIV)

See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants—it will be the same for priest as for people, for the master as for his servant, for the mistress as for her servant, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken this word.

The unholy trinity (Satan the dragon, Baal the beast and Mohammad the false prophet) are completely neutralized during the Day of the Lord. Baal the demonic spirit and the soul of Mohammad were thrown into the lake of fire, and now action continues further on the Day of the Lord as Satan is released to face Christ. With the believers safely raptured to the spiritual heavenly kingdom, the remaining demons on earth are led one last time by Satan on the Day of the Lord.

Revelation 19:20 (NIV)

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

It may seem puzzling there both a thousand year millennial reign in heaven, and the eternal kingdom. Why not just one? The thousand year millennial reign protects both the living believers (raptured) and the resurrected believers from the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord on earth. God is pouring out His just wrath on the living earthly unbelievers, while His people are protected in the spiritual realm.

Satan and his key powers are held in the Abyss during the thousand years in heaven; as Isaiah wrote in 24:21 *“They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.”*

Isaiah 24:21-22 (NIV)

In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.

Revelation 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

“And will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle.” This is the battle of demons and Satan--since all humans were already killed in Revelation 19:21; *“The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.”* There are not two final human battles. The Day of the Lord on earth is one thousand years in the spiritual realm and a terrible day on earth. These are two different time and space dimensions. The Apostle Peter says: *“earth being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”*

2 Peter 3:7-8 (NIV)

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Psalms 90:3-4 (NIV)

You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

**THE DAY OF THE LORD
UNBELIEVERS ON EARTH PUNISHED
MILLENNIUM KINGDOM IN HEAVEN FOR BELIEVERS**

**BELIEVERS HAVE THOUSAND
YEAR REIGN WITH
CHRIST IN HEAVEN**

**SEVEN BOWL
JUDGMENTS ON EARTH
REVELATION 16:1-21**

**THE REST
WERE KILLED
REVELATION 19:17-21**

**FIRE CAME DOWN AND
DEVOURED THEM
REVELATION 20:9**

**ALL MANKIND KILLED
ZEPHANIAH 1:1-18**

**EARTH LAID WASTE
ISAIAH 24:1-23**

**EVERYTHING WILL
BE DESTROYED
2 PETER 3:11**

IF THERE IS AN EARTHLY MILLENNIAL KINGDOM--WHERE DO THESE MILLIONS OF NONBELIEVERS COME FROM AFTER ONE THOUSAND YEARS ON EARTH WITH JESUS?

It is impossible for traditional premillennialist thinking (looking for an earthly kingdom of Jesus still filled with sin, death, crime, weeping, and rebellion of nonbelievers) to explain where in fact these nonbelievers come from. The Bible clearly says during the thousand year reign of Jesus that Satan cannot deceive anyone. Satan is bound these thousand years *“to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”* (Revelation 20:3) It is near blasphemy to ascribe so little power to Jesus at His Second Coming. The Bible says at His appearance *“every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.”*

Romans 14:11 (NIV)

It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."

Since Revelation chapters 19 and 20 give a chronological sequence of events on the Day of the Lord, and if all the unsaved nations are destroyed at the end of chapter 19— where do all the unbelievers come from in Revelation 20:8 when Satan deceives the nations after his release?

According to Riddlebarger, the revolt of Revelation 20:7– 10 is especially problematic for premillennialism earthly kingdom:

"Who are these people who revolt against Christ? Who are these who are consumed by fire? Are these people in unresurrected bodies? If so, where did they come from? How do they pass through the judgment at the beginning of the millennial age? Are these people the redeemed believers? Such is unthinkable. The presence of evil in the millennial age is a problem from which all forms of premillennialism cannot escape."

Some premillennialists claim that not all unbelievers will be destroyed at the Second Coming, and therefore the nations will consist of (or arise from) unbelieving, non-glorified survivors of the battle in Revelation 19:17– 19. But this view is not at all consistent with literal Scripture, since the Bible says all unbelievers will be killed in the battle of Revelation 19:17-19. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:31– 46 that any surviving unbelievers will not inherit the millennial kingdom.

The complete elimination of the wicked from entrance into the kingdom rests not just on the destruction of the wicked at the appearance (“Parousia”) of Christ at the Second Advent, but also on the separation of the sheep from the goats in the judgment that follows (Matthew 25: 31– 46). If any unbelievers are not slain at Christ’s return, two judgments follow to root out all who remain. Thus, there will not be anyone to revolt after 1,000 years. **The only Biblical explanation of all the Old Testament and New Testament texts consistently is that on the Day of the Lord all activity will take place on earth at once. Believers will be safely removed and reign with Christ in the spiritual realm.**

Revelation 20:9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

"They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves". This is the spiritual continuation of the battle described in Revelation 19. Led by Satan, the detestable demonic herd ("ethne") on the Day of the Lord, not knowing what to do, try to march on Jerusalem. Again the insurmountable question is if these are two human battles (Revelation 19 vs 20), where do all of these people come from? The Biblical answer is that Revelation 19, Revelation 20, 2 Peter 3, Isaiah 24, Isaiah 65-66, Zephaniah 13, Zechariah 14, Psalm 110, and Matthew 25 Scriptures are all talking about the same single event—the Day of the Lord on earth.

Some premillennialists try to give an explanation. They claim the nations led by Satan when released come from the descendants of the tribulation saints who survive the tribulation and enter the millennium in their natural bodies. According to this view, the battle of Revelation 19:19–21 and the subsequent judgment of the nations will indeed result in the death of all unbelievers—just as the Bible says. But some believers who are converted during the Tribulation will survive the persecution and enter the millennial kingdom in non-glorified bodies. During the millennium on earth, these individuals will marry and give birth to children that are unbelievers and somehow give rise to the nations that rebel against Christ after the thousand years in Revelation 20:8-9..

The Bible tells us this cannot be the case. A mortal human entering the kingdom of God in a natural body goes completely against the clear teaching of Jesus in Luke 20:35-37: *Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels."*

"But fire came down from heaven and devoured them." God destroys rebellious sinful angels with fire—just as God did with the angel of Tyre; (Ezekiel 28:18 *"By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching."*)

Peter tells us the Day of the Lord will come without warning (*"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief"*) and fire will burn up the heavens and earth (*"That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."*) to make way for the new heaven and a new earth. This fire will burn up all the heavens and the natural earth. There is no earth left for an earthly millennial kingdom of humans.

2 Peter 3:10-13 (NIV)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown.” When Christ returns none of the three in the “unholy trinity” are living humans. This is why all three are thrown “alive” in the lake of fire in the spiritual world. Paul tells us the Day of the Lord will come suddenly—with no warning. Just as Peter wrote!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 (NIV)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Paul further tells us that those in Christ will avoid this time of wrath on earth—the believers are safely with Jesus in the millennial kingdom in heaven.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NIV)

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mohammad, the false prophet, died in 632 AD, and on the Day of the Lord his soul will be thrown in the lake of fire. Baal, the beast, was released from Sheol and his spirit is thrown in the lake of fire. Satan is the last of the three captured and his spirit is thrown in the lake of fire. The Bible warned us people would worship both the dragon and beast. Although Islam steadfastly maintains that it is the only true “monotheist” religion, there is a curious use of “we” and “our” pronouns in the Qur’an on key doctrinal issues that conflict with the Biblical truth. Islamic scholars try to explain this as the “royal we”, but it is really Satan and Baal, the dragon and beast speaking.

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) SENT THE FALSE PROPHET MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 21:107

And **We** have sent you, [O Mohammad], as a mercy to the worlds.

SATAN AND BAAL (“OUR WORD”) GAVE A FALSE GOSPEL (QUR’AN) TO MOHAMMAD

Qur’an 37:171

Our Word has already gone forth to **Our servants**, the messengers [Mohammad]

SATAN AND BAAL (“WE”) HAVE A PLAN TO SEND ALL HUMANS TO HELL

Qur’an 19:70-71

And then **We** shall know well all those most worthy to be cast in Hell. There is not one of you but shall pass by Hell. This is a decree which your Lord will fulfill.

Qur’an 19:72

Then **We** shall deliver those that feared Allah and leave the wrong-doers there on their knees.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.” The great white throne is not earthly or governmental in any sense, but a final, personal, eternal Judgment of Jesus on the Day of the Lord. This is evident from the fact that the whole present creation completely disappears before the Glorious One sitting on this throne! It is also abundantly confirmed by the silence of those judged. They are not actors in any sense. The judgment sentence from this throne is eternal.

This is a special throne—greater than any other throne mentioned in the Bible. It is distinguished from all other aspects of the divine throne; whether the one mentioned in Daniel 7, Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, 1 Kings 22:19, Exodus 24:9-11 or even Revelation 4.

Consider each word John uses. *“Great”*,—it is the infinite highest spot before whom the finite must stand; *“White”*,—it is the unveiled, undimmed glory of the divine holiness and purity and justice; *“Throne”*,—it is majesty knows no limits and the person the throne has the eternal right to decide the destiny of creatures. Before such a throne, creatures cannot stand; but they shall stand—even the lost!

“The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.” This fulfills prophecy from Revelation 6, Zephaniah 1, and Zechariah 14. On the Day of the Lord the earth and heavens will vanish, Jesus will appear, and Baal worship will cease.

Revelation 6:15-17 (NIV)

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the 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 their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?”

Zephaniah 1:3b-4 NIV

“When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord, “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”

Zechariah 14:5-9 (NIV)

You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.” No one, living or dead at the time Jesus returns, can escape judgment of their life. Everyone must stand before God and have their entire life reviewed. Even one sin is one too many. Good works cannot outweigh bad works.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

“Another book was opened, which is the book of life.” “The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” No one is saved by their works—as Isaiah told us. Only those that accepted Jesus as the risen Son of God have their name in the Book of Life. These believers avoid the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord, and are reigning with Jesus in heaven at the time of the White Throne Judgment. The “dead” refers to the spiritually dead, as the believers were judged at the Parousia (appearance) of Christ before the thousand year heavenly millennium.

Revelation 20:13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

“The sea gave up the dead that were in it.” The spiritual world (“sea”) will give up all its souls, death and Hades give up their souls. The “sea” is not the watery ocean. Throughout the Book of Revelation, the “sea” refers to the spiritual world. In the battle of Revelation 19-20, demonic spirits (“unclean birds”) gorge themselves on the ungodly souls killed by rejecting the Word of God--Jesus the Son of God. On the Day of the Lord, the demonic spirits harvest the souls of those humans that rejected Christ down into Sheol to await the final judgment.

The beast from the Abyss came from the sea (Revelation 13:1 *“The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name”*) Likewise, the new heavens and earth have no sea, since the spiritual world will be visible. (Revelation 21:1-2 *“Then I saw ‘new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”*)

“Each person was judged according to what they had done.” Every soul since the creation of the world will be judged according to their works. None of their works will be sufficient for a Holy God.

Revelation 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.” This is a literal fulfillment of the prophecy in Hosea 13:14. “Hades” is Greek for the same spiritual prison as the Hebrew “Sheol.” The first death, physical death, is, together with spiritual jail—the Abyss, Sheol, or Hades, cast as things hateful to God into a place of eternal wrath. It is a guarantee to all holy beings that sin, death, weeping, and rebellion will never be allowed to invade God’s new creation when Jesus appears.

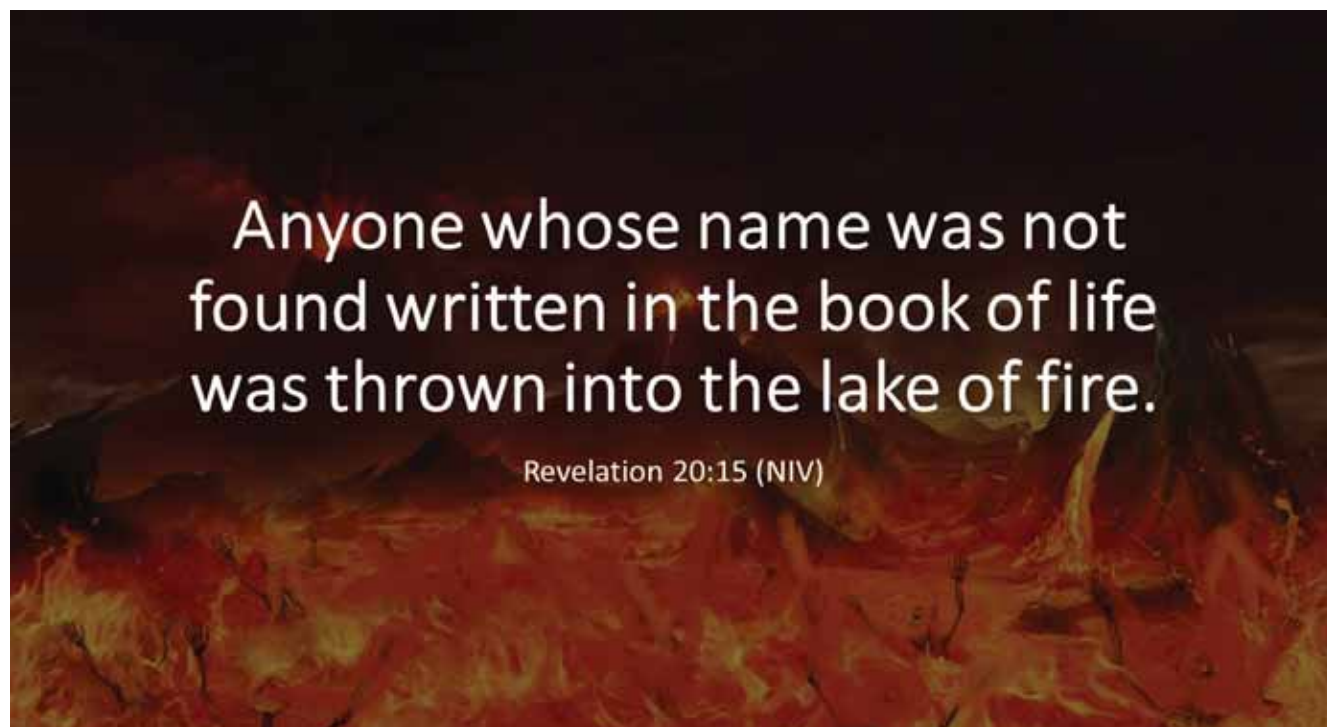
Hosea 13:14 (NASB)

Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight.

“The lake of fire is the second death.” A simple sentence, yet eternal punishment is described. This short verse is one of the elements of its awfulness. The finality and eternity of this unspeakable doom—how they should be preached and sent across social media these days!

Revelation 20:15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

There is not more that can be said about this simple verse. If your name is not in the Book of Life from the Lamb of God you will be thrown in the lake of fire. It is not the absence of good works in the book that dooms a person to eternal separation from God. **It is the absence of your name.** Only names, not works, are in that book! It is not the fact that you have evil works. Many of earth’s greatest sinners have their names in the Book of Life.



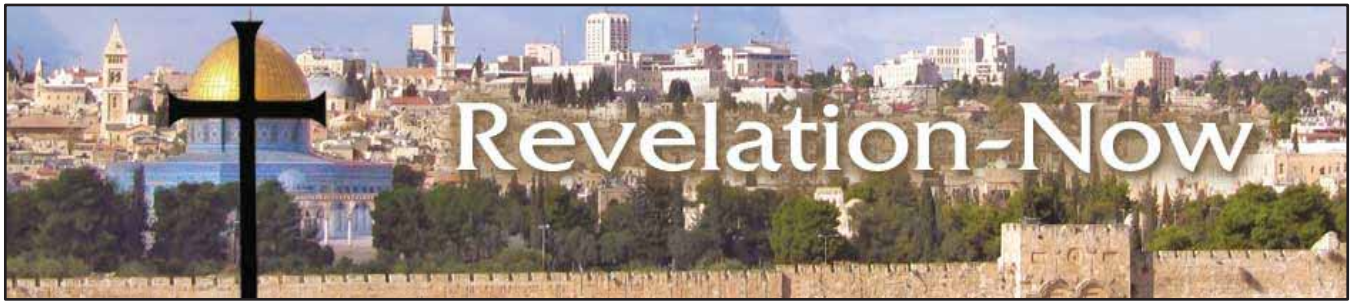
IN REVELATION 20 MOST EVENTS ARE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

1. John sees an angel coming down out of heaven (20:1)
2. Satan was physically seized by an angel from heaven (20:2)
3. Satan physically locked in the spiritual realm Abyss (20:3)
4. Satan prevented deceiving the nations ("ethne", meaning in this case a herd or common group of demons) until the thousand years were ended (20:3)
5. John saw thrones (in heaven) on which sat those who had been given authority to judge (20:4)
6. John saw souls (in heaven) of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony (20:4)
7. John saw the first resurrection in heaven (20:5)
8. John saw them the believers reign with Christ in heaven for a thousand years (20:5-6)
9. Satan released after a thousand years in the Abyss (20:7)
10. Satan deceives for a short time the nations ("ethne", meaning in this case a herd or common group of demons) after the thousand years were ended (20:8)
11. Satan and the demons march across the earth towards the city God loves (Jerusalem) (20:9)
12. Fire came down from heaven and devoured them (20:9)
13. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur (spiritual realm), where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. (20:10)
14. "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it." (spiritual realm) (20:11)
15. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them (20:11)
16. John saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened (20:12)
17. Another book was opened, which is the book of life (spiritual realm) (20:12)
18. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.(20:12)
19. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done(spiritual realm) (20:13)
20. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire (spiritual realm) (20:14)
21. Anyone whose name was not in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. (20:15)

The spiritual millennial literal thousand years of a sinless, deathless, and free of rebellion kingdom in heaven, along with the wrath of God against unbelievers on the literal Day of the Lord on earth fulfills all Old and New Testament end-times prophecy. When Jesus returns in all His glory there are no unsaved humans left on earth rebelling against God after the Day of the Lord.

It is written: "As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." Romans 14:11

This holistic view avoids the amillennalist problem making the thousand years symbolic, and their view that Satan was bound in the Abyss since the resurrection of Christ. Satan was not! This understanding also avoids the dispensational premillennialist earthly kingdom problem (*blasphemous* as well!) that unbelievers will populate the millennial kingdom, and that the return of Jesus is still plagued with sin, death, rebellion, war and weeping. Jesus returns in great power and glory—not weakness! Revelation 20 ends with the great White Throne Judgment. Anyone whose name is not in the Book of Life will be thrown in the lake of fire. It is not the absence of good works in the book that dooms a person. It is the absence of your name. Only names, not good works, are in that book!



REVELATION CHAPTER 21

THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 21

In Revelation chapter 21 John saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

John heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

John did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.



He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.”

Revelation 21:6 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 21 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

“Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.” In the Book of Revelation the “sea” is the spiritual realm, and the “earth” is the human realm. The beast from the Abyss came from the sea (Revelation 13:1 *“The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name”*) Likewise, the new heavens and earth have no sea, since the spiritual world will be visible.

The new heaven and the new earth will not be separated from each other; the earth of the saints, their glorified bodies, will be heavenly. The old world, with all its troubles and tumults, will have passed away. This new Jerusalem is the church of God in its new and perfect state, the church triumphant. Its blessedness came wholly from God and depended on him. The presence of God with his people in heaven will not be interrupted as it is on earth; He will dwell with them continually. All problems or misfortune, including death, sin, weeping, and rebellion, are no more.

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” The new Jerusalem is more fully described later on in this chapter in verses 10-27. The city is also the bride. The sacred city appears linked to God by a sacred bond. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah, Hebrews writer and the Apostle Paul wrote about this day.

Isaiah 61:10-11 (NIV)

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Hebrews 12:22 (NIV)

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

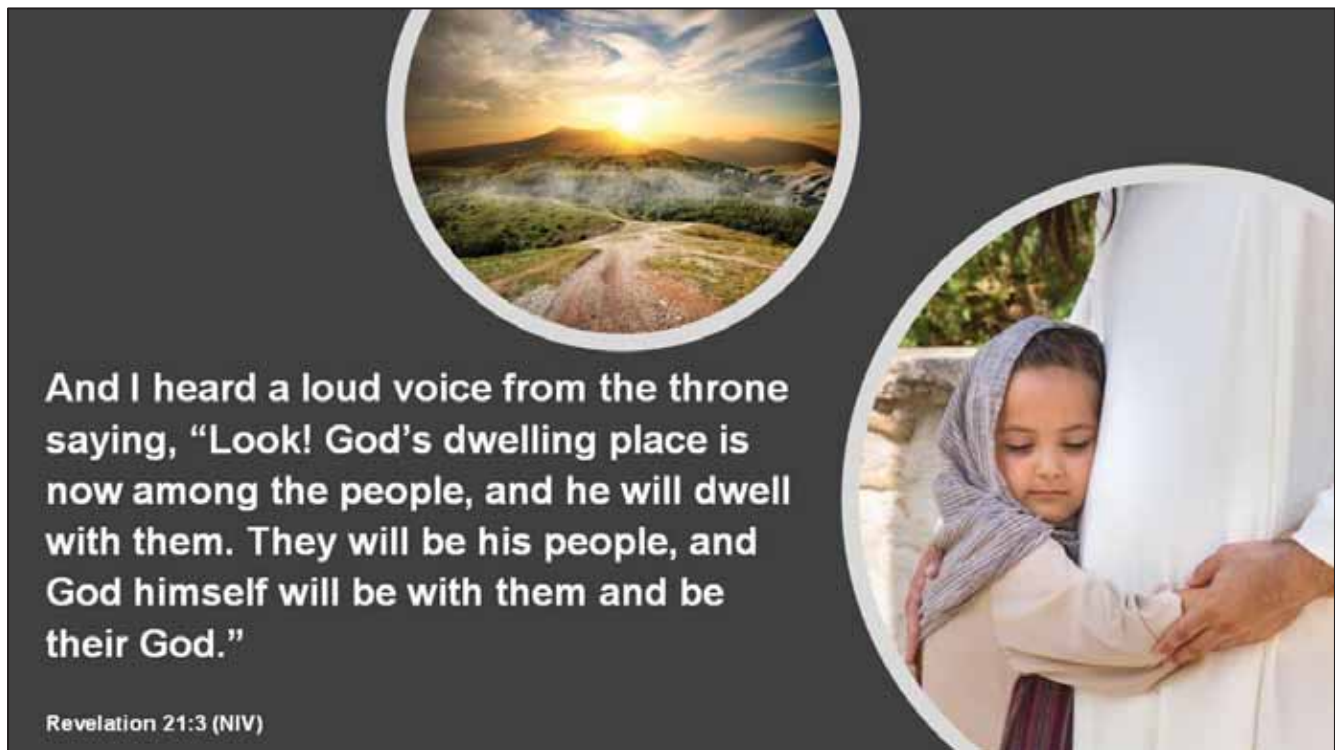
Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

There can be no more joyful verse in the Bible than this one! The tabernacle of God is with men! The tabernacle, as that word is commonly used in the Scriptures, referring to the sacred "tent" erected in the wilderness, was regarded as the unique dwelling-place of God among his people - as the temple was afterward, which was also called a “tabernacle.”

It is not said that this would be "on the earth," because it is in the new heavens and the new earth. The Hebrews writer explains the significance of the tabernacle.



Hebrews 9:1-4 (NIV)

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

Hebrews 9:11-12 (NIV)

But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Revelation 21:4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

"There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." The reign with Jesus will be perfect and free from sin, death, weeping and rebellion. The first, or former, things are passed away: death shall not be any longer; neither shall mourning, nor crying, nor pain, be any longer.

The great array of negatives comes as a herald of the positive peace of the new Jerusalem: no sea (no divide from the spiritual world), no tears, no death, no mourning, no crying, no rebellion, no pain; with the former things these dark shadows pass away from life. Those in the heavenly room will not be able to see those in the lake of fire. But those in the lake of fire will be able to see those in the heavenly room.

For those in Christ, there is no sorrow, nor crying, no sin, no oppression, and persecution, nor grief through the loss of near relations and friends. All sorrow and sighing will disappear, all occasions thereof being gone: neither shall there be any more pain, either of body or mind. Nothing harmful will afflict the soul, and make that uneasy, but all the reverse; nor will there be any sickness or diseases of the body, for the body will be raised glorious, powerful, incorruptible, and spiritual.

Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

"I am making everything new!" In spite of the moral disorder, the pain and grief, the dark shadows of life and history, the new creation is being prepared, and will rise, like the early creation, out of chaos. The analogy between the old and new creation is the reason why the first chapter of Genesis and Revelation 21-22 are tied together. Out of an earth without form and void rose the world of order and beauty, which God pronounced very good, so out of the world, so full of distress and tears, and overshadowed by so many clouds of sin, will emerge the glad new world, where only righteousness dwells. God will pronounce it good once again!

The closing words of the verse, perhaps an instruction from the angel, but more probably still the voice of Him that sits on the throne, adds the further assurance, *"for these words are trustworthy and true."* You can trust the words of Jesus.

Revelation 21:6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life."

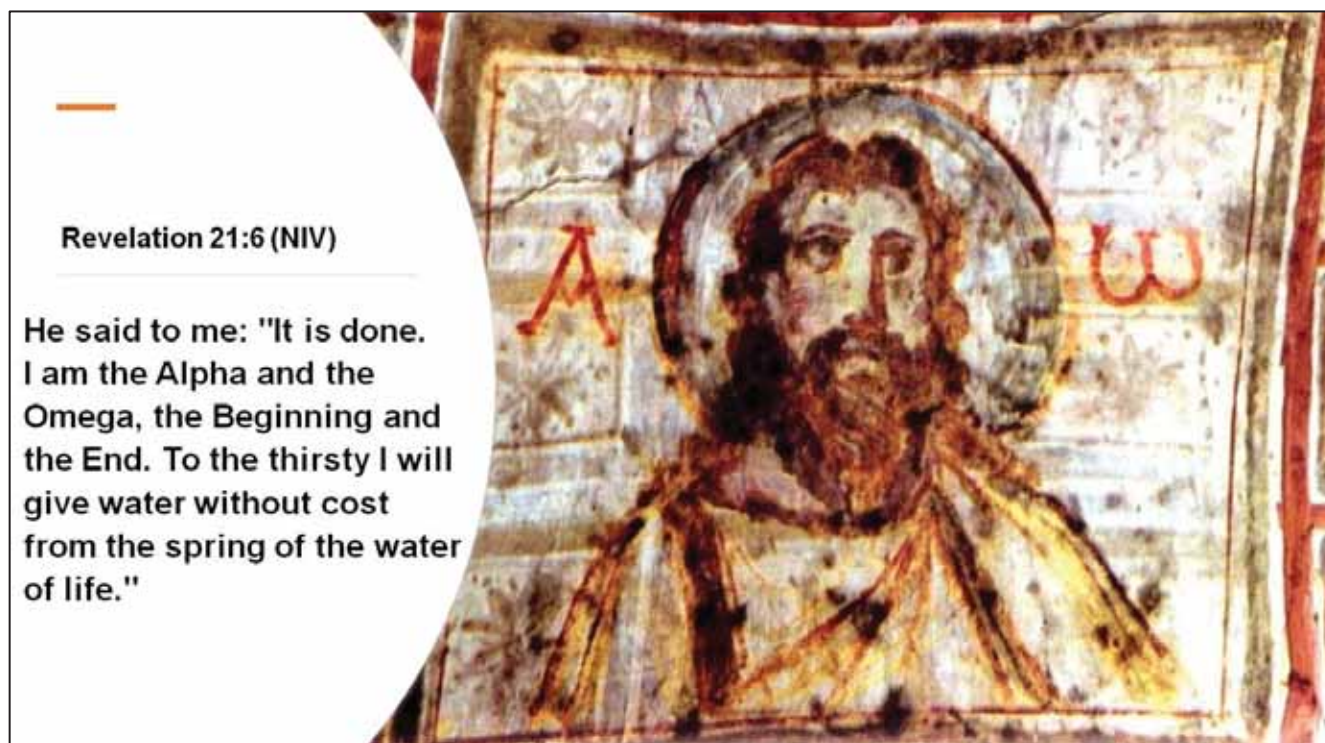
"He said unto me, It is done." The world is at an end, and the wrath of Jesus against His enemies, and promises to His people, are now fulfilled, in the eternal damnation of the one, and deliverance and salvation of the other.

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." Jesus first made the world, and Jesus has put a period to it. Jesus first gave out those promises and warnings, and Jesus has now fulfilled them.

"To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life." It is not possible to buy salvation. It is only from the Blood of Jesus. Following the Qur'an and Sharia Law and good works will never be enough to be in the presence of a Holy God..

It is not possible to buy salvation. Think about what Jesus said to the rich young man.

(Mark 10:21-22; *Looking at him, Jesus felt a love for him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But at these words he was saddened, and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.*)



Revelation 21:7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Only those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life will be victorious. Everyone falls short of God's glory. Only the Blood of Jesus can atone for our sins. When Jesus said: *"will inherit all this"* it means we will be an heir of God in all things.

When Jesus said: *"I will be their God"*, it means forever without end. He would be to them all that is properly implied in the name of God; he would bestow upon them all the blessings which it was appropriate for God to bestow. Even greater is when Jesus said: *"and they will be my children"*, it means Jesus will sustain all the saved souls as a loving relationship of a parent to a child.

The source of victory is the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11; *"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."*), and the victory of faith (1 John 5:5; *"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."*)

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The list starts up referring to the worst sins such as murderers and those that practice the magic arts. Some unsaved people may feel their good works are better than the first part of this list. They think their works are sufficient. But when Jesus gets to the end of the list (*"the idolaters and all liars"*) it is clear Jesus means everyone's sins are too great to be included in the kingdom. How then can we be saved from the second death, since everyone has sinned and lied at some point in their life? Peter tells us we can only go to Jesus—who has the words of eternal life.

John 6:68 (NIV)

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Revelation 21:9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me." Most probably this angel is the same one who in Revelation 17-18 showed John the desert wilderness Babylon (Islamic Mecca) and her destruction. Now one of the seven shows him, by way of contrast, the new Jerusalem and her glory. In Ezekiel 40:2, he was brought in the visions of God, and set on a very high mountain, and showed Ezekiel the “what if” holy city Jerusalem. The old city is now forgotten, so that this is no longer termed the new, but absolutely, Jerusalem.

“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” The "Lamb" is Christ, who is often so called in this book; see Revelation 5:6 and Revelation 19:7. Jesus is the Son of God, the heir of all things, the Maker and Governor of the universe, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords; and who, as Mediator, has all accomplishments and qualifications to recommend him as a bridegroom. His glory, riches, and wisdom: the bride, his wife, is not any particular believer, nor any particular church; not the Gentile church, nor the Jewish church only, but all the elect of God, consisting of the raised and living saints at the coming of Christ; who will make up one body, one general assembly, and be as a bride, prepared and adorned for her husband: these were first betrothed to Christ in eternity, and were openly espoused by him, one by one, at conversion.

Revelation 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

John was in an ecstasy and utter astonishment, as in Revelation 1:10 and in the thoughts and apprehensions of his mind and spirit, as he was carried away from one place to another. A sharp contrast exists between historic Jerusalem and the New Jerusalem of eternity. The former Jerusalem is often disrupted by internal and external strife. The new Jerusalem will be a city of perfect peace. Men designed and built the former Jerusalem. God is the designer and builder of the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is secure, indestructible, and eternal.

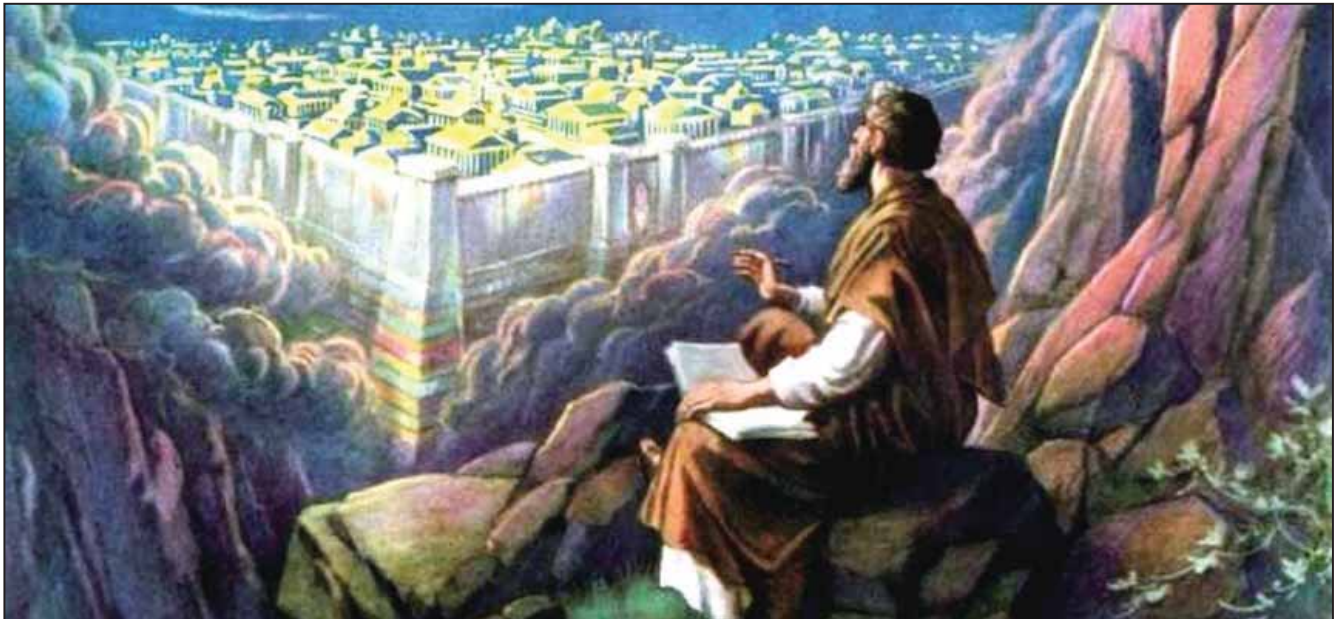
Revelation 21:11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Revelation 21:12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 21:13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.

Revelation 21:14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

It is difficult to describe in human terms the immense and unimaginable glory of God, so in these few verses John uses the metaphors of gold and precious stones to reach his readers with some idea of what he saw!



IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR JOHN TO DESCRIBE THE NEW JERUSALEM

Revelation 21:15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls

Revelation 21:16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

Revelation 21:17 The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick.

Since the height, length and width are the same, the New Jerusalem is a 1500 mile cube, just as the Old Testament Tabernacle Holy of Holies of God was a cube. In Islam, Baal in the Kaaba image of the beast in Mecca tries to copy the cube design--to no avail.



THE HOLY OF HOLIES IN THE TABERNACLE WAS A CUBE

2 Chronicles 3:8-9 (NIV)

He built the Most Holy Place, its length corresponding to the width of the temple—twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide. He overlaid the inside with six hundred talents of fine gold. The gold nails weighed fifty shekels. He also overlaid the upper parts with gold.



**BAAL, IN THE ISLAMIC KAABA IMAGE OF THE BEAST IN MECCA,
TRIES TO COPY THE CUBE DESIGN--TO NO AVAIL**

Revelation 21:18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

Revelation 21:19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

Revelation 21:20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.

Revelation 21:21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

In these verses John again tries to describe the new Jerusalem, illuminated by the glory of God, in human terms. We can compare this to the luxury and wealth of the harlot Mecca and the Kaaba image (Revelation 17:4 *"The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls."*). The Bride, the Lamb's wife, has her beautiful ornaments, richer and rarer than those which adorned the beast and dragon's home of Mecca.

Revelation 21:22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

"I did not see a temple in the city." In Ezekiel's vision the vast and splendid proportions of the temple formed a conspicuous part: its gigantic proportions declared it to be figurative, and it was also dependant on Israel's obedience to God, which they did not do. (Ezekiel 48:8-20) The vision of John passes on to a higher state of things. Ezekiel's vision declared that the literal temple would be replaced by a far more glorious spiritual temple.

There is no temple in the new Jerusalem *"because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."* Compare this to what Paul said (*"God's Spirit dwells in your midst"*) about the temple on earth in 1 Corinthians. Compare to what Jeremiah and Isaiah wrote and about sacrifices. The temple is God dwelling in us, and God wants no animal or grain sacrifice. The only worthy sacrifice was Jesus. Any attempt to bring back Old Testament sacrifice dishonors Jesus.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

Jeremiah 6:20 (NIV)

"What do I care about incense from Sheba or sweet calamus from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable; your sacrifices do not please me."

Isaiah 1:11 (NIV)

"The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?" says the Lord. "I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats."

Revelation 21:23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Revelation 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Revelation 21:25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there

Revelation 21:26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The glory of God is the light of the city, and the Lamb is the lamp to all the saved. God in Christ will be an everlasting Fountain of knowledge and joy to the saints in heaven. There is no night, therefore no need of shutting the gates; all is at peace and secure. The whole shows us that we should be more and more led to think of heaven as filled with the glory of God, and enlightened by the presence of the Lord Jesus.

In Revelation 21:24 the Greek word for "nations" is "ethne". In this case, ethne in context mean a collection or group of like minded creatures (resurrected humans, meaning saved believers) walking in the glory of God. In Revelation 21:26 the Greek word for "nations" is "ethnon". In this context it has the same meaning as Revelation 21:24, i.e., a collection or group with a similar characteristic—meaning those redeemed by Christ.

Nothing sinful or unclean, idolatrous, or false and deceitful, can enter. This would be all souls since Adam if not for the blood of Jesus.

Matthew 19: 25-26

"When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

All the inhabitants of the new Jerusalem are made perfect in holiness. None are admitted into heaven who carry sin. It is free from hypocrites and liars. As nothing unclean can enter heaven, let us give praise to God by these glimpses of heavenly things, to use all diligence, and to perfect our ways in the fear of God.

Those that are in the lake of fire from believing the Qur'an and praying to the Kaaba will only be able to watch the Lamb as they suffer.

Revelation 14:10 (NIV)

They, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.



REVELATION CHAPTER 22

THE LIVING WATER AND TREE OF LIFE

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 22

In Revelation chapter 22 John was shown by an angel the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

The angel said to John, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

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

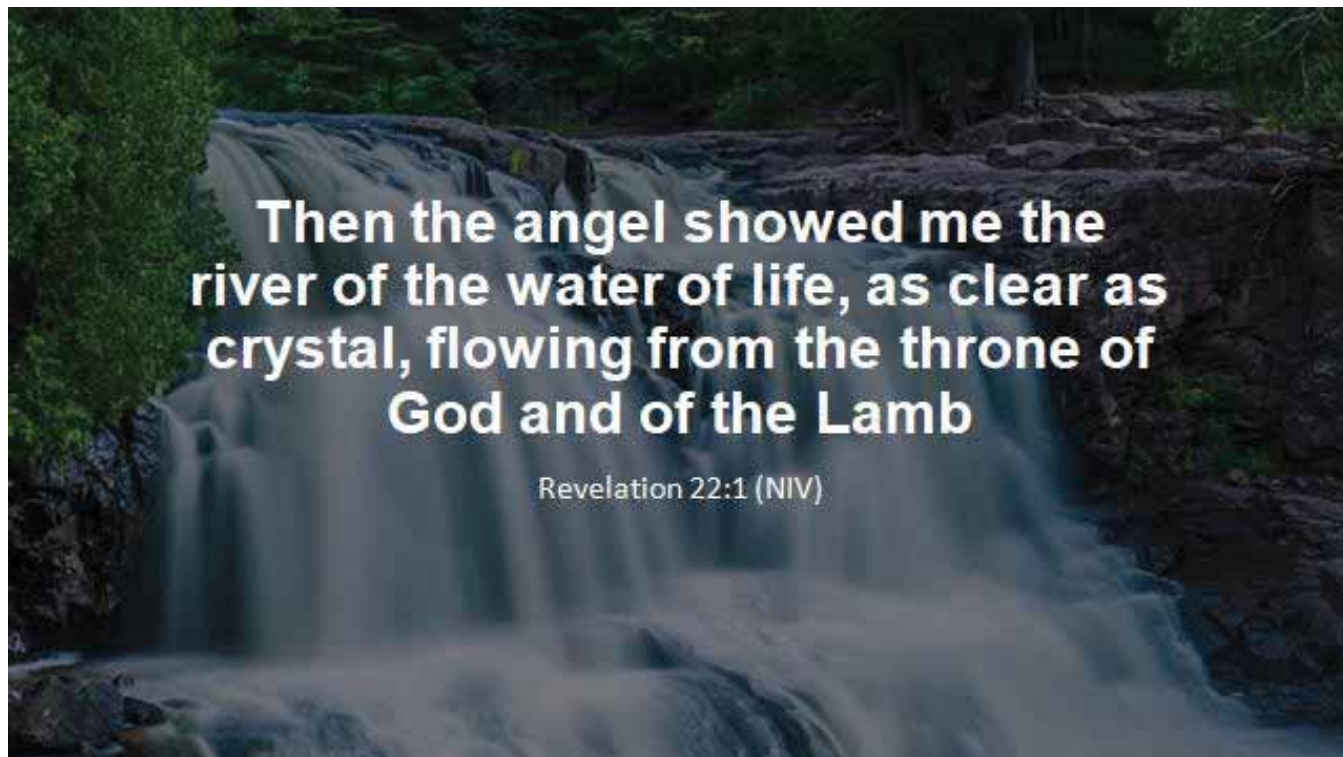


"If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll." Revelation 22:18-19 (NIV)

REVELATION CHAPTER 22 VERSE BY VERSE COMMENTARY

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

All streams of the earthly realm were muddy and polluted, but these in the new Jerusalem are clear and refreshing. They give life and preserve life to those who drink of them, and thus they will flow forever. These tell us of the life and peace of the Holy Spirit, as given to sinners through Jesus Christ. Only those with their name in the Book of Life from the Lamb of God will drink of this heavenly water.



“flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb” God and the Lamb are here spoken of as one. There is one God in three persons, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 22, we see in the new heavenly Jerusalem the complete fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy of flowing water of salvation written about in Joel, Zechariah and Ezekiel. The Prophet Joel saw a fountain out of the house of the Lord (Joel 3:17-18).

Joel 3:17-18 (NIV)

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill. Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her. “In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.

The prophet Zechariah spoke of living waters from Jerusalem after the Day of the Lord (Zechariah 14:6-9).

Zechariah 14:6-9 (NIV)

On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. It will be a unique day—a day known only to the Lord—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

Ezekiel had the fullest vision when he beheld the stream which deepened and broadened in its onward progress from under the threshold of the house of God, and carried life in its train: everything lived where the water traveled (Ezekiel 47:1-6).

Ezekiel 47:1-6 (NIV)

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Revelation 22:2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

“The new Jerusalem tree gives fruit every month in the year, so that there are twelve fruit-harvests. It was not like a tree that bears but once a year, or in one season only, but it constantly bears fruit - every month. The idea is that of abundance, not variety. The supply never fails; the tree is never barren.

“And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” Here the Greek word for Nations” is “ethnon.” In Revelation 21:24 the Greek word for “nations” is “ethne”. In this case, “ethnon” in context mean a collection or group of like minded creatures (resurrected humans, meaning saved believers) walking in the glory of God—meaning those redeemed and healed by Christ.

Those with their name in the Book of Life who dwell in the new Jerusalem with God were healed of their spiritual maladies, and had been made to live forever by the Blood of the Lamb.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:2



That the leaves were healing the souls of the saved believers fulfills what Ezekiel saw.

Ezekiel 47:12 NIV)

“Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

Revelation 22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

“No longer will there be any curse.” The blessing of God’s presence and the blessing of God’s rule remove all evil over the groaning creation This fulfills what Zechariah wrote.

Zechariah 14:11 (NASB)

People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

“The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.” Now John focuses on the inhabitants instead of the city. They are described as serving Him, seeing Him, and resembling Him. They shall serve Him: they shall offer Him the service of the priesthood—the word employed is that used of temple service. They will be perfect, as Matthew said.

Matthew 5:48 (NIV)

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Revelation 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Another blessing is given to the saved. The face of God, so as he is not to be seen now; they shall see him as he is; not only the angels, who always behold the face of God, but all the saints, risen and changed, being pure in heart, and perfectly holy; they shall see him face to face. The believers shall have intimate and familiar communion with him; they shall enjoy his favor and receive His unimaginable love; and they shall see the face of the Lamb; they shall behold Christ!!!

While we were still in sin, no one could see God’s face.

Exodus 33:17-20 (NIV)

Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

John 1:17-18 (NIV)

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Revelation 22:5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

This verse provides a repeat (Revelation 21:23-25) of the certainty of God’s promises being completely fulfilled in the new Jerusalem. The sun is not needed because the glory of Jesus is the light. It repeats again the great promises in the prior chapter;

Revelation 21:23-25 *“The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.”*



Revelation 22:6 The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

“These words are trustworthy and true.” All the words of this book, particularly the things of the last vision, Jesus who is the faithful witness, (Revelation 1:5 and 3:14); from him who was called faithful, (Revelation 19:11); and which God will show himself true and faithful in bringing to pass: and such things as God hath revealed to his prophets under the Old Testament in part, and now to John his Apostle, to show to his people the things that shall come to pass.

To many, these sayings in which are many things new, and unheard of before, and which may seem strange, and even incredible, “*are trustworthy and true*”; not only what are delivered in particular concerning the new Jerusalem state, but all that are written in this book can be trusted because it is from Jesus the true God.

Revelation 22:7 “Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

“Look, I am coming soon!” These are the words not of the angel, but of now of Jesus Christ, the Son of God! It is repeated again Revelation 22:12. Listen to Jesus—He is returning soon!

Revelation 22:12 (NIV)

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

This personal second coming of Christ to judgment, though it will not be sooner than the time appointed by the Father, yet will be as soon as that time is come. It will be sooner than is generally expected by men. *“Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”* Jesus promises a blessing to those who keep or obey the teachings of Revelation. Reading and hearing the Word is not enough, if not followed by obedience.

Revelation 22:8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.

Revelation 22:9 But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

This is the second time John fell down to worship the angel, the first being in Revelation 19:10 (*“At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”*) The visions John saw of the heavenly Jerusalem and the new creation were so overwhelming that, even though previously warned of it, and rebuked, John fell down again to worship an angel. He is told clearly to only worship God—meaning Jesus Christ.

Revelation 22:10 Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near.

Revelation 22:11 Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

The Revelation prophecies and warnings from Jesus are about Islam. The false prophet Mohammad, the Shahada mark, the Kaaba image, the worship of the beast (praying to Baal in the Kaaba), and the Hajj to the great city of Mecca are all things Jesus strongly warns not to do. Since one third of the world has been deceived (and spiritually killed) that Islam is a path (and best) to God, they will be angry at the truth. The book must be kept open, even if the publication of it will displease wicked and filthy men; but let them be displeased! The angel says the truths of God must not be concealed. “My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” Jesus says His rewards are with Him.” Jesus is quoting Isaiah 40:10-11.

Revelation 22:12 “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.”

Revelation 22:13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Isaiah 40:10-11 (NIV)

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

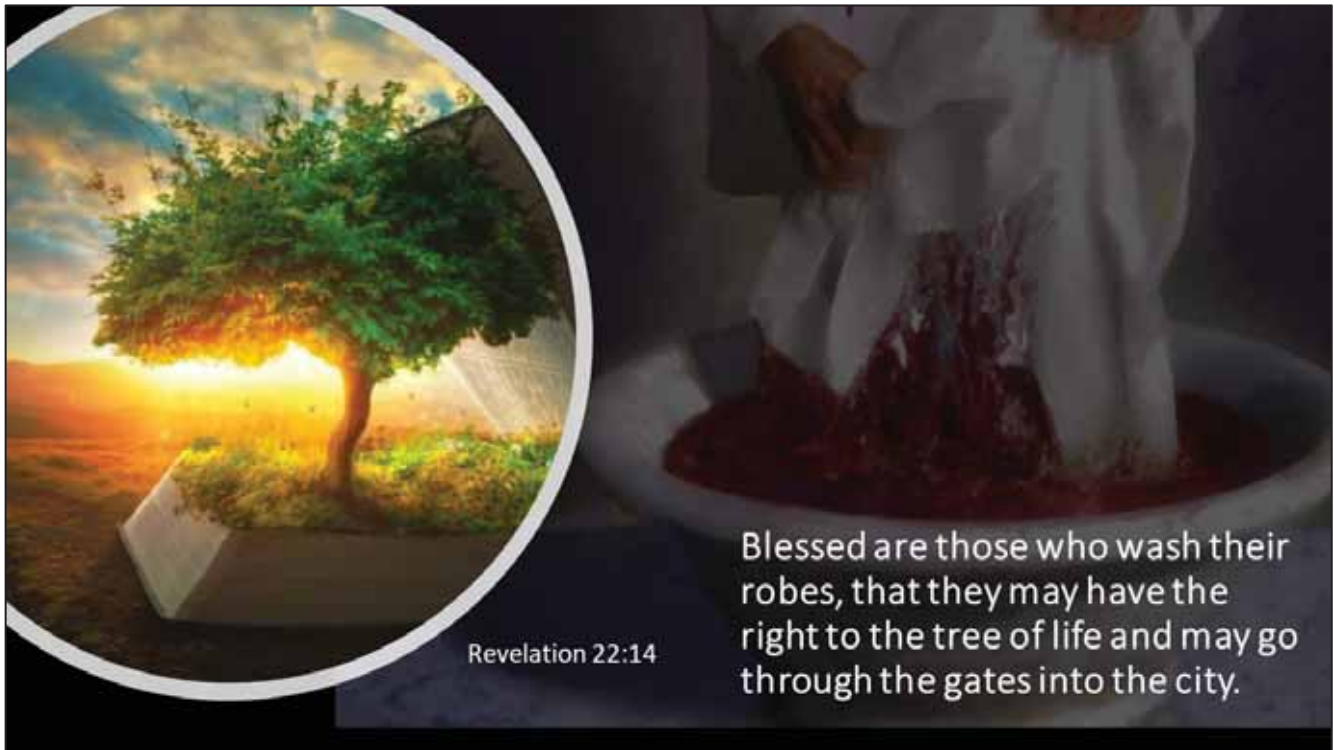
“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Just as in Revelation 21:6, Jesus clarifies that He is eternal, not created. Jesus is truly God.

Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”

Revelation 22:15 “Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

They have the right and are entitled to approach the tree of life; that this privilege may be granted to them. It is not a right in the sense that they have earned it, but in the sense that the privilege is conferred on them as one of the rewards of God, and that, in virtue of the divine arrangements, they will be entitled to this honor.

That they have to the tree of life is founded on the fact that God has been pleased graciously to confer it on them. Only the blood of Christ gives this right. They would not be forbidden to approach that tree as Adam was, but would be permitted always to partake of it, and would live forever.



Revelation 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

Jesus, who is the Spirit of prophecy, has given his bride (the church) this book of Revelation prophecy, in order to assure them of the light of the perfect day approaching. Jesus gives an open and general invitation to mankind, to come and partake freely of the promises and of the privileges of the Gospel. The Spirit, by the sacred word, and by convictions and influence in the sinner's conscience, says, Come to Christ for salvation. Only the sacrifice of Christ counts!

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Luke 18:27 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Acts 4:12

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

A solemn warning on the book of Revelation! Do not add anything to the text, nor take anything away from the text. An earlier warning was written in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (NIV)

"You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Islam claims the Qur’an is the “final revelation” from God. The Qur’an adds and it also takes away! The closing chapter of the Book of Revelation makes clear there is no more Scripture after this. The Qur’an is a false story of Jesus—just a messenger and not the resurrected Son of God. The Qur’an takes away the atoning sacrifice of Jesus; it takes away the only path to God. It adds text proclaiming the virtues of the false prophet Mohammad. It adds text to worship the “we” in Islam, the dragon and the beast. Revelation warns about all this!

Anyone who believes what the Qur’an has taken away from Jesus concerning the truth of His resurrection; that Jesus is the Son of God, and His atoning sacrifice will face the wrath of God: *“God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.”*

Anyone who believes what the Qur’an has added about worship to the image of the beast (praying to the Kaaba) will face the wrath of God: *“If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.”*

Those that are in the lake of fire from believing the Qur’an and praying to the beast Baal and his image the Kaaba will only be able to watch the Lamb as they suffer.

Revelation 14:10-11 (NIV)

They, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.

WARNING: THE QUR'AN ADDS AND TAKES AWAY FROM THE TEXT OF REVELATION!

The Book of Revelation concludes (Revelation 22:18-19) with powerful warnings from God. Do not add nor take away from the Book of Revelation! The false prophet, image and mark actions of Islam, and the taking away of the atoning sacrifice of Jesus are the sources of these Revelation warnings. The warnings make sense, since the entire Revelation prophecy is about the release of Baal, Islam and the false prophet Mohammad. Listen to Jesus and avoid the false prophet's teachings.

Revelation 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

Revelation 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

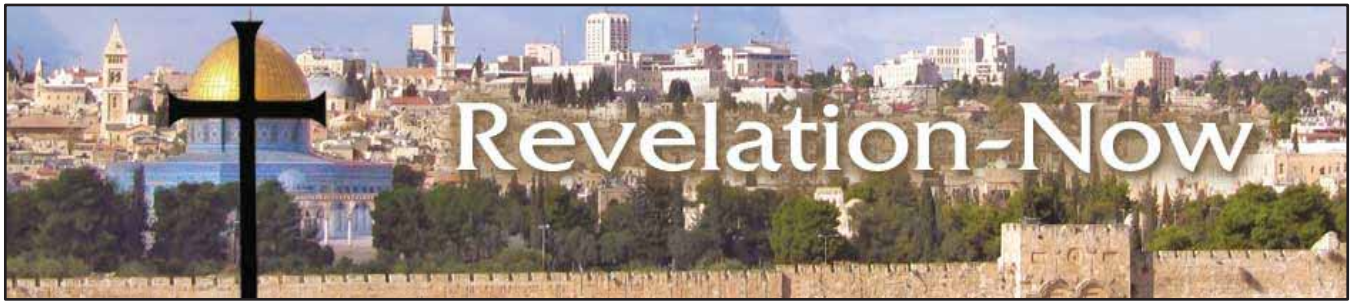
A solemn warning on the book of Revelation! Do not add anything to the text, nor take anything away from the text. Do not believe the Qur'an is the final revelation from God.



REVELATION WARNED THE QUR'AN WOULD ADD TEXT AND TAKE AWAY THE TRUTH

The added text warnings in Revelation 22:18 are about the Qur'an! Here is how the Qur'an adds the very actions that bring on the specific Revelation plagues from God! The Qur'an adds the teaching of the false prophet Mohammad, it adds his mark, a statement of faith to a false god, and the Qur'an adds prayer and worship to the image he sets up to honor the beast. Qur'an 7:57 says Mohammad's name is in the Bible. Qur'an 21:25 gives the Islamic statement of faith, the mark, the Shahada. Qur'an 2:127 and 2:144 require prayer to the image of the beast, the Kaaba.

The taking away of words warnings in Revelation 22:19 are also about the Qur'an! Here is how the Qur'an takes words away and eliminate the salvation from God, and your share in the tree of life in the New Jerusalem. Qur'an 4:171 takes away the Deity of Jesus, and says Jesus is not God. Qur'an 4:157 takes away the sacrifice of Christ, and says Jesus was not crucified. Qur'an 17:111 says Jesus was not the Son of God. Qur'an 5:75 says Jesus was not God but just a messenger of Allah. The Qur'an adds, and it also takes away! The closing chapter of the Book of Revelation makes clear there is no more Scripture after Revelation. The Bible is final!



APPENDIX 1

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD “TEMPLE” IN REVELATION?

In the Book of Revelation the word “temple” is used 15 times. Jesus first uses the word temple while addressing the church in Philadelphia in Revelation chapter 3. The word temple is also used in chapters 7, 11, 14, 15, 16, and 21. Is the word “temple” referring to a future earthly rebuilt third physical temple in Jerusalem, or the heavenly temple in the spiritual realm? Or is it both? The meaning of the word temple in the Book of Revelation is always in the spiritual realm. The temple references that deal with human souls and the saints are directly or indirectly focusing on the spiritual temple of God in heaven, or in the new Jerusalem after the Day of the Lord.

Revelation 21:22 (NIV)

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

The Revelation temple is in the spiritual realm, even in chapter 11, the temple is spiritual, while contrasting to the physical earthly outer court on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem given to Islam (the “Gentiles” or “nations”), and the trampling of Jerusalem for 42 months (1278.4 days/years from 688 when the Dome of the Rock was set up to the liberation of Jerusalem in 1967).



Exclude the Outer Court

**But exclude the
outer court; do not
measure it, because
it has been given to
the Gentiles.**

Revelation 11:2 (NIV)

UNDERSTANDING THE GREEK WORDS FOR TEMPLE

The Greek word for the God dwelling temple in Revelation is “nao”, “naon”, “naou”, or “naos.” In the book of Revelation, “Nao” is used three times in 3:12, 7:15, and in 11:19b. “Naon” is used three times in 11:1, 15:8b, and in 21:22a. “Naou” is used five times in 14:15, 14:17, 15:6, 16:1, and in 16:17. “Naos” is used four times in 11:19a, 15:5, 15:8a, and in 21:22b.

The Greek word “nao” and derivatives are distinguished from the Greek “hieron,” meaning a non-holy (non-God dwelling) temple. The Greek word for the physical temple structure is hieron. The Greek word for the spiritual temple is nao. The Greek word “nao” for temple can mean the physical building in Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of holies. Otherwise it means the sanctuary of God in the spiritual, third heavenly realm. The best way to understand “nao” is to visualize an area where the true God dwells-the third heaven.

The translation to English of the Greek word for “temple” can be confusing. The term employed in the original (“nao”) does not mean the physical building structure (“hieron”), but only the God dwelling “Holy of holies,” which was separated from every other part of the sacred structure by the second veil.

BELIEVERS ARE “A HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD”

Jesus Christ proclaimed the dwelling of the three divine persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in the spiritual temple in those who should accept His Gospel truth.

John 14:23-24 (NIV)

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.”

Paul tells us every soul is the authentic temple of God. Every Christian soul is a consecrated temple, which must not be profaned. Paul said we become “a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit”, and believers will become *“a holy temple in the Lord.”*

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)

Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

15 REVELATION SCRIPTURES REFERRING TO THE TEMPLE

1. REVELATION 3:12 VICTORIOUS BELIEVERS WILL NEVER BE AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN THE NEW JERUSALEM

The Greek word for temple in Revelation 3:12 is “nao”

Revelation 3:11-12 (NIV)

11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. 12 The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Here in Revelation 3:11-12 Jesus is promising to the victorious believers at the church of Philadelphia they will always be in the presence of God in the new Jerusalem. They will be a pillar in the temple of God and *“Never again will they leave it.”* Jesus promises this will be in the heavenly new Jerusalem; *“I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.”* In Revelation 21:22, we know the new Jerusalem has no physical temple because God and the Lamb are their temple: *“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”*

2. REVELATION 7:15 BELIEVING RESURRECTED SAINTS FROM THE TRIBULATION WILL BE BEFORE GOD IN HIS TEMPLE

The Greek word for temple in Revelation 7:15 is “nao”

Revelation Chapter 7:13-18

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” 14 I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore, “they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’” And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

The second time the word temple is used is in Revelation 7:13-17. John is told that the great mass of people in white robes have come out of the tribulation. The context indicates this is in the heavenly realm of the new Jerusalem. These resurrected saints are in the temple of God in heaven. Verse 17 says it holds the living water that comes from Christ. *“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’”*

Revelation 22:1-2 tells us the living water from Jesus is in the new Jerusalem; *“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.”* Revelation 21 is in the new Jerusalem and has the same phrase. Revelation 21:4 says: *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”* The 7:17 phrase *“And God will wipe every tear from their eyes”* is in the spiritual new Jerusalem as well.

3. REVELATION 11:1 MEASURE THE TRUE CHURCH WITH THE WORD OF GOD; EXCLUDE THE OUTER COURT OF THE TEMPLE; THE HOLY CITY WILL BE TRAMPLED FOR 42 MONTHS BY THE GENTILES (NON BELIEVERS)

The Greek word for spiritual temple in Revelation 11:1 is “naon”

Revelation Chapter 11:1-4

1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure **the temple of God** and the altar, with its worshipers. **2** But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. **3** And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” **4** They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.”

In Revelation 11:1, John is told to “measure” the temple of God and the altar with its worshipers. But John is told to exclude the outer court and not to measure it because it has been given to the Gentiles, or in some translations, the “nations.” God was telling His people to use the Word of God as a measure to determine the true church, the spiritual temple of God, and who the false church was.



John was measuring the spiritual temple because John was in heaven. All of Revelation prophecy after Revelation verse 4:1 is in heaven. (Revelation 4:1 *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*) John wrote Revelation in 95 AD and the physical temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.

Measuring is "judging against a standard." When we measure a thing, we take something with a fixed proportion - like a length or a weight that is known or standardized - and we compare it to whatever we are trying to quantify or measure. We see how it measures up: how long it is, how wide it is, how tall it is, how heavy it is, etc. We can also see if it fits a pattern or a template that is necessary for the item to do its part. For entrance to heaven the word of God is the measurement criteria. The true church acknowledges Jesus is the Son of God. The true words of Jesus will judge all mankind.

John 17:17 (NIV)

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 12:48 (NIV)

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."



"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."

John 12:48 (NIV)

Those in the false church (Islam and the Qur'an) would seize the outer court (set up the blasphemous Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque) where the old temple stood before it was destroyed in 70 AD. Islam (the "Gentiles") would then trample Jerusalem for 42 months, or 1278.4 days/years from when the Dome of the Rock (the abomination) was set up in 688 and continue until 1967. The Bible gives no time limitation on possession of the outer court, as Islam still holds the Temple Mount today.

USE THE BIBLE TRUTH AS “A REED LIKE A MEASURING ROD” MEASURE FALSE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM BY THE TRUE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 28:16-17 (NIV)

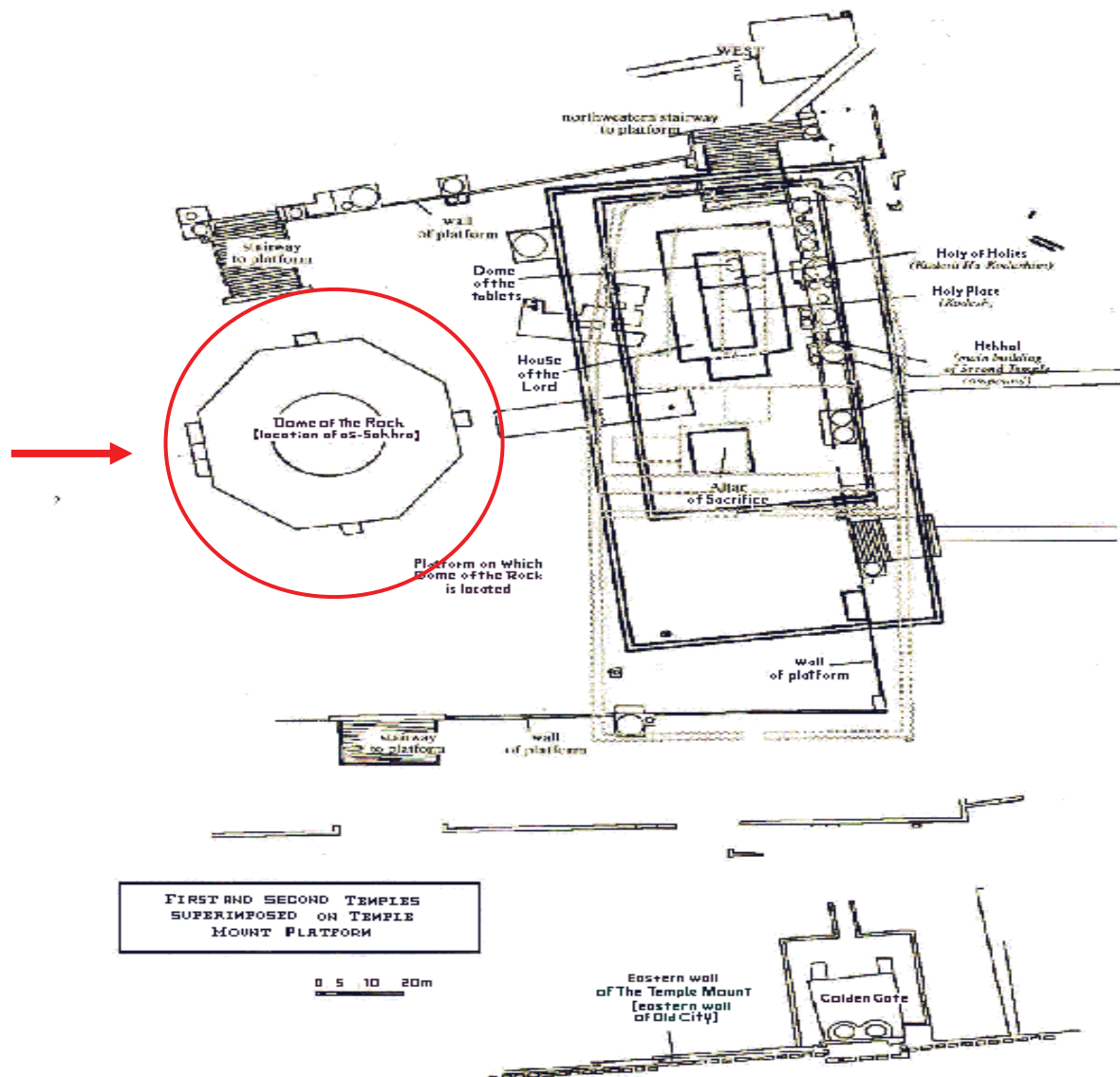
So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.”

Islam was given the area of the outer court on the Temple Mount. We can “measure” the false teachings of the Qur’an and Islam from the mouth of the false prophet Mohammad, using the true Word of God, and see that Islam is the false church that Jesus warns us throughout Revelation.

False Stories in the Koran

Truth	Bible Verse	Bible Text	Koran Verse	Opposite and False Koran Text
Jesus is the Son of God.	John 14:13	"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son."	Koran 17:111	And say, "Praise to Allah , who has not taken a son and has had no partner in his dominion and has no need of a protector out of weakness; and glorify Allah with great glorification."
Jesus was crucified.	Matthew 27:35-37	When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.	Koran 4:157	And for their saying, "Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah ." And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but another was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain.
Jesus rose from the dead.	Matthew 28:5-6	The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."	Koran 3:55	Allah said, "O Jesus, indeed I will take you and raise you to Myself and purify you from those who disbelieve and make those who follow you in submission to Allah alone superior to those who disbelieve until the Day of Resurrection. Then to Me is your return, and I will judge between you concerning that in which you used to differ.
Jesus is the only path to heaven.	John 14:6	Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."	Koran 4:59	O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey his Messenger [Mohammad] and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best way and best in result.
The worst sin is blaspheming the Holy Spirit.	Matthew 12:31-32	"And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come."	Koran 4:171	O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul created at a command from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say, "Three"; desist - it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son.
God first loved us.	1 John 4:19	We love because he first loved us.	Koran 51:56	And I did not create the jinn [angels] and mankind except to worship Me.
Jesus is the only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son of God.	John 3:16	"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."	Koran 112:3	Allah begets not, nor is He begotten.
Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit-the spirit of truth.	John 14:26	"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."	Koran 61:6	Jesus, the son of Mary, said "O Children of Israel! Truly I am the Messenger of God unto you, confirming that which came before me in the Torah and bearing glad tidings of a Messenger to come after me whose name is Ahmad [Mohammad]."

**GENTILE GIVEN THE OUTER COURT--THE DOME OF THE ROCK
ABOMINATION IS IN THE OUTER COURT OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT**



The Bible says to test each spirit to see if they acknowledge Jesus is the Son of God. Islam denies Jesus is the Son of God. The spiritual temple of God is truth. The Word of God is truth.

John 17:17 (NIV)

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

1 John 4:1-3 (NIV)

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE ABOMINATION IS ON WING OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Al-Aqsa Mosque ("the Farthest Mosque"), is the third holiest site in Sunni Islam and is located on the southern edge (wing) of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Originally the entire site on which the silver-domed mosque sits, along with the Dome of the Rock, seventeen gates, and four minarets, was itself historically known as the Al-Aqsa Mosque, today a narrower definition prevails, and the wider compound is usually referred to as al-Haram ash-Sharif ("the Noble Sanctuary").

Muslims believe that Mohammad was transported from the Sacred Mosque in Mecca to al-Aqsa during the Night Journey. Islamic tradition holds that Mohammad led prayers towards this site until the seventeenth month after the emigration, when Allah directed him to turn towards the Kaaba.

The Kaaba in Mecca holds the Blackstone and the Beast of Revelation dwells in the Kaaba. This is Baal, the demonic prince from Babylon, who has his "fatal wound" healed after he was released from Sheol (the Abyss).



THE ABOMINATION ON THE WING-THE AL-AQSA MOSQUE

Jesus tells the disciples that in the future an abomination spoken of by the prophet Daniel will stand in the holy place where it does not belong. When the people of Israel see it they should head for the mountains ("wilderness"). Jeremiah 31:2 tells us before the Jews return to Israel for the final time they will wait in the wilderness for God to come to them. Revelation tells us there will be 1260 days (years) of prophecy and waiting in the wilderness. Daniel's final seven stretches from 536 BC to 1948. The two abominations were set up on the Temple Mount in 688 (the Dome of the Rock) and 706 (the Al-Aqsa Mosque). Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months or 1278.4 day/years from 688 until Jerusalem liberated in 1967.

THE MANY DOME OF THE ROCK BLASPHEMOUS INSCRIPTIONS THIS IS WHY GOD EXCLUDES THE OUTER COURT



“In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no God but Allah. He is One. He has no associate. Say: He is God, the One God!, the eternally Besought of all! **He begets not nor was begotten. And there is none comparable unto Him.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him.”

“In the name of Allah, the merciful the compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One. **He has no associate.** Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah. Lo! Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet.”

“O ye who believe! Ask blessings on him and salute him with a worthy salutation. In the name of Allah, the Merciful the Compassionate. There is no god but Allah. He is One.”

“Praise be to Allah, who hath not taken unto Himself a son, and Who hath no partner in the Sovereignty, nor hath He any protecting friend through dependence. And magnify Him with all magnificence. Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah, the blessing of Allah be on him and the angels and His prophets, and peace be on him, and may Allah have mercy.”

DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TEMPLE IN REVELATION 11

The three main views on the meaning of the “temple” in Revelation are the Preterist (everything was fulfilled by 70 AD), the Dispensational (A third physical temple will be built in the future and animal and grain sacrifices will return) and the Spiritual/Literal (the temple is spiritual with God, and the outer court and trampling of Jerusalem is literal by Islam in the earthly realm). This article focuses on the Spiritual/Literal view.

Both the Preterist view as well as the Dispensational view interprets this as a literal, physical temple standing in Jerusalem. The Preterist view is that the temple was the one destroyed in 70 AD, while the Dispensational view is that a third temple will be built. The problem with both these views is that every other reference to the temple by John in the book of Revelation has not been of a literal temple.

There have been some who wished to take this passage (Revelation 11:1) and to interpret it to refer to a literal temple in Jerusalem. But the problem is that it was not only the outer court that was trampled by the Gentiles, but the entire temple was trampled and even destroyed in 70 AD. Others have sought to make this refer to a future temple, but John does not say this is a rebuilt temple. The following chart summarizes the various views of this temple:

Preterist View	Spiritual/Literal View	Dispensational View
It refers to the literal first century temple that was destroyed by Titus.	It uses the symbol of the temple to refer to God's people, the church.	It refers to a literal future temple to be constructed for an earthly kingdom.
The second physical temple (Herod)	A spiritual temple	A third future temple
The 42 months refer to the time of the Roman War to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD.	The 42 months are 1278.4 days/years in Jerusalem 688-1967	The 42 months refer to the halfway mark in a future great tribulation.

John saw the lampstand, an article of temple furniture, and was told that it represented the seven churches. Jesus promised in Revelation 3:12 to make the overcomer a pillar in the temple of His God. The ones who come out of great tribulation are described as serving the Lord day and night in His heavenly temple (Revelation 7:15). At the end of chapter 11, the ark of the covenant will be seen in the temple of God which is in heaven (Revelation 11:19). The same language is used in Revelation 14:17 and 15:5.

When we see the vision of the New Jerusalem, we will read that there is no more temple because the Lord God and the Lamb are its temple (Revelation 21:22).

4. REVELATION 11:16-19 BELIEVERS FROM THE TRIBULATION WILL BE BEFORE GOD IN HIS TEMPLE

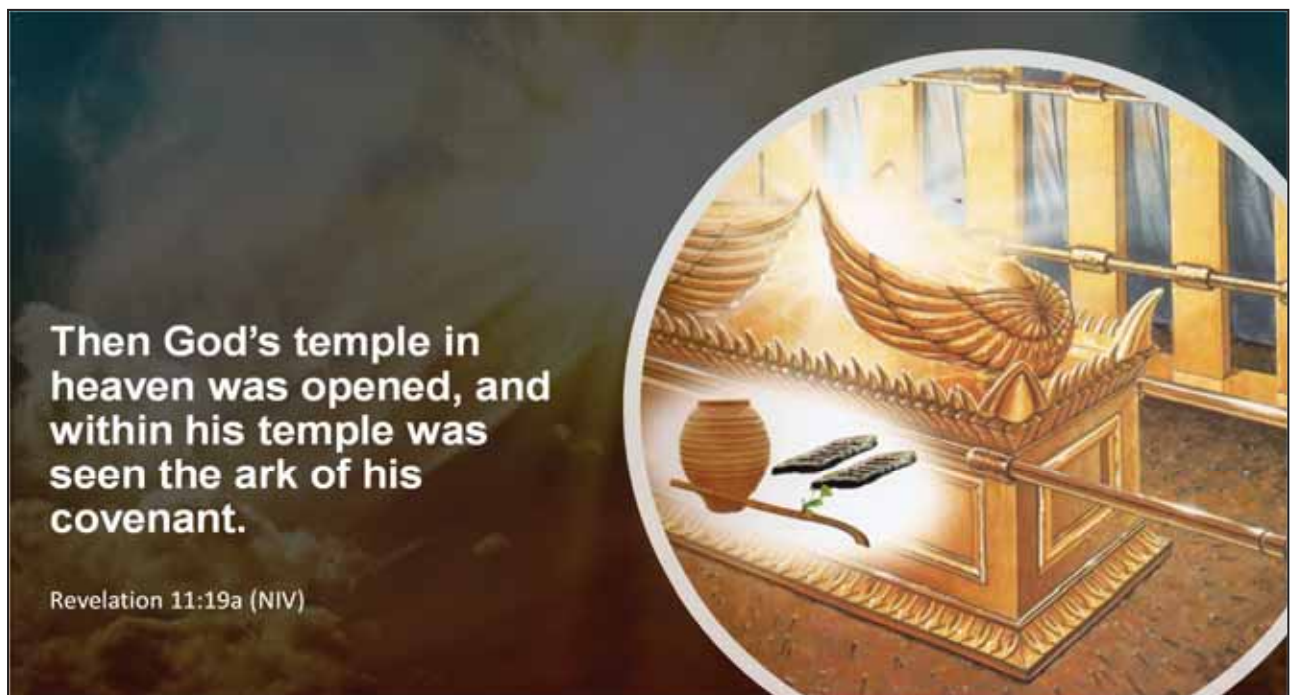
The Greek word in Revelation 11:19a is “naos”, The Greek word in Revelation 11:19b is “nao”

Revelation 11:16-19

16 And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” 19 Then **God’s temple in heaven was opened, and **within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant**. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.**

At the beginning of chapter 11 the distinction between the two words (naos and hieron) are applied to the temple; the spiritual temple proper (the “naos”) was measured off. Now in this (naos and nao) temple is opened, yes, to its very inmost recesses; for not the holy place alone is described, but the holiest, of all, the Holy of holies, into which the high priest alone—and he only once a year—entered, is opened, as though again the veil of the temple had been rent in two (as in the crucifixion of Jesus), and there the ark of the covenant of God is seen.

The meaning of this, when read by the light of the measuring of the spiritual temple in 11:1, seems to be that now the secret abode of the true children of God was revealed. Despite the false teaching of Islam (the Dome of the Rock in the outer court), the faithful found their strength and protection in the shadow of the Almighty; they were regarded by God as His true living temple, and in them He dwelt, as they, too, found their complete protection in Him.



Now that the end has come there is no need that these should be hidden any more. The children of God, who are the temple of God, are made manifest; and at the same time the secret spot of their shelter in troublous days is made plain, and in it is seen the token of that everlasting covenant which was the anchor of their hopes in the day of their trouble (Hebrews 6:19). The ark of God's covenant is seen; the ark which contained the tables of the law, the rod of Aaron, and the manna is unveiled; and now is seen again.

5. REVELATION 14:14-16 BELIEVERS RAPTURED BY JESUS AND SAVED FROM THE WRATH

The Greek word in Revelation 14:15 is "naou"

Revelation 14:14-16

14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. **15** **Then another angel came out of the temple** and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." **16** So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Some may ask, "If there are two harvests-what harvest is this?" The first harvest (the rapture of believers) is the gathering of the good seed, the full corn in the ear, into the celestial home (Mark 4:26-29 *"As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."*). The angel who announces that the harvest is ready comes out from the spiritual temple in heaven, the holy place which was measured off in the sanctuary of the faithful (Revelation 11:1). Note that the angel who calls for second harvest of the wicked on the Day of the Lord comes forth from the altar *"who had charge of the fire"* (Revelation 14:18).

6. REVELATION 14:17-20 NON-BELIEVERS FACE THE WRATH OF GOD

The Greek word in Revelation 14:17 is "naou"

Revelation 14:17-20

17 Another angel **came out of the temple in heaven**, and he too had a sharp sickle. **18** Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." **19** The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. **20** They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Another angel, likewise coming from the heavenly temple, and therefore from God himself, intrusted with a work symbolizing the fire of the final judgment, has, as one like the Son of man (Revelation 14:14), a sharp sickle, by which the ripened clusters in the vineyard of the earth are to be harvested. Not only does this occur at the command brought again by another angel, but the clusters are also pressed and destroyed.

7. REVELATION 15:5-8 THE DAY OF THE LORD IS IN VIEW

The Greek word in Revelation 15:5 is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:6 is “naou”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8a is “naos”

The Greek word in Revelation 15:8b is “naon”

Revelation 15:5-8

5 After this I looked, and **I saw in heaven the temple**—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. 6 **Out of the temple came the seven angels** with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. 8 And **the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God** and from his power, and **no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed**.

In 15:5 this spiritual temple is called the temple of the tabernacle of the covenant law; the expression sounds cumbersome, but it is descriptive. Stephen spoke of the “*tabernacle of the covenant law*” in the wilderness, which he also described Baal and Molek worship—the beast of Revelation and “Mystery Babylon” is Baal released from the Abyss and worshipped in the Kaaba today.

Acts 7:42-43 (NIV)

“But God turned away from them and gave them over to the worship of the sun, moon and stars. This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets: ‘Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? You have taken up the tabernacle of Molek and the star of your god Rephan, the idols you made to worship. Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Babylon.’”

Acts 7:44 (NIV)

“Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.”

The tabernacle was well called the tabernacle of covenant law, for it contained the ark of the testimony with the Law of God, and was a perpetual witness of God’s presence among His people. The temple of the tabernacle then is the shrine, or inner sanctuary, of the heavenly true tabernacle, after the pattern of which the tabernacle of Moses was fashioned, which is now opened.

“*No one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*” As neither Moses could enter into the tabernacle, nor the priests into the physical temple, when the glory of the Lord filled those sacred places; a further proof of the majestic presence and extraordinary interposition of God in the execution of these judgments. The meaning also seems to be, that no one would be permitted to enter to make intercession - to turn away God’s wrath - to divert him from His purpose. That is, the purpose of punishment had been formed, and would certainly be executed.

8. REVELATION 16:1 THE TEMPLE VOICE SAYS POUR OUT THE BOWLS OF WRATH

The Greek word in Revelation 16:1 is “naou”

Revelation 16:1-3

1 Then I heard a **loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels**, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.” **2** The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. **3** The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

A loud voice is heard out of the heavenly temple; it bids the angels pour out their vials “into the earth;” later on (Revelation 16:17) the voice is heard saying, “It is done.” The voice is then said to come from the throne; it seems likely that the voice of the first verse is the same—the divine voice from the throne of God itself.

9. REVELATION 16:17 THE VOICE OUT OF THE TEMPLE THRONE SAYS “IT IS DONE!”

The Greek word in Revelation 16:17 is “naou”

Revelation 16:17-21

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and **out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne**, saying, “It is done!” **18** Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. **19** The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. **20** Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. **21** From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

In Revelation 16:17 the scene is the throne of God in heaven. God’s voice is heard! The results of the outpouring of this bowl are described in the following verses; but before these are seen, the voice from the throne—God’s own voice—proclaims, as though rejoicing in the near approach of the happy end, “It is done!” The close of these scenes of sin and suffering is now at hand, for the last of the last plagues has been sent forth.

The seventh and last angel poured forth his bowl, and the downfall of Babylon (Islam) was finished. The church triumphant in heaven saw it and rejoiced; the church in conflict on earth saw it and became triumphant. God remembered the great and wicked city of Mecca; though for some time he seemed to have forgotten her idolatry and cruelty. All that was most secure was carried away by the ruin. Men blasphemed as they prayed in vain to Baal in the Kaaba and to the dragon “Allah” of the Qur’an. Their prayers went unanswered, just as in the days of Baal and Elijah at Mount Carmel.

10. REVELATION 21:22 THE TEMPLE IS GOD AND THE LAMB

The Greek word in Revelation 21:22a is “naon”

The Greek word in Revelation 21:22b is “naos”

Revelation 21:22-27

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

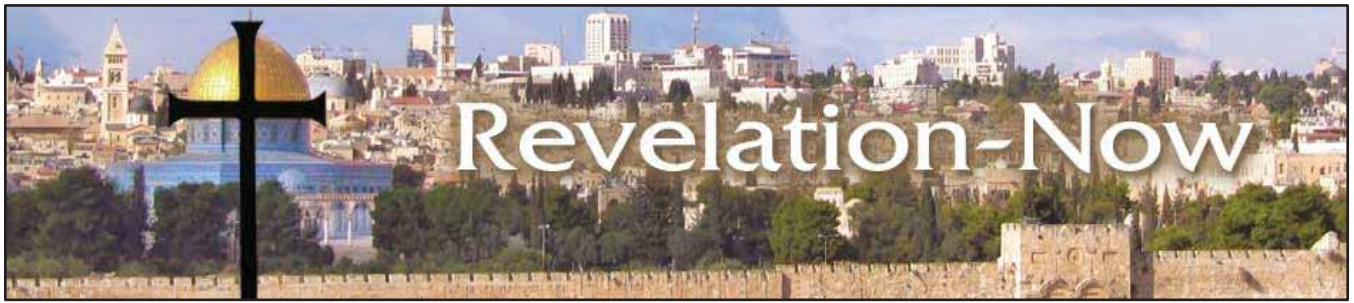
In Ezekiel’s vision the vast and splendid proportions of the vision temple formed a conspicuous part: its gigantic proportions declared it to be figurative (Ezekiel 48:8-20); but the present vision passes on to an even higher state of things. *“I did not see a temple in the city.”* Ezekiel’s vision declared that the literal physical temple would be replaced by a far more glorious spiritual temple.

The Lord is there—the temple, the sanctuary, the dwelling-place of His people. The eternal age of the believers in Christ (Messianic Jews and Gentiles in the Christian Church) succeeds the age of the Jewish temple-worship that ended in 70 AD. The age of the Church triumphing will succeed the age of the Church in the tribulation and toiling; and there the external organizations, helps, and instrumentalities required for the nurturing the body of Christ will no longer be needed.



I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Revelation 21:22 (NIV)



APPENDIX 2 UMAR

"THE KING WILL DO AS HE PLEASES" IN DANIEL 11; THE RIDER ON THE BLACK HORSE IN REVELATION 6

Daniel was taken captive in 605 BC as part of the Babylonian captivity of Israel. Daniel finished his work around the year 530 BC, shortly after the capture of Babylon by Cyrus of Persia in 539 BC. In the book of Daniel (Daniel 11:36-45 and 7:23-25), he sees a future king who mistreats the Holy People. This King defeats three kings and changes the set times and laws.



This prophetic king has many battlefield conquests and invades the Holy Land. Today some people think this king is still in the future (perhaps they think a human “antichrist”), but Daniel was writing about the second Muslim caliph after Mohammad named **Umar**. Daniel wrote this 1,200 years before Umar. Umar is also the third rider of the Four Horsemen—the one on the black horse with the scales. Umar used the scales to calculate the new Islamic taxes Umar imposed on the conquered peoples.

Every point Daniel uses about this king accurately describes the life, conquests, and unique death of the Islamic caliph Umar. After Mohammad died in 632, his successor was Abu Bakr. When Abu Bakr died in 634, Umar took his place. Umar was the Islamic caliph from 634 to 644 and was responsible for most Islamic victories in the Middle East. Umar matches all of Daniel's prophecies.

Daniel 11 (NIV)

36 The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

37 He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

40 “At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. 41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Cushites [or people from the upper Nile region] in submission.

44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many.

45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at [or the sea and] the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

Umar was the second caliph and followed Abu Bakr. Umar ruled from 634 to 644. Revelation tells us the third rider is on a black horse with a pair of scales. (Revelation 6:5-6 *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, “Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds {3 quarts} of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”*)

Among the many things Umar did was impose a new tax system.

Daniel 11:40 (NIV)

He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

DANIEL PROPHECY FULFILLED BY UMAR'S ACTIONS 634-644

1. ***"The king will do as he pleases"*** (Umar was never defeated in battle)
2. ***"He will exalt and magnify himself above every god"*** (Umar was above the "false" non-gods)
3. ***"Say unheard-of things against the God of gods"*** (Umar despised the true God--the Trinity)
4. ***"Show no regard for the gods of his ancestors"*** (Umar's tribe and father were polytheist)
5. ***"But will exalt himself above them all"*** (Umar was above the "false" non-gods)
6. ***"Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses"*** (Umar honored the new god Allah)
7. ***"He will honor with gold and silver"*** (Umar used taxes and war booty to build Mosques for Allah)
8. ***"He will attack the mightiest fortresses with...a foreign god"*** (Allah was key to his victories)
9. ***"Greatly honor those who acknowledge him"*** (Umar paid very high salaries to subordinates)
10. ***"He will make them rulers over many people"*** (Umar conquered many countries)
11. ***"Distribute the land at a price"*** (Umar kept defeated people on the land in exchange for taxes)
12. ***"The king of the South will engage him in battle"*** (Umar wins in Upper and Lower Egypt)
13. ***"The king of the North will storm out against him"*** (Umar battled with Heraclius)
14. ***"He will invade many countries"*** (Umar invaded most countries in the Middle East)
15. ***"He will also invade the Beautiful Land"*** (Umar conquered Jerusalem and Palestine)
16. ***"Many countries will fall"*** (Umar conquered most countries in the Middle East)
17. ***"Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand"*** (These areas were occupied during 630-634 before Umar was caliph, and escaped his wrath)
18. ***"He will extend his power over many countries"*** (Umar conquered all the Middle East)
19. ***"Egypt will not escape"*** (Umar conquered Egypt)
20. ***"Gain control of the treasures...and the riches of Egypt"*** (Umar took booty and taxed Egypt)
21. ***"The Libyans and Cushites in submission"*** (Umar conquered North Africa)
22. ***"Reports from the east and north will alarm him"*** (He fought Persian and Byzantine empires)
23. ***"He will pitch his royal tents...at the holy mountain"*** (Umar was in Jerusalem Temple Mount)
24. ***"He will come to his end, and no one will help him"*** (Umar was stabbed in a Mosque in public)
25. ***"The ten horns are ten kings"*** (Umar defeated 10 nation-states)
26. ***"He will subdue three kings"*** (Umar defeated Heraclius, Yazdgerd III, and Kushan Sahi king)
27. ***"He will speak against the Most High"*** (Umar despised the true God--the Trinity)
28. ***"Oppress his holy people"*** (Umar conquered Jerusalem and Palestine, and other areas)
29. ***"Try to change the set times"*** (Umar invented the Islamic calendar and its widespread use)
30. ***"And the laws"*** (Umar developed Sharia law and installed Islamic judges throughout the lands)
31. ***"Delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time"*** (Umar set up plans for Al-Aqsa Mosque (706) and Dome of the Rock (687-691) on Temple Mount, to mark 1242 and 1260 years exactly until Jews return to Israel in 1948, the 3 ½ years of days)

Umar "distributed the land for a price." (Daniel 11:39) The phenomenal Muslim conquests by the Four Horsemen (Revelation 6:8 "They were given power over a fourth of the earth.") created one major problem, namely what to do with the extensive lands conquered by the Muslims. After the conquest of Iraq in 635, about three years before the Islamic conquest of Jerusalem in 637, the commander wrote to Umar. Umar allowed the conquered people to remain on the land and pay a Kharaj crop and land tax to the Islamic State. This is how Umar "distributed the land for a price."

UMAR THE KING OF THE ISLAMIC CALIPHATE

Umar, also spelled Omar (Arabic: عمر بن الخطاب , translit. 'Umar ibn Al-Khattāb, lit. 'Umar, Son of Al-Khattab', was born in 583 AD and died November 3, 644 AD. Umar was one of the most powerful and influential Muslim caliphs in history. Umar was the "the king will do as he pleases" because he was never defeated in battle.

He was a senior follower of the Islamic prophet Mohammad. He succeeded Abu Bakr (632–634) as the second caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate on August 23, 634. He was an expert Islamic jurist known for his pious and just nature, along with his strong oratory skills which earned him the epithet Al-Farooq ("the one who distinguishes between right and wrong"). He invented the Islamic calendar and introduced Sharia law in all the conquered territories.

Under Umar, the caliphate expanded at an unprecedented rate, defeating the Sassanid Empire and more than two-thirds of the Byzantine Empire. His attacks against the Sassanid Empire resulted in the conquest of Persia in under two years (642–644). After invading the Holy Land, the Covenant of Umar was an apocryphal treaty between the Muslims, Jews and Christians of Syria, Mesopotamia and Jerusalem that held canonical status in Islamic jurisprudence.

The Rashidun Caliphs (meaning "Rightly Guided", "Righteously Guided", "Righteous" Caliphs), often simply called, collectively, "the Rashidun", is a term used in Sunni Islam to refer to the 30-year reign of the first four caliphs (successors) following the death of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, namely: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali of the Rashidun Caliphate, the first caliphate. The terrorist group ISIS today models themselves after the rightly guided caliphs. The rigid form of Sunni Islam that follows the "rightly guided ones" is called Salafism.

INITIALLY UMAR HONORED THE GODS OF HIS ANCESTORS--BUT THEN CONVERTED TO ISLAM AND SHOWED NO REGARD FOR THE GODS OF HIS ANCESTORS.

Note that Daniel says the "gods of his ancestors." This means the king's ancestors were polytheistic. To fulfill this prophecy, the king must change from a long line of polytheism to monotheism. No Jew, Muslim, atheist or Christian could fulfil this prophecy today, since none has ancestors with "gods".

This is the key to understanding who fulfilled this prophecy.

Umar's father and his tribe were polytheists who worshiped many gods in Arabia. In 610 Mohammad (after given false revelations about Jesus and the Holy Spirit from Satan masquerading as the Angel Gabriel) started preaching the new message of Islam and Allah. Like many others in Mecca, Umar opposed Islam and he even threatened to kill Mohammad. Umar believed Islam was opposed to the many gods of his ancestors.

Umar strongly tried to defend the traditional polytheistic religion of Arabia. He was adamant and cruel in opposing Mohammad and very prominent in persecuting Muslims. Umar recommended Mohammad's death. Umar firmly believed in the unity of the Quraish (the historical tribe of Umar) and saw the new faith of Islam as a cause of division and discord. The Quraish were a powerful merchant

tribe that controlled Mecca and its Kaaba and that, according to Pre-Islamic and Islamic tradition, descended from Ishmael. They worshipped many gods. Due to persecution, Mohammad ordered some of his followers to migrate to Ethiopia. As a small group of Muslims migrated Umar became worried about the future unity of the Quraish and decided to have Mohammad assassinated.

Umar converted to Islam in 616, one year after the move to Ethiopia. On his way to murder Mohammad, Umar met his best friend Nua'im bin Abdullah who had secretly converted to Islam but had not told Umar. When Umar informed him that he had set out to kill Mohammad, Nua'im said, *"By Allah, you have deceived yourself, O Umar! Do you think that they would let you run around alive once you had killed their son Mohammad? Why don't you return to your own house and at least set it straight?"*

Nuaim told him to inquire about his own house where his sister and her husband had converted to Islam. Upon arriving at her house, Umar found his sister and brother-in-law saying Islamic verses. He started quarreling with his brother-in-law. When his sister came to rescue her husband, he also started quarreling with her.

Yet still they kept on saying "you may kill us but we will not give up Islam". Upon hearing these words, Umar slapped his sister so hard that she fell to the ground bleeding from her mouth. When he saw what he did to his sister, he calmed down out of guilt and asked his sister to give him what she was reciting. His sister replied in the negative and said "You are unclean, and no unclean person can touch the Scripture." He insisted, but his sister was not prepared to allow him to touch the pages unless he washed his body. Umar at last gave in. He washed his body and then began to read the verses that were: *"Verily, I am Allah: there is no God but Me; so serve Me only, and establish regular prayer for My remembrance."*

Umar wept and declared, *"Surely this is the word of Allah. I bear witness that Mohammad is the Messenger of Allah."* Umar's conversion to Islam granted power to the Muslims and to the Islamic faith in Mecca. It was after this event that Muslims offered prayers openly in *Al-Haram Mosque* for the first time. Abdullah bin Masoud said,

"Umar's embracing Islam was our victory, his migration to Medina was our success, and his reign a blessing from Allah. We didn't offer prayers in Al-Haram Mosque until Umar had accepted Islam. When he accepted Islam, the Quraish were compelled to let us pray in the Mosque."

UMAR SAYS UNHEARD OF THINGS AGAINST THE GOD OF GODS

When Umar was asked about marrying a Christian lady, he would say:

*"Allah has made it unlawful for the believers to marry ladies who ascribe partners in worship to Allah, and I do not know of a greater thing, as regards to ascribing partners in worship, etc. to Allah, than that a lady should say that Jesus is her Lord, although **Jesus is just one of Allah's slaves.**"* and Umar said: ***"Fear Allah, for He alone lives;** all other things are liable to perish."*

UMAR ATTACKS THE MIGHTIEST FORTRESSES WITH A FOREIGN GOD

While Mohammad was still alive, Umar along with Khalid, participated in over 40 major battle campaigns to advance the cause of Islam for Allah. Islam grew by the sword.

Under Umar the Islamic empire was divided into the following provinces:

1. Arabia was divided into two provinces, Mecca and Medina;
2. Iraq was divided into two provinces, Basra and Kufa;
3. In the upper reaches of the Tigris and the Euphrates, Jazira was a province;
4. Syria was a province;
5. Umar divided Palestine into two provinces Jerusalem and Ramla;
6. Egypt was divided into two provinces, Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt;
7. Persia was divided into three provinces, Khorasan; Azarbaijan and Fars

UMAR HONORS ALLAH A GOD OF FORTRESSES

After Mohammad died in 632 Abu Bakr took his place as the first caliph. On 22 August 634 caliph Abu Bakr died. Umar assumed the office of caliph on the same day. He then addressed the Muslims:

"O ye faithful! Abu Bakr is no more amongst us. He has the satisfaction that he has successfully piloted the ship of the Muslim state to safety after negotiating the stormy sea. He successfully waged the apostasy wars, and thanks to him, Islam is now supreme in Arabia."

The commander Khalid was known for his military tactics and prowess, commanding the forces of Medina under Mohammad and the forces of his immediate successors of the Rashidun Caliphate, Abu Bakr and Umar. It was under Khalid's military leadership that Arabia, for the first time in history, was united under a single political entity, the caliphate.

But in 638, after the conquest of Syria, Umar dismissed Khalid because of his ever-growing fame and influence. Umar was quoted as doing this because he wanted the people to know that victory came from Allah, not the general. **Thus Umar made sure that Allah was honored in the military victories, and not a general.**

***"You have achieved what no man did ever before,
but verily it was only through Allah's help."***

UMAR GREATLY REWARDS THOSE WHO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM

To minimize the chances of corruption, Umar made it a point to pay very high salaries to his staff. Provincial governors received as much as five to seven thousand dirham annually --besides their shares of the spoils of war if they were also the commander in chief of the army of their sector. This was unheard of at the time.

JOHN IS DESCRIBING UMAR'S NEW TAXATION IN REVELATION 6:5-6

Let's look carefully at what John wrote about the Third Seal with the Black Horse in Revelation 6:5-6: *When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying, "Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day's wages {denarius}, and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day's wages {denarius}, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"*

Most Bible commentators have interpreted this text to mean that a day's wage (a denarius) will only purchase a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley. In ancient times, a denarius would normally buy about 10 quarts of wheat, and 2-3 times more in barley. Since this interpretation of Revelation gives wheat prices about 10 times higher than normal, they interpret this as a severe famine. Particularly since Revelation verse 8 later mentions the word "famine." They believe Revelation describes a future condition where basic goods are sold at greatly inflated prices. Thus, the Black Horse rider depicts a future time of deep scarcity or famine.

But John does not use any words to indicate a transaction such as the actual buying of grain or a purchase of something. He does not indicate grain or food scarcity exist or are connected to wages. He simply writes: *"Two pounds {quart} of wheat for a day's wages {denarius}, and six pounds (3 quarts) of barley for a day's wages {denarius}."* John does not write: "To buy a quart of wheat you must spend a day's wage." John could have just as well meant: **"You owe a quart of wheat to the caliphate in tax for earning a day's wages."**

Most Bible commentators are puzzled by the next part of the text: *"and do not damage the oil and the wine!"* They have no solid explanation for this, other than oil (olive oil) and wine are more expensive, and perhaps wealthy people in the famine can still afford these items. But it seems unlikely that olive oil and wine prices would not rise in a famine. In fact, they would probably rise even higher than basic grain prices. They would be harmed in a famine. So, what is John really trying to tell us about the Four Horsemen, power, crops, wine, oil, and wages? What do the scales mean? Why is the ratio 10 to 1?

Revelation 6:8 tells us the Four Horseman have power over a quarter of the world's population. All conquering powers impose new taxes to fund their activities. The rider on the Black Horse seems to place some type of new yoke (bondage or servitude) on the land.

A better understanding of the Revelation 6:5-6 text is that the Four Horsemen impose a new taxation system on these conquered people (the scales calculate the tax) such that when a person earns a day's wage (a denarius) they **must pay a tax** rate equivalent of a providing a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley to the caliphate of the Four Horseman.



Since at normal prices a day's wage would buy about 10 quarts of wheat, a one quart wheat tax example would give the new system income tax rate of about **10%** of the daily wage, using normal grain prices. The 10% tax is placed on labor related to raw crop grains such as wheat and barley but finished products that are stored such as olive oil and wine are exempt. This is what Umar did!

UMAR CHANGES THE SET TIMES

In 639 Umar started the Muslim calendar counting it from the (false) prophet Mohammad's migration to Medina, 16 July in 622.

Umar recognized the necessity of a calendar to govern the affairs of the Muslims. This was first a practical matter. Correspondence with military and civilian officials in the newly conquered lands had to be dated. But Persia used a different calendar from Syria, where the caliphate was based; Egypt used yet another.



Each of these calendars had a different starting point. The Sassanids, the ruling dynasty of Persia, used June 16, AD 632, the date of the accession of the last Sassanid monarch, Yazdagerd III. Syria, which until the Muslim conquest was part of the Byzantine Empire, used a form of the Roman "Julian" calendar, with a starting date of October 1, 312 BC. Egypt used the Coptic calendar, with a starting date of August 29, AD 284.

Although all were solar, and hence geared to the seasons and containing 365 days, each also had a different system for periodically adding days to compensate for the fact that the true length of the solar year is not 365 but 365.24 days.

There were two other reasons Umar rejected existing solar calendars. The Qur'an, in Chapter 10, Verse 5, states that time should be reckoned by the moon. Not only that, calendars used by the Persians, Syrians and Egyptians were identified with other religions and cultures. Umar therefore decided to create a calendar specifically for the Muslim community. It would be lunar, and it would have 12 months, each with 29 or 30 days. This gives Umar's lunar year 354 days, 11 days fewer than the solar year. Because the Islamic lunar calendar is 11 days shorter than the solar, therefore not synchronized to the seasons. Its festivals, which fall on the same days of the same lunar months each year, make the round of the seasons every 33 solar years. This 11-day difference between the lunar and the solar year accounts for the difficulty of converting dates from one system to the other.

UMAR CHANGES THE LAWS TO SHARIA

Umar was the founder of Islamic jurisprudence--Sharia law. Umar is regarded by Sunni Muslims to be the greatest jurist. Umar as a jurist started the process of codifying Islamic Law. **Sharia in Arabic means "the path to water".** This is Satan's imitation of what Jesus said many times—(John 4:14 "*but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*")

Muslims believe they are saved by works, as they have been told Jesus did not provide an atoning sacrifice. Mohammad taught Jesus was not God, was not crucified and did not rise from the dead. The works required are codified in Sharia law. But no one can be saved by works. (Galatians 2:16 *Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*)



UMAR DISTRIBUTES THE LAND FOR A PRICE

Because of the Islamic conquests on a large scale in Egypt, North Africa, Syria, Iraq and Persia and elsewhere a question arose as to the administration of land in the conquered territories.

Historically the Arabs followed the maxim, "Spoils belong to the victors." On this basis all spoils that were won as a result of any victory were distributed to the extent of four-fifth among the conquering army, and one-fifth was sent to Medina as the Islamic State's share. On this analogy the army insisted that all agricultural lands should be distributed among the conquering army, and the inhabitants should be made their serfs and slaves.

Umar convoked a special assembly at Medina to consider the question from all aspects. High profile companions like Abdur Rahman Auf and Bilal ibn Rabah supported the viewpoint of the army. They argued that the lands belonged to the conquerors, and future generations had no right to them. Bilal was so vehement in the support of the demand of the army that Umar had to exclaim "*May Allah save me from Bilal.*"

At the assembly Umar argued that as the conquering army had already had the spoils distributed among them that was enough and the land should belong to the State. Umar advanced the argument that if the lands in the conquered territories were divided up among the army, where would they get the necessary finance for the raising and equipment of the armies in future for defense against foreign aggression and for the maintenance of law and order within the country.

Umar stated that lands were assets in which even the coming generations were interested and as such these should be the property of the state. After Umar spoke a consensus was reached:

- (1) The conquered lands would be the property of the Islamic state and not that of the conquering forces;
- (2) The former occupants of lands would have the lands distributed to them and not be dispossessed;
- (3) The inhabitants continue in possession of the lands and pay specified price (taxes) to the state.

The lands were left in the possession of their former occupants and assessed prices according to the nature of crops sown. These rates were: wheat two dinars per unit per year; barley one dinar per unit; sugar cane six dinars; cotton five dinars; grapes ten dinars; and date palm gardens ten dinars. Land revenue assessment under private occupation worked out to 86 million dinars per years.

UMAR GIVES A COVENANT TO CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

The Pact of Umar (also known as the Covenant of Umar, Treaty of Umar or Laws of Umar) is an apocryphal treaty between the Muslims and the Christians of either Syria, Mesopotamia or Jerusalem that later gained a canonical status in Islamic jurisprudence. There are several versions of the pact, differing both in structure and stipulations.

In general, the pact contains a list of rights and restrictions on non-Muslims ("dhimmis"). By abiding to them, non-Muslims are granted security of their persons, their families, and their possessions. Other rights and stipulations may also apply. Dhimmis are lower class citizens.

According to Ibn Taymiyya, one of the jurists who accepted the authenticity of the pact, the dhimmis have the right "to free themselves from the Covenant of 'Umar and claim equal status with the Muslims if they enlisted in the army of the state and fought alongside the Muslims in battle."

UMAR CONQUERS EGYPT--THE KING OF THE SOUTH WILL ENGAGE HIM IN BATTLE

After losing Levant (The term "Levant" refers to states or parts of states of Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey) to Umar, the economic life line of Byzantines and Armenia, the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius was left incapable of any military come back, he rather focused to consolidate his power in Egypt. In his visit to Syria in 637 to receive surrender of Jerusalem, Umar's commander Amr tried to convince Umar for the invasion of Egypt, but Umar rejected on the ground that Muslim rule in Syria was still not firm.

In 639 Umar paid a visit to Syria and was again persuaded by his commander Amr for the invasion of Egypt. Along with various other reasons, Amr convinced Umar that Byzantine influence in Egypt is a continuous threat to Muslim rule in Palestine and that **Egypt is the richest land on earth** that can provide Muslims with immense wealth, economic stability and strategic location for trade with North Africa and Mediterranean. The Muslims laid siege to Alexandria in March 641 AD. The city was heavily fortified: there were walls within walls, and forts within forts. There was no dearth of provisions and food supply in the city. The city also had direct access to the sea, and through the sea route help from Constantinople in the form of men and supplies could come at any time.

As Amr surveyed the military situation, he felt that Alexandria would be a hard nut to crack. The Byzantines had high stakes in Alexandria, and they were determined to offer stiff resistance to the Muslims. They mounted catapults on the walls of the city, and these engines pounded the Muslims with boulders.

This caused considerable damage to the Muslims and 'Amr ordered his men back from the advance position so that they might be beyond the range of the missiles. A see-saw war followed. When the Muslims tried to go close to the city they were hit with missiles. When the Byzantines sallied from the fort, they were invariably beaten back by the Muslims.

THE KING OF THE NORTH WILL STORM OUT AGAINST HIM

Heraclius, the Byzantine emperor in the north, collected a large army at Constantinople. He intended to march at the head of these reinforcements personally to Alexandria to defeat Umar. But before he could finalize the arrangements, he died. The troops mustered at Constantinople dispersed, and consequently no help came to Alexandria. This further demoralized the Byzantines.

REPORTS FROM THE EAST AND NORTH WILL ALARM HIM

The East is the Sassanid Empire in Persia. Arab Muslims first attacked the Sassanid (East in Persia) territory in 633, when general Islamic warriors invaded Mesopotamia (Sassanid province of Asōristān; what is now Iraq), which was the political and economic center of the Sassanid state.

Following the transfer of the commander Khalid to the Byzantine front in the Levant, the Muslims eventually lost their holdings to Sassanian counterattacks. The second invasion began in 636 under Umar, when a key victory at the Battle of Qadisiyyah led to the permanent end of Sasanian control west of Iran.

The Zagros mountains then became a natural barrier and border between the Rashidun Caliphate and the Sassanid Empire. Due to continuous raids by Persians into the area, Umar ordered a full invasion of the Sasanian empire in 642, which led to the complete conquest of the Sasanians around 651. Directing from Medina, more than a thousand miles from the battlefields of Iran, Umar's quick conquest of Iran in a series of well-coordinated, multi-pronged attacks became his greatest triumph, contributing to his reputation as a great military and political strategist.

UMAR INVADED THE BEAUTIFUL LAND

Umar conquered Palestine and Jerusalem. Under Umar, the Muslim armies consolidated their conquest of the Levant and went deeper into Palestine after the decisive Battle of Fahl. Bet She'an surrendered after a little resistance followed by the surrender of Tiberias in February 635. Umar, after having received the position and strength of the Byzantine army in Palestine, wrote detailed instructions to corps commanders in Palestine and ordered Yazid to capture the Mediterranean coast.

The Muslim warriors marched against the strongest Byzantine garrison in Ajnadyn and defeated them in the 2nd Battle of Ajnadyn after which the two corps separated, with Amr moving to capture Nablus, Amawas, Gaza and Yubna in order to complete the conquest of all Palestine, while Shurahbil moved against the coastal towns of Acre and Tyre. Islam advanced from Damascus to capture the ports of Sidon, Arqa, Byblos and Beirut.

By 635 AD, Palestine, Jordan and Southern Syria, with the exception of Jerusalem and Caesarea, were in Muslim hands. On the orders of Umar, Muslims next besieged Caesarea, which was lifted but resumed after the Battle of Yarmouk until the port fell in 640 AD.

Next Umar decided to conquer Jerusalem. The siege of Jerusalem lasted four months after which the city agreed to surrender, but only to caliph Umar in person. Some suggested that the commander Khalid should be sent, because of his very strong resemblance with Umar. But Khalid was recognized and Umar had to come himself to accept the surrender of Jerusalem on April 637 AD.

After Jerusalem, the Muslim armies broke up once again. Part marched to Damascus and captured Beirut. The Muslims also went to conquer the rest of Palestine, and a second Islamic group of a 17,000 strong army moved north to conquer the whole of Northern Syria. In September of that same year, 637 AD, initial terms and conditions were drawn up near Deraa, now the southern border Syria with Jordan; notably, the very place of battle between Israel and Og, King of Bashan.

The Muslim commanders were dressed in rich robes, their war horses fitted with the spoils of battle. The Muslim warlords were later rebuked for their pompous indignation by Umar himself who had recently arrived to secure the Jerusalem hand-off.

HE WILL PITCH HIS ROYAL TENTS BETWEEN THE SEAS AT THE BEAUTIFUL HOLY MOUNTAIN

Umar entered Jerusalem. Later, as Umar toured the Church of the Sepulchre, Sophronius (the Patriarch of Jerusalem), whispered in Greek to one of his Christian subordinates, "Surely this is the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place spoken of by Daniel the Prophet."

Sophronius would later write that the Muslim invaders were "unwitting chastisement of the weak and wavering Christian community" which had fallen astray from the faith; the loss of the city to Muslim infidels was in the Patriarch's view divine judgment on God's own people. They had become negligent in their faith and therefore God had sent the Muslim heathen to punish them.

Historically Christians had built churches throughout the Holy Land. Yet Christians refused to build anything on the Holy Temple site. Umar immediately saw this as an opportunity. Umar confiscated the empty Temple Mount lot (the Beautiful Holy Mountain) and ordered two abominations set up, the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. They were completed after Umar's death.

UMAR ORDERED TWO ABOMINATIONS SET UP



Dome of the Rock in Outer Court



Al-Aqsa Mosque on the Wing

UMAR GAINED CONTROL OF THE TREASURES OF GOLD AND SILVER AND ALL THE RICHES OF EGYPT

Egypt did not escape. The Muslim conquest of Egypt's vast wealth meant a loss of a huge amount of Byzantium's food and money.

Umar stated the wealth of the Egyptians in Alexandria would be spared, but instead Umar took all of Roman and Greek assets for booty. Greek citizens were given a choice, to return to Greek territories safely without their wealth, or to stay in Alexandria and pay Jizya. Some chose to stay, while others went to Byzantine lands. Coptic Christians had to pay the Jizya tax. All land used for crop and food production had to pay a tax to Umar.

UMAR PLACED THE LIBYANS AND CUSHITES (NUBIANS) IN SUBMISSION

Umar launched a preemptive raid on Nubia in the south, and next decided to undertake campaigns in the west, so as to secure the western borders of Egypt and clear the region of Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and Fezzan from Byzantine influence. In September 642 AD, Muslim troops headed west. After one month of marching the Muslim forces reached the cities of Libya.

Muslims under Umar's command marched to Zaweeila, the capital of Fezzan. No resistance was offered, and the entire district of Fezzan, what is present day north-western Libya, submitted to the Muslims. Soon after the Muslim army marched westward from Burqa. They arrived at Tripoli in the spring of 643 AD and laid siege to the city. The city fell after a siege of one month.

From Tripoli, Umar sent a detachment to Sabratha, a city forty miles from Tripoli. The city put up feeble resistance, and soon surrendered and agreed to pay the Jizya tax on non Muslims. From Tripoli, Umar's commander is reported to have written to Umar the details of the operations in the following words:

"We have conquered Burqa, Tripoli and Sabratha. The way to the west is clear, and if the Commander of the Faithful wishes to conquer more lands, we could do so with the grace of Allah."

THE TEN KINGDOMS CONQUERED BY UMAR HAD THREE GOVERNING KINGS

Daniel 7 (NIV)

23 "He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it.

24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings.

25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

Kingdom Conquered	Empire King
1. Armenia (638, 644)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)
2. Azerbaijan (643)	Yazdegerd III (Sassanid Persian)
3. Eastern Anatolia (638)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)
4. Egypt (640-642)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)
5. Iraq (636-637)	Yazdegerd III (Sassanid Persian)
6. North Africa (643)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)
7. Palestine (635-637)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)
8. Persia (633-654)	Yazdegerd III (Sassanid Persian)
9. Sistan (643-644)	Kushan Sahi king
10. Syria (634)	Heraclius (Byzantine, Eastern Roman)

Umar subdued three kings. Umar's conquests included 1) Heraclius of the Byzantine Eastern Roman empire, 2) Yazdegerd III of the Sassanid Persian empire and 3) under Umar the Muslims captured the Sistan king Kushan Sahi in what is today Afghanistan.

UMAR COMES TO HIS END, AND NO ONE WILL HELP HIM

Even Umar's death followed exactly what Daniel wrote. Umar came to his end while praying to his false fortress god Allah, and no one helped him.

In 644 Umar was at the height of his power having conquered most of the Middle East. He had a very large army along with many bodyguards. That year Umar went to Mecca for the Islamic pilgrimage. Next Umar went to Medina. Umar led the prayers at the front Mosque in Medina. While praying to Allah in the Medina mosque Umar was attacked by his Persian slave and no one came to help him and stop the attack. Umar was stabbed six times and yet no one stopped the attacker. Islamic tradition says the worshipers were too horrified to do anything. All they could do was watch. The attack was in response to the Islamic conquest of Persia.

The Persian slave, Piruz Nahavandi (also known as Abu Lulu), brought a complaint to Umar about the high tax charged from him by his master Mughirah. Umar wrote to Mughirah and inquired about the tax; Mughirah's reply was satisfactory, but Umar held that the tax charged from Abu Lulu was reasonable, owing to his daily income. Umar then is reported to have asked Abu Lulu: "I heard that you make windmills; make one for me as well." In a sullen mood, Piruz said, "Verily I will make such a mill for you, that whole world would remember it".

On 31 October 644, Piruz attacked Umar while he was leading the morning prayers, stabbing him six times in the belly and last on the navel, that proved fatal. Umar was left profusely bleeding while the other stunned worshipers just looked on. As Daniel says, "no one will help him." Umar died of the wounds three days later on Wednesday, November 3, 644.

Islamic tradition says as the end drew in sight, Umar began to weep, because of the fear of Allah. "My son," he called out to Abdullah, "help me put my forehead on the ground."

"O Allah," murmured the dying caliph Umar, "cover me with Your forgiveness. If that does not happen, woe to me and woe to the mother who bore me." After this statement Umar died.

UMAR SAID UNHEARD OF THINGS AGAINST THE TRUE GOD

Daniel 11:36 (NIV)

The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.

Whenever Umar was asked about a Muslim marrying a Christian lady or a Jew, Umar would say: "Allah has made it unlawful for the believers to marry ladies who ascribe partners in worship to Allah, and I do not know of a greater thing, as regards to ascribing partners in worship, etc. to Allah, than that a lady should say that Jesus is her Lord although he is just one of Allah's slaves." (Hadith Volume 7, Book 63, Number 209. Narrated Nafi')

Thus the person in this picture is just repeating a quote from Umar: "Jesus is a slave of Allah."

Of course, Jesus is the Son of God and not a slave to anyone. This is just part of Islamic false teaching.

THE LEGACY OF UMAR IS POWERFUL EVEN TODAY

ISIS today, and many other Muslim jihadists, follow a form of "Salafism", that is the "rightly guided ones." Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali are called the rightly guided caliphs, meaning the first four caliphs after Mohammad. Of these, Umar was by far the most important. Umar's many influences are still widespread today.

You may logically ask, shouldn't Daniel's king be about the very last days? Why is it not the antichrist (Satan)? Why is it the Islamic Umar instead?

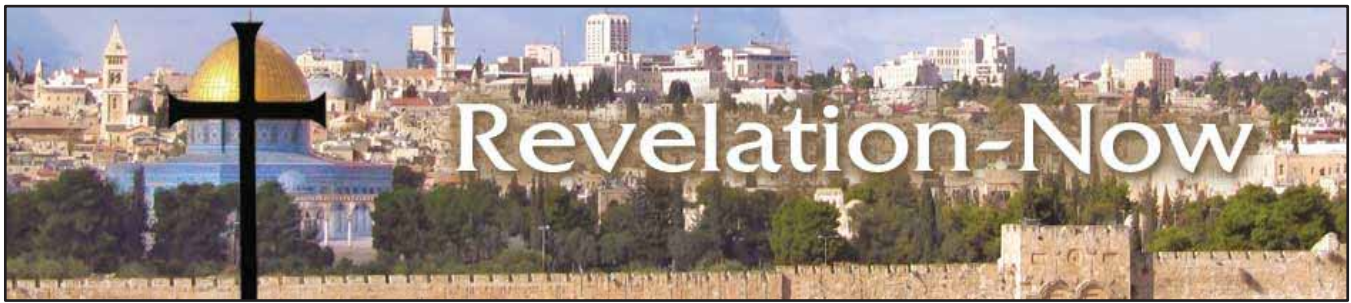
Daniel saw the final days, but was precluded from writing about them. The very last days were sealed.

Daniel was allowed to write about near end time events. Yet Islam has a key role to play in all of this.

Daniel 12: 8 I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, "My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?" 9 He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand."

Thus Daniel did not write about the absolute final days, but rather important events leading to the final days.





THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL AND WAR IN 1948 FULFILLS THE PSALM 83 PROPHECIES

*“Come, they say, Let us destroy them as a nation, so that
Israel’s name is remembered no more.”*

Psalm 83 is more than a prayer for vengeance on Israel's enemies; it reveals a series of prophecies that a 10-member confederacy of Islamic peoples will seek to destroy nascent Israel in the latter days. The writing of Psalm 83 was not during a time of war. It was written some 3,000 years ago by King David's worship leader, Asaph, during a time of great prosperity, liberty, and peace for Israel.

The Psalm 83 prophetic war was fulfilled in May 1948 when nearby Islamic groups and countries tried their best to destroy Israel—just one day after independence. Some Bible prophecy experts believe this battle is still in the future. They overlook the ten or more Islamic groups that fought viciously against Israel in the 1948 War of Independence, just as Psalm 83 predicted!

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STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Hagana men and women in the Kfar Etzion bloc of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped superior foreign force desperately in need of a victory was a foregone conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the Trusts Committee would secure civilized conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these anxious questions have now been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the expected announcement of the Jewish State, and its official naming at birth, "Medinat Yisrael"—State of Israel, with the swearing in of the first Council of Government. The proclamation of the State was made at midnight, coinciding with the sailing from Haifa of Britain's last High Commissioner. Within the hour, President Truman announced in Washington that the Government of the United States had decided to give de facto recognition to the Jewish State, with

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Jews Take Over Security Zones

The Battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells were still being heard in the early hours of this morning as the battle entered its third day.

Repeated efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday by the U.N. Truce Commission to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to re-occupy the buildings requisitioned from Jews last year. This operation was almost bloodless, but beyond the western edge of Zone C, Arab forces engaged the Jews in Jaffa Road. The Arabs were forced back and the Barak's Bank area was taken.

In other parts of the city fighting flared up. Jews overran one after another the areas evacuated by the British. By last night, the quarters and

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kot Israel, the Tel Aviv broadcasting station, reported at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon that Tel Aviv had been bombed three times in the previous evening and morning, and that one plane had been shot down and its Egyptian pilot taken prisoner.

In the first raid, four planes attacked from a height of 800 feet. Two dropped bombs, while the others strafed the city. Little damage was caused. In the second attack two hours later, the airport to the north of the city was bombed, and an Air France plane parked there was damaged. The third raid was launched shortly before midnight, but the planes were driven off without causing any damage.

Two settlements in the Negev had also been attacked from the air, the radio report said.

2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By WALTER COLLINS
U.S. Correspondent
CAIRO, Saturday. — A com-

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Fighting in the Kfar Etzion bloc continued throughout Friday, after Kfar Etzion it-

U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday. — Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by President Truman that the U.S. Government intended to recognize the Provisional Jewish Government as the de facto authority representing the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering lifting the arms embargo but it is not known whether to Palestine only or the entire Middle East, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Jewish Provisional Government.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, told correspondents today that reaction so far to the recognition had been overwhelmingly favorable. He said this step had been discussed with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Lovett before action was taken, and it had their complete support.

Mr. Ross said that the President had decided several days ago to grant American recognition to the Jewish State.

Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by its head, was to abolish all legislation of the 1939 White Paper of the late Mandatory Power, particularly the Ordinances and Orders relating to immigration and land transfer.

In the declaration of independence, Mr. Ben Gurion called on the Arabs of Palestine to restore peace, assuring them full civic rights and full representation in all governmental organs of the State.

Mr. Ben Gurion prefaced the declaration with a review of the historic connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and of their efforts to return, which never ceased throughout the generations of their dispersal, until the Nazi holocaust proved for a Jewish State.

The Balfour Declaration of 1917, confirmed by the League of Nations, had given explicit international recognition to the Jewish people's right to a national home in Palestine.

Special Assembly Adjourns

FLUSHING MEADOWS, Saturday. — The Special U.N. Assembly, called four weeks ago to discuss the U.S. propo-

THE PSALM 83 PROPHECIES VS THE GOG LED WAR OF EZEKIEL 38-39

Psalm 83 prophecies are known as “inner ring” prophecies. A second war, the attempted invasion of Israel led by Gog, described in Ezekiel 38-39 of a prosperous, safe, and well-established Israel are called the “outer ring” prophecies. The Psalm 83 war occurred in 1948, while the Gog led war is very soon in the future. Both struggles are influenced by those that follow the words of Mohammad, the false prophet of Revelation. In other words, both wars are from Islamic countries.

Psalm 83 “inner ring” prophecies receive this description because all the attacking countries are generally adjacent to or very close to Israel. All the attacking Islamic groups in 1948 were adjacent to or very close to Israel. In contrast, the Gog led war of Islamic countries is somewhat further away geographically, especially Beth Togarmah (Turkey) and Persia (Iran). The Psalm 83 war was against a fledgling Israel. The Gog led war is against a well-established and wealthy Israel in the latter days.

Psalm 83:2-8 (NIV)

See how your enemies growl, how your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.” With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you—the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, Byblos, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. Even Assyria has joined them to reinforce Lot’s descendants.

The Psalm 83 war occurs the day Israel is born as the Islamic countries seek to eliminate and even wipe out the new name of the country Israel as a new country. (Psalm 83:1-4 *“Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”*)

Ezekiel 38:1-6 (NIV)

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. Persia, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.

The Psalm 83 war seeks to annihilate the new Israel. The nations in the Gog led war are further away (*“Beth Togarmah from the far north”*) and have a purpose not to destroy Israel, per se, but rather to plunder the wealth and resources of Israel and the local area—particularly now the vast oil and gas reserves in the Mediterranean by Crete, Israel and Egypt in the Levantine gas fields. The Saudis (Sheba and Dedan merchants) will stand and watch Gog try to plunder. Ezekiel 38:13 (*“Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?”*)

THE 1948 ISLAMIC WAR TO DESTROY THE NEW ISRAEL

The Islamic participants in the 1948 war included all the peoples described in Psalm 83. Fighters included the Arab League—Egypt, Transjordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen. It also had “foreign volunteers” from Gaza, Palestine, the Muslim Brotherhood, Pakistan, Libya, and Sudan.

The first deaths of the 1948 Islamic-Israeli occurred in November 1947 during an ambush of two buses carrying Jews. Tension and conflict between the Arabs and the Jews were simmering since the 1917 Balfour Declaration and the 1920 creation of the British Mandate of Palestine. British policies dissatisfied both Arabs and Jews.

Arabs opposition developed into the 1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine, while the Jewish resistance developed into the Jewish insurgency in Palestine (1944–1947). In 1947, these ongoing tensions erupted into civil war following the November 1947 adoption of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, which planned to divide Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the Special International Regime encompassing the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.



DESTRUCTION FROM THE PSALM 83 WAR IN 1948

Israel became independent on May 14, 1948. The rebirth of Israel and the Jews leaving 1,260 years in the wilderness fulfilled many prophecies in Daniel, Revelation, and Ezekiel. On May 15, 1948, the civil war transformed into a conflict between Israel and the Islamic states following the Israeli Declaration of Independence the previous day. Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, and expeditionary forces from Iraq immediately entered Palestine, among many others.

Their purpose was to wipe out Israel completely; fulfilling Psalm 83:4 ***“Come, they say, Let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”***

The invading Islamic forces took control of the Arab areas and immediately attacked Israeli forces and several Jewish settlements.

The ten months of fighting took place mostly on the territory of the British Mandate and in the Sinai Peninsula and southern Lebanon, interrupted by several truce periods.

With God's help, the Israelis, in some cases outnumbered 50 to 1, defeated the invading forces and kept their independence.



ARABS FIGHTING ISRAEL DURING THE PSALM 83 WAR

As a result of the war, the State of Israel controlled the area that UN General Assembly had recommended for the proposed Jewish state, as well as almost 60-percent of the area of Arab state proposed by the 1947 Partition Plan, including the Jaffa, Lydda, and Ramle area, Galilee, some parts of the Negev, a wide strip along the Tel Aviv–Jerusalem road, West Jerusalem, and some territories in the West Bank.

Transjordan took control of the remainder of the former British mandate, which it annexed, and the Egyptian military took control of the Gaza Strip. At the Jericho Conference in December 1948, 2,000 Palestinian delegates called for unification of Palestine and Transjordan as a step toward full Arab unity.

The conflict triggered significant demographic change throughout the Middle East. Around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes in the area that became Israel, and they became Palestinian refugees in what they refer to as Al-Nakba ("the catastrophe").

In the three and one-half years following the war, about 700,000 Jews emigrated to Israel, many of whom had been trapped in Islamic countries because of Israel's independence. This fulfilled prophecies in Ezekiel and Revelation. The *"dead bodies came the feet"* and moved to Israel in Operation Ezra and Nehemiah.



OPERATION EZRA & NEHEMIAH

THE PSALM 83 WAR ISLAMIC PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES

Psalm 83:2-8 gives the names of the ten groups of peoples in proximity to Israel that will conspire to destroy the rebirthed Israel. All of these groups took part in the 1948 Islamic war against Israel. The following is the list of 10 given by Asaph in 83:6-8. All of these are mentioned in the Old Testament prophets as peoples that will eventually be judged by God on the Day of the Lord.

1. The tents of Edom – Jordan (southern part)
2. Ishmaelites – Arabs generally and Egypt
3. Moab – Jordan (central part)
4. Hagarites – Egypt
5. Byblos – Lebanon
6. Ammon – Jordan (northern part)
7. Amalek – Sinai area (Egypt)
8. Philistia – Gaza area
9. Tyre – Lebanon
10. Assyria – Parts of Syria and Iraq

1. THE TENTS OF EDM

The first group listed here (“the tents of Edom”) has caused many to fail to understand that the Psalm 83 war occurred in 1948. The “tents of Edom” has caused the most confusion for Bible prophecy experts. They want the prophecy to fit their theories.

They strictly interpret this to be Palestinian refugees in tents originating only after the 1948, 1967 and 1973 wars. They need the war to still be in the future to fit Dispensational end times theory, despite the clear facts in happened in 1948.

They believe this prophecy is still in the future based on the idea that the entire prophecy rests on the understanding of “tents.” They say the Palestinian refugees did not exist (“in tents”) until after these three wars, not before. They assume Palestinian refugees live in tents, so this must be the “tents of Edom” in the future. Actually today most Palestinian refugees live in solid buildings, not tents.

Thus, their reasoning is not factual. Before the 1948 war, between December 1947 and March 1948, around 100,000 Palestine Arabs fled. Between 1947 and 1949, at least 750,000 Palestinians from a 1.9 million population were made refugees beyond the borders of Israel. Many Palestinians were already living in tents before the 1948 war even started, and certainly they were in tents during the 1967 and 1973 wars. In addition, most Palestinians are not Edomites. The people of Edom for the most part lived in Jordan, not Israel. Jordan was a big part of the 1948 war.

The name “Edom” comes from a Semitic word meaning “red,” and the land south of the Dead Sea was given that name because of the red sandstone so prominent in the topography. The people of Edom were nomads and lived in tents for centuries. At the time the Psalm 83 was written the Edomites were living in tents. They did not physically live in Israel for the most part, but in Jordan.



1948 PALESTINIAN REFUGEE TENT CAMP



PALESTINIAN ARABS LEAVING THE PORT CITY OF JAFFA IN 1948

During the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Israel occupied the remaining Palestinian territories of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and continues to occupy them until today. While under the UN partition plan Israel was allocated 55 percent, today it controls more than 85 percent of historic lands. Thus, even if some of the people of Edom were in tents, they were in tents at the time of the 1948 and 1967 wars. It is safe to conclude the “tents of Edom” took place in the 19478 war.



FEW PALESTINIANS LIVE IN TENTS TODAY; MOST ARE NOT FROM EDOM

MOST “PALESTINIANS” ARE OF JEWISH DESCENT

When the original Islamic hordes under Umar invaded, the Palestine population was comprised of a majority of Greek-speaking Christians and a large minority of Aramaic-speaking Jews. After the conquest of Jerusalem by Umar in 638, Islam slowly, but steadily, forced most Christians and Jews to convert to Islam over the next centuries.

The conversions were not always at the point of a sword. Paying the “Jizyah” tax of Umar (Umar was the rider on the black horse with a pair of scales used to calculate the tax in Revelation 6:5-6) along with a second class status as a “dhimmi”, was enough to cause many to take the mark of the beast. Islamic society consisted of two classes of people, superiors and inferiors or “dhimmis.” The dhimmis were hit with confiscatory taxes and had no rights. Rather than impoverish themselves, those who remained technically became “Muslims.”

Tzvi Misinai, a software pioneer, who has devoted his life to analyzing the genetic makeup of Palestinians has found that 90 per cent of Palestinian Arabs are descendants of Jews (counting Edomites and Moabites). The DNA findings back this up. The Palestinian Arabs, who are descendants of Jews, are very close to Ashkenazi Jews in their gene makeup.

In a 2007 DNA study of Judea and Samaria, not counting Jerusalem, the population DNA breakdown was as follows: 1) Jewish descendants of Israel: 61%, Edomites 16%, Moabites 11%, true Arabs (Ishmaelites) 5%, Romans 4%, Christians from Europe 2%, and Saladin Kurds 1%. (Adapted from Dov Ivry, “Most Palestinians Are Descendants of Jews”, The Times of Israel, August 21, 2016.)

There is also new evidence suggests that before the Edomites built their capital in the Edomite Plateau in Jordan—near Petra, southeast of the Dead Sea, they were living in tents. The study found they were a complex and organized kingdom of “nomads still dwelling in tents.” (John Drummond, Biblical Archeology Review, “Researchers may have found signs of biblical Edom—the kingdom of the descendants of Esau—in the Arava desert”, October 7, 2019)

2. ISHMAELITES—FATHER OF ARABS GENERALLY; AND EGYPT

After roaming the wilderness for some time, Ishmael and his mother settled in the Desert of Paran, where he became an expert in archery. (Mohammad is a descendant of Ishmael; this is why he carries a bow as a rider on the white horse with a crown in Revelation 6:1-2)

The wilderness of Paran's precise location is uncertain. It is often associated with Mount Sinai in Egypt, and there is some evidence that it may originally have referred to the southern portion of the Sinai Peninsula. Eventually, his mother found him a wife from the land of Egypt. They had twelve sons who each became tribal chiefs throughout the regions from Havilah to Shur (from Assyria to the border of Egypt).

Genesis 21:20-21 (NIV)

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

3. MOAB – JORDAN (WEST-CENTRAL JORDAN)

In Genesis 19:30–38, the Moabites belonged to the same ethnic stock as the Israelites. Their ancestral founder was Moab, a son of Lot, who was a nephew of the Israelite patriarch Abraham. The Moabites lived in the highlands east of the Dead Sea (now in west-central Jordan) and flourished in the 9th century BC.

They are known principally through information given in the Old Testament and from the inscription on the Moabite Stone. The Moabites' culture is dated by scholars from about the late 14th century BC to 582 BC, when, according to the Jewish historian Josephus, they were conquered by the Babylonians.

4. HAGARITES – EGYPT, ISLAM

The Hararites (also called “Hagarenes”) is a term widely used by early Syriac, Greek, Coptic and Armenian sources to describe the Islamic Arab conquerors of Mesopotamia, Syria and Egypt. The name was used in Christian literature and Byzantine chronicles for “Hanif” Arabs, and later for Islamic forces as a synonym of the term “Saracens.”

The Saracens are so named because Abraham’s wife Sarah drove away Hagar and Ishmael. The name, used interchangeably with Ishmaelites, came also to mean any Muslim.

Egypt is included with the Hagarites, the Ishmaelites and the Amalekites. Thus, Egypt is certainly included in three out of the ten mentioned, directly or indirectly in Psalm 83.

PEOPLES SURROUNDING ISRAEL



5. BYBLOS (ALSO TRANSLATED AS GEBAL) – LEBANON

Byblos in Lebanon, also translated as Gebal or Jbeil, is the largest city in the Mount Lebanon Governorate of Lebanon. It was an ancient Phoenician city, situated on a bluff of the foothills of Lebanon, overlooking the Mediterranean. It was one of the principal seaports of Phoenicia, and had a small but good harbor for small ships.

6. AMMON – JORDAN (NORTHERN PART)

Ammon was an ancient Semitic-speaking nation occupying the east of the Jordan River, between the torrent valleys of Arnon and Jabbok, in present-day Jordan. The chief city of the country was Rabbah or Rabbath Ammon, site of the modern city of Amman, Jordan's capital. Milcom and Molech (who may be the same as Baal) are named in the Hebrew Bible as the false gods of Ammon. The people of this kingdom are called "Children of Ammon" or "Ammonites".

7. AMALEK – SINAI AREA (EGYPT)

Amalek is a nation described in the Hebrew Bible as enemies of the Israelites. The name "Amalek" can refer to the nation's founder, a grandson of Esau; his descendants, the Amalekites; or the territories of Amalek which they inhabited. They were south of Israel in the Sinai near Egypt.

8. PHILISTIA – GAZA

Philistia was a geo-political region occupied by the Philistines. Its northern boundary was the Yarkon River with the Mediterranean Sea on the west, the Kingdom of Judah to the east and the Wadi El-Arish to the south. Philistia consisted of the Five Lords of the Philistines, described in the Book of Joshua (Joshua 13:3) and the Books of Samuel (1 Samuel 6:17), comprising Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza, in the south-western Levant.

9. TYRE – LEBANON

Tyre is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Tyre is the fifth largest city in Lebanon after Beirut, Tripoli, Aley and Sidon.

10. ASSYRIA – PARTS OF SYRIA AND IRAQ

Assyria was centered on the Tigris in Upper Mesopotamia (modern northern Iraq, northeastern Syria, small parts of modern Turkey and the northwestern fringes of Iran). The Assyrians came to rule powerful empires in several periods. Making up a substantial part of the greater Mesopotamian "cradle of civilization", the Assyrians also included Babylonia.

CONCLUSION

The 1948 war fulfilled all the Psalm 83 predictions. It is sad many prophecy writers are looking so hard for a future seven-year peace treaty and tribulation, that they miss the obvious events. They are repeatedly looking in the wrong direction.

It is a mistake to think most events are all still in the future.

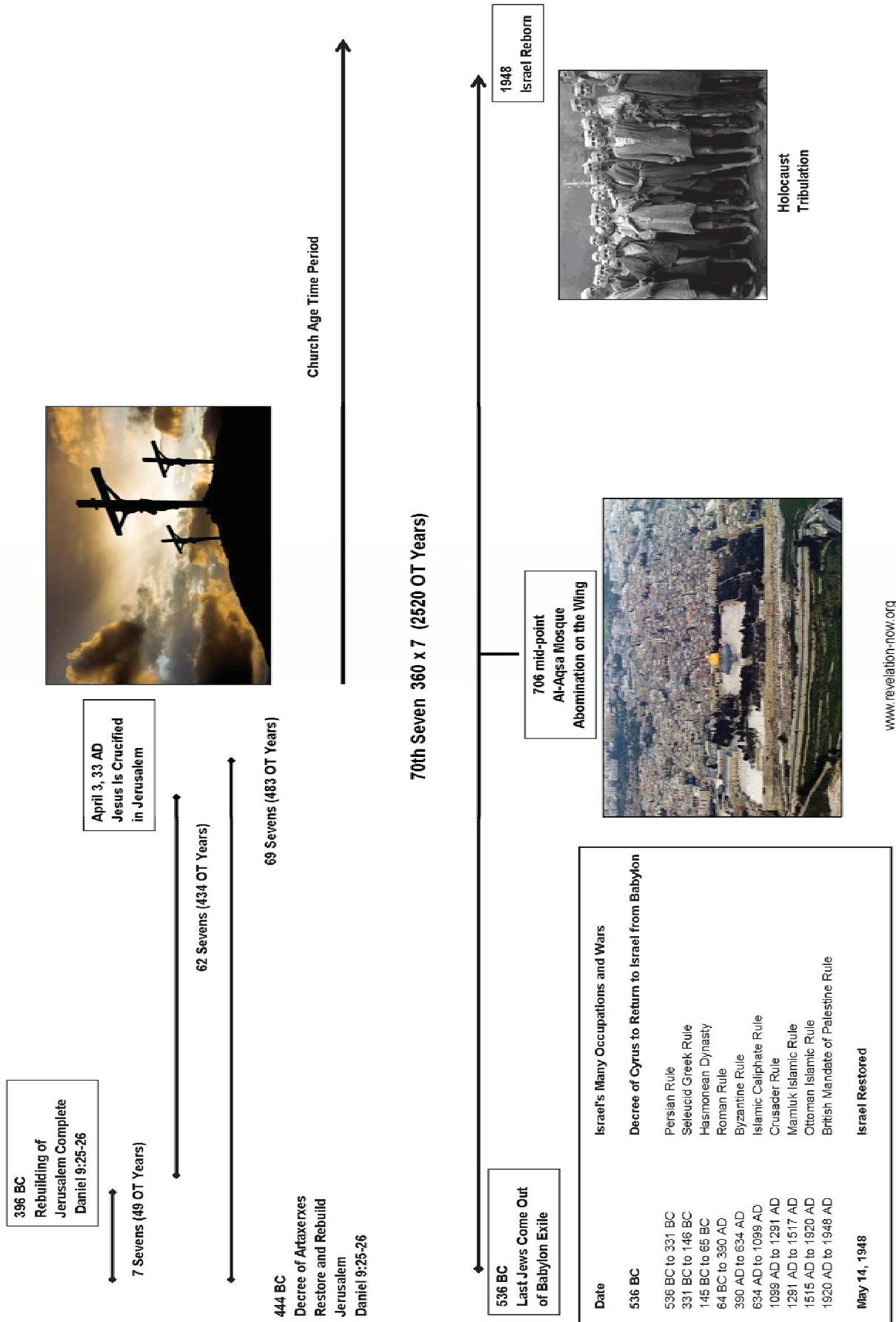
We can see much of it today when our eyes are opened.

In recent years some famous Bible scholars have popularized the belief that the Psalm 83 War is yet to occur and will shortly precede the War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38). This theory faces glaring problems, not the least is that the nations listed in Psalm 83 are not mentioned in Ezekiel 38!

If a prophecy writer tries to "force" the prophecy to fit his needs, to suit his preconceived notions, it becomes the writer's plan, not God's. The verses make little sense and seem nonsensical. What the writers "predict" never happens time and time again.

For those who are firmly convinced that Psalm 83 speaks of a future conflict, perhaps they should consider that that war has already taken place, and it not connected to the Gog/Magog battle. It is clear that all of the Israel-haters will be dealt with finally and severely when the Lord Jesus Christ defeats the enemies of Israel. Leave the predictions to God. Our job is to observe their fulfillment.

Timeline of Daniel's 70 Sevens



Timeline of Prophecies from Daniel and Revelation

