

# **THE BOOK of REVELATION**

**By Dr. Wally Marais**

**All about the God-Man Happenings. Jesus is here.**

## **Introduction.**

Right at the beginning of this commentary I want to point out that instead of using the usual terminology called Christian History I am rather using the term the God-Man Happenings, because when some see the word history they are going to put me into a theological box and the true message is going to be missed. I am convinced that this book of Revelation is all about Jesus the God-Man and His Happenings. Starting in the beginning-less beginning in eternity until He returns to the endless- ending again in an eternal world. The God-Man is called Jesus and He was born of the virgin Mary just over 2000 years ago. It was a miracle birth for the same God who created Adam out of the earth and breathed His Spirit into him is the One who touched this young woman by His creating Spirit and the seed being God's Son was planted in her womb and the God-Man Jesus was born nine months later.

Jesus was "very man of very man and very God of very God" that means that he was not a mixture of a bit of man and a bit of God, rather he is what God is, and He is also everything that man is, without being two personalities living in one body. Also He is not God with human skin covering Him, and He is not man divinized. Jesus is unique, imagine being God and man at the same time. Add to this, as the Son of God He is the second person in the Trinity and you start to get some appreciation of His authority and power, and that is what this revelation is all about, it is Jesus the God-Man revealing Himself directly to John the apostle.

This revelation from Jesus to John is accepted by faith, even though John knew Jesus personally having followed him on earth for over three years, John himself had to accept this revelation by faith because here Jesus is revealing things to him that he did not know before. John himself was going through extreme tribulation for he refused to burn incense to Caesar's bust and openly confess that Caesar was Lord meaning a god.. To John only Jesus was Lord and there was only one true God Jehovah. So John was banished to serve hard time breaking stones in a quarry on the Island of Patmos Anyone not having a certificate saying that he burned the incense and made the public declaration was not allowed to buy or sell and certainly was not treated as a Roman Citizen and found it most difficult to live under these conditions.

When John writes he writes in his own language and his own style many times using signs and figures which would make no sense to a non Christian reader for the very purpose of confusing him. Roman soldiers coming upon these writings of John would put them down to the writings of a mad man, and would not take this as a document written against their government or their leaders, so John uses names and summaries that they would not attract their attention and also it could not be used as evidence against the Christian family. But he never changes the truth being revealed and with the right keys the meaning of the message is clear.

The message we take literally but we cannot give literal meaning to all the numbers he uses to describe what is happening, also the animals, beasts, and other images convey a message and that is what we are wanting to receive, we want to know what Jesus is saying to His church throughout His happenings. For example it is not literal horses and riders who enter history that we will see happening, it is not a real beasts with real horns and crowns or real locusts, or real sword or bow, or a real book being eaten or even real scrolls or bowls being broken or opened, and even the thousand years is not literal or even the number of specific days and there are not just 144,000 people who will be saved, or a literal 666 inscribed on the antiichrist's followers.. Each one of these carries a truth that Jesus is sending to His church and we are going to be taught by the Holy Spirit guiding us to put this truth into the context of the God-Man Happenings. All sinful symbols must be seen for what they are, they are symbols of evil systems, organizations, powers, principles of sin that are being used by Satan and his demons attempting to destroy Jesus and His plan of saving man from all sin. They are totally antichrist, and the devil uses anybody and anything in time to try and destroy Jesus and His followers and to stop sinners from accepting by faith their salvation and cleansing from all sin.

Also this is letter is not written chronologically, for even though this revealed history of the reign of Jesus moves along, this revelation is not an account of everything happening after each other on a line, rather it must be seen as visions being given of the God-Man's Happenings which is what we will say is typified by a thousand years, a beginning and ending with Christ but being seen from many different angles, almost like a movie picture of His Happenings from many different perspectives, but all making up the whole of the God-Man's Happenings.

We have no doubt as to who Satan is, for he is the one who started this whole sin problem, but when it talks about the beast and a false prophet it is talking about systems being brought into existence and energized by the devil, and even the antichrist is a the devil's spirit working in an individual, that is why there have been many antichrists showing up throughout history and will continue to do so until the end. The devil's followers are the angels who were expelled with him from heaven when he sinned, they have become demons who serve Satan against God and Christ. Sinners under the domination of the sin nature are also used and controlled by Satan. It can also be that Christians who oppose being cleansed from all sin and being made holy through faith in Christ are open to being demonized and used by the devil, the fact that they oppose holy living confessing openly that (no one can be holy, only God) puts them on the devil's side.

We have so many theories about this revelation and so many camps that they tend to confuse us, and some are so adamant that their interpretation is the only truth that they have caused splits within the Body of Christ. Others tend to put everyone in a theological box and labeled them as if they alone have some special angle on these truths. No one has the full revelation of this book, and no theologian has the right to expect everyone to agree with him, and what we are doing is attempting to discover what Jesus really meant, so this work must be seen in this light, it is written the way one believer who also studies theology and the teachings of Jesus sees what is being said. In no way do I want to add or subtract from the true revelation of Christ and live under His curse. 22:18-19. Some of these interpretations are written from a stance of trying to enforce a theological position that has become popular to keep the demand for their sensational writings to keep selling. This is a book that really judges us as we try to interpret it, for here we are facing living truth as we read, and we answer in what we teach, preach and believe, and why. The reason that I am

writing at this very moment is because I want all my brothers and sisters in Christ to be able to understand the truth in this letter sent by Christ Himself to all Christians of all times, and to be encouraged through their times of tribulation and suffering the same way that Christians throughout history have been as they saw the majesty and power of King Jesus working and through history on their behalf. Christians believe in the priesthood of all believers, that means that we can read God's Word and discover clearly His message to us, and teachers are supposed to turn on the lights for us to understand even better what the truth is so that we can be better followers for Christ. Teaching is only one of the five fold ministry taught in the New Testament, and all the other gifted ministries must be edified to do their ministries through receiving truth. Therefore any teaching that hides the work of the devil or covers the truth of being saved from all sin by Jesus Christ alone must be termed false for it will give a wrong teaching about the Saving History of Christ as we are going to witness as we study the message of this revelation.

We are going to share in some of the most exciting truths you have ever heard, you are going to hear about how the Son of God came to this planet, was enfleshed as the God-Man called Jesus and how He became a sinner in our place, died to pay the wages for our sins, and cleared the way into God's holy presence where we can live by faith now and continue as a holy disciple of Jesus. This Christ rose from the dead, and lives in us by His Holy Spirit empowering us to live holy everyday on our way to the new world. He actually rent the veil of the sinful nature that separated all men from God's holy presence in the heavenly temple and invites all believers to live with Him there every moment of everyday, being continually filled with His Spirit. As has already been said, this is what our Triune God decided to do long before there ever was a sinner, and the Son of God was given this assignment to bring in Saving History, and He did it by entering our history, where He is still in control by His other self, His Holy Spirit. Is it not exciting to know that you are walking on a special way created by Jesus for His holy people to walk on in obedience to Him, and that as we follow Him He is taking us to a new world where we live forever? The end of this earthly journey is only the beginning of everything new and eternal for us. This is not saying "I accept Jesus and living as you like", as if Jesus gives us a ticket to heaven, so many claim to be born again and live like sinners, in fact they will tell you that they are still sinners, there is something wrong with a Christian who makes excuses in his life for sin. This is the message of this revelation from Jesus Christ that He has come to bring His judgments upon all sinners and all sin and to separate the holy from the unholy for eternity, and He gives us the grace to choose now by faith where we want to live, either under the principle of sin, or under the control of His Holy Spirit, the choice is ours to make.

We will see that Jesus as the God-Man has fulfilled everything prophesied about Him as the coming Messiah/Deliverer, that He came and brought about a new covenant (agreement) with God which fulfills all the requirements of the old and meets the requirements of God as Judge for all His followers now. In His coming, death, resurrection and ascension He is the Priest/ King who reigns as King of Kings and controls all History, that is why we call it Salvation history. He has founded a new people of God, a True Israel which includes the remnant of faith, believers who lived by the old promise and covenants gave to them. This True Israel is now the Body of Christ through whom He continues His ministry and extends His Kingdom or rule now. Jesus calls all men to believe on Him alone as savior from all sin. There is coming a final day when He will put a stop to this history and call for His day of full reckoning when all the unholy will be separated from the holy and the new world will be brought in under His reign. All the unholy will take part in the eternal second death and exist in eternal torment. So this revelation is all about The King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ and His God-

Man Happenings. It is also about all Christians calling them to remain faithful to this saving truth under all circumstances, and to live holy and obedient to Jesus their Lord.

**These are the leading Systems of Interpretation of the book of Revelation.**

**The Spiritual system** deals only with great principles and prophesies of the struggle between righteousness and sin, between Christ and Satan. But we cannot deny the real events being fulfilled as prophesied in the revelation, there was a real Rome, real emperors, real martyrdom, real tribulation, a real mastermind behind it all, and John had every right to see these happenings as real fulfillments in his day.

**The word “preterist” comes from the Latin meaning past. The Preterist System**, which holds that all of Revelation refers to the period of the Roman Empire and has largely been fulfilled. Most advocates of this system place the date early about 68AD. accept Nero as the beast of Chap 13 intimating that John allowed himself to be influence by the rumor that Nero had been resurrected and had teamed up with another great army and was going to attack Rome annihilate Christianity, deliver Israel and become the antichrist. They date the book at 96AD, and allow for the destruction of the temple. But to add the Nero rumor is to add to the revelation and that has to be wrong. Also we see the same sin leaders still at work throughout all history. Since John’s gospel was written ( 95AD) after the destruction of the Temple in 70AD we cannot accept this view. Also known as the Kingdom now view it further holds that the prophesies of Revelation were all fulfilled in the distant past and have no more prediction value. They believe that the church will create the Kingdom of God upon earth,

**The Historical System or the Historicist view** holds that the prophesies of Revelation embrace the whole history of the Church and its struggles from the time of writing to the end of the world. It traces the succession of events throughout the church age, it is the continuous-historical method of interpretation. This is the time line approach where one thing happens after another. The big problem is that it leaves big gaps between the different periods where your guess is as good as mine. This view opens itself to all sorts of sensational interpretations.

**The Futuristic System** holds that everything beginning with chapter four is yet to be fulfilled, and will commence when the church is caught up in the Rapture and escape the coming great tribulation. This view gives to old Israel a very large part during this tribulation period . But this is not stated in the Word and is only presumed and borders on adding what is not intended.

**Yet another system called the Idealists or Allegorical view** see it as symbolic pictures of the good over evil. There will be no gathering of the nations for a final showdown, it is all ideas and pure figures of speech.

**The God-Man Happenings approach.** The approach I personally take sticks close to the Literal Meanings of Christ This approach sees Saving History starting in the heart and mind of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in eternity before the present heavens and earth were created, and long before this world was created. John being given this revelation by Jesus Himself sees history sweeping from eternity to eternity, seeing things happening from God’s point of view, but we must bear in mind that John is a man and can only take in so much at a time, and is writing after the event. He sees the beginning of man, mans fall, the promise of the Redeemer/Deliverer,

the covenants made by God and the coming and revelation of the Messiah/Deliverer, the God-Man, including His fulfillment of the promises by God, the formation of the true Israel and the Church becoming the new Temple and the Body of Christ through whom His purposes on earth are being realized. It is all about how Jesus has put into operation His saving plan for all sinners and His judgment upon all sin, heading towards a final day when all evil and sin will be separated eternally from God's holy people who will go with Jesus to live eternally in the new world that He is preparing

How do you write all this down and in such a way that a Roman official or soldier finding this letter and reading it would not understand it, but the Christian church would understand its message upon receiving it. John is helped by the Holy Spirit to devise a plan of writing that confuses and outsiders but brings blessing to a believer, Also notice that it is written by someone who himself comes out of a deeply religious and Jewish background and also knows the philosophical teachings influencing Christians towards the Gnostic teachings. John is taken to heaven and now sees these happenings from God's point of view, looking at real happenings, where there is no earthly time, for God sees the beginning and the end, and the past, present and future are all God's big picture. How can John take all of this in, for he thinks in time lines, through earthly images and symbols, imagine his frustration trying to put all this down. But the eternal and saving truth comes through loud and clear, it is what the God-Man has done and is doing and will yet do, so let us take a sweeping look at the God-Man Happenings as revealed by Jesus Himself. I do not accept that the words of Jesus were dictated to John and then he wrote them down and that is this letter of revelation we are reading, rather John saw and heard and wrote in his own time in his own language and style without altering the truth in anyway, what we are reading is what Jesus said and what John heard and saw.

## **1. The eternal Son of God has entered human history and as the God-Man—Jesus makes saving things to happen. Chap 1:1-20.**

Jesus waited for the right time to put this plan into operation, it was planned and designed by God and agreed upon by the Trinity, with each one doing God's will exactly according to God's timing to fit into the Big picture as seen all the time by God.

The seven Spirits is the Holy Spirit who with the Son of God is always present with the Father, for they are always present in each other making God complete (777). Again John sweeps what happens in time, Jesus saves completely from all sin, producing a kingdom of priests and kings for God, Christians are the new Holy people of God. Jesus died for our sins and was raised as the first sample of the new creation of God and glorified to live in the new world, as High Priest and King of Kings. Jesus now rules over all creation and controls all history, and is in the process of saving sinners and will one day return as King and everyone will see Him. Just as we see that He has always been God's Son ever present with The Father and the Spirit, and just as everything is happening the way He promised we can be certain of His literal return.

His story is not starting to happen from Chap 4, His saving story began in eternity when as the Son of God He chose to make God-Man Happenings in our time. 4-8.

John was in the Spirit on Sunday when he heard a loud voice behind him, telling him to write what he sees and to send the message to the seven churches, again meaning the whole church. This means that there are not different churches as far as God is concerned there is only one church. The body of Christ. Upon turning John sees seven golden candlesticks and standing among them the God-Man-Jesus, dressed in both royal and priestly garments. He glowed with glorification light, and His words were powerful carrying authority. He was speaking as Lord of His church. The angels here refer to the pastors of the churches. 9-19

## **2. Some of the churches were doing things that hindered the God–Man Happenings. Chaps 2 – 3.**

Because this is the complete church (7) these messages apply to every church in every church age, naturally they applied specifically to the problem in John's but we will see that the problems represent ever present problems that hinder the flow of living out God's life of Holiness, for that is what sin designs to do, bring spiritual death to the members and thereby kill off the church. But Christ holds the pastors in His hand and He expects them to act as true men of God Jesus spells it out clearly what he will do if they do not repent, and also what He will make to happen when they obey Him, and the literal meaning is understood by us all. Jesus is the full authority of God, He alone holds the keys, and no one can change His truth, Jesus threatens to remove their lamp stand from them if they disobey Him as their Lord, that means that His Spirit (the oil) will stop supplying their spiritual power and they will die and their light will go out. Here we have the truth coming to us that came to Adam, if you disobey you cut yourself off from the Spirit who gives life and power, and once deprived of God's life in us we become spiritually depraved. Christians in every age have to learn that sin is always the same whether in the life of the unsaved or the saved, it always brings spiritual death. Jesus has provided full salvation from all sin and expects His church to walk in His Light. The God-Man will not allow anything to hinder the flow of His saving Power to the world, and each Christian has to demonstrate His saving power every day.

There are few commentators who make these messages to the churches to represent periods in Church History, applying the "open door" to the time of the reformation and explaining each period to a time in history, but I feel that we must take these messages literally and not change the message to mean anything else or we are bordering of adding to the meaning.

The problem with the **Church at Ephesus** was that they had lost their first love. Their problem was that they had allowed other things to occupy their thoughts and behavior other than love for Jesus and those in need, They were no longer operating from an agape (love) basis. They were very busy but unproductive in showing and doing love things to people in need. They were so busy with organizations and meetings that they no longer saw people, even those brothers and sisters in the fellowship who were suffering. There would be little suffering even amongst the Christians today if the Churches would look seriously at the have-nots and reached out in love to help them. Our love ministries, in reaching out to help others in need tells how much we really love God. Extreme evangelicalism with its emphasis on "souls" and "responses" is failing miserably when measured by the God-Man who saw people worth dying for. God wants more than just feeling sorry for our failures and for those in suffering, He demands action, He says that churches must see real people in need, in need of salvation and a love that feeds them and seeks to raise their qualities of life, it is the churches role in the world. Loving people is a God-Man happening in and through us, and thereby

becomes part of our worship. To repent means to quit being selfish and to touch someone else with His love in a practical way. Even though Christians are forgiven and born again they need to be cleansed from the sinful nature that keeps the focus on themselves first, they need to put Jesus first as their Lord and obey Him or else the sin nature will slowly control their focus on to themselves only and they will die spiritually. I can almost hear some Christian arguing and saying "Once saved always saved, and what was born cannot be unborn", Jesus says what is born can die that is the way that sin works, so it is far better to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches today.2-7.

To the church in **Smyrna** Jesus commends them that although they themselves were extremely poor they loved and protected each other under extreme tribulation, He does not promise them any relief in the way of help for the plan was that the other churches who were well off like Laodicea and even Ephesus were supposed to love and share with them. Maybe this is meant in the 10 days tribulation, for the pastors if they took these messages seriously would soon discover the needs of the people and rise to help them. He encourages the Christians in this church to remain faithful even unto death. They were shining out their light of love to the world and that was fulfilling their mission, so they would be a growing church.2:1-11

To the Christians at **Pergamum** Jesus says that they were hindering His working through them because they allowed wrong teaching that went against Holiness teaching in the church. They needed to take a strong stand against error and eradicate it from the church. Like Balaam in the Old Testament who advised Balak to tempt the Israelitish men and have his woman seduce them into idolatry and immorality, so there were some in the church teaching a low view of Christian living with the emphasis "well you are only human sinners after all" kind of influence. "If you are saved you still have needs so satisfy them and do not be afraid for you are not deserting Jesus, and being a God of Love He will always forgive and understand." Willful known sin is the worst kind of sin, and Jesus makes it clear that because He has provided for entire cleansing from this carnal nature He expects all His disciples to be cleansed from this sinful nature and to live holy and clean before Him. What these teachers were saying is that it is better to compromise than to suffer, to partake of eating meat at the heathen idols and having intercourse with the temple prostitutes was not a bad thing, for they all served the same God. Sin was out to kill them outright, and they were opening themselves to its stranglehold, in fact Christ was already at war with them and all those choosing to live in sin, their only hope was to turn their back on sin and find His forgiveness and restoration, the white stone signifying forgiveness an life would be given to them when they came back in faith. They need not only forgiveness but cleansing from the nature in the drawing them to sin. This is what is meant by the "and I will write upon him the name of My God".2:1-29 . They needed a pure nature if they were going to live holy lives. The Gnostic teachers were saying that all spirit is pure but all matter is evil, and they said that only the Christians soul was pure and that he would always be a sinner because his body was matter and therefore evil. They taught that Christians bodies would only be made pure at death. That is why they would not say that Jesus had come in human flesh, because it was evil matter, John says that anyone who denies that Jesus came in human flesh was antichrist. Jesus makes it clear that He was against what was happening their under the guise of prophesying, He called it the influence of Jezebel. We know who Jezebel was in the Old Testament, she was the wife of King Ahab who seduced the Israelites to worship the foreign god Baal. It seems that there was a woman in this church who was a prophetess who was prophesying things that were not conducive to holy living and seemed to be in defiance of what Jesus was revealing about holy living. It seemed that Jesus was prepared to hand her over to Satan and allow him to deal with her,

and the devil would love that, for he has one intention and that is to bring her to his level of condemnation and death. .Again and again we see that Jesus will not tolerate sin in any shape or form and that sin brings condemnation and spiritual death.

Jesus says to them at **Sardis** that they must stop being deceitful and that He was going to come upon them as a thief, unexpectedly if they did not repent. Notice how Christ's grace is always there to give a sinner a way out of his sin, so no one has an excuse. There was still a holy remnant amongst them who had stayed the hand of God's full judgment upon the church as a whole, and now He was answering the prayers of these faithful ones, but beware that at no time does Jesus allow any excuse for a sinning Christian. Sin is something people choose to do, just as they can choose not to sin, so when they do sin they bring their own judgment upon themselves. Even so called believers are in danger of having their names blotted out of the book of life. The fact that it can be blotted out of the book of life proves it was there in the first place.3:1-6 They were claiming that no one can live perfect, but God has a standard that he expects all Christians to live by and when they do He accepts that as being perfect for them. He does not expect them to be little gods, His perfection takes into account all their limitations as human beings and he has made it possible for everyone to live up to His requirements. To say you cannot or that His expectations are unreasonable is to bring His judgment upon yourself, for He will not tolerate an undisciplined disciple. The faithful ones are known by their holy and disciplined lives, they walk with Jesus in white. He calls all Christians by grace to be clothed in the garments of the sanctified and the holy ones.3"1-6

To those in **Philadelphia** He reminds them He alone can open the New Jerusalem to them, He has the keys of David. The door to holiness of life is open to any who enters by faith, and no one can shut it. The devil has been trying his utmost to shut down the God-Mans Happenings of saving man from his sin, and has never been successful and never will be able to, for the God-Man is in the midst of His church extending His grace to all sinners all the time, and those who enter by faith He makes holy. Through this holy Body of Christ the God-Man Happenings were going to reach the world, and through the message of holiness the world was to be given the opportunity of entering His Kingdom. Discovering the way into God's holy presence means to be made holy and to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the power of God. That is what happened to the believers first of all at Pentecost, when they entered into the upper room experience by faith ,they were rewarded with power to evangelize and to disciple their world for Jesus. It means to discover the love of Jesus for His church and the world, and to move out to the needy world motivated by His love. Their reward is to have God's approval and blessing continually upon them, as Jesus continued His ministry of loving through them, they would receive the new name for the church upon them, which was to be called the holy bride of Christ.3:7-13.

The last church mentioned is the one at **Laodicea**, the famous lukewarm church. They were a complacent church, they were well off financially, and in need of no help. But spiritually they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked. In fact they made God sick, He felt like vomiting. They were in need of doing holy things to others, a holy heart, filled with holy love, They were totally inward looking and saw no needs beyond their walls. They were a beautiful club of worshippers singing and clapping every Lord's day without a care for anyone else outside of their walls. They had made their decisions for Christ and had their tickets to heaven and the rest of the world could die and go to hell for all that they cared. They were totally self sufficient and self sustaining.

In fact they had even crowded out Jesus their Lord, who was now on the outside of the church asking to be let back in. Why does any church that is saved and cannot be unsaved need a Lord like Jesus to run their church? Their leading theologians had told them that this is the way God had preprogrammed their church to run and no one was going to change anything. Besides Jesus had done what God had agreed together for Him to do, He had obeyed and completed His mission that had been assigned to Him and now God was in control of everything. The Christians here in Laodicea knew nothing of fellowship with God the Father, they have no sharing in the Mission of the Son, and they have no excitement in living in the holiness and fullness of the Spirit filled life.. Their sin was putting themselves first, allowing themselves to be controlled by the sin principle that closes the door on the Lordship of Jesus in one's life, it is a rejection of Holiness and the worst kind of sin, it makes God sick. But still he stands at the door and knocks, wanting to come in and live with them. 3:14-22 Jesus the God-Man wanted to make supernatural things to happen in and through this church but they were too busy with their own programs and self first lifestyles, so they crowded Him out.

### **3. The Son of God reveals the God-Man's happenings from eternity. Chaps. 4 – 5.**

Looking at the flow of history from a purely human standpoint is totally different from the way God is really acting so John is allowed a glimpse into seeing things happening from a saving point of view. In the opening chapters he sees some new things about Jesus that even though he walked with Him and witnessed His resurrection and ascension he could have never dreamed of what was really happening behind the scenes. Now he is given a heavenly vision of the God Mans Happenings. Remember though that John is still the same John who had followed Jesus for 3 years, and had witnessed His miracles, His death, His resurrection, and fellowship with the risen Christ for some 40 days before His Ascension and witnessed the angels fetching Him and escorting Him as Lord into heaven, and then John continued to live in the faith of the soon return of Jesus to earth to set up His eternal Kingdom. The waiting seemed to go on and on, maybe for some 50 years now. John was old and tired and to make matters worse he had been exiled to hard labour on the island of Patmos for his faith.

That special Sunday when he was celebrating the risen Lord Jesus he never dreamed that he was actually going to see Him and receive a further revelation from Jesus personal point of view. He was going to sweep all history as if it was all happening in the present, and from the God-Man's perspective that is exactly what it was. It is like seeing the past, present and future all happening at the same time, but being man John can only take in so much at a time, so he moves from one moving picture to another and tries to write it for us to understand, what an impossible task. We must appreciate that he sees things from a truly Jewish aspect with Jewish understandings, and then he sees and understands prophecies coming alive as he watches, and he also knows Jesus better than any of us do, and that adds to what we miss. John could quote much of the scriptures from memory and now they are alive with meaning that only he can see, and all those private discussions and question times with Jesus suddenly falling into place, John sees the Glory of God (shekinah) upon this one who is like unto the Son of Man, but is God , and as it all comes together, he knows that this is Jesus the Son of God , and sees Jesus for who He really is the God-Man.

After receiving the messages to the churches, Now he sees into heaven and his eyes are opened to what has taken place there, is taking place there and will take place there, it is like sweeping saving history from eternity to eternity and it is overwhelming for him for he is told to write down what he sees. Remember he has hardly had time to get over the shock of seeing Jesus as the glorified God-Man. He cannot put into words what he sees and does the best that he can, and then when rewriting it for the churches to read he adds his own style to confuse those who cannot interpret these things. He uses images from the Old Testament to convey much of the meaning without spelling it out making it meaningful only to those who will be able to interpret their true meaning. Like using precious stones to describe the one sitting on the heavenly throne, and Christians know he is talking about God. The rainbow reminds us about God's covenant, and the twenty four thrones speak of the True Israel made up of the 12 tribes of the Old covenant and the twelve apostles of the New Testament. The church from the beginning made up of the believing remnant and the present believers are there before the throne. The Holy Spirit is always present for since the God-Man carried His own blood into the very holiest of all, He has reconciled the redeemed church and welcomed them into the very Holiest of all within the presence of God. Where there used to be a veil of sin in the Temple in heaven separating sinful man from God there is now what looked like as being a sea of Glass, transparent and holy, enabling holy man to approach God personally.

Around the throne were the four living creatures, covered with eyes, one like a lion, one like an ox, one like a man and another like an eagle, and they were saying day and night, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come" 8, These represent the entire creations of God. The 24 elders representing the church in saving history join them by laying down their crowns and say " You are worthy our Lord and God to receive honour, and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being". 4:1-11.

Looking a bit closer John sees that God sitting on the throne holds a scroll in His right hand. The scroll is full of writing on both front and back and sealed with seven seals of the kind that sealed with a signature in wax, typical of the method of sealing in John's day. A mighty angel proclaims in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals to open the scroll?" John wept because no one stepped forward to open the scroll. Then one of the elders said, "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". John saw a Lamb looking as it had been slain and He had seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He came and took the scroll from God. Imagine a Roman soldier reading this, he would think it was written by a mad man, but the church knows who this Lion of Judah is, and who this lamb of God is, it is Jesus the God-Man who fulfilled every Old Testament prophesy of Him coming through David's royal line and also fulfilling all the priestly prophecies of Him becoming the Lamb of God that was slain to save all sinners from all their sin. But remember what John was seeing had already happened, first in eternity before the foundation of the world when our Triune God agreed together how the Son of God would enter time and make it happen, then in the Old Testament times when God was present when man fell and made the promise of the mighty deliverer to Eve. The promise kept throughout history through the covenants He made to them and then in the coming of Jesus, His death and His resurrection and His ascension and His occupying the throne in heaven as the King of Kings.8-13. Here we see John sweeping back and forth trying to take it all in, but he never takes his eyes off Jesus, 'To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power for ever". John is sweeping over thousands of years as he looks at God's picture of saving history and he is going backwards and forwards from eternity to the

second coming of Jesus to finish this phase of history when He as King of King will usher in a whole new dimension of eternal living in His new world.

#### **4 John is given the bigger picture of the God-Man's Happenings. 6:1-11:19**

Many times it becomes confusing us who think in terms of lime lines to handle interruptions in our nicely worked out plans, and John had interruptions to what he was seeing and hearing, and every now and then he catches hold of something familiar and wants to include it into his planned out letter, but it becomes very difficult and also he does not want it to become too obvious to outsiders who could use his writings as evidence against the Christians. It seems that every now and then John stops to summarize the material he is receiving and at other times he is getting visions that give a full scope of what he is witnessing. Keep in mind that although we cannot take literally everything he sees, because of the images he uses we must take literally at all times the truth of the message of what the God-Man happenings are revealing.

You will recall that the **Preterist Position** finds the fulfillment of chaps 4-22 in the events of the imperial period, and the great enemy of the church is the beast of the Roman empire. The **Historicists** position seeks the fulfillment in the succeeding happenings in the entire church age with the beast being the Roman Catholic Church and the papacy. **The Futurist System** holds that everything from chap 4 is to take place in the future and must be seen in the light of the church being raptured and the antichrist being revealed and the Jews and others going through the great tribulation, followed by a thousand years reign of Christ on earth, and only then the great day of judgment and separation.

But the Revelation being given here by the God-Man is more important than what theologians understand, for they tend to write in a manner to defend a theological position and sometimes border on adding to this revelation.

What we are seeing is that God has designed a way for man to get out of his sinful condition and to become a co-heir with Christ in a new eternal world, and John is seeing how this is all possible, it is through the happenings of the God-Man, and that there is no other way. Also Jesus has not come to cover mans sin but to destroy the woks of the devil and free His followers from all sin, the moment that they believe, and as a Just God to bring justice for all sin, and as a God of love to provide a way out of sin for all men, what a wonderful balance. Also it is wonderful to see that Jesus has in mind to restore His entire creations, the planet, its nature, its life, its air, its waters, its sea, everything, to fit in with the new world He is bringing into existence.

John does not seem to be seeing continuous historical events following each other here in the opening of the seven seals, but things that have entered human history and are being used by God to bring man to repentance, and as man refuses and chooses his own way so their intensity becomes worse, until the end when God allows the full impact of His judgments upon all disobedient men, until the day when He finally releases His full judgment upon all sin. God has made all the provision necessary for man to be free from his sins and the sin nature that controls him, but it seems that the devil has blinded sinners to their real condition.

This did not start only after John receiving his vision or as if this is only going to happen in the future, it started the day Adam failed God and plunged all men into sin. John now realizes the truth that God in His love in eternity saw this coming and sent His Son to solve this problem, that is what John is seeing now, how God's love was at work in Christ, the God-Man. He comes to realize that Jesus is in control of everything, not just the saving plan for man but God's plan of restoring all creation to what He had in mind in the beginning. John realizes that things we not just happening, these are all the God Man's Happenings, all the time. He breaks the seals at His own will, and does what He has planned as being best, and even though it seems like thousands of years have gone by, John sees it as all happening simultaneously and there is no way that he can explain that to us. He is peeping into Alpha and Omega. As he gazes at the Lamb, he has insights into Eve continuing the sacrificial system instituted by Jehovah, and which she taught Seth her son to follow which he did producing a Godly nation out of which came Enoch who was translated by God, and through whom it continued always pointing to the coming Redeemer and was fulfilled at the coming of the Lamb who was now in control of everything. Also Jesus had come through the line of David as the prophets predicted, this John saw all in a flash, and expectantly he waits to watch the God-Man in action. In John's further flashes of revelation he grasps what has been happening in man's history, man has been breaking himself upon God's laws written on stone, but God's laws are also within man being created in God's image, and this law of God meters out judgment as God has faithfully warned man that it would happen for t the soul that sins, it shall die. He has realized afresh that The God-Man makes no exemption for sin, whether committed by sinners or His people, sin brings death, for Jesus has not come to simply give man power over sin, but complete deliverance from all sin. These seals as they are broken reveal to us what God allows but never loses control of, and that will show us what sin has brought into history and the trail it leaves behind, but remember at all times that the God-Man is revealing these insights so that we can be wise to His workings and not lose out faith. Jesus the King of all Kings is in control all the time and has always been in control. It is the love and respect and faith He had in man that has been disobeyed and has caused all this trouble and each one is been given grace to repent now, that means everyday for thousands of years, simply because it is His grace that keeps the door open, all the time.

Behind all this sinful history is the mastermind of the devil, the deceiver, Satan who worked out a clever plan to get Adam and Eve to sin, but God already had His saving plan at work in His Son as we are seeing. The big problem that man has is not only to turn to Christ to receive forgiveness, but to allow the God-Man to expel the sin principle from his heart and mind. Satan is happy for Christians to be born again and even to receive a measure of overcoming power over the sins he tempts them to, but he fights to the last if any one seeks the cleansing from all sin that Jesus calls His church to appropriate by faith. The devil is happy to work through the sinful nature remaining in all believers until they ask by faith to be cleansed from all sin and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This truth has been seen on a worldwide scale during the Holiness Revival of the Mid 1800s when men and woman like Finney, Asa Mahan, A.B. Earle, The Palmers, Mc Clintock, Bishop Simpson, John Inskip, Daniel Steele, Asbury Lowrey, JT Peck, Francis Asbury, Seth Rees, Dwight L. Moody, David B. Updegraff, Dougan Clark, William E. Boardman, William Booth, Samuel Logan Brengle, and Andrew Murray, from all different denominations, were all prepared to preach and teach the cleansing from all sin. Sin is still man's problem, it is the church's problem and the sin principle in man is still in control because that is the message that the devil has fought the hardest and as we see will continue to do so until the last day.

When Jesus broke **the first seal** a rider on a white horse entered history, it is difficult to say when exactly this evil spirit entered mans history but the desire to conquer and to be the controller of the world was there when Adam sinned and when his son Cain killed his own brother. It is what happened to man when he became a sinner, he brought himself under the control of this sin principle of being number one and controlling his own world. It is because his life is not under the control of God's Spirit that man is so self centered, greedy and malicious. What we are seeing is that by grace God allows man to choose, but he cannot choose the consequences of his choices, and because he was created in God's image, which is marred, but still present, every man knows what is right and what is wrong. Of course John would see this as applying to the Roman Empire of his day as we see it applying to different powers in our day, and rightly so, for the same sinful principle controls all these empires and the sinners who control them. The important message here is that all of these forces are under the control of the King of Kings, and that He allows these consequences to judge all men. John must see that the Christians though having final protection in that they have everlasting life, must persevere till the end for even if they lay down their lives for Christ they never really die, they are taken to the new world and await there for the final showdown. For the faithful who die for their faith the victory has already been won.

When **the second seal** is broken this rider on the red horse is really the trail left by the first rider, not just conquest but war and bloodshed. This rider takes peace from the earth, and it means that no matter how powerful or how good the conqueror is he can never bring the kingdom of peace or utopia to earth. There will always be war, because the sinful nature in man cannot bring peace, it is always wanting more, always finding new ways to sin, it seems as if men and woman are out to destroy themselves, that is the nature of the devil in man. Men are really uncomfortable with peace, they want to live in crisis, they want to feel stronger and have more possessions and power, it is their sinful nature in them that makes them restless. This world has not known peace since the day that he opened his life to the entrance of the evil nature of sin into his spirit, and only Jesus can solve this problem. What would be the use of Christ having a 1000 years of forced peace and then releasing the devil to deceive them after this? it would be a waste of time, for in the 1000 years for no one can be taught how to be holy, only Jesus can expel the sin nature and impart His holy presence into a believing heart in one divine moment of sanctifying grace.

When **the 3<sup>rd</sup> seal** is opened the rider on a black horse enters history and leaves a trail of famine, again the trail left by those who make war and want unrest and seek to use and abuse the poor for their own means. We are living in a world where the rich become richer and the poor become poorer and man could not really care, the only time he takes notice is when the poor rise up and demand a share. Even in African countries where there has been so much exploitation of their resources to the benefit of so called Western powers, they are realizing that even their own governments do not have their people on their hearts, and exploit them just as badly as other powers have done in the past. In fact the frustration becomes worse when the ones you expect help from turn a blind eye to your needs, that is the way it is always going to be, for those in power soon become corrupted by the evil spirit of sin controlling them, to put themselves and their own welfare and greed first. Democracy has its advantages but it is nothing like when Jesus takes over the reign of the world, for everything will operate from a love basis with nothing of self being present. The problem with democracy is that you vote one set sinners out to replace them with another set of

sinner, for democracy does not want holy people operating from God's love principle in control. We thank God for those holy people of God in government who live by these principles but they are few and far between.

Next into history enters **the rider on a pale horse** leaving a trail of death. The point that is made here is that all of the previous leave devastating number consequences, trails of death and poverty and a scorched earth that is unproductive upsetting the economies leaving a hunger trail and homeless refugees and slavery. This rider cares nothing about the value and dignity of the human person and his life, he becomes a number without a face or worth, nothing is sacred to this rider and he spreads his disease wherever he rides, in every period of history. Today a president's signature will hurl thousands of young men into battle where they die by their thousands leaving widows and fatherless children to fend for themselves proving that their value as persons means nothing. Trigger happy leaders after the death of loyal and patriotic soldiers celebrate their peace pacts around champagne tables and shake hands as if everything will be peaceful, but those very peace pacts carry the seeds for the next war when thousands more will die. This is not a call for pacifism, but a call for these leaders to repent and turn to God who will give them the true solutions. The truth of the matter is that the spirit of antichrist controls the war mongers in every age and will continue to do so until the coming judgment day when not one of these leaders will escape judgment. Even the so called Christian nations will be at Armageddon armed to the teeth just biting at the bit waiting to demonstrate their power. They live as if there will be no judgment, but they are being deceived. Imagine as each war monger leader faces the God-Man in judgment when they will not be able to hide anything from His eyes.6:1-8

The opening of **the 5 th..seal** tells us that the Church will suffer severe tribulation in all ages, in John's day martyrdom was common but it was also a powerful testimony to the truth of everlasting life in Jesus Christ and here John sees the saints alive in heaven, awaiting the last day when they will be changed to be like the glorified Jesus, that is the indestructible faith of the Christian, death is but a gateway to eternal life. Jesus has never promised Christians that they will escape extreme persecution in any age, as we see here, it is just the opposite. Here the martyrs are told that others will still join them before the final showdown. Again John sees it all happening as a moving picture from one scene to another, from earth to heaven and then back to earth where the fine balance of nature is also affected, resulting in earthquakes, with God allowing the bad things that man is doing to the earth to turn on him as a sign that man needs to admit his inability to control what is happening and to turn to God for help. Instead man claims to be becoming his own god who will eventually control the universe. We take these images of John to be symbolic and yet are living in times when these very things are happening before our eyes, but the message does not change that only God controls nature and the universe. One word from the God-Man is yet going to change the entire atomic structure of the planet and the universe and usher in a new planet and a new heaven. 2000 Years ago Jesus told us that there would always be wars and earthquakes and all these other things John saw, because as long as sinful men who control the world are out of harmony with God and His creations, and things are going to get worse, as we near the end. The day of God's full wrath is yet to be revealed, 17.

Here is one of **those interludes** that John sees and it is as if he is stopping to focus before sweeping on to something else. What John sees now is the Church of Jesus being sealed by the Holy Spirit on earth and the Church triumphant in heaven. God wants His church brought into focus, for they are

God's good news on this planet, for here sinners find forgiveness and cleansing from all sin and become a fellowship of kings and priests unto God. They become the body of Jesus through whom the God-Man makes new things happen. The number 144000 is not what is important, in fact just means completion and mentioning as coming from the tribes of Israel points to the OT roots of the church, but is now complete, in that it is made up of all nations as originally intended by God. John's gaze shifts immediately to the great multitude which no one could number from every all nations, and people and tongues, and understands that they are the redeemed who are sealed, the True Israel. One of the elders speaks out and says these are they who are coming out of the great tribulation, meaning that they are all those who believe in Christ throughout all ages from every nation, for they are indestructible, they have eternal life. These are not just some who are going to be saved in the last 7 years upon earth as some each, these are all those who for the last 2000 years have been getting saved and entering eternity, awaiting the big day of final glorification when the eternal God-Man will live among them in the new world. John now sees what it is going to be like in eternity when the Lamb lives amongst His people what a day that will be. Victory and eternal peace and joy in the midst of tribulation is the message coming from the God-Man Himself. 7:1-17

Now back to the breaking of the seals, **it is the seventh seal** and when it is opened there is silence in heaven, it is as if everyone present is holding their breath in anticipation of the final end, but seven angels get ready to each blow a trumpet of judgment, it is as if the God-Man is now stretching His grace further to allow men to repent.8:2 -11:19. Also God stops heaven to allow the prayers of the persecuted saints to come before Him, He never takes for granted the prayers of His children, and He is now ready to act on their behalf.

We have seen how judgment has come mostly from man's personal sin, his greed, his desire of conquest, his desire to possess more and to control more, from his greed and selfishness, not concerned about the welfare of others but now we look at what judgments are coming upon sinful man because of his misuse and abuse of God's other creations, man is held responsible for not managing God's creations entrusted to him wisely, now God is allowing nature especially to make man suffer, and to wake up to his responsibilities.

It is not as if these things follow the first six trumpets as the seventh trumpet sounds we see how they are focused upon and gain intensity, but they are all happening at the same time. It is the burning incense representing the prayers combined with the live coals that are cast upon the earth. It is as if the prayers of the Christians are returning to earth in wrath. Sinners must never underestimate the power of the prayer of the saints, look at what happens now in answer to prayer. Even though not all sicknesses are the direct result of personal sin, every man suffers because of sin that has entered the world and unfortunately Christians suffer alongside of sinners as a result. But it is a fact that a sinning people bring upon themselves sicknesses and diseases that could otherwise have been avoided. When Wesley asked his mother what sin was, she replied that anything that hurts body, mind and soul is sin and must be avoided as much as it can. All sin carries a death principle that attacks man's body, mind and soul breaking him down and eventually bringing death, and eventually eternal death. When David Livingstone was treating those left behind by the slave traders who had carried away their loved ones, he came across a sickness that at first he could not diagnose, and after a while came to the conclusion that these people were suffering from a broken heart. These flashes of insight from Jesus taught John that the innocent have to suffer alongside of the guilty for the present.

Here we have a picture of the earth slowly dying because of the effect of wars and burnings and earthquakes and other things that are out of balance. Even in John's days emperors would have trees and harvests burned and put taxes on fruit producing trees forcing the people to rebel by pulling them out and refusing to plant others to escape the heavily imposed taxes. Armies would burn the land and the cities totally destroying whole civilizations, and we know what war and destruction does to the land today, the point being made is the disastrous effects upon the fine balance of nature have been devastating and it is gaining momentum at a rapid rate, to the point of spinning out of control,. Many of the modern illnesses and diseases are a direct result of these happenings, bringing unnecessary suffering to man. Where there is no value placed upon personality and man is used as tool to preserve things and feed egos suffering always follows, it is the sin principle of the devil at work.

While the land was being scorched to death, and being raped for all its minerals and oil and coal, and gold and diamonds and whatever else, the sea was also slowly dying, because of sinful man's greedy and selfish actions. If the fishing industry and all other means of keeping man fed were being managed correctly there would no pollution of the seas and there would be an abundance of food for everyone .But God has built in His judgment upon all abuse and allows man to suffer to bring him to his senses, but his selfish and sinful nature cares only about self first. Wars at sea are common today and the trail of pollution left by them is killing off the environment and even the deep sea fishing industry which has abused its rights is fighting for survival, for the waters are becoming to polluted to sustain life, and it is going to get worse. Just think of the damage that one bomb blast in the ocean does to the marine life, but we are told that these experiments are essential to the existence of man, add to this the oil spills, and all man's rubbish and refuse that is dumped into the sea and the rivers that run into the sea by their millions of liters every second of everyday and you get some of the picture of what God sees and allowed John to get a glimpse of.

**The third trumpet** speaks of the pollution and poisoning of the rivers and the drinking water. Before John's day armies would poison water holes and even rivers to kill their enemies and their livestock, and in Roman times it was a weapon used to kill and destroy, today it is man's number one weapon to destroy himself which he seems bent on doing. Every day the news media tells us about how pollution is killing man and his world and it raises a few feeble attempts to deal with some of the instances to salve man's fears but the problem is escalating.

**The fourth trumpet** alerts us to how man is polluting the atmosphere, many places we visit the ocean which can be heard cannot be seen because of the pollution, and in some places it is like driving in the night when it is midday. John saw it all that is how he can tell us about it, God sees it all the time and He is allowing to man through his sinful self and greed to bring destruction upon himself.8:1-13.

**The fifth trumpet** announces a new attack upon Christians and it comes directly from Satan and his demons, and he has always been very active throughout man's history, but just when man thinks of becoming his own god who can control all history and the worlds he will soon discover that the real energy comes from the antichrist forces, a force that is higher than man's puny efforts. The king of the locust like creatures is Abaddon which means Destruction and Destroyer, and speaks of his mission. In the time of John it seems that this time of destruction and death came from Parthian cavalry who lived beyond the Euphrates who had an army of some 200,000,000, but the number is

figurative and means uncountable, and one third of the human race is destroyed. But these were demonized forces which have always been motivating and creating the desire to war and destruction and they have continued throughout history even till this present day and will continue to do so until the day when the King of King returns. 9:1-11

It has always been something that convinces me of the subtleness of these evil forces, how they get people and world leaders to rationalize into doing things that they know are destructive to them as individuals and to nations, and to do it without thinking about the bad consequences to themselves and to others. It is clever deception from the master mind behind it all – Satan. Take for example someone who starts doing a small thing like smoking, or drinking or even experimenting with drugs and other substances, they start out with a measure of self control but overtime start losing control as it becomes a habit which gets a greater hold and eventually enslaves the user. We know all about things entering the bloodstream and making one dependent, but it is much more than that, it is controlled by the power of the demons, and we are seeing more and more of this. There are symptoms that speak of an unseen force present that is more than physical, it is demonic. Those of us who work with people who have been demonized know the symptoms and the cure, and it can never be solved purely by medical science, it has to be met with a power that can cast out the demons, or else the person remains the same even when helped to be an over comer, it is only the power of the King of Kings, the God-Man who can bring complete deliverance from this demonic and sinful power. In fact we see that these demons has been active from the moment they as angels were cast out of heaven because of sin, and have been working as the servants of the devil ever since, this did not start only in Jesus day, and John sees where they come from and also how God is going to finally deal with them they along with the Devil, they will be sent to the place of eternal separation and death what Jesus called hell. Anyway John sees that man seems to be more determined than ever not to repent, thereby inviting further judgment from God. But keep in mind what John is seeing is God's grace in action for anyone at anytime can repent and become a part of God's saving history and a member of His eternal family through Jesus Christ. 9:12-21

All men are being invited by God all the time to experience a God-Man Happening of complete deliverance in their lives. But here we have another vision pushing into John's awareness an angel offers him a little book and asks him to eat the scroll which will be bitter in his stomach but sweet as honey in his mouth so he eats it and it was so, and he is gains insight to see that the message he is asked to write and to send out will be sweet to some hearers but bitter to those in rebellion against God and his Christ, for their disobedience can only bring judgment. Even to john personally as he sees how people suffer it is a bitter experience for him and if so, he must see how difficult it is for the creator to witness how determined His highest creation is to destroy himself.. 10:1-11 John's vision now turns to the temple which is the True temple of the true Israel the True church consisting of believers from many peoples, nations, tongues and kings, and the measuring is a symbol of God's security and protection. This message which is going to be bitter for some and sweet to others must be preached to all nations, as Jesus said in the great commission in Matthew 28:19. This is not a message for the last number of years before Christ's return, this has been the message given to the church over the last 2000 years and must continue to be given until Jesus gives permission to cease and to close the day of grace. It as if john has stopped to catch his breath again and to quickly summarize about the message of the God-Man, it is a message every man should have an opportunity to hear, for Christ and His Body, the church, have suffered a great tribulation and even when Christ was killed by the Jews and the martyrs also have died for their faith, God who raised up

Jesus Christ from the dead as a witness to His power has also raised up the martyrs and they too will take part in the great resurrection. God always has His witnesses and these Christians must not think of death as defeat but as victory, for God is faithful and will keep them secure, both Jesus and the church. These two olive trees represent both Jesus and His church for it was the Holy Spirit who is the life source of both, Jesus the man and the church made of redeemed man, and both have the same mission, to disciple the nations and nothing can stop that from happening for they are both made secure by God. The devil would have killed both Jesus and the church if he could but he has failed at every turn and is he is yet going to see the God-Man and the glorified saints taken to heaven and ruling in the new world, imagine being in hell and seeing that happening.

Even though Jesus brought His reign to earth and announced its arrival at the commencement of His ministry, His reign in the hearts and lives of His followers really started when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost. and purified their hearts by faith enabling them to become the true holy people of God.

This is what John is seeing as **the seventh trumpet is blown**, he is swept to back to what was happening, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever" and seeing it from the God-Man's point of view, and the newly born church joined in "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 saints and those who reverence your name both small and great and for destroying those who destroy the earth". The King of Kings had brought His rule to earth at last. The veil of the sinful nature of man that separated all sinners from approaching God had been removed by the God-Man once and for all and the way was opened for every believing man to enter into God's Holy presence and be made holy and become part of the true and heavenly temple where God is worshipped and loved.

## **5. John sees that the God-Man in His preexistent state as the Son of God has been in control of all saving happenings from when the devil first sinned and will continue until the evil one has been totally defeated.**

John sees beyond human history with the insight of given by the Holy Spirit, and he helps us to understand what is happening from the God-Man's point of view. It is called revelation and this is the reason why this book is called by that name, it is Jesus giving us a revelation of Himself and His saving acts in history. The devil has never really been in control although it seems like that to us While suffering as John and the church were suffering it was difficult to believe that God was involved in the history, it seemed to be all gloom and destruction for the church, but Jesus is showing them now what was really happening. Again John is given a sweep of history from the point of view of what he will understand with his Jewish background. The picture is given of the dragon, being Satan doing his utmost to destroy the woman who is going to give birth to a child.

The woman has been identified with Mary about to give birth to Jesus, others say it speaks of Israel giving birth to the Messiah child, and both of these are accepted by many different scholars but it

seems we must take this back to Eve the mother of all living who sinned and was given the promise of God's mighty Deliverer. From her came the saving line through whom the promise would be realized, and from her was born the line of Seth who carried on the faith line that eventually led to the royal line of David out of which the eternal king and Kingdom would come. It was also out of this Faith line that men were counted righteous before God and from Abrahams time became a faith people whereby all nations were to be blessed by God. It was the coming of the God-Man Jesus who fulfilled all the prophesies made by God in His covenants with man, and through whom the promise of deliverance was brought in to man's history. So I see it started with Eve, through Israel and then Mary to Jesus who enfleshed it all. This is what the devil has tried to destroy from the moment that the promise was given to Eve. He had Cain to slay Abel, for he Cain as the eldest should have been the one to keep the promise alive, but in one foul swoop Satan used him to destroy the faith line because Abel was also slain, but it passed on to Seth who kept it alive and his sons started to call upon the name of the Lord, through to Enoch's time ( he was translated because he walked with God) such was the Godly influence of this mother and grandmother. The line continued with Noah, and through Abraham and Sarah having to believe God for their son Isaac, and His sons through to the time of Moses and King David until the time of Jesus. The devil, the dragon has pursued these woman mercilessly but the God-Man Jesus was born. We know how the devil and his demons have done everything in their power to destroy Jesus and the church, but Christ reigns at this moment as King and His church is growing like a mustard seed, and covering the earth.

Notice that this sign appeared in heaven, using the Greek word *semeion* is the same word John used for the miracle at Cana of Galilee when Jesus changed the water into wine, telling us that this is a word that is a window through which we are to look to reveal something very important. But here it is so easy to get sidetracked and we must keep our focus on the truth being revealed. The truth here is that the devil and all his fallen angels have not been able to destroy the promise of God, nor the line from which he came and neither is the devil able to destroy the Christ who was born or His followers, and also that he will never be able to destroy God or what belongs to Him, and even more, Satan and his followers are doomed to destruction. We see that the devil makes a great showing of his power and authority, but it is a useless parading for he is already a defeated foe. Notice how the angels have defeated the dragon *by the blood of the lamb. V11.* The blood of the lamb was shed at the cross where Jesus the God-Man died in our place to pay the price for all sin, and cleared the way for any and every sinner to enter the presence of God and share in eternal life. 12:1-17

Now, true to form the devil brings out the big guns, and John sees a beast rising out of the sea. Also having seven heads and ten horns each crowned with crowns and on his heads the name of blasphemy. So he is working through world powers who are sinful and ungodly, nothing new, bring them on. Naturally John would have the Roman Empire and its powers in mind, but this is the sinful spirit using whomever he finds to do his dirty work, and we find him in every age, we just have to change their names, but they arise to blaspheme the true God and His revelations of truth and also His offers of grace. Any movement that does not acknowledge the God-Man, that God has come to earth to save man in Jesus Christ is antichrist as we shall see later. ( By the way the word "Antichrist" does not appear even once in the book of Revelation.) A show of authority and power always attracts a following, and the old dragon is very good at creating a showing. Some say that the wounded head was Nero, while others say that a ancient kingdom will be revived in the last days but who really cares for it does not change anything, they are all defeated and that is what is important.

Again this is not a real beast, but a picture of the world powers outside of God who are out to destroy God and His saving truth in Jesus Christ. Of course they have a lot to promise like most politicians, they go with the flow. The devil through this system will convince unbelievers and weak Christians that he has come to bring deliverance and peace and he will deceive many as happened in John's day, the only condition was to receive their King's certificate saying that they have burnt incense to Caesar. Naturally John would see this as the power of the Roman Empire and it was, but then the devil moved on to find another power and when that empire died he used another world power and then the next ones and so it goes on. Probably he is using modern world powers right now to carry out his purpose, you do not have to be a prophet to see what is happening. 13:1-10

Remember we are dealing here with a mastermind, and he does not merely resort to using political and military power plus sheer brute force, but also he calls in the beast from the land. This is the organizer, the one who organizes the whole thing and manages it all as a genius. And what he is able to pull off can only be called miracles. Imagine bringing peace amongst the Muslims and America, the Jews and the Arabs with the promise that the oil price would come down making it possible for cheap transport again, imagine what that would do to the world economy. Imagine if an organization in the name of antichrist science could bring inexpensive solar heating to every part of the world and also help to solve the eradicate pollution of the waters, the sea and the air. This organization will make these promises and more, but they will still keep their weapons of destruction handy, for this organization cannot be built on love and trust that does not exist and is motivated by sinful man. Just as in John's day an individual could have his own religion as long as he acknowledged Caesar so it has always been, to them it was alright to keep your god and to acknowledge all the others as well, that is how it is today, people say that all religions point to the same god so it does not matter who you worship. These organizations will dazzle you with their power, and if ever a world was ready for signs and wonders it is today, all media promises this superman in one way or another and he will come out of an organization like this. Even a power hungry miracle hungry church is ready to worship the *force*, they would just call this force God, but it will be worship of the antichrist. It takes more than just the words "Lord, you are Lord" to be a real disciple of the God-Man Jesus.

The **mark of the beast** which comes from the Greek word *charagma* was used when a runaway slave was recaptured and branded with a stigma which was the particular mark of his owner. Sometimes soldiers branded themselves to show their loyalty to a general, also this *charagma* which was an official seal on the document issued as a sign that the incense had been burned to Caesar. This certificate was also permission to trade and buy and sell. Once he had this document he was labeled as a worshipper of Caesar and a denier of Christ. In this verse we are told that the number of the beast was six hundred and sixty-six. Names like Nero, Hitler and many others add up to 666. Adding this up in the alphabet where A=100 and adding 1 to each following letter in the alphabet we come up with names like Nero and Hitler and even Martin Luther but we do not want to go down that trail, it seems that this letter or certificate was called the mark of the beast by Christians. But its real meaning is what is important to us here, this was the mark of man, the imperfect number, whereas the number of God which is 777 stood for a real Christian and that is what he was branded with also not literally .as we see in the next chapter. 13:11-17

Just as John saw the antichrist branded figuratively so he now sees the Christians branded figuratively with God's brand in their foreheads. Now we know that we have never seen a church

called the "Church of the 144000" where they literally brand you with the number 777 on your forehead so we do not expect this vision to be taken literally, the truth it conveys, yes, by all means. John sees the Lamb and the 144000 straight before him, which is Jesus the God-Man and His body the church, the True Israel standing before him on Mt. Zion, meaning that He is with them already for this is the spiritual Mt. Zion, it is the place of victory. They are sealed, meaning that these Christians have the seal of God's Spirit upon them, they are filled and are being filled all the time by the Spirit of God who protects them and give them the power to overcome. They sing the song of the redeemed which only they can sing. They have been redeemed from all sin, they have been made holy by the presence of the Holy coming into their hearts making them sacrificially clean so that they can live every moment as living sacrifices to God. They are *parthenoi and amomos*, they were clean and pure as virgins and they were as lambs before being sacrificed, without blemish and spotless. You see this is the mark on the Christian's forehead, *Holiness unto the Lord*. They are disciples for they follow the Lamb, not the world. Here again we see that the preaching of the gospel of the saving power of Jesus shows that God's grace is in operation all of the time, calling sinners to repentance. Some come dangerously close to making out that God has a gospel for the Kingdom and another Gospel for the Jews and the everlasting gospel. The fact is that the Jews are the same as any other sinners, and that there is now only one covenant in operation that has opened the way into God's Kingdom and that is through faith in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the gospel message, that God's love and justice have come to all men therefore people should repent and worship Him alone. To reject Jesus as the only savior from all sin is to bring oneself under His wrath and to choose eternal separation from His grace and Christ's salvation and to choose eternal torment. 14:1-13

John sees Jesus reaping the harvest, this is a picture telling us that the harvest is already over ripe and has to be harvested as soon as possible, this is why Jesus tells the church to disciple all nations now, because it is always harvest time. But it is also the time of harvesting the grapes to be thrown into the winepress of God's wrath. Rebellious men prefer their own lifestyle of bloodshed, and suffering. Jesus wants John not to forget that His judgment is not only being reserved for one final day of judgment but that man brings judgment upon himself as he continues to ignore God's offer of grace, life is either Blessings from God or experiencing His wrath in everyday life. The sad thing is that God's judgments get worse and more severe heading towards the final day of reckoning, but they are happening in the stuff of everyday life. After all the judgment that man has already suffered one would think that he has had enough, but now God allows things to really get intense.

Remember now not to think of these happenings as taking place in the last years during a great literal seven year tribulation period in which only those who have persevered and did not receive the mark of the beast were saved, no this is talking about another vision of all history describing real martyrdom of the people of faith in Jesus from even before the time of John until the last day. We all know that all those who have already died whether in martyrdom or otherwise immediately go to be with the Lord and they await their final part in the resurrection and the rapture at the second coming of Christ, but John sees them already standing as Victors. They now stand on that sea of peace before God's throne and it is glowing now like a fire, showing the tribulation they have come through but now they are at peace, there is no more persecution and they sing the deliverance song of Moses which was first sung after crossing the Red Sea. They also sing the song of the Lamb, for they are victors with Christ. Of course the number is added to all the time as Christians die and are transported to this place of waiting and rejoicing. Listen to song that saints in waiting sing to the

Lord, "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways King of all ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord and bring Glory to Your name. For you alone are holy. All nations will come before you for your righteous acts have been revealed". The beautiful thing is that they are part already of the new temple and were so the moment the Holy Spirit came into their lives, and they also witness the judgments of God becoming more intense for the sinful and selfish people on earth. 15:1-8

While these heaven happenings are taking place things are getting worse on earth all the time and now John is going to get a flash back to see what is happening to man on earth. Again we must not see bowls of God's wrath literally coming out heaven and being poured out upon earth, the red hot anger of God is always directed at sin but because it is righteous anger his anger controls the density of its affect upon all men. There are ways built in the very laws of God that govern everything in the world that are directly controlled by God and it would appear that some forms of sin bring more suffering than others as in this case. These judgments came to the Egyptians, and they do parallel somewhat but they apply to all ages for God's laws have always been written into His laws, and as man disobeys God's laws so he actually breaks himself on those laws. People who deny God's way of holiness as they did in John's day when they denied Christ and chose the Roman way of immoral living suffered all the accompanying diseases of that lifestyle. Though not all HIV Aids sufferers are responsible for the sickness there is no doubt that it has come upon men because of their sinful and immoral behavior. This is true of many sex related and immoral practices. As man tries to control these diseases it seems the demons invent new ones to replace them, and they are being allowed to do so, because this is part of God's judgment at present. 16: 1-11.

We have already seen how pollution of the waters on this planet are judgment because man fails to obey the laws that keep the fine balance of nature in check, now it seems it is going to be allowed to completely get out of control. Already the world buys it drinking water in bottles by the millions of gallons every month, it is getting worse all the time. But God gets blamed when it would take is for man to start managing the resources on this planet correctly. But those who now enjoy getting rich by selling bottled water discourage such measures. John also sees the increase of armies and the stacking up of destructive weapons as the show of their strength and their means of bring threat and terror to all people, Fear is at the front and is a powerful weapon, in especially in countries where they have great stacks of thermonuclear power at their command, people have a mounting fear and live under threat, and it is getting worse every day. John is shown that great armies would arise in the East threatening to destroy all civilizations which stood in their paths. It was already happening in John's day, Kings would divert rivers and dry out others to march armies against each other, so this was very possible even up to having armies consisting of 2 million soldiers. The Parthians were a great threat to the rest of the world and worked at spreading their terror before them. The frog plague was as already noted demonization and it is allowed to grow stronger and stronger, leaving a trail of brokenness and slavery to drugs, alcohol, evil habits and all sorts of diseases.

The false prophet is the figure that God warned His people to expect both in the old and in the New Testament. God warns His people not to listen to any false prophet however impressive his signs may be. Again and again Christians were warned that false prophets would come and would work impressive signs to deceive and to delude and to seduce even God's people. Some people want to see magic and yet there is no magic in Christianity, and also there are no luxury miracles just for mere entertainment. When Jesus performs miracles He brings in a higher law that supercedes His

natural law and this He can do at anytime He pleases because He is God. God does not give this power to individuals, to use as they please. What happens is that the devil energizes many of these powers to further His own ends but The Power and Authority of Christ is all powerful , as seen when a believer casts out a demon from a demonized person in the power and name of Jesus. 16:1-12

**The False prophet.** This is the devil's PRO man, he sells by any means the organization and belief system that is been projected upon all men by any means, and In this case ' That there is only one god and belonging to his organization brings peace and a higher quality of living for all and this the Roman Peace (Pact) did for all its citizens in John's day, and as it does for all those who are protected by the their armies even today. This is the one has been prophesying falsely from the first false prophet who ever opened his mouth and said "Did God really say --- " Gen 3:1 until the last prophet who tries to stop men from turning to Christ and seeking the full cleansing of the carnal nature, but we do see at times this spirit of the devil has entered strategic leaders who are in positions to influence and lead others astray.

## **6 The God-Man who has been active in History is heading for a final showdown with Satan**

**Armageddon,** around which so many theories have arisen that they alone could fill whole libraries with their writings and speculations. Some take advantage of the confusion surrounding this word writings all sorts of sensational nonsense for the market that lives on this stuff, and thereby making millions of Rand, so even the publishers keep many of these additions to this revelation alive, but to their own detriment for they are bringing themselves under the judgments of this book. Remember now the demons are out and around always working on the kings to spread their terror and to bring tribulation and suffering upon all men, so that they can eventually control them, this is the spirit of the false prophet at work. Each leader comes with a better package which men buy only to discover that all men are sinners and live by the selfish and self fist principle of sin. Har in the Hebrew means mountain and Magedon is connected to the plain of Esdraelon which was part of the great ancient highway from Egypt to Damascus and somehow was always one of the great battlegrounds of the world, probably because control of the highway meant control of all means of transportation and communication. Even Ezekiel prophesied the great battle between Gog and Magog would take place there. So John sees the final battle between the God-Man and the world empires that will come together to face each other for the dominion of the entire earth. Some believe that it will be a literal confrontation of all the world powers to see who the most powerful nation is once and for all, and it is so possible today, but knowing world leaders, most of them will sit in conferences debating and strategizing their war plans while thousands upon thousands of soldiers and innocent people die Call it what you like, Armegeddon, or world war, or nuclear war, but I like to call it the war of the Antichrist for it will be led by a superman who will bring eventual submission of all nations to his rule and control the whole world, and of course he will banish Christianity, close all churches and persecute all Christians. And force them to yield to his rule, this is real antichrist. It is at this time that Christ will be made visible and every eye shall see Him and understand who He really is. As the seventh bowl is poured out so Jesus uses nature to subdue all the enemies of God once and for all just by His words He conquers the Antichrist and all who follow him. John saw the demonstration of the power of the God-Man Jesus, it seemed as if the whole of nature rose up in power against the

antichrist and his followers and the antichrist thought that he held the power. It was never his in the first place and the God who invented this power was now in charge. 16:13-21

John saw the Antichrist (the devil) and his beasts brought to nothing and as he looks he sees the fall of the Roman Empire with its forced system of worship under God's judgment, and he also sees the final judgment of the devil his armies and his followers. Of course he cannot name the fall of Rome so he uses the name **Babylon** to confuse any Roman readers. Here in Chap- 17 we are going to read about the woman on the beast, and she is Rome and she has fallen. She sits on many waters, meaning that many nations are her support system. She is clothed in purple and scarlet and covered with ornaments and jewelry, meaning that she is very wealthy and lives in luxury. In fact she is decked out like a harlot and seduces many. She holds in her hand the cup of drunkenness, and she has as a head dress, a name announcing that she is a prostitute. She is said to be drunk with the blood of the martyrs, and she revels in it all. She will be destroyed by the invasion of ten kings, meaning those who were supposed to be her faithful lovers. The beast upon which she sits is full of blasphemous names which are all insults to God. The seven heads are probably the seven hills upon which Rome is built and the crowns represent the Caesars, but here again we do not want to get side tracked for John is seeing the destruction of Rome and no one thought that this world empire would ever be destroyed, it was too powerful in their minds, but Jesus shows His authority and His control. There is no world power that is going to be there forever, for when one world power discovers a more powerful weapon than the others they are going to use it on each other, in fact they cannot wait to display their might and power and in this way maintain their control. There are always some trigger-happy leaders just waiting for an excuse to show off their power, they do not care who gets hurt in the process. Are not going to waste speculating and bordering of adding to this book, the literal truth that Jesus is revealing is that no man made empire is going to last forever, no matter how powerful they are. As was prophesied by Daniel, world empires came and fell as predicted. John knew about the fall of Ancient Babylon one of the most powerful of kingdoms , followed by Persia, and then Greece and now he sees the fall of Rome as a world power, but the real problem person is still controlling sinful world leaders and their followers. That is why Jesus the God-Man came and He has been controlling things according to the eternal plan of God.18:1-24

When the Son of God enfleshed Himself as the God-Man, the Lord Jesus Christ , He closed down the entire old system, He had come to reign as King and show His people the way into His Kingdom now and to point out the way to the new world. His reign is eternal and as King He already controls all Christian History, and as Great High Priest has inaugurated or put into motion His eternal priesthood which keeps the Holiest of all wide open for all believers to enter. He is not coming to do this at the end of some one thousand years, He has already completed His saving History, through His death, Resurrection and Ascension., **He is already the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.** All Christians are already living in the Millennium of God where one day is like a thousand years, and remember that is what John is seeing and hearing from Jesus in heaven. God's Millennium started the moment He introduced Faith in the Redeemer. Gen 3:15, and men were counted righteous because of the faith in His promise. Now the promise has been filled up once and for all in the God-Man.

In 19:1-10 John looks at the church rejoicing over the fall not only of Rome but of all evil empires, because he is seeing again the whole sweep of History, and one moment he sees world powers collapsing and the persecuted church singing Alleluias, meaning Praise the Lord, for His Glory and mighty displayed power over all sin not merely empires of people . They rejoice because they see

God's judgment in history, and they worshipped God, moving into a united crescendo of the church, all nature and recognizing the Reign of God. Again now we must not have a literal picture of the church being the **Bride of Christ**, but a symbol of everything a bride means to her soon to be husband, literally one, faithful and totally in love with Him only. It is a time of uniting everything to live as one forever. People are being called to this great event all the time, each time a sinner is born again and becomes a co-heir in God's family with Jesus he is already celebrating the great day when the believers are resurrected and raptured and glorified to live eternally with Jesus.

#### **t. These happenings of the God-Man - Jesus prove that He is the Son of God. 19:11-21.**

Remember that John is once again having a sweeping revelation of God's mighty Redeemer and Deliverer, from the time that as God the Son, He accepted this Saving Work in eternity even before the foundation of the world, that is before this universe and earth were created, and no one can put a date on that, and yet it is part of God's millennium. John calls **Jesus the Word of God** and he is the only writer to use this Greek term of *logos for the Son of God*. In John 1:1 he writes that *"the Word was with God and the word was God"*. It means in a literal translation that the word was face to face with God as an equal. If one looks at Gen 1:3 "And God said---" that means that every time God spoke He spoke with creating power, that is logos, and Jesus is this logos says John. In John 1:14 it is this logos who became flesh and dwelt amongst us, meaning the Logos became enfleshed and we call Him Jesus. So now John has swept us back into eternity again, to the beginningless beginning where God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have always been. Also we do need not any prophet to tell us what is happening we just need Jesus. (see Heb 1:1-2.) Now the work of the prophet is to testify about Jesus Christ and to teach these truths about the King of King and the Lord of Lords.

The Word of God came to Adam before he sinned, but he did not obey, that was the Son of God, the Word came to Eve and she obeyed and brought in the sacrificial system, it came to others through angels and prophets but they were only the carriers of the Word and its promises, and finally the Word was enfleshed and now needs carriers to take it to the world telling the world that the Word of God has come in the flesh and His name is Jesus. But He has been faithful in revealing His saving truth, by grace through faith. God through His Word has warned sinners again and again that they must obey His Word but they have failed to listen to His Word, Jesus. As the Son of God He has always been riding and restraining and giving His grace to repent. If He had not restrained His Creation, man would have already been wiped out as John has already seen and heard. But we have also seen through John's writings that the time of grace is fast coming to a close. John sees that the rider has always been Faithful and True, and that He judges fairly, also that He sees everything, and that He has many crowns on His head telling us that he is the King above all other Kings, the true King. Notice He **has a name written that only He knows** and that is the name of God, which is still unknown to man as well, imagine when that Holy name is spoken what is going to take place, when suddenly God will be made known as God. None understands the Trinity but that day it will all be revealed. He is followed by a great army probably angels, and out of His mouth goes a two edged sword, imagine the power of His Word being able to create worlds no wonder that the devil and demons flee at the name of Jesus, and they are going to be rendered totally powerless by one Word from Him. That is why it is a contradiction of terms to speak of a Christian army that armed to the

teeth it is as bad as calling someone a sinning Christian. Notice that there are traces of the blood of His enemies on His garments that shows that He has already been at war with them, this is not a once going out, He has been willing to be involved with all suffering Christians. John sees Jesus as **the King of Kings and the Lord of all**, who is also going to end His Saving History by the power of His Word, The God-Man does not have a heavily armed army but His messengers to deliver His Word with His authority and Power. His Word is as a rod of iron as we are going to witness. Just how this final showdown is going to happen no one really knows and the speculation and sensationalism borders on adding to the message of this revelation, which will bring condemnation and judgment. All we know is that devil and his demons working with him will devise a plan to stop Christians from serving and being loyal to Christ, which will deceive many. As noted before it will offer peace and solutions to any of the world's problems which this gullible world is ready for at this moment. Some have called this battle of Armageddon, simply because many wars have taken place here in the past. The way the world is moving lends itself to this kind of confrontation, but it seems difficult to envision a real Christian Army for there is no Christian Empire at present and there is no world power that would not take up arms so there must be another explanation. Jesus is not going to protect a so called Christian nation simply because it claims to be one and yet is really as sinful as any other. I lean to a explanation that once the world powers have done everything they know how to destroy each other to gain supremacy, then just a Word from The King of Kings will paralyze the devil and all his sinful forces once for all, and they will face their judgment from God and be cast into the lake of fire and they will be tormented day and night. But the devil is a living, live creation, and his angels are real live spirit beings, and they will be cast in to the lake of fire.

Some say that after the battle Satan will be loosed after a thousand years but the thousand years of his loosing is Christian History from the day that he fell for he was allowed to tempt Adam until the time he is cast into the lake of fire. John is scanning back and forth from God's point of view and sees Satan active and given a certain freedom which he has been doing now for over 6000years and will only continue until the day when the King decides to punish him in torment for all eternity. The fact that the beast and the false prophet are also there shows us that judgment will take place on a personal level for all those who have chosen to serve the devil and his angels, and at the great white judgment all sinners whose names are not found written in the book of life will also be assigned to the lake of fire, known as the second death. To try and make Gog and Magog fit into modern Russia is stretching things it is just another view John is getting as he sweeps from one thing to another, to try to arrange all these accounts in chronological order is to confuse things altogether, the point being made is that the God-Man Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords is closing down the devils sinning and evil plan and separating all evil and all its powers from His True Israel, once and for all. Chaps 19 + 20.

John is coming to the end of this Revelation and a startling theme takes place for it seems as if it has been nothing but turmoil and tribulation, judgment and death. Now a new and eternal order is ushered in, the old has gone forever for the troublemaker has been thrown into the eternal lake of fire with all of his followers, that was their choice. A new heaven and a new earth appear. Heaven here means the space you and I see every day, which is now being explored with telescopes and spacecrafts, and the earth is the earth you are standing on, it is new, it has been restored to its original beauty. The word here for new is not *neos* which means something recently come into existence but *kainos* which means new quality, in the sense of being fully restored and after being used and marred with age, it was as it was originally made. 21:1 John says he saw a new heaven and

a new earth , for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. The Greek word *Parerchomai* indicates something that passes from one condition to another, not the annihilation and replacement of something, it means **the earth will become young again** as it was in the time of the garden of Eden. Is it not wonderful to know that the God-Man Jesus the Word of God can recreate it all in one moment. Then there is the New Jerusalem the city especially prepared by God for His bride, no commentator has ever been able to explain this beautiful symbol of the new Jerusalem being the bride of Christ, I think it is all wrapped up with God eventually revealing His name to us in heaven and suddenly we will have an added dimension of understanding and seeing. This means that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit would live permanently amongst His people in a very intimate way. Imagine a world where there is no division or barriers between what is heavenly and what is earthly, imagine having a glorified body like the Body which Jesus had after His resurrection and glorification. When Adam sinned he was deprived of all these blessings but now man has all of these restored to him never to lose them again. Another fact we know is that Jesus the God-Man will always be as He is to us, the God-Man, He is not going to suddenly become invisible again, but that is all part of the excitement that awaits us. Many speculate about the New earth and the new heaven but that is what it is speculation, we do know it is going to be a real as we are, for Jesus ' body was real stuff after His glorification, so the new heaven and the new earth and the new Jerusalem will all be real and we also will always be real people. The last words of the God-Man Jesus " Behold I come quickly" are precious to every Christian. Chaps 21 + 22.