

## Revelation Survey

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### Introduction:

The book of Revelation is given to us by God, to enable us to have a realistic view of daily life, so that in all we do, we can live in the light of eternal truths and values.

Chapters 1-11 give a series of revelations of Christ, the churches, God and His Throne, and the final events of this age that bring to fulfilment the purposes of God for all creation, *Num 14:21; Hab 2:14; Dan 2:32,35; Rev 11:15*.

Chapters 12-22 supplement and add to the revelations of chapters 1-11.

### Chapter 1:

This is a revelation of Jesus Christ to bring to fulfilment the purposes of God in redemption, *v1,2; Num 14:21, Rev 11:15*. God's blessing is on all who read, hear and keep what is written, *v3*.

The letters to the seven churches are from the eternal God, the sevenfold Holy Spirit, *Rev 5:6, 2Chr 16:9, Zech 3:9,4:10, Is 11:2*, and Jesus Christ, who, by His ministry brought the churches into existence, *v4-6*.

His Coming is certain and everyone will acknowledge Him, *v7,8; Mat 24:30*.

The Apostle John had paid a price to be ready to receive this revelation, *v9*.

Being in the Spirit, John received a full revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, *v10-20*.

All revelation starts with the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. E.g. *Ezek 1; Is 6*.

The churches and their ministers are of great value to God as is seen in *Rev 1:13,20*.

### Chapter 2 & 3: Letters to the seven churches.

"Angel" may have a double meaning. Firstly, it may refer to the angel - messenger to the Church and secondly to the God appointed human leader or minister. Angel in the Greek, means "messenger" and maybe angelic or human, *Lk 1:26-38; Lk 7:24,27*. In this last reference "messenger" in the Greek is "angelos".

### General

1. In each letter there is a **Revelation of Christ**, to enable the believers to **overcome the problem(s)** mentioned.
2. Each church is **commended for anything worthy**.
3. **The problem(s)** for the believers to repent of and to overcome are revealed.
4. **God makes promises** to the believers who **repent and overcome the problem(s)** by the **revelation of Jesus Christ, and obey God**.

### Overcoming

1. **Jesus Christ is the overcomer and has overcome all things** that are in opposition to God and His purposes, which are: the old nature of the sins of the flesh; the anti God world system; and the devil and all his works. *Rom 6:1-14, Eph 4:22-24, 1Jn 2:15-17, 1Pet 5:8,9*.
2. **All God's promises are made for those who are overcomers** through Jesus Christ the Lord. We either overcome the powers of sin, satan and this world, or they overcome us.
3. **When we are baptised, we are baptised into Christ, the Overcomer**, *Rom 6:3, Gal 3:27, Ac 2:38*. Christ comes and lives in us by the power of the Holy Spirit and **we are made overcomers in Him**, *1Jn 4:4, 1Jn 5:4,5, Gal 2:20, Col 1:27*.
4. By faith in God and His Word, rise up and be an overcomer.

### The Seven Letters

**To the Church in Ephesus** - *Rev 2:1-7*.

**The Christ who is walking among us**, commends all our hard work, endurance and labour, but sees that we have **lost our first love for Jesus**. We have put our work for Him before our relationship with Him. So He says, "Repent, **overcome, and I will give you to eat of the Tree of Life, who is Christ Himself.**" **We must put our relationship with Christ before our work for Him.**

The Nicolaitans, (Nico – to rule, laitans – the people) were possibly those in the church who lorded it over others and dominated the other believers.

**To the Church of Smyrna** – *Rev 2:8-11*.

**The Christ who is the First and the Last**, who died on the Cross and rose again three days later, sees that we are facing suffering and persecution for our witness to Him. He says to us, "**Do not be afraid but be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life.**" **Those who overcome will gain eternal life and not go into the life of fire.** *Rev 20:14*.

**To the Church at Pergamos** – *Rev 2:12-17*.

**The Christ who has the sharp two-edged sword of the Word of God**, *Heb 4:12*, says to us, "I know satan's influence is strong where you live. I rejoice that you hold true to My Name, even while others around you are dying for their

faith.” (In AD 90 when this was first written, Pergamos was the capital of Asia and the centre of Caesar worship.) And He says, **“You must be strong to oppose those who teach evil things like the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. Don’t allow it. Cut it off. As you do this and overcome I will come to you and reveal to you my rhema Word of truth, and I will give to you a white stone indicating My acceptance of your ministry, identity and work of service for Me.”** Keep God’s gift of sex for your marriage relationship. Do not have sex before marriage, or outside of your marriage. Sex is for intimacy in marriage and for raising godly children, *Mal 2:13-16, 1Cor 6:9,10*. Avoid having anything to do with idols, because behind every idol is a demon seeking to get your attention and draw you away from God, *1Cor 10:19-21*. An idol is anything that comes before God in our lives, *Ex 20:4,5, 1Jn 5:21*. Balaam, *Num 22-24, 2Pet 2:15,16*, caused the Israelites to go astray enticing them into fornication and idolatry.

**To the Church at Thyatira – Rev 2:18-29.**

**Christ who has eyes of blazing fire and feet like polished brass says to us,** “I can see your love, faith and perseverance, and that your service to Me is growing. However, **do not allow anyone to deceive you with false spiritual gifts**, which lead you into sexual immorality and idolatry. Cast them out. Do not tolerate them. **Try the spirits as in 1Jn 4:1-3**. As you do this and **overcome I will give to you authority to rule and to bring My Word to the nations. I will give you the morning star and early warning of My Second Coming.”** *2Pet 1:19, Lk 1:78*.

**To the Church at Sardis – Rev 3:1-6.**

**Christ who holds the seven spirits of God, Rev 5:6, 2Chr 16:9, Is 11:2, and the seven stars,** says to us, “You have become spiritually dead and lifeless. **Remember how you received the Holy Spirit of God, and renew the fulness and anointing,** *2Tim 1:6,7, Ecc 9:8*. Live in the Spirit and be led of the Spirit, *Gal 5:25, Rom 8:14*. Pray in tongues at all times, *Jude 20*. **As you do this, and overcome, I will clothe you with white raiment and I will not take your name out of the Book of Life. I will confess your name before My Father and His Angels.”**

**To the Church at Philadelphia – Rev 3:7-13.**

**Christ who is holy and true, and who has the key of David,** which is a pure heart of joyful praise to God, *Is 22:22, Ac 13:22, Ps 89:15-18*, says to us, **“I have set before you an open door which no man can close.** I want you to go out always, boldly in My Name, to tell others what I have done for them. I will give you victory over your enemies and keep you from the hour of testing coming on the whole earth, *Lk 21:36*. As you do this and overcome, **I will make you a pillar in God’s House to establish and strengthen others,** *2Chron 3:17*, (Jachin – to establish and Boaz – to strengthen). **Then I will write on you the Name of God, the Name of the City of My God and My New Name.”**

**To the Church at Laodicea – Rev 3:14-22.**

**Christ who is the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation,** says to us, “Because of your materialism, riches and ease, thinking that everything is just fine, you have become blind and lukewarm, and I am about to spit you out of My mouth! Actually you are wretched and miserable, poor, blind and naked. **Come to Me for the gold of knowing Me, the white clothes of My righteousness** *Rev 19:8*, **and the eye ointment of My Holy Spirit,** *Jn 16:13*. I am rebuking you because I love you. I am standing outside and knocking at the door of My own House and wanting to come in. Make some radical changes and open the door to Me. As you do this, and overcome, **I will cause you to sit with Me on My Throne, just as I have overcome and have been seated with My Father on His Throne.**

#### **Chapter 4:**

The theme is of the Throne of God and visions of God Himself. Revelation starts when God reveals Himself to us, *Ezk 1:1*.

The 24 elders on 24 thrones, crowned and in white raiment represent O.T. and N.T. saints, *Rev 21:12,14*.

The number 12 is the number of authority and represents the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles in the New Jerusalem, City of God, *Rev 21:10,12,14*.

The Seven Spirits are the 7 anointings of the Holy Spirit, *Is 11:2*.

The Four Living Creatures are 4 cherubim or seraphim, *Ezek 1:10; Is 6:2*. They represent the 4 faces of Christ. Pastors’ Notes 223.

#### **Chapter 5:**

The scroll with 7 seals, is God’s end time programme to complete the work of redemption, *Rev 11:15; Num 14:21; Hab 2:14*, restore all things to Himself, and put down all evil forces. It is written on both sides, *v1*. Revelation “ends” at *Rev 11:15*, and then repeats with complementary visions in the second half, which is the second side of the scroll.

The Lion-Lamb takes the scroll and prepares to open the seals, as the Living Creatures, 24 Elders and Angels worship Him. In *verse 9* the Four Living Creatures and the 24 elders sing a new song unto the Lamb. In their song they say, “For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your Blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” And in *verse 10* they say, “And have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” (KJV) Note that the Living Creatures are heavenly beings, *4:6-9*, and are not part of the redeemed of the earth.

The “us” and “we” of *verse 9,10*, can refer to the 24 Elders, and to the O.T. and N.T. saints that they represent. However the NIV, RSV, NASB, JBP, LB, and others, read in *v9*, “redeemed men to God,” and in *v10*, “have made them unto our God,” and “they shall reign.”

**Chapter 6:****“Four horsemen of the Apocalypse”**

**Seal one** opened, releases the white horse and rider. Christ is going forth in power with the Gospel, *Rev 19:11-16*. This seal probably opened from Luther, Wesley, Finney, 20<sup>th</sup> century revivals and present day increases.

**Seal two** opened, releases the red horse and rider, of war and conflict. This seal opened probably from World War 1 onwards.

**Seal three**, black horse of famine. There is much famine in the world but as yet it is not worldwide as this suggests. This seal may not be opened yet.

**Seal four**, pale horse of death and Hades. As one quarter of the world’s population are killed I don’t think that this seal is opened.

**Seal five**, many martyrs for Christ. Because this is just before the sign of the Coming of the Son of Man in seal six, *v12-17; Mat 24:30*. **I think that this seal is the Great Tribulation, *Mat 24:21-29*. This is the reign of the Antichrist for 3.5 years, *Rev 13:1-9*.**

**Seal six, the appearance of the Coming of the Son of Man as in *Mat 24:30*, at the end of the Great Tribulation, *Mat 24:29*.** There are great signs and upheavals in sun, moon, stars, and the earth, *Mat 24:29*. Men hide themselves in caves and rocks, *v15,16*, from God coming in judgment, *Jude 14,15; 2Thes 1:7,8*. See Pastors’ Notes, No 253, *Mat 24*.

**After the appearing of the sign of the Coming of the Son of Man, *v15,16; Mat 24:30*, one general resurrection of all saints occurs *Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27*. There is only one resurrection of the righteous at the Coming of the Lord, *Mat 24:31; Lk 14:14; Jn 5:28,29; Ac 24:15; 1Thes 4:13-18*, after the Tribulation, *Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27*, and before God’s wrath is poured out, *v16*. This is the key point upon which the whole of this Revelation survey is based. One’s view of the Coming of the Lord and the Resurrection of the saints determines how you interpret Revelation.**

**Chapter 7:**

At this point Israel realises that the One they crucified 2000years ago is in fact the Messiah, as they see Him coming in great power and glory, *Dan 7:13; Mat 24:30; Mat 26:64*. This leads to great national repentance and turning to Christ, *Rom 11:25-28; Zech 12:10; Zech 13:6*. Everything is put on hold as Israel is sealed by God, *v3-8*.

**So with the sign of the Coming of the Son of Man, the elect are raised, *Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27; 1Thes 4:13-18; Tit 2:13; Ac 23:6; Ac 24:15*, repentant Israel is sealed, *Rev 7:4; Rev 14:1-5*, and the Tribulation saints are raised up, *Rev 7:9-17*. God has not appointed believers to wrath, *1Thes 5:9*.**

**Chapter 8:**

Now the wrath of God is to be poured out on the unrepentant and God rejecting, *2Thes 1:7-9; Jude 14,15*. The silence in heaven for half an hour indicates solemn contemplation of what is about to take place.

**Seal seven** is opened and seven angels prepare to sound their seven trumpets releasing God’s wrath, His “strange work”, *Is 28:21*.

The “vials” of chapter 16 are complementary to the “trumpets”.

*Rev 8:3* has symbolism from Moses Tabernacle, “Pastors’ Notes” No. 39. The golden altar or altar of incense, *Rev 8:3; 9:13*, altar of prayer, was originally in the Holy Place, *Ex 30:1-10*, but in *Heb 9:3,4*, it is present in the Holy of Holies. The original of Moses Tabernacle is in heaven.

**Angel and Trumpet 1**, *v7*, God’s wrath on the trees and grass, *Rev 16:2*.

**Angel and Trumpet 2**, *v8*, God’s wrath on the sea, *Rev 16:3*.

**Angel and Trumpet 3**, *v10*, God’s wrath on rivers and water, *Rev 16:4*.

**Angel and Trumpet 4**, *v12*, God’s wrath on sun, moon and stars, *Rev 16:8*.

**Chapter 9:**

The last three Trumpets are called “woes” upon the inhabitants of the earth, *Rev 8:13*.

**Angel and Trumpet 5**, *v1*, God’s wrath upon God-rejecting men, *v1-12; Rev 16:10* - the first “woe”.

**Angel and Trumpet 6**, *v13*, God’s wrath upon God-rejecting men, *Rev 9:14 - 11:14; Rev 16:12-16* - the second “woe”.

While this trumpet is sounding the nations are gathered to “Armageddon”, *Rev 16:14,16*, literally Mount Megiddo in Palestine.

This is the battle of that great day of God Almighty, *Rev 16:14; Ezek 38 & 39*.

Gog and Magog represent the combined forces of anti-God and anti-Christ. The purposes of this great battle are given in *Ezek 38:16,23; Ezek 39:6,7,21,22,27-29*.

200,000,000 soldiers, *Rev 9:16*, come from the east, *Rev 16:12*. [ *2 Chr 35:22* refers to a previous battle fought at Megiddo].

The satanic “trinity”, *Rev 16:13*, and unclean spirits, working miracles, *v14*, gather the nations together to Armageddon, valley of Megiddo. To this battle of evil versus good, *Rev 16:14; Rev 19:11-21*, God invites the birds to come and dine, *Rev 19:17-19; Ezek 39:4,17-20*.

**Chapter 10:**

This mighty angel, or Angel Christ, (He is often the Angel of the Lord as *Judg 6:11-24.*), heralds the preparation for the sounding of the seventh trumpet, *v1-7*, when God's purposes in redemption will be finally complete. All creation will be restored to its rightful owner and filled with His glory, *Num 14:21; Dan 2:35; Ps 66:4; Ps 72:19.*

In *Rev 10:6*, the angel declares that there will be no further delay.

The "little book", open, *v2,8*, is presumably the scroll, *Rev 5:1*. The final seal was opened in *Rev 8:1*.

It is the title deeds to the universe. John is commanded to eat the book, *v9*, and so he becomes involved in proclaiming its truth.

**Chapter 11:**

Although we are discussing things that occur during the sounding of the sixth trumpet, there is now a looking back to events before the Tribulation and the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation and the revealing of the Antichrist, *Mat 24:15,21.*

After eating the "little book" of chapter *10:10*, John now becomes a participator in the events that are occurring, *11:1*, not just as a spectator. John, the writer of Revelation, is given a measuring rod, (of the Word of God), to measure the "temple", (Gk – naon – meaning the holy place or sanctuary, which is used also in *1Cor3:16,17*, of the Gospel Church), the altar, (which must be the altar of incense or prayer as this is the holy place), and the people who are worshipping in the holy place. (The general word in Greek for the temple is hieron). **The "temple" or sanctuary, (Gk naon), represents the whole Gospel Church of Jew and Gentile believers.** The measuring of it shows that it, and those in it, measure up to the Gospel standards of Christ and are accepted and kept by Him.

Some think that there is a suggestion here that there will be a building of a Jewish temple in Jerusalem, *v1*, "the Holy City", *v2; Mat 4:5; Mat 27:53.*

At present the Islamic Mosque of Omar occupies the site of Solomon's Temple, *1Chr 21:18 -- 22:19*, where presumably the Jews wish to build their temple.

The instigators of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, attacks of terrorism, have said that their basic aim is to annihilate the Nation of Israel. The battle really is over who will control the "Temple Site". (Satan has his plan, *2Thes 2:4*, and God has His plans, *Ps 2:6; Zech 14:9,16.*) Jerusalem is a "burdensome stone" for all people, *Zech 12:3*, and if someone can come up with a solution to this conflict over who will control the Temple Mount, he will be hailed as a "messiah". The probable "solution" may be a compromise, engineered between Jew and Arab, to enable the Jews to build their temple alongside the Mosque of Omar, in a position that is acceptable to both sides, and bring a sort of "peace" for a short time. Pray for God's peace to come to Jerusalem, *Ps 122:6.*

When the true nature of the "false messiah" is revealed, *2Thes 2:3,4*, and the Antichrist reign commences, the court outside the holy place or sanctuary, and the Holy City will be trodden down for three and a half years, 42 months or 1,260 days, *v2*.

The court outside the holy place is not measured, and this is an indication that those who worship there, do not measure up to the standards of the Gospel and are rejected by God. For this reason they are trodden down.

**The two witnesses of God and Christ, *v3-12; Zech 4:3-14***, have a very powerful ministry, centred on Jerusalem, for three and a half years, until they are killed by the beast, Antichrist, just before the end of the Tribulation period, *v7*. So their ministry must have commenced just before the start of the Tribulation and the rule of the Antichrist, which also lasts three and a half years, *Rev 13:1-8*.

These two witnesses, or two olive trees and two candlesticks, *v3,4*, are mentioned in *Zech 4:3,4,11-14*, where there is, however, only one candlestick. In Zechariah the candlestick represents the Old Testament church of believing Israelites, whereas the two candlesticks of *Rev 11:4*, represent the additional church of the New Testament believers in Christ as well. The two witnesses are pictured as two individuals who perform miracles as did Moses and Elijah, *v6*. Some think that they are Enoch and Elijah or Moses and Elijah. (Enoch and Elijah did not die but were taken alive to heaven, whereas Moses did die. Moses and Elijah were present with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, *Mat 17:3. Heb 9:27* says a person dies once, and so many think this rules Moses out of being one of these witnesses because they are killed by the beast/antichrist, *v7.*)

Because of Scriptures like *Lev 24:2, Ex 27:20, Zech 4:12,14, Eph 5:18,19, Rev 2,3* – **where all the believers are responsible to maintain the anointing flow of the Holy Spirit oil, for the lamps of the candlestick/church, to keep burning**, many believe that the two witnesses represent two companies of spirit-filled overcomers, who are strong and do mighty exploits during the time of the tribulation. (Maybe Jewish believers and Gentile believers,)

**Angel and Trumpet 7, *v15***, God's wrath upon the earth, *v19; Rev 16:18*, upon Jerusalem, *Rev 16:19*, the cities of the nations, *Rev 16:19*, the anti God world system called "Babylon", *Rev 16:19*, upon the islands, *Rev 16:20*, the mountains, *Rev 16:20*, and upon wicked men, *Rev 16:21; Rev 11:18.*

**The final result of the sounding of the seventh trumpet is that the nations come under the rule of Christ and He shall reign forever and ever, Rev 11:15. This is the climax of God's redemption plan. The book of Revelation continues with supplementary revelations, to chapters 1-11, in chapters 12-22.**

### **Chapter 12:**

This is a survey of the battle between the woman and the serpent, from *Gen 3:15*, through the Cross and Resurrection of Christ and onto the Tribulation period. Chapters 12-22 are the second side of the scroll and the revelations are complementary to the revelations of the first side. (Matthew Henry's Commentary is very helpful in Revelation 11,12.)

The woman, *v1*, represents the O.T. and the N.T. saints of God, or the "Israel of God", *Gal 6:16; Rom 2:28,29*, clothed with God's presence, *Is 61:10; Is 52:1*, His righteousness, founded on Christ and crowned with Gospel authority. The woman brings forth the Man Child, *v5*, "who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron", *v5; Rev 19:15; Ps 2:7-9; Rev 2:27*.

The dragon, **Satan's kingdom through the ages**, *v3*, has seven heads, which are the nations that have ruled the earth under his authority, *1Jn 5:19; Mat 4:8,9*. These are, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the end-time restored Roman Empire of the 10 nations, out of which the Antichrist arises, *Dan 7:7-28; Rev 17:10*.

In this vision, *v3*, the ten horns, kings of the 10 nations, are not crowned, only the 7 heads are crowned, indicating that the 10 king - nation federation is not yet set up. Compare *Rev 13:1*, where the horns are crowned and ruling. Some consider *v4*, to refer to the angels which fell with Satan in his rebellion, *Is 14:12-15; Ezek 28:11-18*, prior to *Gen 3*. The Man Child, *v4,5*, generally represents the overcoming believers in Christ of each generation, designed, under Christ, to rule the nations, *Rev 2:27, Ps 2:7-9, Rev 19:15, Rev 12:5*.

Christ the No 1 Man Child came forth from Israel and specifically through Mary, *Lk 2:11*. The dragon sought to destroy the Man Child, Jesus Christ, at birth, *v4*, through Herod, but God delivered Him, *Mat 2:13*. This conflict between the woman and Satan started in *Gen 3:15* and has been going on ever since. Moses was a type of the Man Child whom Satan tried to destroy at birth, *Ex 1:17*.

At the end of the Man Child-Christ's ministry He was caught up to God and His Throne, *v5; Ac 1:9-11*. Many saints were raised up with Him, *Mat 27:52,53*, and this is the first fruits "rapture", *1Cor 15:23*. In each generation, the overcoming believers are taken up into God's powerful, immediate protection, but Christ is the No 1 Overcomer.

During the 1260 days of the Great Tribulation, the woman has a place of some provision, *v6*, and safe keeping. This will probably be in those nations not directly under Antichrist's control. (Refer notes on *Rev 13* below.)

The dragon and his angels are cast down out of the heavenly realm to the earth, *v7-9*. (Up to this point Satan's headquarters have been in the mid heavens, *Eph 6:12; Dan 10:12,13,20*.)

He is no longer able to accuse the saints before God as he did previously, *v10*, and turns his wrath upon the woman, *v12,13*. The woman is enabled to escape to a place of nourishment for the three and a half year period of the Tribulation, *v14*. (Three and a half years are 1260 days because the Biblical year is 360 days long. IVF Bible Dictionary p178, Edition 1, is helpful.)

The dragon tried to destroy the woman with a flood but did not succeed, *v15,16*.

Finally he turned his attack upon some of her seed, *v17*. *Lk 21:36* is an important scripture to consider in the light of these things.

### **Chapter 13:**

This chapter covers the Tribulation period, the Antichrist and the False Prophet, *Rev 16:13*. It relates to seal 5, *Rev 6:9-11*.

The beast of *v1*, (the beast is the same as the dragon of *Rev 12:3*, except that the focus is now on the 10 king federation and the Antichrist beast), has 7 heads and 10 horns which are now crowned. This indicates that the 10 kings of the restored Roman Empire Antichrist Kingdom are in full authority, *Dan 2:40-44; Dan 7:7-11,19-25*. The Antichrist will subdue 3 of these 10 kings and take their place, *Dan 7:8,20,24*.

In the image of *Dan 2*, the 2 legs represent the Roman Empire which was divided and had 2 Capitals, Rome and Constantinople. The 10 horns or toes of the restored Roman Empire Antichrist Kingdom represent 10 kings, probably 5 are in Europe around Rome and 5 are in the Middle East around Turkey.

The beast was like a leopard, a bear and a lion, *v2; Dan 7:4-6*.

The area over which the Antichrist rules, *Rev 13:7,8*, is probably the area of the former Roman Empire of Jesus' day. Daniel indicates areas not under his control, *Dan 11:40,41; Rev 16:12*.

In *Lk 2:1*, "all the world" refers to the Roman Empire of that day, *Rom 1:8; Col 1:23*.

The second beast or False Prophet, *Rev 16:13*, is described in *Rev 13:11-17*. These three, the Dragon or Satan, the Antichrist beast and the False Prophet beast make up a kind of Satanic "Trinity", *Rev 16:13; Rev 19:20; Rev 20:10*. *Lk 21:36* is very important.

### **Chapter 14:**

This is the Harvest chapter and compares to chapter 7. After the Tribulation period of *Rev 13* and Seal 5, there comes the sign of the Coming of the Son of Man, *Mat 24:30, Rev 6:12-17*, which is followed by the Resurrection Harvest, *Mat*

24:31; *Mk 13:27, 1Thes 4:13-18*. Following the Harvest, the wrath is poured out on the God rejecting wicked through the 7 Trumpets and 7 Vials. These are complementary descriptions of the same act of God.

In chapter 14 we have the Son of Man, the Lamb, *v1*, and part of His Harvest, the redeemed of Israel, *v1-5*. As the signs of His Coming are displayed, *Mat 24:29; Rev 6:12-14*, the Gospel is preached by the angel, *v6,7*, and God gives final opportunity to respond to Him.

Judgment upon "Babylon" is announced, *v8*. (We will discuss "Babylon" in chapters 17,18.)

The third angel declares God's wrath to be outpoured, *v9-11*, upon those who have taken the "mark" of the Beast.

The Son of Man gathers His own, *v12-16*.

The angels reap the Harvest for the wrath of God, *v17-20*.

### Chapter 15:

This is the preparation for God's wrath to be poured out. The 7 angels with the 7 last plagues, *v1,6,7*, are complementary with the 7 angels with the 7 Trumpets, *Rev 8:1 – 11:19*.

The saints of God are with the Lord having been gathered to Him, *v2-5; Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27*.

They worship God and declare that all nations will come and worship before Him, *v4; Rev 11:15; Ps 22:27; Ps 82:8*.

### Chapter 16:

The 7 angels who have been given the 7 Vials full of the wrath of God, *Rev 15:7*, now pour out their Vials upon the earth, *v1-21*.

Apart from Vial 1, *v2*, the Vials are generally complementary with the 7 Trumpet judgments, *Rev 8:1-11:19*.

### Chapter 17:

Chapters 17 & 18 describe God's judgment upon "Babylon". This occurs during the seventh trumpet/seventh vial judgment. See under chapter 11 above.

There are 2 "Babylons", the natural and historical city state, *Dan 1:1*, and the worldwide, man centred system of religious endeavour, that is permeated and influenced by demonic spirits, *Rev 18:23; Rev 18:2; Is 47:1,5,12,13*.

"Babylon" is called the "Mother of Abominations", *v5*. The word abominations refers frequently to the worship of idols, *Jer 50:1,2,38; Ezek 14:6; Deut 7:25,26; Is 44:19*. Behind every idol that is worshipped are demonic spirits, *1Cor 10:19,20; Deut 32:16,17; Ps 106:37,38*. Those who worship idols are worshipping demons. "Babylon" is also called the "Mother of Harlots", *v5*. This refers to the spiritual adultery of those who profess Christianity but who mix in with it the ways of the "World", and the worship of false gods, *Jam 4:1-4; Hosea 1:2*, (and the message of the book of Hosea); *Is 1:21; Jer 2:20; Ezek 16:15-17*. The prophets were constantly attacking this problem in Israel.

"Babylon" as the "Mother of Harlots" also includes non Christian religious systems such as in Nineveh, *Nahum 2:8, 3:4*, as in Tyre, *Is 23:15-17*, or as in Jerusalem, *Ezk 16*, and the historical city of Babylon, *Jer 51*.

The "Babylon" of *Rev 17 & 18* is brought into focus in *Gen 11:4*. "Babel" in the Hebrew is the same as "Babylon" in the Greek. (Young's Concordance.) It is a man centred, controlled and glorifying religious system, with man seeking to build his own stairway to heaven, *Gen 11:4*, which is but a slippery slide to hell.

Throughout the world "Babylon" has real estate, buildings of great significance and priesthood systems. It is involved in commerce, education and worldwide banking and trade, *Rev 18:15-19*. It has great religious ceremonies and rituals. "Babylon" exercises strong control, authority, domination, manipulation and intimidation upon peoples, nations, kings and tongues, *v15,18*.

In "Babylon" there is much spiritual confusion, deception, self-righteousness, blasphemy and pride, *Rev 18:7; Is 47:7,8*. There is greed, lust, violence, hate and murder, *v6, Rev 18:24*, with much filth, *v4*, and wickedness on the one hand, while on the other, making a show of outward piety and religion.

"Babylon" is a concept more than an historical entity. Wherever there is satanic deception, idolatrous worship, resistance to God, mixed in with splendour, royal dignity, luxury, overabundance, self-trust, arrogance, boastfulness, power, violence, wickedness, injustice, oppression and the murder of God's people, there you have "Babylon". Within the systems of "Babylon" there are many true believers who are sincerely seeking to serve God, *Rev 18:4*, and God calls to them, "come out".

Within "Babylon" is the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus, *v6; Rev 18:24*.

So in *Revelation 17 & 18* God is pouring out His wrath upon the systems of "Babylon".

This woman sits upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of the names of blasphemy, *v3*, which has 7 heads and 10 horns. We have seen this beast before, *Rev 12:3; 13:1*, and it is the great anti God, antichrist system of Satan working through the 7 nations that have ruled the world, *v 10*. The Antichrist comes out of the seventh end-time 10 nation kingdom, *v 10,11*. Eventually the 10 horned kingdom or federation of nations turns on the system of "Babylon" and destroys it, *v 16,17*.

### Chapter 18:

This is the final fall and end of "Babylon", *v2*. As God's judgment falls on this false religious system of man and Satan, the kings and merchants bewail her destruction, *v 9-19*.

As God's sudden and swift judgment, *v8,10,17,19*, falls on "Babylon", the saints of God rejoice, *v 20*, and God calls every true believer to "Come out of her", *v 4*.

What evil she has perpetuated in her traffic of the souls of men, *v 13*, pretending to offer a stairway to heaven which is but a slippery pathway to hell. So a mighty angel demonstrates, that like a great millstone being hurled into the sea, so shall be the end of "Babylon", *v 21*. The power of "Babylon" to deceive the nations came from her witchcraft and sorcery, *v23*.

### Chapter 19:

When "Babylon" is cast down the saints in heaven rejoice, *v1-6*.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is celebrated in heaven, *v 6-9; Mat 22:1-14; Mat 25:1-13*. The resurrected OT and NT saints of God constitute the bride company. In *Rev 21:2,9-27*, the bride is likened unto the dwelling place of God, the New Jerusalem.

Now we see the Rider on the White Horse, Christ, going forth conquering *v 11-21*. The armies of heaven, also on white horses, follow Him, clothed in white, clean, fine linen, *v14*. The bride is also the army of God, *SOS 6:10,4*.

The word He speaks is a sharp sword, *v15*. With it He smites the nations and rules them with a rod of iron, *v15*. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

As the "final" battle, presumably, of Armageddon (see Chapter 9) approaches, a major showdown between the armies of light and the armies of darkness, *v17-21; Rev 16:12-16*, the Lord calls the birds to come and dine, *v17,18,21; Ezk 39:17,18; Mat 24:28*. In this battle the kings of the earth and the whole world are gathered to fight against the King of kings, *v19; Rev 16:14; Zech 14:3*. The beast and the false prophet are destroyed as well as their armies, *v20,21*. Armageddon occurs during the sixth trumpet/sixth vial judgment, *Rev 10:13-21; Rev 16:12-16*.

### Chapter 20:

After the battle of Armageddon, the devil is bound for 1000years in the bottomless pit and is unable to continue to deceive the nations, *v1-3*. This period is called the millenium reign of Christ.

The nations, or some of them, continue into the millenium, *Rev 20:3,8*.

In *Mat 25:31-46*, after the Coming of the Lord and the establishing of His throne of glory, *Mat 25:31*, the nations are judged, *Mat 25:32*. They are separated into sheep and goat nations.

The sheep nations are those who have cared for the brethren of the Lord, *Mat 25:34-40*. The brethren of the Lord are the church and the nation of Israel, *Mk 3:33-35; Jn 20:17; Gal 6:16*. So it seems that these nations, who have cared for the brethren of Jesus, will continue into the millenium as the sheep nations.

The saints of God are involved in the judgment of the nations, *v4; 1Cor 6:2; Dan 7:22*. Those who had died because they refused to worship the beast live and reign with Christ for 1000years, *v4*.

When Christ returns all believers are raised up to be with Him, *v5; 1Thes 4:13-18; Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27*, and this is the first resurrection, *v5,6*.

The rest of the dead, the unrighteous, are not raised up until the 1000year reign of Christ is finished, *v5; Jn 5:28,29; Dan 12:2; Ac 24:15*.

(Ezekiel's temple, *Ezk 40-44*, is probably the temple during the millenium.)

There are 1000years between the first and second resurrection, the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the unrighteous, *Jn 5:29*.

During the 1000years, Christ and His saints, *v6*, rule over the nations from Jerusalem, *Zech 14:16; Jer 3:17; Is 2:2-5; Ps 22:27*.

However when the 1000years is finished, the devil is loosed out of his prison and goes forth to deceive the nations again, *v7,8*. Those who have been born during the millenium and have not embraced the rule of Christ rise up in rebellion to attack the saints and the city of Jerusalem, *v8,9*. They are devoured by the fire of God from heaven and the devil is cast into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet have previously been sent, *Rev 19:20*.

At this point the resurrection of the unrighteous occurs and they are gathered to stand before the Great White Throne of God's judgment, *v11-15*. They are judged according to their works and whosoever is not found written in the book of life is sent into the lake of fire, *v12-15*. The Bible describes this as the second death, *v14*, which is eternal death. Most of those born during the millenium will believe in Christ and receive Him. Their names will be in the Lamb's Book of Life.

### Resume':

1. The Tribulation, *Mat 24:21-29*.
2. The Lord returns to the earth, *Mat 24:30*.
3. The saints are gathered and raised up to be with Him, *Mat 24:31; Mk 13:27; 1Thes 4:13-18*, including those from the sheep and goat nations.
4. The wrath of God is poured out, *Rev 8,9,10, - 11:15; Rev 16*.
5. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, *Rev 19:6-9*.

6. The judgment of the saints for rewards, *Rev 11:18; Mat 25:14-30; Lk 19:12-27.*
7. The judgments of the nations, *Mat 25:31-46.*
8. The millennial reign of Christ, *Rev 20:6; Lk 19:17,19; Zech 14:16,17; Jer 3:17.*

### Chapter 21:

After the Great White Throne judgment of *Rev 20:11f*, at the end of the millenium, the new heaven and the new earth appear, *v1; Is 65:17-25; Is 66:22,23; 2Pet 3:13*. For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, *v1; 2Pet 3:10,12; Mat 24:35; Ps 102:25,26; Is 34:4; Is 51:6*.

Because there are scriptures that also speak of the earth remaining forever, *Ps 78:69; Ps 93:1; Ps 96:10; Ps 104:5*, it maybe that the right understanding of *Rev 21:1; 2Pet 3:10-13*, is that the earth is refined and restored rather than removed and replaced.

In *Mat 19:28*, Jesus speaks about the “regeneration” at the time of His Coming. The Greek is “palingenesia” which means “again beginning”. The only other occurrence of this word in the Greek NT is in, *Tit 3:5*.

It would seem more likely, that if God’s eternal purpose is to redeem creation and fill it with His glory, as is expressed in *Num 14:21; Hab 2:14*, that He would restore creation rather than destroy it and replace it with an entirely new created heaven and earth.

The New Jerusalem, the bride, the tabernacle of God, *v2,3*, is central in the new heaven and the new earth, *Heb 11:10,16*. This New Jerusalem comes down from God out of the heaven of His dwelling, *v2,10*. It is the dwelling place of God among men, *v3*, and is presumably on the earth.

The alternative place to the New Jerusalem is the lake of fire and the second death, *v8*. Those who go there are listed in *v8*.

The bride, the Lamb’s wife, the holy Jerusalem is more fully described in *v9-23*. It has 12 gates and 12 foundations representing Israel and the Church, *v12,14*.

The city is 1500miles in length, breadth and height. The length times breadth area is 2,250,000 square miles compared to Australia’s 2,966,153 square miles. It is also the same distance vertically, 1500 miles, *v16*.

The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of the city, *v22*. The light of the city is the glory of God and the light of the Lamb, *v23*. Around the city and outside it are the nations of those that are saved, *v24*. Nothing shall be allowed to enter into the New Jerusalem that defiles, works evil or is a lie, but only those that are written in the Lamb’s book of life, *v27*.

From *21:11 – 22:19* the holy Jerusalem, the bride, the Lamb’s wife is in focus. To help us understand chapter 22, it is helpful to identify the words referring to the holy Jerusalem.

In *Rev 21:11-27*:

<i>v11</i>	her	<i>v21</i>	the street of the city
<i>v14</i>	the city	<i>v22</i>	therein, it
<i>v15</i>	the city, thereof, thereof	<i>v23</i>	the city, it, it, thereof
<i>v16</i>	the city, the city	<i>v24</i>	it, it
<i>v17</i>	thereof	<i>v25</i>	it, there
<i>v18</i>	it, the city	<i>v26</i>	it
<i>v19</i>	the city	<i>v27</i>	it

In *Rev 22:1-19*

<i>v2</i>	street of it	<i>v14</i>	the city
<i>v3</i>	it	<i>v15</i>	without
<i>v5</i>	there	<i>v19</i>	the holy city

This has been done to help to identify the “it” of *Rev 22:2* and *22:3*, and the “there” of *Rev 22:5*.

The translation used is the KJV.

### Chapter 22:

The New Jerusalem, *Heb 11:10,16*, comes down out of heaven from God, *Rev 21:2,10*. It is placed among the nations of them that are saved, *Rev 21:24*, and they live in the light if it.

In chapter 22 there is a vision of the Throne of God and of the Lamb, *v1*. From the Throne flows a river of the water of life. Compare *Ezk 47:1-12*.

In the midst of the street of the city and on either side of the river is the tree of life, *v2*, which bears its 12 kinds of fruit each month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations, *v2*. The nations need healing.

The Throne of God and of the Lamb is in the midst of the city, the New Jerusalem, *v3*. His servants shall serve Him, they shall see His face, His name shall be in their foreheads and they shall reign forever and ever, *v3,4,5*. In the city of God there is no night, no need of candle or sunlight for the Lord God gives them light, *v5*.

It is through obedience that the saints have right to the tree of life, *v14*, and access into the city of God.

Wickedness is present outside the city of God, possibly among the nations, (in that they need healing, *v2*), and certainly in the lake of fire, *v15*.