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Please feel free to download & print this teaching on Revelation. Tell people about the teaching. Encourage people to just READ the book of Revelation over and over and over again. To develop your ear to hear the wonderful Spirit of God; our personal teacher and instructor; the Holy Spirit!

It is also STRONGLY suggested and encouraged that you read this teaching on Revelation in *Order* of sections and chapters . . . number *One* first; followed by *Two*, next three; etc. If you just jump to a particular section; you will probably become confused as to why I make certain statements. If you have not as yet read the 'about the author' or my '*preface*' page - please do so! Really; this will help out quite a bit. They are found in *section One*.

THANKS! And may your ears and eyes be opened to understanding this glorious prophecy.

David Steyh

Revelation Disclosed

Author: David Steyh

Location: Seattle, WA; USA

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In 2002; Zondervan published a really cool software program called *Pradis*. (Discontinued in 2009) The author purchased the Pradis Bible Study Library software suite titled: Scholar’s Edition. This program allows you to directly search on Greek/Hebrew definitions determined by Goodrick & Kohlenberger III. It also allows me to copy/paste scripture. The author has purchased (and uses) the physical *Bible* and *Exhaustive Concordance* referenced above. However, for this commentary - he is using the Pradis software for ease and convenience. The Pradis suite; had (for me) a steep learning curve; but I wish it had not been discontinued. The resources available in it - are phenomenal.

I have also (quite some time back) purchased *PC STUDY BIBLE* software; and resources in this software suite are also sometimes used in this commentary. When that is done - it is always referenced at the point of use.

About the author

David Steyh lives in the Puget Sound North West area of this marvelous world.; with his lovely wife, Suzann. We have one son - who is estranged from us; because I was not a good father. I made many terrible mistakes; and I now live with the consequences of those actions, and my words. We currently plan to be missionaries in Africa in the near future (as God wills.)

My lovely wife is extremely intelligent, and has an absolutely amazing sense of humor. I am socially awkward; and am amazed that God saw fit to truly Bless me with this wonderful woman.

I have no four year advanced degree in any subject. Mostly uneducated (by US standards.) I have earned a 2 year Aeronautical Technology degree; I do possess an FAA Airframe & Powerplant License; and I did graduate from a 2 year Bible College (*Abbott Loop Bible College - located in Anchorage Alaska*) in 1980 . That was not a State approved school; and it did not award degrees. I did not study as much as I needed; deplored some subjects - and did not receive the best of grades . . .

I graduated from Chief Sealth High School in 1973; and have a strong electronics background. Worked at a lot of various 'odd' jobs and for various companies. I and my lovely wife - now endeavor to HEAR the Holy Spirit. HE is truly able to speak to ANYONE who will give Him their ear - and learn to Listen! I have been reading REVELATION since early 2004; and in 2005 - started listening to it on CD (as well as still reading it). God's desire is for you to READ Revelation, and to learn to HEAR what God is saying . . . God asks us to freely give; since He freely gives to us! Consequently, since God has given me understanding of Revelation; and many people are confused by it - I find that God is asking me to write this commentary.

You are welcome to contact the author (David) at: questions*revelationdisclosed.com OR by calling him at: 206-937-0693; OR by writing to me at: 10021 - 10th Ave SW. / Seattle, WA, 98146 *PLEASE note* - you will have to REMOVE a "*" and INSERT '@' for the above email link to work! Spam prevention.

David & Sue - sincerely wish you the best in your studies of this amazing prophecy; and hope that this commentary is found to be a Blessing. Jesus Christ is my savior, and the only reason why I am written in the Lamb's book of Life! I am definitely a sinner - who has unfortunately - engaged in numerous sins; any ONE of which - condemns me to Hell. But because of the LOVE which Jesus has for me - and for ANYONE who comes to Him - I am a sinner saved by Grace! The marvelous grace of God.

You are welcome to download and distribute this commentary for the edification of the Body of Christ. It is NOT to be sold; or changed! Subject to the previously stated Link requests & *restrictions*: FREE distribution is authorized & *encouraged*.

Finally, I am currently (2011) in deep financial difficulties; and any donations (*which would NOT be tax deductible in any way*) - would be most appreciated. Please feel free to send me funds in any amount at the above listed address; or you could make a donation at our website: www.revelationdisclosed.com This would help us out tremendously. We also have a very small store located at: www.skybreeze.com where we have some miscellaneous gift items for sale.

As noted above - we currently reside in the Seattle, WA area. West Seattle; Puget Sound. We are licensed general contractors; and do quality work. If you have any Remodeling or Contracting; Construction work - you need done - please give me a call; and consider hiring us for your project.

Again, God Bless!

David Steyh

Additional Information:

This work has been, and *is* - a labor of love dedicated to Jesus, His Body (the Church); and to His Bride. God's desire to write this commentary was put on my heart for quite some time; born out of (I believe) the frustration which God feels towards us numerous believers who refuse to just read, and learn to listen to our blessed teacher - the Holy Spirit.

Freely we have received; freely give.

I started writing this 'commentary' on the book of Revelation on 7/12/09. It is now 7/3/11; and I am still working on putting various aspects of this marvelous prophecy onto paper. In this commentary - I am currently working on Chapter 17.

Even as I have been writing over these 2 years - God has been continuing to give further instruction and insights into the prophecy which constitutes Revelation. A tremendous foundation has been laid; and I hope that soon it will be finished. Although, as time goes on; I have added more details into various subjects which Revelation discusses. This is because God is constantly speaking to me - and at rare times - I actually listen. When I do listen - He gives more insight . . .

It is strongly encouraged that you *First* read the *Preface*; and after that - please read what is written chapter by chapter. In *order* - 1 first; 2 next; 3, 4 etc.

[Beginning with Chapter 2 - all sections can be *searched for* by using the following phrase term: (Chapter 2) complete with the () brackets and appropriate chapter number. Chapter 1 starts after the *phrase*: [end of preface] It would truly be better not to 'jump' but I know people are going to do what they want to do . . .]

If you wish to just jump in & skip to a favorite chapter to see what I have to say - I of course cannot stop you from doing that . . . I can only promise that if you do so - you will probably declare me to be a "Crazy" and a "Nut job!" God's take on this marvelous prophecy is unique. He wrote it; and He knows what and how He wanted to state what is to come . . . Understanding of this marvelous prophecy does not come from studying Hebrew or Greek. It comes only from learning to HEAR what God is saying in regards to this prophecy. Giving Him the TIME to speak. After reading through this commentary - starting with the preface and moving onwards - you will eventually have a hunger and desire to do what I have done - READ, and develop your ear to HEAR.

If you just jump to a specific chapter - say chapter Seven - you will have no idea of why I say the 144,000 (*a symbolic number*) constitute the Bride of Christ. Or why I state Rev 16:15 is a Gospel (witnessing) statement; or the fact of Rev 11:15 being THE last trumpet (same trumpet as referenced in 1st Cor 15:52) or why I declare that the anti-Christ is ruling, and seated on an earthly throne in Chapters Eight & Nine . . . *See? Already* - you're thinking I might be crazy . . .

At least you are interested in the prophecy which is Revelation - and what GOD has declared in it! I encourage you to continue to READ Revelation; and I encourage you to read this commentary; and to allow God to help you to understand it. Hopefully, this will allow you to see Revelation in a totally new light; and progression of events.

GOD BLESS YOU; and may the supreme Peace and wisdom of God embrace and illuminate your life.

The *Preface* (please read) immediately follows.

David Steyh

12th July 09
David Steyh
Preface:

REVELATION 'Αποκάλυψις

revelation, what is revealed, disclosure, to make information known with an implication that the information can be understood. This refers in the NT to God making information known, especially to his close associates

Do you believe scripture?? Or are you just a “yes man/woman”? A person who states what is only politically or religiously correct?

I ask again, and challenge: Do you believe scripture??

Revelation opens with the following words:

*The revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which **God gave him to show δειξαι** (to show, explain, make known) **his servants** what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw - that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.*

Revelation also states the following:

*Grace and peace to you from . . . Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness
Blessed is he who stays awake
These are the true words of God
Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book
Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says
He who has an ear, let him hear*

Do you believe the book of Revelation has any possibility of being understood? Do you believe that to have any possibility of understanding it - one must have 25 different theological divinity and seminary degrees?? Or even 1 degree? Or have attended a Bible College? Be a rich man with millions of dollars, unlimited time; and 1,000 wise advisors at your constant disposal? To have any possibility of understanding Revelation, you must have read hundreds of conflicting commentaries, be fluent in Hebrew and Greek, and it is still probably a no-win situation?

If you believe the above, or any form of the above - in the various thousands of variations which have been, and are constantly proposed; than you do NOT believe in scripture, or what God says.

You may believe in some scripture; but you don't believe in all scripture. You may believe in some stuff God says; but you don't believe in all that God says.

This unfortunately, is true of me as well. I certainly do not believe in all of scripture, or all of what God says. If I truly did - I would be walking precisely as Jesus walked; and doing ONLY what the Father tells me to do. And if you saw me - then you would now be seeing the Father, since I would be so much 'one with Him.'

Christians have a glorious calling. And we ignore that calling for thousands of personal and irrelevant reasons. To our shame.

We also ignore the book of Revelation, which is OPEN for *Understanding* to ANYONE who has an ear to hear, and is seeking God! We listen to many, many naysayer's who state that it cannot be understood. It is too complex, too filled with symbols, too whatever - to be understood.

This ignores what God says about the most important Book which he gave us. Revelation is the revealing of Jesus Christ. Do you still think of Jesus as being sacrificed on the cross? Do you still think of Him as being a little baby born in a cave or animal manger? A destitute man who walked the earth 2,000 years ago, and then sacrificed himself for me and for you, and for millions of others? Then your imagery of Jesus should change. He has taken his rightful place as Ruler of the universe (which was His creation); and not only has ALL power, and ALL authority - but is also FULL of Grace and Peace towards you! And the creator and ruler of EVERYTHING you see - wishes and wants to be your friend. Jesus is described in Revelation as *Full* of POWER and GLORY. And this man *and* GOD - wishes to be your best friend, your eldest brother, your husband, your Lord, your bridegroom, your King, etc. Jesus Christ Himself - gave you Revelation - so that you will have peace. In a world that has none.

Revelation is absolutely open to understanding. TOTALLY OPEN. Truly open for you to understand. No ifs, ands, or buts. It is open for you to understand - if you want to understand it. God declares that it is not sealed up!

I & my lovely wife (Sue) - understand the book of Revelation. God has opened it up to us. I am writing these words about Revelation - so that you can get an idea of what it is about. Then possibly you will start reading it, and come to an even greater understanding of this glorious book; and give me & others additional instruction.

I hate commentary on the book of Revelation. I have read some. But every commentary which I have read; either on the *Web* or in various study books - is totally off the wall. I have picked up some nuggets of truth thru perusal of these commentaries - but really - God does not want us reading commentaries. God wants us listening to Him!

So if that is the case, why am I going against God; and writing a commentary?? Well, I am not 'going against God.' God cannot be put into a box. And yet we put Him in a box all the time. I believe 100% in all of scripture. Yet, I know of numerous contradictions in scripture. Contradictions exist. They do. They are not troubling to me at all. Since scripture can be written by God for various reasons and various purposes according to His will. I'm not bent around the axle with contradictions. But if you don't realize that contradictions exist - than you're fooling yourself.

Here, I will give you a couple quick examples off the top of my head. Now remember, I believe totally in scripture, and the Bible . . . totally.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

2nd Peter 3:9 *He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Rev 22:11 *Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile . . .*

John 11:43 - 44 *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The **dead man** came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

Luke 7:14 - 15 *Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The **dead man sat up** and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.*

Mt 27:52 - 53 *The **tombs broke open** and the bodies of many holy people who had **died were raised to life**. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to **die ONCE**, and after that to face judgment . . .*

Rev 4:8 *Day and night they **never stop** saying: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

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

Continuing: I hate commentary on Revelation. So it is a *contradiction* that I am writing a commentary. . . God desires us to search out scripture, God desires to teach us . . . And yet I am writing Commentary. God has opened up this book to my wife and I. God WILL open it to you - if you earnestly desire Him to do so. But over the last several years - it has become increasingly obvious to me; that virtually no one listens to any admonition to read Revelation. I have heard enough excuses for not reading this book, as can be spoken by every person I have spoken with. Truly sad. So I am writing a commentary. This allows me to write what God has shown, and gives people who desire to understand this glorious book - a relevant starting point.

My lovely wife recently made the following statement: "You need a thicker skin." And she was/is correct. Christians bash each other for no reason at all, searching for ways to make up non-existent reasons to justify tearing each other down; instead of building people up, and be encouraging in Christ.

Stating the TRUTH: that **Revelation** is OPEN to understanding, and that God has opened it up to me and her; is seen as almost blasphemy . . .

Since you are reading this - it can be stated that you are interested in the book of Revelation. The Internet or Web - with all of its horrendous deceptions - can also be used for good. So this tool allows me to publish what God has shown me - to substantial portions of the world, and whomever is seeking understanding of this book.

I sincerely hope that after reading this letter, you will allow yourself to be immersed in the book of Revelation each and every day. Just soaking in it; and gently allowing God to teach you even more. Than you can correct me on where I have erred. For my understanding of this book, from when I first stated

that God had ‘opened it up to me’; has changed. God is still in the process of teaching me more about this glorious book. And I have been reading it, or listening to it on CD - virtually every single day - since early 2004. It is truly a blessing, and a blessed book - which is why you don’t want to read it. A heavy spiritual deception exists over this book - directly from Satan himself; to encourage people to not read it. Lies, lies, lies. Every conceivable lie to not read this book has been uttered at one point in time, and is constantly still being spoken.

Almost every single chapter of this wonderful book is extremely short. Most are the length and size of Philemon or Jude. (*Which are the two shortest books in all of scripture - very, very short!*) Most of the chapters of Revelation consist of this very short length.) A few are slightly longer. So really - take it upon yourself to just start reading a few chapters a day - for the rest of your life - or for as long as your allowed to own a bible . . .

One of the problems of understanding Revelation, is that people STUDY it . . . It is not a book to be ‘studied’. It is a book to be **instructed on** - by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit; blessed be Him - knows what He wrote, and what was being said. And He, whom Jesus referred to as our counselor, and our instructor - is perfectly willing to instruct you in this book, and the nuances. But we must have patient endurance. We must develop our ear to hear. And we must soak in the book. Just allow Jesus to wash you, and present Himself to you, in the short pages of Revelation . . . If you say: “I read it last year, and didn’t understand it.” Or: “I read it twice a year in my bible reading program . . .” Than how do you expect to be able to understand this book??

*You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess **eternal life**. These are the Scriptures that **testify about me**, yet you refuse to come **to me to have life**. (John 5:39 - 40)*

*As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, “If you, even you, had only **known on this day** what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you **did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you**.” (Luke 19:41 - 44)*

I have a simple truth. If you **study** revelation; **dissect** the Greek, **parse** out all of the sentences; search the depth of the meaning of various Greek words used; comparing it to various old testament scriptures . . . Then - you will NEVER understand this great book!

Revelation is PROPHECY. Pure prophecy. Just as **numerous teachers** could **not**; and **did not** understand the true meaning of Christ’s first coming - if you **study** revelation - you will never understand it!

*At this they **covered their ears** and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. (Acts 7:57 - 58)*

*As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute **me**?” “Who are you, **Lord**?” Saul asked. “**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. (Acts 9:3 - 5)*

*“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly **trained in the law** of our fathers and was just as **zealous for God** as any of you are today. (Acts 22:3)*

At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. (Acts 26:24 - 25)

I am not stating that studying scripture is bad, wrong, and God does not reward us for doing so . . .

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. (2Timothy 2:15)

But Revelation is *prophecy*. If you do not learn to HEAR what the Spirit is saying - you will never come to an understanding of this glorious book! If, after having an understanding of this prophecy - you wish to delve deeper into certain Greek words; well, good for you. But the first thing which God desires, and which I desire for you - is for you to understand this blessed book and prophecy. To do that - you must let the Spirit of God teach you about this prophecy. Allow the prophecy which is Revelation - to wash over you. Over and over and over and over again . . . People state they wish they could see Jesus. Then they ignore the most vivid and revealing prophecy about Jesus and end times - which Jesus gave!

This commentary will give you a start on understanding Revelation. I have been immersed in Revelation for six years . . . But to cement the nuances, and the flow of this prophecy into your heart; to learn even more - so that you can instruct me and others - then you must allow the Holy Spirit of God - to wash you with this prophecy. You must read it over and over and over again. Day after day after day. Learn what various types of trees occupy the forest; and where the paths go, which are in the forest . . . Each chapter is so small, please read a couple of chapters a day; until God has opened this prophecy up to your understanding. And at that point - you too will be shouting to others - to just READ it!

I hope you have not **covered your ears** towards this encouragement . . . For especially in these days - Revelation should be *the* book that is on every Christian's top, top, top reading list priority.

As I said slightly earlier - I have been reading this book - or listening to it on CD (started listening to it on CD about 4 years ago); - every day since early 2004. I have attended a Bible College. Graduated. Been a Christian all of my life. But, when I started reading this book - I purposely threw out everything I knew, and just started reading it as a blank slate. As much as possible. After 6 months of reading this book (4 -5 chapters a day) - my lovely wife asked me one morning - what I was learning. (She was still resistant to reading it . . .) And I reflected for a moment - and then realized the truth - that I still knew NOTHING in my head - that I could talk with her about . . . but that a tremendous deposit was going on in my heart! Shortly after that, I started getting a few questions in my mind - which I started asking God about - and He started answering. Maybe I would get a quick answer - right away. And sometimes I was praying for several weeks - about one question. Significantly, I've spent over a year mulling a few questions which I was inquiring God of . . . And God has been faithful. Very, very faithful. He has answered, and it is an absolute glorious knowledge, to HEAR God speaking to you, and see how something goes together. I really encourage you to do the same. God is not a respecter of persons.

Acts 10:34 *I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism (NIV)*
Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons (KJV)

Deut 10:17 *For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes.*

Now, I am using a bible program called *PRADIS* (v5.18) - controlled by Zondervan. Unless otherwise noted; all scripture quotations are from the NIV; and the Greek / Hebrew definitions will be from (Goodrick & Kohlenberger III /NIV Exhaustive Concordance) this program. Which takes some of their written materials (like dictionaries, concordances, etc.) and puts it into a huge computerized database. I absolutely love this program - since it allows you to search on the actual Greek or Hebrew just by clicking on a word, and is not limited to the very narrow definitions which Strong's developed. Strong, and a few others, developed an extremely monumental 'book' - the *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* - based on the King James Bible. And this monumental work - which was done without any computer assistance - took years of their lives to complete. However, the English language has changed substantially since the King James translation was developed; and I don't speak the grammatical English which was spoken over 400 years ago - I speak contemporary, modern day English. Consequently - I am not a King James 'only' guy; and actually prefer to not read KJV. I figure the Holy Spirit is perfectly capable of deciphering scripture. So I use the NIV. And unless otherwise noted, all quotations will be from NIV. I also have another computer bible program called: *PC Study Bible* (v4.2B). Which I use somewhat, but it is more limiting . . . So if I quote a definition from PC Study - that will be noted . . .

For further clarification: I do not speak Greek, or Hebrew. And as I said previous - 'studying' Revelation is a formula for disaster. It is not how we arrive at understanding of this glorious book. We arrive at understanding by learning how to hear the Holy Spirit, and what He is teaching us. Soaking in it, letting Revelation wash over us, and not being afraid of what Jesus is saying to us!

So, since I do not read Hebrew or Greek - if I wish to understand or know what is being spoken in the Greek or the Hebrew; I read the English. And meditate on the scriptures, and let the Holy Spirit instruct me. I have, from time to time, been led to turn on a computer program and read some stuff someone else wrote. But generally, with ALL scripture - I find it somewhat a 'joke' to state that this word means 'this' - because this is the Strong's definition. Strong's gives very narrow definitions per word . . . and the same Greek or Hebrew word can have *many* various meanings - depending on context. So - I rely on the excellent translation work into English which has been done over the years - for the scriptures - to allow me to know and understand what the Greek or Hebrew is saying . . .

As I write, explain, and explode Revelation - I will (I imagine) sometimes copy/paste a Greek or Hebrew word into it . . . Indeed - I have already done so. At the very beginning. This is for those of you who like to research all of these words . . . and in certain instances - it can provide further insight.

And of course, I have as the Spirit has led - done some studying of various words in Revelation. And I have learned some stuff from that . . . But these are little nuggets - and are not truly necessary to a more global understanding of the book.

Let us continue with instruction on the *format* and *structure* of Revelation.

I am constantly asked: "Have you read Daniel?" And quickly enough the following: "Have you read Ezekiel?" I know of no person whom if he wishes to understand the book of Romans - reads Hebrews. Or if he wishes to understand Psalms - reads 1st Kings, or the book of Genesis.

So, the answer is NO. I have not read Daniel . . . and I have, of course, read Daniel. And I have read

Ezekiel. But in the context of the question - NO - I have not read Daniel, or Ezekiel - in an effort or 'study' to understand Revelation. I have read Revelation. That is what I have read. Revelation. Over, and over, and over, and over again . . . Praise God! Sue (my lovely wife) stated quite some time back: "Reading Daniel to understand Revelation - is like putting new wine into an old wineskin . . ."

And that is correct. If you wish to understand the vision which Daniel had concerning End times - than read and understand Revelation. Than what Daniel saw and heard, can be more easily understood. But - frankly - since I do understand Revelation - I have not seen much point in looking at Daniel's vision. And if you continue reading this book, and become acquainted with the structure and flow of Revelation - you will come to agreement with me on this minor point.

The entire bible, or all of scripture - has a pattern which one needs to be aware of - if we are to understand Revelation. Let me ask: how many times did God create Adam? How many times was Solomon appointed King? How many times was Jesus sacrificed on the cross?

Ok - we all know that Jesus was sacrificed 4 times - *right??* I mean - we read about him being crucified 4 different times, minimum. Other books discuss his crucifixion and subsequent resurrection; but we all know that he was crucified 4 times . . . or maybe it was 5, 6 or 15 times??

Here are a couple of quick examples:

Genesis 1:26 - 28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

Genesis 2:7 & 22

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being . . . Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man . . .

1 Kings 3:5 & 12-13

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." . . . I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

2nd Chron 1:7 & 12

That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." . . . therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, riches and honor,

such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have.”

Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

Mat 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:33; John 19:23

*When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.
. . . there they crucified him, along with the criminals - one on his right, the other on his left.
When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares . . .*

Now we all know that Jesus was crucified ONCE. Not twice, three, four, or fifteen times . . . ONCE.
Once only.

Hebrews 7:27 & 10:10

*He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.
And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

And in similar fashion, most realize that man (Adam & Eve) was only created once. Not twice. And the two accounts of Solomon referenced above - are the same exact situation - only from an entirely different perspective. And God wants us to have wisdom. Indeed, wisdom is essential in our understanding of God. So God repeats several times in just one book alone (Proverbs) about wisdom & God. And most know, that Proverbs is filled with references to wisdom. The three which are cited concern “*fear of the Lord*” . . .

What is my point? Scripture is FILLED with repetition. Constant repetition. All over the place. God constantly states the same things to us - over and over and over again. Just from different sources, and different perspectives. We all know this. We know that we find various elements of *Romans* in *Corinthians*, or *Ephesians*. As we read scripture, our attitudes and feelings, and relationship with God is reinforced, and shaped. We read the same things, repeating various principles - over and over and over again. And we have no problem with it . . . And yet - when we come to the book of Revelation - we throw everything out the window - which we already understand about scripture.

Some of this is so very easy to understand - how can we miss it? And yet, for awhile; as I read Revelation - I was astounded that John would fall down to worship the angel *Twice!* (Rev 19:10 & 22:9) I couldn't believe or understand how in the world - he would fall down to worship this angel twice. I mean, how many times does the guy need to be told? The angel had already told him once - not to worship him! And, here he goes again . . . worshipping the angel *twice* . . . Of course, I finally figured it out. John only falls down to worship the angel *once*. The same exact event is told from two different perspectives - by the same ‘author’ (John). The reality is: the ‘author’ is Jesus Christ. Which is *why* John states it twice. John is writing what Jesus wants him to write. And God repeats Himself all over in scripture . . . and so God repeats Himself all over in Revelation.

Now, before we move on, and end this preface - we need to consider a couple of very important doctrinal subjects. So that we are not redefining terms; and our words have the same meaning and intent . . . In the last days (End Times) deception (of all types and sorts) will become rampant. and important doctrines are being thrown away and tossed out - based on really WRONG deceptions direct from the father of lies.

First:

We need to consider *who* Jesus is . . . Is Jesus Christ God? The answer is: YES. And so is the ‘Spirit of God’. The *triune* nature of God is taught in scripture, and Jesus, and the Spirit have always existed. Just as the Father has always existed.

. . . *I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne . . .* (Rev 4:2)

Now, beginning with the initial opening of scripture in *Genesis* - God starts revealing who He is . . . The first use of the Hebrew word *Yahweh* יהוה; occurs in *Genesis 2:4*; as God starts to reveal his name . . .

. . . *When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens -*

In the book of Exodus God states:

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” (Exodus 3:14)

. . . *This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.* (Exodus 3:15)

And, after the resurrection of Jesus to the former power and glory which He had before the beginning of creation (John 17:5); the fullness of the name of God continues to be revealed. Until we see that the name of God resides in the words or phrase: **Lord Jesus Christ.**

Lord: κύριον lord; master; can be a NT translation of the Hebrew יהוה; *Yahweh* or **LORD**

Jesus: Ἰησοῦν Jesus; Joshua; or *Yahweh saves*

Christ: Χριστόν Christ, Messiah or *Anointed One*

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Romans 13:14)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. (Ephesians 6:10 - 11)

Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Acts 28:31)

. . . *he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.* (Mark 1:10)

. . . *the **anointing** you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to **teach** you. But as his **anointing teaches** you about all things . . .* (1John 2:27)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20); and had the Spirit indwelling him from the moment He started taking on bodily form. But - He also was *anointed* by the Holy Spirit - after He was baptized. So too - with us. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior; the Holy Spirit indwells you - and makes you alive to God! And, as we grow into intimacy with God - we become *anointed* by the Holy Spirit. We are to clothe ourselves with God. We are to put on the fullness of God. We are to walk in the power, might, understanding and intimacy of God - who is the great I AM; who is our LORD; and whose triune revealed name is: LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Having the fulness of the Godhead wrapped around us; protecting us, encouraging us, with the Spirit himself being the seal of our redemption, and our friend and counselor - is one reason why Peter could make the following statement:

*If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very **words of God**. . .* (1Peter 4:11)

*For in **Christ** all the fullness of the **Deity** lives in bodily form, and **you** have been given fullness in **Christ**, who is the **head** over every **power and authority**.* (Colossians 2:9 - 10)

The book of Revelation is absolutely full of statements declaring Jesus to be God. And, to a lesser extent - it is full of statements declaring the Spirit to be God. But, as we work our way thru Revelation; I do not wish to interrupt a path of thought - to show that a particular scripture is also stating that Jesus and or the Spirit are fully God. For example: Who is the ultimate *Judge*? Well **GOD** of course. What do our sins do? They condemn us . . . Why can't I dwell with a righteous God? Because of my sins . . . Who makes the ultimate decision on my eternal Heaven or Hell fate? GOD, of course . . .

But in Revelation - we easily see that Jesus controls who goes to Hell. He controls the book of life, etc. Even in the gospels, Jesus states that He is the *Judge* . . .

*“When the **Son of Man** comes in his **glory**, and all the angels with him, he will sit on **his throne** in heavenly glory. **All the nations** will be gathered **before him**, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.* (Matthew 25:31 -32)

As we work thru Revelation - I will point out that certain scriptures indicate Jesus is fully God. But, I don't wish to have to fully develop those statements each time they are made . . . but the absolute divinity of Jesus does need to be fully developed - since some people who absolutely LOVE Jesus - and embrace Him as their Lord - do not actually believe that He is God; or that God exists as three totally separate beings - all three of whom - are fully God.

For that reason - I will here - at this point - reference some old testament scriptures; some scriptures from the gospel's etc; and various scriptures in Revelation - which soundly state when taken together - that Jesus is God. And the Spirit is God. And the Father is God. I will of course, still be pointing out that certain scriptures in Revelation point to Jesus being God. Because certain revelation scriptures just **DO**. That is what they are *doing*! But I will lay the foundation for that - right here and now . . .

*“But now, please forgive their sin - but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.” The **LORD** replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of **my book**.”* (Exodus 32:32 & 33)

May they be blotted out of the *book of life* and not be listed with the righteous. I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, *O God*, protect me. (Psalms 69:28 - 29)

. . . All the *days ordained* for me were written in *your book* before *one of them came to be*. How precious to me are your thoughts, *O God!* How vast is the sum of them! (Psalms 139:16 - 17)

For *God* will bring every deed into *judgment*, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted *all judgment to the Son* (John 5:22)

In the above verses we see that **GOD** (the LORD or *Yahweh*) **owns and controls** the book of eternal life which He has written. In the prophecy which is Revelation; we see that Jesus states that if you overcome - then Jesus will not blot out your name from the book of life! And if your name is not found written in the book of life - you are thrown into the lake of fire. And you are not allowed to enter the *Holy City*, the new *Jerusalem* - if your name is not written in the **Lamb's book of life** . . . (Rev 20:12 - 15; 21:27)

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the *book of life* belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the *creation of the world*. (Rev 13:8)

The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the *book of life* from the creation of the world . . . (Rev 17:8)

Then I saw a *great white throne* and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the *throne*, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the *book of life*. The dead were *judged* according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (Rev 20:11 - 12)

If anyone's name was not found written in the *book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:15)

. . . but only those whose names are written in the *Lamb's book of life*. (Rev 21:27)

And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, *God* will take away from him his share in the *tree of life* and in the *holy city* . . . (Rev 22:19)

. . . To him who overcomes, *I* will give the *right* to eat from the *tree of life*, which is in the *paradise of God*. (Rev 2:7)

. . . "This is what the **LORD** commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy *Sabbath* to the **LORD**. . . . (Exodus 16:23)

Then *Jesus* said to them, "The Son of Man is *Lord of the Sabbath*." (Luke 6:5)

"Return home and tell how much *God* has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much *Jesus* had done for him. (Luke 8:39)

For if you *forgive* men when they sin against you, your *heavenly Father* will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)

Then *Jesus* said to her, "Your sins are *forgiven*." The other guests began to say among themselves, "*Who*

is this who even *forgives* sins?” (Luke 7:48 - 49)

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are *forgiven*.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “*Why* does this fellow talk like that? He’s *blaspheming*! Who can *forgive* sins but *God* alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is *easier*: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your *sins are forgiven*,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the *Son of Man* has *authority* on earth *to forgive sins* . . . ” He said to the paralytic, “I tell you, *get up*, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and *walked out* in full view of them all . . . (Mark 2:5 - 12)

Your father Abraham *rejoiced* at the *thought* of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have *seen* Abraham!” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “*before* Abraham was born, *I am*!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him . . . (John 8:56 - 59)

God said to Moses, “*I AM WHO I AM*. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘*I AM* has sent me to you.’ ” (Exodus 3:14)

I and the *Father* are *one*.” Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?” “We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for *blasphemy*, because *you*, a mere man, *claim to be God*.” (John 10:30 - 33)

‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be *united to his wife*, and the *two* will become *one* flesh.’ So they are no longer two, *but one*. (Mark 10:7 - 8)

Do you not *know* that he who unites himself with a prostitute is *one* with her in *body*? For it is said, “The *two* will become *one* flesh.” But he who unites himself with the *Lord* is *one with him* in spirit. (1Corinthians 6:16 - 17)

I and the *Father* are *one*. (John 10:30)

I am the *true vine*, and my *Father* is the *gardener*. (John 15:1)

. . . Anyone who has *seen me* *has* seen the *Father*. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that *I am in the Father*, and that the *Father is in me*? (John 14:9 - 10)

. . . *I* am from *above*. . . *I* am not of this world. (John 8:23)

. . . “*I* am the *way* and the *truth* and the *life*. No one comes to the *Father* except through *me*. (John 14:6)

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the *Lord your God* with all your *heart* and with all your *soul* and with all your *mind*.’ (Matthew 22:37)

“If you *love me*, you will *obey* what *I* command. (John 14:15)

But *I*, when *I am lifted up* from the earth, will draw all men to *myself*.” (John 12:32)

“*I am*,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the *right hand* of the *Mighty One* and coming on the *clouds of heaven*.” (Mark 14:62)

For the *word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double - edged sword . . .* (Hebrews 4:12)

Out of his *mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule . . . He treads the winepress . . . of God Almighty.* (Rev 19:15)

Therefore the *Lord himself* will give you a sign: *The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.* (Isaiah 7:14)

"The *virgin* will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him *Immanuel*" - which means, "*God with us.*" (Matthew 1:23)

. . . "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:18 - 20)

For in *Christ* all the *fullness of the Deity* lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in *Christ*, who is the *head* over every power and *authority.* (Colossians 2:9 - 10)

. . . But about the Son he says, "*Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.*" (Hebrews 1:8)

For just as the *Father* raises the dead and *gives them life*, even so the *Son gives life* to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted *all judgment to the Son*, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. . . . (John 5:21 - 23)

In the sight of *God*, who *gives life* to everything . . . (1Timothy 6:13)

"*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*" (John 11:25 - 26)

Now this is *eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* (John 17:3)

"Not everyone who says to *me, 'Lord, Lord,'* will enter the kingdom of heaven . . . '*Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?*' Then I will tell them plainly, '*I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!*' (Matthew 7:21 - 23)

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you *eagerly* wait for our *Lord Jesus Christ* to be *revealed.* He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on *the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.* (1Corinthians 1:7 - 8)

They called to the mountains and the rocks, "*Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?*" (Rev 6:16 - 17)

And now, Father, *glorify me* in your presence with the *glory I had with you before the world began.* (John 17:5)

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept . . . because you *did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.*" (Luke 19:41 & 44)

Without father or mother, without genealogy, without *beginning of days* or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a *priest forever*. (Hebrews 7:3)

. . . Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is *thirsty*, let him come to *me* and drink. Whoever *believes in me*, as the Scripture has said, *streams of living water* will flow from within him.” (John 7:37)

Then Jesus declared, “*I am the bread of life*. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes *in me* will *never be thirsty*.” (John 6:35)

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not *live on bread* alone, but on every *word* that comes from the *mouth of God*.’” (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever *drinks the water I give him* will *never thirst*. Indeed, the water *I give him* will become in him a *spring of water* welling up to *eternal life*.” (John 4:13 - 14)

Then the angel showed me the *river of the water of life*, as clear as crystal, flowing from the *throne of God* . . . (Rev 22:1)

He who was seated on the *throne* said, “*I am making everything new!*” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End*. To him who is *thirsty* I will give to *drink* without cost from the spring of the *water of life*. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and *I* will be his *God* and he will be my son.” (Rev 21:5 - 7)

I have seen the burden *God* has laid on men. He has *made everything* beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what *God* has done from *beginning to end*. (Ecclesiastes 3:10 - 11)

yet for us there is but *one God*, the Father, from whom *all things came* and for whom we live; and there is but *one Lord, Jesus Christ*, through whom *all things came* and *through whom we live*. (1Corinthians 8:6)

But when *he*, the *Spirit of truth*, comes, he will guide you into *all truth*. He will not speak on *his own*; he will *speak only* what he *hears*, and *he* will tell you what is *yet to come*. (John 16:13)

. . . *I am God*, and there is no other; *I am God*, and there is none like me. *I make known the end from the beginning*, from ancient times, what is *still to come* (Isaiah 46:9 - 10)

The *revelation of Jesus Christ*, which *God* gave him to show his servants what must *soon take place*. . . . (Rev 1:1)

. . . *These are the words* of him who is the *First and the Last*, who *died* and came *to life again*. (Rev 2:8)

. . . “*These are the true words of God*.” (Rev 19:9)

“*I, Jesus*, have sent *my* angel to give you this testimony for the churches. *I am the Root and the Offspring of David*, and the *bright Morning Star*.” (Rev 22:16)

. . . Then he placed his *right hand* on me and said: *Do not be afraid*. *I am the First and the Last*. *I am the*

Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.
(Rev 1:17 - 18)

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. (Rev 22:12 - 13)

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

Second:

Does HELL exist?? Is it a place of ETERNAL destruction and torment?

Recently, a Pastor (Rob Bell) residing in Grandview Michigan had a book published titled: *Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived.* [I have not read this book.] Apparently, in this book - he states that HELL does not exist. This has caused a bit of a stir; and so another person - ((Jack McKinney PH.D) of McKinney Counseling & Consulting) on 4/25/11 confirmed that Hell does not exist. And that the traditional idea of Hell turns God into a monster; and that he does not believe in a literal Hell; and does believe that Hell is a historical and theological *mistake*.

OK. So we have various individuals stating that scripture has been mis-used; mis-interpreted; inaccurate, etc. And these are supposed Christians. In some ways - very much like this idea that Jesus is not God; and that God is not Triune - while at the same time - being ONE. Deceptions are massive. We must count the cost; and speak the truth. However - we certainly cannot staunch the dyke; and place our finger into every leaking hole of deceptions. More falsehoods will continue to erupt on a daily basis - then can possibly be contained or dealt with . . . This is why we must know the TRUTH; and the TRUTH will set you *free!* (John 8)

In the above verse - Jesus is really stating that HE is TRUTH! HE is the Alpha and the Omega. HE is the beginning and the end. HE is EVERYTHING. And ONLY Jesus can set you free. And HE is willing to do so - IF you will let Him!

Concerning the question of HELL . . . YES - HELL exists. YES, HELL is FOREVER. And HELL is a place of ETERNAL TORMENT!

When we state that Hell is not forever (Universalist doctrine); we are in essence - denying what Jesus alone accomplished. Jesus, dying on the cross of crucifixion - stated that it was FINISHED. He then gave up His spirit to God. (see John 19:30) Jesus asked the Father to take this cup away from Him . . . He did not JOYFULLY go to the cross - He WILLINGLY went to the cross. He DESPISED the cross; and the meaning of it! Taking all of the sins of mankind onto Himself.

He did this to prevent *us* from having to go to HELL! To be ETERNALLY separated from the Father. The word HELL does NOT exist in the Old Testament; or the Hebrew. The idea of an eternal judgement definitely exists in the Old Testament. [KJV does use the word HELL in O.T.] However; when we state that HELL does not exist; or that the punishment of HELL is not FOREVER - we are *first* - making the death and sacrifice of Jesus meaningless. Second - we are perverting scripture; denying ALL of the traditions and understandings of the Jewish People who went before Christ (Jesus).

John the Baptist called out to people to REPENT. Why?? If HELL does not exist - why do I need to

repent? If HELL does exist - but is not ETERNAL - why do I need to repent? What is the point?

I mean seriously - being here (living on earth) as a stranger or a foreigner; or an alien in a strange land - some have stated this is like being in Hell. Being absent from GOD. GOD is not ruling this earth. Satan is! GOD is sovereign, and currently allows Satan to RULE this earth! So, some state being on 'earth' is being *in* HELL! *They* too - have redefined HELL.

So, living on earth - might not necessarily be very pleasant. So, what if I wine, dine, rape, kill, steal, counterfeit money; live large; buy lots and lots of stuff; be consumed only with my own importance and pleasures . . . and ultimately die. OK. Now what?

Well, I go to HELL. But wait - this is only a TEMPORARY place. It is Hell PURGATORY. Maybe I reside in HELL for only a year. Maybe five years. One Hundred. Maybe ONE MILLION. ONE MILLION years of excruciating torment and burning fire. (Oh yes - some don't believe in the FIRE part either . . .) So, I experience ONE MILLION years of excruciating torment in burning FIRE. Or ONE QUADRILLION!!

SO WHAT! What of it?!! I eventually am let out - and abide in HEAVEN in wonderful glory! FOREVER & EVER! Universalist doctrine even teaches that Satan will eventually eternally abide in Heaven. Perfect and wonderful. With no sin, and no lies . .

We make Jesus out to be a LIAR when we state the above. What of His remark about Judas when He stated: “. . . *It would be better for him if he had not been born.*” (Mark 14:21)

So is Jesus really stating that it would be better if Judas did not die, and had his physical body thrown into the grave/refuse *valley of Hinnom*?

HELL is either a spiritual, physical place created by God of eternal torment (GeHenna); or it is just a place of refuse - with no real consequences. Does it really matter if my body is cremated when I die? Is your GOD so small that he cannot deal with the resurrection of your body if it is cremated?? What of the people who lived a LONG time ago? Do you really believe that Joshua's bones still exist?? Please! They became total DUST quite a while back . . . And yet God will still resurrect JOSHUA in full, unmitigated glory; in an indestructible body . . . WOW.

And if YOU don't have a personal, intimate relationship with GOD; when you die - you WILL end up in HELL. And that is an ETERNAL place of never ending torment. The CHOICE is YOURS. This equating a HOLY, ETERNAL, SOVEREIGN GOD with *Hitler* is ludicrous and really a waste of our marvelous intellect. Calling God a *monster* (if Hell exists) - is on the same plane.

The prophecy which is REVELATION; and the book of Revelation - are absolutely FULL of references to HELL, eternal punishment; the second death, etc.

When you come *out* of Hell (Universalist) is that the *third* life?? I mean - scripture is quite clear that a second death (which you DON'T want to experience) exists! But NO WHERE in the ENTIRE bible - does ANY idea of a “third life” exist! And yet Jesus talked about the 2nd life! He stated that we must be ‘born again’ to enter Heaven! NEVER is HELL equated with being ‘born again’ and being made sinless and worthy to enter Heaven! (*see* John 3)

Does GOD want you to go to HELL? NO! Does God KNOW that some people who were given the CHOICE of where they were going to spend eternity (ALL are given a choice) do pick HELL? YES! Does this make God a 'monster' because He purchased a way out for you - but you refused to take it? And He KNEW that you would REFUSE - before you were ever born? And He still allowed you to be born? NO! GOD wants you to DWELL with Him FOREVER. It is YOUR choice. We choose. So, we call some 'pre destined' to Heaven. And some are ignoble vessels - 'pre destined' to HELL! YES. Absolutely. But God still wants them IN Heaven. It is ALWAYS our choice! Personal relationship with God, or NOT. Our choice. Righteousness demands punishment. We don't (as a rule) like to see murderer's of children getting away with killing children. We want them punished! But, sometimes, guilty are deemed innocent.

And can a saved person - having a relationship with Jesus - LOSE their salvation?? And end up in HELL? Absolutely. Otherwise - what do you do with Jude (*twice dead*) and the prophecy of Revelation which clearly states that ANYONE who worships the image of the beast; or falls down and worships the beast; or who receives the mark of the beast (R14) - will have the smoke of their torment rising before God forever and ever! God desires us to be aware that an eternal punishment exists - if we do not CHOOSE God! However, if we remain in Christ - we have nothing to fear.

And in CHRIST - ALL of the guilty are deemed innocent. Since, HE paid for my, and your sins - with His death; and with punishment. (*see Acts 2:24 & John 20:17*) And even though Christ (or Jesus) died for EVERYONE - not every person accepts it; or cultivates a relationship with Jesus.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:21 - 23)

It IS your choice of where you spend eternity! CHOOSE. CHOOSE *this* day - WHOM you will serve! Yourself? Satan? The world, and its pleasures? Or GOD?

When we remove Hell, or water it down . . . we destroy what Jesus accomplished; and take away from the book of Revelation! Taking Hell out of Revelation - is not something which you should want to do . . . Jesus discussed Hell and its consequences quite a bit! Jesus gave us the prophecy of Revelation. And Revelation discusses Hell quite a bit!

And *please* - do not tell me that you KNOW the Greek and the Hebrew! I am so fed up with people re-writing the bible and numerous scriptures - using their vastly bloated 'knowledge' of Greek and Hebrew to bolster their false doctrines while they lead people astray . . . I am ready to vomit on the statement: "Well the Hebrew says *this* . . . or the Greek says *that* . . ." This is what the upper echelons of the JW's and the Mormons routinely do . . . redefining words; while spouting LIES!

So many Centuries and MILLIONS of man hours have gone into translating the scriptures - for us to then redefine what is crystal clear when just READ - is really an affront to the Holy Spirit; and what He would desire to teach you - if you would just remove the *Earwax* and start listening! False doctrine is just that! FALSE DOCTRINE. And stating that HELL is NOT forever; and is NOT a place of burning fire - *is* FALSE DOCTRINE!

Here are just a few scriptures with regards to Hell . . .

And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD - on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD. “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.” (Isa 66:20 - 24)

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “ ‘their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’ (Mk 9:45 - 48)

Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” (Mt 26:23 - 24)

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Mt 10:28)

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; (2Pet 2:4 - 6)

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire. (Jude 1:7)

But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (2Pet 3:5 - 7)

A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.” (Rev 14:9 - 11)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11 - 15)

Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous. (Ps 69:27 - 28)

Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. (Phil 4:3)

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (Rev 3:5 - 6)

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. He who has an ear, let him hear. (Rev 13:8 - 9)

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. (Rev 22:12 - 15)

But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. (Rev 19:20)

For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. (Heb 10:37 - 39)

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction . . . The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. (Rev 17:8 & 11)

So, after reviewing the above two doctrines and scriptures which declare Jesus and the Spirit to both be God . . . declaring the very triune nature and oneness of God . . . and that HELL exists and is ETERNAL - we come to the end of the preface.

Thank you for reading the preface, and for your interest in the prophecy which is Revelation!

Finally - Please **remember** that scripture **repeats** itself; and presents itself in **multiple ways** from different **perspectives** - all about the exact same event(s). We now come to the beginning of the understanding of the book of Revelation. [end of Preface]

REVELATION 'Αποκάλυψις

revelation, what is revealed, disclosure, to make information known with an implication that the information can be understood. This refers in the NT to God making information known, especially to his close associates

First - the Greek word which is the title of the book - ἀποκάλυψις or 'Αποκάλυψις *capitalized* - expressly means: “make information known with an implication that the information can be understood.” Of course - the title we give the book - is not given by God. Scripture does not include the title. But verse 1, chapter 1 of this book - does indeed include this word . . . The word is used eighteen times in all of scripture. You may review it in such places as: Lk 2:32 / Ro 2:5; 8:19; 16:25 / 1 Cor 1:7; 14:6; 14:26 / 2 Cor 12:1; 12:7 / Eph 1:17 / 1 Pe 1:7 for a few references and examples.

Rev 1:1-2

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

Two delightful verses open this book up! First - we see that this is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Or the revealing and knowing of Jesus; and stuff which Jesus wants us to know! And it is stated that God gave it to Him - (the revelation which is about to be declared) - so that His (Jesus') servants can know what is soon going to take place. And that it MUST (δεῖ it is a must, it is necessary (one should, ought)) take place. He revealed it thru his servant John . . .

We than change perspective - and REPEAT what was stated in verse one . . . In verse 2; John states that he testifies to everything he saw - that is the word of God (who it was stated was giving it in verse 1); and the testimony of Jesus Christ! (What Jesus wants to be declared, and his good reputation and evidence.)

So you see that verse two - essentially repeats verse one. Haven't hardly opened the book - and God is already repeating Himself.

We than continue to an infallible declaration. This declaration only applies to this book. It does NOT apply to the rest of scripture. If you wish to declare that you are 'blessed' by reading scripture - all well and good. I won't argue. I agree actually. But when you take a specific blessing which is granted for a specific action - and apply it with a broad brush to the entire bible or scripture - than you are diluting the Word of God. You are not recognizing context. Plus - if you research - you will find this statement ONLY in this scripture. You will not find this statement anywhere else in ALL of scripture; and will be hard pressed to find any type of clear derivative of this statement. A couple of scriptures exist which somewhat include this meaning . . . but really now - let us not dilute scripture, or specific blessings (Dad's blessed their children specifically all over the place in the old testament) - by stealing this blessing and applying it to the entire bible. We only do this gross error - since we do not wish to read Revelation. And believe me - Satan doesn't want you to either!

. . . *I blessed him - and indeed he will be blessed!* . . . *“Your brother came and took your blessing.”*
. . . *“Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?”* . . . *“I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants . . . “Do you have only one blessing, my father? Bless me too . . . (Genesis 27:33 - 38)*

We continue to the infallible declaration. This declaration only applies to Revelation: (Rev 1:3)

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

A very straightforward statement. I hope you take it to heart. If you wish to be BLESSED - READ revelation. READ it until you UNDERSTAND it; and then CONTINUE to read it! If your going to take to heart what is written in it - you have to understand it. But God will bless you for just taking the time to READ it, digesting it, continually - so that you allow the Holy Spirit to teach you about this book! The TRUTH is - you really miss out if your only reading this as part of a *Bible Reading Plan* . . . or just 'hit and miss' - as you '*feel led.*' This book, and specific parts of it - require wisdom and insight. If your not going to be like Daniel - who prayed & fasted for 21 days straight to understand a vision - then how in the world do you expect to understand this wonderful book?? Maybe I'm somewhat dense - but I've been immersed in it EVERY day since 2004 - and it is now 2010 - and I'm still learning and growing in this marvelous book!

If you wish to be BLESSED, to understand what is happening all around you; to not be afraid of what is going on around you and in the midst of the world - then you MUST read this book. CONSTANTLY!! I beg & plead with you - in the name of our wonderful Lord - Jesus Christ - let God teach you about what is coming. READ Revelation. Over and over, and over again. Just a couple of chapters a day . . .

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

Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book. (R22:7)

Rev 1:4 - 7

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father — to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

I will point out a couple of items from above: John is writing a letter to the 'seven churches'. And although these churches were physical churches - which John was writing to - this letter is to YOU from Jesus. Every specific 'letter' to each church - ends in extremely individual language. Each letter starts broadly - addressed to a 'church' - and ends very narrowly - discussing individual personal actions.

These 'seven letters' are addressed to each individual who reads revelation - down thru all the centuries - until myself and you today . . .

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat . . .

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name . . .

To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations . . .

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white.

Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God.

If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Each of the seven above statements are taken from the seven letters respectively. You see that they are individual, personal statements from our Lord. Challenging individual persons - not churches. These letters are to ME. And to my lovely wife. And to YOU - if you wish to be blessed and grow in Jesus. And since God is HUGE, and cannot be put into any 'box' - why YES - they were also to individual churches that existed at the time John wrote Revelation. But we make a grave error - when we just skim over these seven letters - and do not understand that they are personal letters addressed to US - as unique individuals - existing in Christ today . . . And each of these seven letters - have elements which are repeated in later portions of Revelation.

But we are not discussing the letters. I thought to quickly point out that they were written for me and for you. For every person who calls himself a member of the body of Christ.

We are discussing the opening. Where John starts writing to the seven churches . . . Why do we not have a problem with this opening?? It is out of sequence. What is John writing about? *Why* is John writing? You see - we have no problem with verse 4 - since we easily understand it. But it is out of sequence. John is not told to write, or *WHAT* to write - until verses 11 & 19.

Yet we blithely read verse 4 - understanding it only partially - but not realizing that the entire first Chapter of Revelation - is setting up how to understand the rest of the book. The sequencing, repetition, and the reason it is given! In verse 4 - John is writing. In verses 11 & 19 - we see *WHY* John is writing! A change of perspective.

Now, a lot of people state they become 'afraid' when they read Revelation. This is because they don't understand the book. The moment you state that Revelation makes you afraid - you are admitting that you don't understand the book. No problem. You just need to immerse yourself in this glorious book! Why do I say this? Because one of the reasons this book is given - is so that you are NOT afraid! Jesus knows that hard times are coming. Distress as has never occurred before in all of history. So He gives us this revealing of what is to come - specifically so that we are not afraid.

Rev 1: 4 /3 /17 Grace and peace to you . . . Blessed is the one . . . Then he placed his right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid . . . I am the Living One . . . I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Now, verse 7 has some interesting elements. We should note a couple of items. Ingrain them in your consciousness. First - EVERYONE who has ever lived - is STILL alive. They exist, and are ALIVE. Probably more alive than you or me. At least - from God's perspective. Secondly - every person who is living on the earth - when Jesus returns (Rev 19:11-14) - will mourn! They will not be happy!

I believe in the 'rapture'. But not like most understand it. The word does not even occur in scripture. Most well-off Christians are clinging to a belief that Jesus is going to come - and save them from all tribulation trouble! This is not supported at all by scripture. Including statements Jesus made in the Gospels, and numerous scriptures in Revelation. The 'rapture' will occur. YES. And it is described, and visible in Revelation. But the 'rapture' is not like most understand it. We have scripture stating two cannot walk together unless they are agreed . . . (Amos 3:3) And we have Jesus stating two men will be working in a field; or two will be sleeping together in a bed; and one will be taken, and one will be left! (Mt 24:40 & Lk 17:34) But these are referring to keeping a select few from the extreme distress which is coming to the whole earth! And these scriptures are not referring to the coming of Jesus! The 'rapture' is not even referring to the meeting of Him in the clouds, and having our bodies being made incorruptible as

described in 1 Cor 15:52. Although some believe that is what the ‘rapture’ is . . . The ‘rapture’ is what is described: (Rev 3:10) *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*

However - (Rev 1:7) is not referencing the ‘rapture’. It is referencing the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Clouds, on a white horse - with all of his chosen and faithful servants behind him! (see Rev 17:4 & 19:14) And EVERY person will see Him! EVERY person. You, me, atheists, the ‘dead,’ - EVERYONE! Even those who ‘pierced’ Him! (And some of those soldiers might have come to repentance!) But every person who is alive physically on the EARTH - *will* mourn! This will become obvious as you become familiar with the flow and structure of Revelation; and as we continue thru our discussion of this marvelous book.

I will make a couple of other quick observations with regards to these verses:

*Grace and peace to you from him **who is**, and **who was**, and **who is to come**, and from the seven spirits before **his throne**, and from **Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and **the ruler** of the kings of the earth.*

Revelation teaches that Jesus is GOD. Revelation teaches the trinity. First, we are given GRACE and PEACE. We are given these two essential items by the one who has ALWAYS existed. That is what “who is, who was, who is to come:” means! As far back in the past as you wish to go - Jesus and God have existed. And Jesus exists today: “who is”; and Jesus is coming back - since he is FAITHFUL, and he stated that He was coming back . . . “who is to come”. And all of God agrees with this . . . “from the seven spirits before his throne.” The entirety of GOD agrees with this prophecy, and the fact that Jesus is Faithful and has always existed . . . and that He is the ‘firstborn’ (the son who inherits EVERYTHING) from the dead, and the ruler . . .

‘Seven’ is the number of completion with God. And here the seven spirits before his throne (various aspects of God - with the totality of God declaring it) state these known attributes and character traits of Jesus Christ - who is LORD! (Praise be to God for Jesus who has saved me from my sins . . .)

Rev 1:8

*“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the **Lord God**, “who is, and who was, and **who is to come**, the **Almighty**.”*

The scripture continues to state that GOD is stating these things which you are about to read. And that Jesus Christ is GOD. Since Jesus is the only one who has ever been described as “to come”; and later we will see (Rev 19) that He indeed does come . . . So, Jesus has always existed (as has God); and God has many attributes (seven spirits); and that Jesus and God are the beginning and the end (Alpha and the Omega). Chapter 1 of Revelation minces no words that Jesus is God, and that he died for us because of His LOVE for us; and that He is faithful and will be coming back . . .

Rev 1:9 - 11

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll

what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

Mostly self explanatory. Since the world hated Jesus - if we serve Him, and are a faithful servant - we will be hated. That is why John is a ‘*companion*’ in the *suffering and kingdom* . . . This is not to say - that if you are not being persecuted - that you are not saved, or do not have a relationship with Jesus. But, as mankind has continued; and we have gotten further away from the historical time when Jesus walked the earth - man’s morals and our ‘decency’ have become more degraded. So - if you live in a place where persecution is not happening - this is an unusual time and place. Unfortunately - persecution is a natural state of affairs for Christians.

PATMOS: a small rocky island to which the apostle John was banished and where he wrote the Book of Revelation (Rev 1:9). The island, about 16 kilometers (ten miles) long and ten kilometers (six miles) wide, lies off the southwest coast of Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Because of its desolate and barren nature, Patmos was used by the Romans as a place to banish criminals, who were forced to work at hard labor in the mines and quarries of the island. Because Christians were regarded as criminals by the Roman emperor Domitian (ruled A.D. 81-96), the apostle John probably suffered from harsh treatment during his exile on Patmos . An early Christian tradition said John was in exile for 18 months. ((from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers) & PC Study Bible)

*BANISH: (Heb. **nadah**, to "cast out," 2 Sam 14:13-14); **Banishment** (Heb. **madduah**, "causes of banishment," Lam 2:14, KJV, but NASB, "oracles," marg., "burdens"; Aram. **sheroshi**, "rooting out," Ezra 7:26, NASB, marg.). Banishment was not a punishment prescribed by the Mosaic law but was adopted, together with the forfeiture of property, by the Jews after the captivity. It also existed among the Romans, together with another form of exile called **disportatio**, which was a punishment of great severity. The person banished forfeited his estate and was transported to some island named by the emperor, there to be kept in perpetual confinement (see Smith, Dict. of Classical Antiquity, s.v. "Banishment"). Thus the apostle John was banished to the island of Patmos (Rev 1:9). ((The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright © 1988.) & PC Study Bible)*

John was praying, and Jesus spoke very intimately with him. Here, we see why John first introduced ^(Rev 1:4) Revelation by writing a ‘letter’ to ‘*the seven churches.*’ He was obeying Christ. Here, for the first time, he is told to write - and to write to the seven churches. ((He is also told to *write* in Rev 1:19) Repetition!)

This is an extremely important concept for one to grasp - if we are to understand the prophecy which is Revelation. John first opens this prophecy with the intonation that it comes direct from GOD, and that we are BLESSED if we read it and take to heart what is written in it. He then opens a ‘letter’ - just like to personal friends - “John, To the seven churches . . .” However - he has not been told to write, and has met no person, etc. It is out of sequence. We then progress to Jesus, and that all the peoples of the earth will mourn when Jesus comes back, etc. In verse eleven - we go to the perspective and view where we see *why* he is writing.

This sequencing is extremely important. If you view Revelation as: John saw this, and then saw that, and then saw such and such . . . And ‘b’ follows ‘a’ and ‘c’ follows ‘b’ - you will not come to an understanding of this prophecy. At the same time - I HATE it when people say Revelation is out of sequence, and does not make any sense! It really isn’t out of sequence or viewing perspective.

John sees these events somewhat like we watch a movie today! He is viewing events which God is showing him. But God is showing him a perfect sphere of influence . . . 360° of events happening

simultaneously - but John can only view a limited perspective of all the coming events at any one moment . . . so repetition, and changes of viewing perspective are required for John and 'us' to acquire the proper sequencing of events, understand what is occurring, and what is to come!

Numerous books and movies exist - all of which use this type of drama, change of sequencing and scenes, and perspective! We are shown something, and led down a path. We have no trouble following it, we are observing it! Then later, we are shown more detail, and we see *why* what we saw happened; etc. So it is with Revelation.

For example: (Rev 8:4-7) *The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake. Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

Here we open with a *spiritual* view. Angels in heaven are doing things. And then we see the *physical* result. Or the result on earth. An angel takes fire, and hurls it onto the earth. The result is NOT fire - but thunder, rumblings, lightning, and an earthquake.

Back to the spiritual view: another angel takes hail and fire mixed with blood, and hurls it onto the earth. And then we go again to the *physical* view - and see large portions of the earth and plants being burned up.

So - we have spiritual perspectives or views; and then how actions in the *spiritual* affect our *physical*. First the spiritual; then the physical result. But this perspective can change, and does change in Revelation. Revelation also shows us the physical; and then takes you to the spiritual - showing what happened in the spiritual - to cause the physical. Plus, Revelation is an end time prophecy. When all is said and done; completed - no difference will exist between the 'physical' and the 'spiritual'. It will all be one and the same . . . So, as this prophecy progresses forward - we move to that point of complete unity in God. We are shown two individuals who go to wage war against God - in the physical; and then are cast totally alive, directly into HELL. Do not pass 'go'; do not collect \$200. Going direct from physical into the spiritual. (R19:20) This has happened in the past. Consider Elijah, (2Kings 2:11) or Enoch (Genesis 5:24). And God spoke of it happening in the future, and it is displayed and revealed in Revelation.

Second example: (Rev 11:11-15 (edited)) *But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake . . . The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven . . .*

In the above - we see the account of the two witnesses. They were killed for their testimony, and God resurrected them 3 ½ days later. In reading chapter eleven of Revelation, we start in the spiritual, and rapidly go to the physical. And eventually - we have the two witnesses being raised, and rising up to God; and then we have earthquakes and massive destruction! And so many people miss the following: the trumpet blast sounding in verse fifteen; is the exact and same *trumpet* referenced in 1 Corinthians's 15:52. Here, with the two witnesses being raised - are also all of the other dead in Christ being raised! This is the

last trumpet! Here, the physical results are shown first; and then what was going on in the spiritual. But because the trumpet is referenced *after* the dead rise, and the dead are caught up to God, and a massive earthquake - we miss the fact that this is the last trumpet. The trumpet is shown to be *blown* (trumpeting) in verse *fifteen* - so we don't correlate it with 1st Corinthians *fifteen*, and all of the stuff that entails; and subsequently all of the dead in Christ being raised - which happens in Revelation *chapter* eleven, verse *eleven*! But if you bear with me as we go thru Revelation, you will come to see from many more Revelation scriptures, why I say that this is the last trumpet. But do you see the change of perspective? Here, we go to the physical - what the people on earth see - and *then* we go to the spiritual. What *happened* in the spiritual - to cause the physical.

Another slight point on the above last trumpet. Revelation 11:15 is the last time *any* word which may be translated as trumpet occurs in the entire bible. We have *trumpeters* σαλπιστῶν (*trumpeter*) {Strong's # 4538} in Revelation 18:22; but that is not the same Greek word translated as trumpet. This Greek word σαλπιστῶν occurs only once in all of scripture; and indicates only a person who blows, or plays a trumpet - but not the instrument. And in the context of Rev 18; the scripture is stating emphatically no *person* will ever live or exist in that area of land again.

Plus, the 'definition' of the Greek word ἐσχάτη translated *last* in 1Cor 15:52 is the following: *last (of a series), least, final*

So, the word stating the 'last trumpet' - is referencing a series of trumpets. And in Revelation 11:15; we have the absolute Last of a series of trumpets being sounded. Verse fifteen references the seventh trumpet. Which is also the very last time in all of scripture that a word which may be translated as trumpet occurs in scripture. Fascinating!

Now, for those who prefer the Authorized King James - the King James in verse 15; does not use the word *trumpet*. It states:

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven . . . (KJV)

The above, of course - is referencing a trumpet - when it states the angel *sounded*. The actual Greek text is the following:

Καὶ ὁ ἕβδομος ἄγγελος ἐσάλπισεν· καὶ ἐγένοντο φωναὶ μεγάλαι ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ λέγοντες· ἐγένετο ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ κόσμου τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν καὶ τοῦ χριστοῦ αὐτοῦ, καὶ βασιλεύσει εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. (UBS4)

The Greek_(G/K 4895) word in red above - has the 'definition' of: *to sound a trumpet, announce with a trumpet*.

This word is found a total of twelve times in all of scripture. It is translated as: sounded trumpet (7x); trumpet sound (1x); sounded (1x); sound trumpet (1x); sound (1x); announce with trumpets (1x)

The references for the above are: Mt 6:2; 1Cor 15:52; Rev 8:6,7,8,10,12,13 / 9:1,13 / 10:7 / 11:15

There exists one other Greek word in scripture which is also translated as *trumpet*. It is_(G/K 4894) σάλπιγξ and has the 'definition' of: *trumpet*.

It occurs eleven times in all of scripture, and is translated as: trumpet (7x); trumpets (2x); trumpet call (2x)

The references for the above are: Mt 24:31; 1Cor 14:8 / 15:52; 1Th 4:16; Heb 12:19; Rev 1:10 / 4:1 / 8:2,6,13 / 9:14

Previously, we also mentioned *trumpeters* (G/K 4896) σαλπιστῶν - which has the ‘definition’ of: *trumpeter*.

It occurs only *once* in all of scripture; and is found in Revelation 18:22.

My Greek references for the above are to show anyone who doubts - or who states: “My translation doesn’t even use the word ‘trumpet’ . . .” that Revelation 11:15 is truly the very **last** place that a word which can be translated as *trumpet* is used in the entire bible! So, I rejoice greatly that Paul - was also given a vision and knowledge of the end times, and spoke of the **last trumpet!** Remember, God is not a respecter of persons, or one who shows favoritism. If we pursue God - He will grant you knowledge and wisdom.

And, getting back to why I brought up (example) Revelation 11 - it is because of the numerous changes of perspective which occur in that chapter, and the changes of sequence. We definitely must be willing to recognize changes of perspective, and sequence - if we wish to understand this prophecy.

Revelation 1:12 - 15

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

Really glorious image of Jesus. Extremely powerful (huge understatement), with a voice which gives life (water) and has the word of God coming from his mouth! (two edge sword coming out of it - verse 16) Plus, **faithfulness** - since he stated he will never leave us or forsake us; and He is seen here standing *amidst* his churches - and he is wearing a golden sash! Isaiah 11:15 states: *Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

Revelation 1:16 - 19

*In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid. I am the **First and the Last**. I am the **Living One**; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the **keys of death** and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*

The appearance of Jesus is *such*, that his beloved disciple *John* - who took care of His mother after His crucifixion, and whom rested his head on Jesus’ breast during the last supper - fell down as those DEAD - when confronted with the resurrected - full of power and glory - Jesus Christ!

Jesus lays his RIGHT ((denoting authority, trust, and inheritance [author’s opinion]) / ‘definition’: (G/K1288) δεξιός *the right hand or side in contrast to the left; the right is considered culturally to be stronger and of greater prestige than the left; to be seated on the right side of a ruler is a greater position than on the left side; to “give the right hand of fellowship” in Galatians*

is a sign of friendship, trust, and covenant) hand on John, and blessed him with Peace (and much more / (example: courage, strength, faithfulness)). Everything that is the total opposite of being afraid. So He spoke, and stated: Do NOT be afraid!

Jesus states that He is the one who gives life, and that He holds the keys of death and Hades. Note also the sword reference and Hebrews 4:12 & Revelation 19:15

(Chapter 2)

We now arrive at the *letters* to the *Churches*. Remember, these letters are actually to US! These letters are to ME! And if you will accept it - they are to YOU! Not as allegorical letters to you - but letters written to you by Jesus, encouraging you to be faithful and strong, in what you are about to experience. This is the same character & attitude of Jesus' prayer in John 17; where he specifically prays for every person who will believe in Him; while also at the same time - prays for his immediate disciples! (verse 20) *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message . . .*

I would like to give a brief historical *aside* on the seven churches which were chosen to be named in this prophesy. More than seven churches existed at the time Christ revealed this prophecy and these letters to John. *Seven* has immense significance with God. *Completion, Totality, Everything*; are just a few of the meanings which can easily be applied to the number 7; and the spiritual workings of God. Revelation 1:4 *the seven spirits before his throne*; Rev 1:12 - *seven golden lampstands*; Rev 1:16 - *In his right hand he held seven stars*; and we have the *seven churches*. So - it would seem that the choosing of these seven churches has some very special significance. At first, I thought that the name of each church probably was the reason they were singled out. The meaning of the name . . . Some of the names of the churches have fairly obvious meanings. *Smyrna* non capitalized - is the spice *myrrh*. *Philadelphia* carries a meaning of love. Which is why in our culture today - it is sometimes referenced as the "city of brotherly love . . ." However, research suggests that these seven churches were chosen because of the history and traditions which were part of the culture, and reputation of the *City* in which each church existed. I was fascinated with the names of each church chosen; but in my limited research on the names - I became astonished at the *historical* background of each city, and then the subsequent words which Christ spoke to the Church for each of the seven cities. Each of the seven chosen churches - do have important significance. But - the significance is a composite, and comes from the history, culture, and traditions which completed each of the referenced cities . . .

The following limited historical information was obtained from three sources: [*The New International Dictionary of the Bible* by J.D. Douglas & Merrill C. Tenney; published by Zondervan; copyright 1987;] each reference ends with: (1); [*The World Book Encyclopedia*; copyright 1958; published by Field Enterprises Educational Corporation.] each reference ends with: (2); and [*Britannica 2002 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom* (v 2002.01.0002.0);] each reference ends with: (3).

Ephesus: An old Ionian foundation at the mouth of the Cayster. Greek colonies that surround the Mediterranean and Black Sea were primarily trading posts. Migrant communities of Greeks did not seek to dominate the hinterlands, but to secure an *emporion* or "way in," a bridgehead for commerce and enough surrounding coast and territory to support the community. Great cities grew from such foundations from Marseilles to Alexandria, some of them **royal** [emphasis mine] capitals. And in all cases colonies became centers or outposts of Hellenism, distinctive and civilizing . . . in early Roman times, as in the days of its Ionian independence, Ephesus was a proud, rich, busy port, the rival of Alexandria and

Syrian Antioch. Built near the shrine of an old Anatolian fertility goddess, Ephesus became the seat of an oriental cult. The Anatolian deity had been taken over by the Greeks under the name of Artemis, the Diana of the Romans . . . Much trade clustered round the cult. Ephesus became a place of pilgrimage for tourist - worshippers, all eager to carry away talisman and souvenir, whose livelihood was the manufacture of silver shrines and images of the meteoric stone that was said to be Diana's image "fallen from heaven."
(1)

Was the city of the Ephesians, one of the twelve ancient cities of Asia Minor. A great Temple of Diana (Artemis in Greek legend) at Ephesus made it a sacred city. This temple is considered one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. The location of Ephesus brought it wealth. It was situated at the starting point of one of the great trade routes of the East, famous from the days of the Persian Empire as "the horse road." Saint Paul worked in Ephesus for three years, and a powerful Christian church grew up there. Many important men made the city their headquarters . . . (2)

Smyrna: A port on the west coast of Asia Minor at the head of the gulf into which the Hermus River flows, a well-protected harbor and the natural terminal of a great inland trade-route up the Hermus Valley. Smyrna's early history was checkered. It was destroyed by the Lydians in 627 B.C. and for three centuries was little more than a village. It was refounded in the middle of the fourth century before Christ, after Alexander's capture of Sardis, and rapidly became the chief city of Asia . . . The city had worshiped Rome as a spiritual power since 195 B.C., hence Smyrna's historical pride in her Caesar cult. Smyrna was famous for **science, medicine**, [emphasis mine] and the majesty of her buildings. Apollonius of Tyana referred to her "**crown of porticoes**," [emphasis mine] a circle of beautiful public buildings that ringed the summit of Mount Pagos like a **diadem** . . . [emphasis mine] (1)

Izmir, or in Greek - Smyrna - is a Turkish port and trading center on the eastern coast of the Aegean Sea. It lies about 200 miles southwest of Istanbul. The city exports chrome ore, tobacco, dried fruits, cotton, and olive oil. Izmir is the capital of Izmir *vilayet*, or province. Since the 600's B.C., the city has been ruled by many different peoples. These have included Greeks, Romans, Seljuk Turks, Mongols, and Ottoman Turks . . . (2)

Pergamum: **Royally** [emphasis mine] situated in a commanding position, Pergamum was the capital until the last of the Pergamenian kings bequeathed his realm to Rome in 133 B.C. Pergamum became the chief town of the new province of Asia and was the site of the first temple of the Caesar cult . . . The worship of Asklepios and Zeus were also endemic. The symbol of the former was a serpent . . . On the crag above Pergamum was a **thronelike altar** [emphasis mine] to Zeus now in the Berlin Museum . . . To deepen Christian horror at Pergamum's obsession with the serpent-image, Zeus was called in this connection "Zeus the Savior." It is natural that "Nicolaitanism" should flourish in a place where politics and paganism were so closely allied, and where pressure on Christians to compromise must have been heavy. (1)

The word *parchment* comes from Pergamum, because Pergamum invented parchment. (Author's note)

Parchment is material made from the skins of sheep, goats, and other animals. It is used mainly as a fine writing material for important documents. Parchment is made by removing the hair or wool from the skin of the animal, and placing this skin in lime to rid it of its fat. The skin is then stretched on a frame and shaved with knives and scrapers. Powdered chalk is rubbed on with pumice stone, to smooth and soften

the skin. Fine parchment is often called vellum. It is made from the skins of calves, kids, and lambs. This high-quality parchment is used for important writings such as charters, university diplomas, and wills. Heavy parchment is made from the skins of donkeys, older calves, wolves, and goats. It is often used for drumheads . . . The word *parchment* comes from *Pergamum*, a city in the kingdom of the same name in Asia Minor. Parchment was made here about 190 B.C. The experiments were begun at the command of Eumenes II, ruler of Pergamum, because an Egyptian Pharaoh, or king, had prohibited the use of papyrus, a writing material of that time. The Pharaoh feared that the library at Pergamum would become greater than the library of Alexandria, Egypt . . . (2)

Thyatira: A city in the province of Asia, on the boundary of Lydia and Mysia. Thyatira has no illustrious history and is scarcely mentioned by ancient writers. Coinage suggests that, lying as it did on a great highway linking two river valleys, Thyatira was a garrison town for many centuries. Its ancient Anatolian deity was a warlike figure armed with a battle-ax and mounted on a charger. An odd coin or two shows a **female** [emphasis mine] deity wearing a **battlemented crown**.[emphasis mine] The city was a center of commerce, and the records preserve references to more trade guilds than those listed for any other Asian city. (1)

Akhisar - historically **Thyatira** town, western Turkey, in a fertile plain on the Great Zab River (the ancient Lycus). The ancient town, originally called Pelopia, was probably founded by the Lydians. It was made a Macedonian colony about 290 BC and renamed Thyatira. It became part of the kingdom of Pergamum in 190 BC and was an important station on the ancient Roman road from Pergamum (Bergama) to Laodicea (near Denizli). Its early Christian church appears as one of the seven churches in the Revelation to John. Akhisar was incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century. The modern town is connected by railway and road to Izmir and Manisa and exports cotton, tobacco, graphite, opium, wool, raisins, and dyes. (3)

Sardis: The chief city of Lydia, under a fortified spur of Mount Tmolus in the Hermus Valley, near the junction of the roads from central Asia Minor, Ephesus, Smyrna, and Pergamum, capital of Lydia under Croesus; and seat of the governor after the Persian conquest. Sardis was famous for arts and crafts and was the first center to mint gold and silver coins. So wealthy were the Lydian kings that Croesus became a legend for riches, and it was said that the sands of the Pactolus were golden. Croesus also became a legend for **pride and presumptuous arrogance**, [emphasis mine] when his attack on Persia led to the fall of Sardis and the eclipse of his kingdom. The capture of the great citadel by surprise attack by Cyrus and his Persians in 549 B.C., and three centuries later by the Romans . . . The great earthquake of A.D. 17 ruined Sardis physically and financially. The Romans contributed ten million sesterces in relief, an indication of the damage done, but the city never recovered. (1)

Sardis, *also spelled* Sardes, ruined capital of ancient Lydia, near present Izmir, Turkey. Strategically located on a spur at the foot of Mount Tmolus (Boz Dag), it commanded the central plain of the Hermus Valley and was the western terminus of the Persian **royal** [emphasis mine] road. Sardis was the capital of the flourishing Lydian kingdom of the 7th century BC and was the first city where gold and silver coins were minted. From about 560 to about 546 Sardis was ruled by Croesus, who was renowned for his great wealth and was the last king of Lydia. Taken by the Persians (c. 546 BC), Sardis fell in turn to the Athenians, the Seleucids, and the Attalids until bequeathed to the Romans in 133 BC. Under the Roman Empire, it was the metropolitan capital and centre of judicial administration of the Roman province of Lydia. Destroyed by an earthquake in AD 17, the city was rebuilt and remained one of the great cities of

Anatolia until the later Byzantine period. It was obliterated in 1402 by the Mongol Timur (Tamerlane). Its ruins include the ancient Lydian citadel and about 1,000 Lydian graves. Excavations of Sardis have uncovered more remains of the Hellenistic and Byzantine city than of the Lydian town described by the Greek historian Herodotus. (3)

Philadelphia: A Lydian city founded by Attalus II Philadelphus (159 - 138 B.C.). The king was so named from his **devotion** to his **brother Eumenes**, [emphasis mine] and the city perpetuated his title. Philadelphia was an outpost of Hellenism in native Anatolia. It lies under Mount Tmolus, in a wide vale that opens into the Hermus Valley, and along which the post road ran. . . . The district is disastrously seismic, and the great earthquake of A.D. 17 ruined it completely. Placed right above the fault, Philadelphia was tormented by twenty years of recurrent quakes after the disaster of 17. . . . A Christian witness, in spite of Muslim invasion and pressure, was maintained in Philadelphia through medieval and into modern times. (1)

Was the name of two ancient cities. The first is now Alasehir, Turkey, and the second is now Amman, the capital of Jordan. They were each named for a Greek ruler in Asia called *Philadelphus* . . . *Philadelphia* is a Greek word meaning *brotherly love*. Two ancient cities in Asia Minor once bore the same name . . . (2)

Laodicea: A wealthy city in Asia Minor founded by Antiochus II (261 - 246 B.C.), and **Head** [emphasis mine] of the “circuit” of “the seven churches in the province of Asia” (Rev 1:4). The city lay on one of the great Asian trade routes, and this insured its commercial prosperity. Laodicea was a leading banking center. In 51 B.C. Cicero, en route to his Cilician province, cashed drafts there. It was no doubt the rich banking firms that in A.D. 60 financed the reconstruction of the city after the great earthquake that destroyed it. Laodicea refused the Senate’s earthquake relief. . . . The Lycus Valley produced a glossy black wool, the source of black cloaks and carpets, for which the city was famous. Laodicea was also the home of a medical school and the manufacture of **collyrium**, a famous **eye salve**. [emphasis mine] The scornful imagery of the apocalyptic letter to Laodicea is obviously based on these activities. It also has reference to the emetic qualities of the soda-laden warm water from nearby Hierapolis, whose thermal springs ran into the Maeander. Laodicea’s water supply also came from Hierapolis, and Sir William Ramsay suggests that its vulnerability, together with the city’s exposed position and its easy wealth caused the growth in the community of that spirit of compromise and worldly mindedness castigated in the Revelation. Under Diocletian, Laodicea, still prosperous, was made the chief city of the province of Phrygia. (1)

The ancient name of several cities of western Asia, mostly founded or rebuilt in the 3rd century BC by rulers of the Seleucid dynasty, and named after Laodice, the mother of Seleucus I Nicator, or after Laodice, daughter (or possibly niece) of Antiochus I Soter and wife of Antiochus II Theos. Established as commercial centres on newly opened or reconditioned trade routes, or as strongholds for the pacification of parts of the Seleucid empire, the cities aided in the Hellenization of western Asia and subsequently in the spread of Christianity in the region. The **most important** [emphasis mine] of the cities was Laodicea ad Lycum (near modern Denizli, Turkey); its church was one of the seven to which Saint John addressed the Revelation. Laodicea ad Mare (modern Latakia, Syria) was a major seaport. (3)

Coming back to Revelation, the seven letters, and Jesus Christ . . . Remember, these letters are actually to

US! These letters are to ME! And if you will accept it - they are to YOU! Every specific 'letter' to each church - ends in extremely individual language. Each letter starts broadly - addressed to a 'church' - and ends very narrowly - discussing individual, personal actions. *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message . . .*

The first church named is *Ephesus*.

Ephesus was a proud, rich, busy port; and pride goes before a fall. (Proverbs 16:18) The church of Ephesus was located in a royal capital, a sacred city - which had a temple that was considered one of the seven wonders of the world. This temple was considered so great - because the 'god' which they worshiped was known to have *fallen from heaven . . .*

. . . they all shouted in unison for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? Therefore, since these facts are undeniable . . . (Acts 19:34 - 36)

So the city of Ephesus has immense pride in an image of a god - which the entire world recognizes fell from a great height - direct from heaven . . . Now pride strongly interferes with the relationship we have with other believers. Pride causes us not to be teachable. Pride causes our Love not to be genuine. No matter how many great accomplishments - and how active we are in doing 'great' things for God - if we are puffed up with Pride - we are accomplishing virtually nothing! Remember chapter 13 of 1st Corinthians? The traditions of Ephesus carried great pride. Their city was one of the seven wonders in the entire world, and their god image fell direct from the sky! And so Jesus states that with pride - we have **fallen** from a **great height**. Because what we are accomplishing - is no longer springing from true deep Love which we have for Christ; our fellow brothers and sisters; and for those who are lost and perishing forever! A view of self importance now motivates us - not a great and pure Love which we have for those who are lost and have many needs - no - what we are accomplishing today - is to boast and increase our pride. To make us feel good . . . And so - we have fallen from a great height indeed! The Christians here have hard work, and perseverance. And they have endured hardship for Jesus and His name. And in all of this - they have not grown weary. They have been faithful. Yet - Jesus rebukes them - because they have forsaken their first love. He asks them (us) to repent and remember where we have fallen, and the height thereof . . . (at His right hand; on His throne (Colossians 3:1-3 & Rev 3:21)), and why we first loved Him! And if you do not repent, He will remove our lampstand! We are commanded to develop an ear which *Hears* the Spirit of God (more intimacy with our Lord). And given the promise that if we do these things - learn to walk by the Spirit, and to trust Jesus - to overcome our flesh desires - then God will give us the *Right* to eat from the *Tree of Life*!

We are commended for hating the practices of the Nicolaitans. What - you may ask - are the practices of the Nicolaitans? This was a practice of sin. Relishing sin. Relishing going against God, and seeking after our own pleasures and lusts - just as many do in America today! We constantly seek our own pleasure and amusements thru various entertainment devices such as Television, or other pursuits of the flesh. How can we be close to God, when we hardly ever listen to Him? If we seek to specifically identify a sin which the Nicolaitans practiced - that would be difficult. I have not prayed about it. I have not spent much time on the 'Nicolaitan sin' whatsoever. I have been asked about it, when stating that Revelation is 'open' to me . . . If you earnestly desire to KNOW what this specific sin was (if indeed it was a specific sin) - than I would suggest that you spend substantial amounts of time in prayer - asking God to reveal it

to you!

I do believe that it is unfair to state that this 'practice' was related to Nicolas from Antioch - whom scripture states was a man known to be full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom. (Acts 6:3&5) I also believe that it is foolish and unproductive to pursue what the sin of the Nicolaitans was . . . This is not what Revelation is about, and Jesus hates sin. If you learn to hear the Spirit of God, and then obey God - you will cease to sin; and won't have to worry about it!

Rev 2:1 - 7

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

The second church is *Smyrna*.

Smyrna was one of the chief cities of Asia, and worshiped Rome as a spiritual power. A cult dedicated to Caesar had tremendous pride and power. The city's buildings were very grand, and caused the city to be thought of as a diadem, and referenced as a **crow**n of porticoes.

In Greek, *Smyrna* is: **Σμύρνα**. Capitalized, this word references the city of *Smyrna*. However, the exact same spelling - but with no capitalization - **σμύρνα** indicates: *myrrh, an aromatic resinous gum*

A sweet smelling spice, and one of the gifts to our Lord as an infant - given by the *Magi* who came to give homage. (Matthew 2:11) So, the spice *myrrh* is associated with the name of the second church. According to *The British Museum* & assistant curator *Alexandra Porter* ; Myrrh has a great many varieties, and is still chewed in Yemen to improve bad breath. Myrrh was used to flavor wine, **medicine** (*Smyrna* was **famous** for **medicine** & science), and in the preservation of the dead . . . Medicine is the art and science of healing people. Making sick people well, and prolonging and **preserving** lives . . .

Out of the seven churches addressed by our Lord, *Smyrna* is only one of two (*Philadelphia* is the other (Rev chpt 3)) - who receive NO rebuke. Only commendation, and encouragement!

Jesus identifies that it is He who is speaking, by referencing that He died, and now lives; and is the first and the last. He commends these believers for being tremendously rich - while to the world - the Christians exist in poverty and experience numerous afflictions. We could continue . . . but what is also somewhat interesting; is that *Smyrna* is the only group of believers who it is stated - are going to die for Christ. They are going to experience even more suffering, prison and hardships - and Satan will continue to test them - but to be faithful to the point of death . . .

Historically, some have suggested that *myrrh* was presented as a gift to our Lord when just an infant - to signify that He was destined to die for mankind. The historical suggestion exists because myrrh was used in death - for the preservation of the body. Therefore, I find it interesting - that *Smyrna* - its very name references myrrh - is the only church where it is stated that they are going to be suffering to the point of death; and this city is famous for *saving lives* thru the use of medicine! *Smyrna* receives encouragement to be faithful to the point of death (Jesus was faithful to death (Mark 14:34)) - and they will be given the **crown of life**. To follow our Lord. Jesus uses the word 'crown' in addressing only two of the seven churches. *Smyrna* is one of them. And (recall) the city of *Smyrna* took great pride in its buildings being thought of as a crown . . .

Continuing with myrrh being used for the preservation of a body - this is essentially how Jesus opens up His greeting to this faithful group - by stating He is the first and the last; and that He died and came to life again.

Because of various scriptures - which we will be looking at in more detail as we work thru Revelation - I absolutely believe that every single Christian - is called to be part of a *Bride* for Jesus. Jesus Christ wants a *Bride* for himself. A *Bride* that is worthy . . . And I believe that every Christian is called to be part of that special distinction - "*the wife of the Lamb*". (R21:9) Unfortunately - scripture also makes clear - that although all Christians are called - few are chosen. *Smyrna*, I believe, is part of the *Bride*. Scripture does not specifically name *Smyrna* as being part of the *Bride*, but this group receives no rebuke, only encouragement and commendation, and are about to die for Jesus. Great distress is coming to the world, and great persecution to Christians. We will be slandered and hated by the entire world . . . We are encouraged to remain faithful even to the point of death; to hold fast to our faith; and Jesus will reward us with the crown of life . . .

Rev 2:8 - 11

To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again. I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death.

The third church is *Pergamum*.

Pergamum was a major city; and was the location of the first temple dedicated to Caesar. The city also fanatically worshiped Zeus, and had an altar to Zeus, in the image of a throne; located just above the city. Zeus was referred to as 'Zeus the Savior'. The name of the city (*Pergamum*) means parchment. And parchment was used (still is) as a writing material for very important documents. *Write on a scroll what you see . . .* (Rev 1:11)

The *words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword*; again remind us that these words are from Jesus Christ Himself! (R1:16 & 19:15) They live amongst great deception, yet remain true and pure to the name of Jesus; and faithful to Him; even when Antipas was threatened with death; and now - they are in the midst of grief. However, they also allow the teaching and encouragement of falsehood - the pursuit of

money; and sexual immorality. They are not listening to the Spirit of God enough - the Holy Spirit - to require repentance from those teaching perversions. Jesus requires repentance. Those who do not repent - will find themselves fighting Christ, with themselves on the wrong side of the battle . . .

He who listens to the Spirit of God, and does what He says, and overcomes - will receive hidden manna, bread from heaven - or the 'good stuff' - food and life which has been tucked away, awaiting the glorious celebration for which it was created. Presents hidden under the Tree of Life, for those who overcome. And He will also give us a white stone with a special name on it . . . The reference to the white stone conveys innocence. You were judged, and found not wanting! Saul, who was also called *Paul* - cast his Black stone (pebble) against Stephen ;(Acts 8:1 & 26:10) just before Stephen was stoned to death. In this time period, individuals used to carry two pebbles on their person . . . a white stone, and a black stone. Black was for guilt - white was for innocence. Jesus declares that if you continue till you overcome - He will declare you innocent!

A lot of times today - we wish to say: "Jesus has done it all. He has overcome sin and death." And that is true of course. But yet, Jesus is asking his believers to overcome as well. He is asking us to read revelation, take it to heart; and to walk by the Spirit of God. We ARE to overcome. If we do not overcome, if we take no actions for our faith - we will fall. We will be swallowed up in our sins and deceptions. We are instructed to overcome, and to listen to our teacher - the Holy Spirit of God!

Rev 2:12 - 17

To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

The fourth church is *Thyatira*.

Thyatira has no known illustrious history (or traditions); and is ***barely mentioned*** in ancient writings. Yet, existing records reference ***more*** trade guilds than ***any other*** Asian city. They worshiped an Anatolian deity who was a warlike figure armed with a battle-ax and mounted on a charger (a horse). Some of their coins also depict a female deity - who is wearing a battlemented crown.

The letter to *Thyatira* references *Jezebel*. Jezebel is never described in scripture in any positive reference. The absolute best reference that can be attributed to Jezebel in any 'good' or in some - 'positive' way would be the following: *Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel* (1Kings 21:23) & *This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh. Jezebel's body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, "This is Jezebel."* (2Kings 9:36 - 37) Because of the way in which Jezebel encouraged her husband Ahab to follow Baal, and commit evil; God spoke thru Elijah to Ahab; and stated: *I am going*

*to bring disaster on you. I will **consume your descendants** and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel - slave or free.* (1Kings 21:21)

There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. (1Kings 21:25)

Ahab committed wickedness before he married Jezebel. But - the driving force throughout most of his life - to commit evil - was his wife. The city of Thyatira had no major traditions which are remembered, nor much written about this city. Part of the curse given to Ahab and Jezebel, is God stating that He is going to cut off their descendants . . . and now we see the example of the city of Thyatira. The church where Jezebel is mentioned. Their coins depict a warrior god mounted on a horse . . . And a few coins depicting a woman who is also wearing a battlemented crown. Quoting: *The inscription states that Ahab commanded two thousand **chariots** and ten thousand men. The number of his chariots was far greater than the number credited to **any other king.*** [(1) pg25]

So Thyatira - used coins glorifying a god warrior who conquered on a horse; and God references Jezebel and the destruction of her children - in the letter to the Christians at Thyatira . And Jezebel's husband was a King commanding a huge number of chariots; who participated in sexual sins and great evil; and God had all of his descendants utterly destroyed. And the city of Thyatira - although it had more trade guilds than any other Asian city - is scarcely mentioned in any ancient writings!

The actual woman Jezebel was a very evil and wicked woman; who aligned herself with numerous false prophets; and strived to utterly destroy all true prophets of God. Jezebel probably declared herself to be a prophet - although no scripture references the statement. Scripture does reference that over EIGHT HUNDRED prophets routinely ate (fellowship, breaking bread together, feasting, partying) at Jezebel's table. Jezebel was extremely intertwined with false prophecy. (1 Kings 18:4; 18:19; 19:1 - 2)

The letter to Thyatira opens with Jesus reminding us that He is the Son of God, (a title denoting divine nature; heir; authority from, of, and by God; and is a synonym for Messiah . . .) *The Son* implies the one who inherits the Kingdom; massive authority, etc. His appearance is terrifying. His eyes alone are a blazing fire; and his feet are of burnished bronze. (*Fine Brass* (KJV)) Depending on the various alloys - polished brass can be quite reflective and bright. The Amplified states (R2:18 Amp):

eyes that flash like a flame of fire, and Whose feet glow like bright and burnished and white-hot bronze.

Adam Clarke writes:

The original word, chalkolibanon, means the famous aurichalcum, or factitious metal, which, according to Suidas, was eidos eelektron, timiooteron chrusou, "a kind of amber, more precious than gold." It seems to have been a composition of gold, silver, and brass, and the same with the Corinthian brass, so highly famed and valued; for when Lucius Mummius took and burnt the city of Corinth, many statues of these three metals, being melted, had run together, and formed the composition already mentioned, and which was held in as high estimation as gold. (Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc.)

Jesus commends them for their deeds, love and faith; and their service and perseverance. He also states they are growing in Him - since they are now doing more than they did when they first became saved . . . But some are tolerating Jezebel - who is displaying prophetic power; and is leading people to commit sexual sins, and to pursue Satan instead of the Lord. This is accomplished thru deception, and secrets of

power from Satan. People are seeking power; but not true relationship with God! But God knows the heart - and He has tried to lead those pursuing not God but their own desires - to repentance. The children of these false teachings, will be struck down if they do not repent!

In His letter to the church of 'Thyatira' (in His letter to US); Jesus is NOT stating that a woman cannot prophesy or be used in prophecy - or even function as a prophet of God. These seven churches were chosen because of the traditions and history which surrounded the area. The mention of Jezebel in Thyatira -was not referenced so that people could say: "See, God doesn't want any women prophets." No - prophecy and Jezebel were mentioned together - because historically - Jezebel was intimately involved in false prophecy and powerful deceptions. We are (especially in these last days which are upon us) to be on our guard - not against prophecy, miracles, or the Lord's powerful manifestations in our midst - but we are to be on guard against false prophecy, and false miracles, and powerful deceptions. We are called to be true prophets, and to know and to have an intimate relationship with our God! (Mark 4:9; John 10:4,16,27; Rev 2:29)

I myself - have a friend and dear brother in Christ - Mark D'B. Mark gets asked to go with people to all sorts of things. He has a natural heart, witness and hospitality towards people and towards God. One day Mark is sharing about a church which he had recently visited; and that gold dust was floating down in the air . . . So - I'm crying out and saying to Mark - "Why don't you ever call me; when your going to one of these things . . . I'd like to see gold dust floating down from Heaven!"

Now, I haven't ever been to any type of worship service to God - where that 'type' of spiritual manifestation(s) occurred. But - what is my heart? Why am I moaning to Mark - that he didn't take me? Totally wrong motivation. I want power. I want excitement. I want to see God move. I want to see miracles; and people healed. But what are the true motivations of my heart? Just making the point - that this type of stuff is all very today. These letters and rebukes, and encouragements - are written for us - and to us! We are so caught up in all of our great achievements, and the technologies of man - that we hardly have time for God. And yet - when spiritual power is manifest - we desire it for the wrong motivations. Lord Jesus help us; and Lord Jesus - help me! It is TOTALLY fine to be excited in God. To be pumped up for the Lord. That is GREAT! God wants to exhibit His power. But we need to have the right motivations . . .

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.
(Ecclesiastes 1:9)

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

Those who have not been misled; are encouraged to continue to walk the narrow path. To hold on to what they have (a relationship with God); until Jesus finally returns in His Glory. So, we are encouraged to guard our hearts, and the reasons we serve; and to constantly improve our relationship with our dear Lord. If we hold fast , if we overcome (all of the world's deceptions); than we will be given authority over the nations. We will rule with Jesus . . . we will be given an 'office' of great authority - we will be given the morning star. Jesus himself - is the bright Morning Star. (R22:16) And again - we are encouraged to learn to HEAR the Spirit of God!

Rev 2:18 - 29

To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like

blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations - 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' - just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

(Chapter 3)

The fifth church is *Sardis*.

The chief city of Lydia, famous for arts and crafts. Sardis was the first city to mint gold and silver coins; and the area became so wealthy - that people said the very sands of the area - were made from gold. Historically - Sardis also became known for being a braggart, and having much arrogance in their accomplishments and abilities. This arrogance was remembered for the city of Sardis - because in 549 B.C. the city attacked Persia; and this attack led to the fall of Sardis; and the eclipse of this huge and wealthy kingdom. In 17 A.D.; a huge earthquake utterly destroyed the city. The Romans gave over 10 million in relief aid - but the city never fully recovered. Sardis is the ruined capital of ancient Lydia. And the ruins include the ancient Lydian citadel and about 1,000 Lydian graves.

So, Sardis was an extremely wealthy area, and had much pride and was known for being arrogant, and thinking nothing could conquer or stop them. Sardis is the only city among the seven which Jesus mentioned - where the historical references being cited - mention **graves**, and about **one thousand dead**.

Jesus, in His letter to 'Sardis' (US) - states that they have a reputation for being alive - but are actually **dead**. He then requests that they strengthen what remains - and is about to die . . . Please do not let your very foundation of Christ wither away! What are you DOING with Jesus?? Are we just existing? Waiting to be 'taken out' just before the great tribulation? Is that your 'goal' in life? To watch TV, eat burgers, have fun and play games with your kids; climb the ladder of success; and then go to your great eternal reward with Jesus when you die??

How are you advancing in one of the goals Christ has set before you - to "*be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*"

"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Matthew 5:48 & 19:21)

Is the true experience of Salvation only asking Jesus to save you - and after that - you have it 'made'? If we have nothing to do in Christ - if we are only to exist until we die and go home to be with Him - than what is the point?? Salvation might as well be a "*beam us up - Scotty.*" You get saved; and poof - God beams you up to be with Him . . .

Jesus has positions and jobs for us each to occupy and excel . . . Do you really believe that Christ only wants you to be polite at work? That your service for Christ is to be a 'good' father; to provide financially for your family, and to stay faithful to your wife? **Please**. Get real.

It is TRUE that God will welcome you into His presence if you love Jesus, and have submitted to Jesus as Lord. And I certainly do not wish to get into an extraneous debate on what constitutes 'love'; obeying His commandments (John 14:15); or how the civilized world indulges our pleasures; or how things are different now . . . and I am NOT creating new rules for getting or being saved! It is just that Jesus DOES have things for us to do!

To 'Sardis' (US) - Jesus states: "*Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your **deeds complete** in the sight of my God.*" (R3:2)

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to **do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us **to do**.* (Ephesians 2:10)

We all have actions and works which God has given us to do, and to accomplish! I do not like writing commentary on Revelation. I would much rather know that people are soaking in it; just reading it every day; and learning to actually HEAR God teach them . . . To be like Daniel, and to persevere in the greatest prophecy given to mankind; and fast and pray, and just let the greatest Teacher who has ever been among us - the Holy Spirit - teach you about what this prophecy states. How it is put together, etc. But God put it into my heart to read it; God has made it known to me how important this prophecy really is; and so - since God has opened it up to me - ONLY because I have spent hundreds of hours letting Him teach me - now I am required to shout from the roofs what has been given! So, I am writing a commentary. It is a very, very small thing to do . . . But I do KNOW that God is asking me to write it! Just as He asked John to write the prophecy - so He is asking me to write this commentary. We must freely give out what has been freely given.

I have other things which God wishes for me to accomplish. Don't know what they are . . . but God does have things which He wishes for us all to accomplish, So, I have this very small writing, and other things as God leads. But let the letter to Sardis motivate your heart. What is God asking you to accomplish? Are you giving Him the time to allow Him to teach you? Is your heart open to instruction? Are you teaching others, and being an encouragement? How is God moving in your life? What has been forgotten which God accomplished, and what needs to be strengthened before it has faded away?

If you do not remember who you are, and what has been given . . . If you do not learn to Hear the spirit of God actually speaking to you - then you will miss the seasons and the days at hand. You will not know if it is a Monday, or a Wednesday. In other words - you will not know when Christ is knocking at your door, and the time is at hand.

Jesus also states that individuals who overcome - will be dressed in white. And that He will never remove their names from the book of life. A promise is given for those who actively overcome. Those who pursue what Christ desires for them to do and to accomplish. To those who overcome - He (Jesus), our **God and Judge**; will not **blot out** (remove) their name from the book of life! Not only that - but Jesus Himself - will acknowledge your name before the Father and his angels!

And we are again encouraged to LISTEN to the Spirit of God. To truly learn to hear the voice of God.

These words to Sardis and us; are marvelous. Full of confidence, encouragement, commandments, and resolve.

Rev 3:1 - 6

To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The sixth church is *Philadelphia*.

For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior . . . (Isaiah 43:3)

. . . How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true . . . (Rev 6:10)

The letter to Philadelphia opens with Jesus stating that He is God. Only God is Holy, true, and faithful; and these are His words . . . God loves us dearly, and the very word *Philadelphia* means brotherly love. Philadelphia was a Lydian city founded by *Attalus II Philadelphus*; who was devoted to his brother Eumenes . . . Philadelphia was founded on a disastrously seismic area; being situated directly above a fault . . . However, even though it suffers from recurrent quakes, and has experienced much Muslim invasion and subsequent pressure against Christianity - a Christian witness has been maintained throughout all the centuries in this city - up to and into modern times.

This *Christian witness* is noteworthy and interesting since Jesus states to the church located at Philadelphia - that he has placed before them an open door - that no one can shut! Philadelphia's physical foundation is extremely weak. Being founded directly over a seismic fault - their physical foundation literally has no strength . . . Constantly being physically assaulted - Jesus states they have little strength - yet have kept his word; and not denied his name . . . Philadelphia is only one of two churches who receive no rebuke . . . (Smyrna is the other.) But, as we have seen - this is not so much that this church is perfect - but more a reflection of the historic reputation, and traditions of the city. Philadelphia's reputation is that of LOVE. Brotherly love for one another. Jesus stated:

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. (John 14:15)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34 - 35)

Love is very important to God . . .

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

But if anyone obeys his word, *God's love* is truly made complete in him. This is how we *know* we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him *must* walk as Jesus did. (1John 2:5 - 6)

We *know* that we have passed from *death* to *life*, because we *love our brothers*. Anyone who does *not love* remains in *death*. (1John 3:14)

But whoever *hates* his brother is in the *darkness* and walks around in the darkness . . . (1John 2:11)

Anyone who *hates* his brother is a murderer, and you know that *no murderer has eternal life* in him. (1John 3:15)

If anyone has material possessions and sees his *brother in need* but has no pity on him, how can the *love of God* be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with *actions* and in *truth*. (1John 3:17 - 18)

Dear friends, let us *love one another*, for *love* comes from *God*. Everyone who *loves* has been born of *God* and knows *God*. Whoever *does not love* does *not know God*, because *God is love*. (1John 4:7 - 8)

And do not *grieve* *λυπέιτε* ((act.) to cause sorrow, grief; (pass.) to be sorrowful, sad, distressed) *the Holy Spirit of God*, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. *Get rid of ALL bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love* . . . (Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2)

Now, I have focused slightly on the subject of Love - because it is so important to God; and since so many apparent Christians - do not actually love. In fact - the majority of those who call themselves *Christians*; and who reside in the US for example - truly do *not* have LOVE for one another. We delight in cutting one another down; gossiping with regards to someone else's troubles . . . etc. We ask for an opinion on something - but don't wish to hear the truth - or what the person we are asking - believes to be the truth . . . We put on 'plastic' faces; and tell people we are glad to see them in Church; but have no intention of actually getting to know them; nor do we desire to get to know them. We do, in fact - HATE them... We consider them to be, dumb, stupid, not socially adept; too fat, too skinny, too ugly, too good looking; not our type; etc.

What we are **NOT** doing - is **LOVING** our brothers and sisters. The Greek word **ἀγαπῶν** being used in these referenced verses - specifically has the meaning of:

to love; in the NT usually the active love of God for his Son and his people, and the active love his people are to have for God, each other, and even enemies

Active Love?? Enemies?? What's that all about? We have enough difficulties even shaking someone's hand - who is in a wheelchair; or looks different from us; or who stutters . . . So many, many reasons exist in our head and in our unrepentant hearts - why we truly want NOTHING to do with various people - while we lie, and smile at them . . . and call ourselves *Christians*; and delude ourselves - into thinking that we are working for God; doing his great work - when we are really only concerned for our own pleasure - and not concerned for the lonely brother - who needs fellowship and encouragement; or for someone who has burdens placed on his heart by God - but the church does not wish to hear or listen . . . We state that we listen to Jesus - but we don't have ANY desire to listen to our church brothers or sisters . . . to receive instructions from anyone but ourselves or our husband or wife - or just very, very close friends. And let

us not be challenged by anyone in our faith or in areas where we need growth - **PLEASE** - show me the miracles first - please work great and wonderful miracles - then I *might* listen to you . . . But I probably won't - since you still not Jesus; and I *only* listen to *Jesus* . . . While the truth is: Most *Christians* - are only listening to weekly Sunday sermons; and their own heads! We are NOT listening to our teacher and instructor - Mr. Holy Spirit! GOD *forgive* us! PRAISE be to GOD! Who cares for us so very, very much - that He sent GOD to dwell with us - in this very desolate world . . .

Of course - when the time of tribulation comes - who will stand beside you - and help you remain firm? And you can't state the Holy Spirit - since you don't **know** him, and have not been **listening** to him - while you go about your life, concerned mostly for yourself; and your few chosen, elite friends . . . while not demonstrating true, pure love to all of those around you - who come into your sphere of influence . . .

And will you run to the people doing great and mighty miracles then? The mighty deception which is coming upon us - will be achieved in part - due to the great and mighty FALSE miracles which will be done in our midst! Those miracles will be performed ONLY to deceive and cause you to FALL away from Christ... and this great deception WILL be successful and a great many *Christians* WILL fall away - because they do not KNOW Christ. And one of the many reasons why we fail to hear the Holy Spirit in a significant way; and WILL be ripe for deception - is because we are pursuing our own pleasures and lusts; and harboring hate and ill feelings towards our fellow believers in Christ.

Sorry - I hope you can hear the Spirit asking you to repent and change. Because without true deep LOVE for ALL of your brothers and sisters in Christ; and for even those who are your enemies - individuals who sin against you, who cause you tremendous grief or offense - even *these* people - you should be desperate to show them the true and pure LOVE of Jesus, and His salvation and tremendous *grace* towards men; to extend the right arm of fellowship to those who have hurt you - without this bedrock of Love **ruling** your life - you are ripe for deception, and falling away from God and our Lord . . .

And he performed great and miraculous signs . . . Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived . . . (Rev 13:13 - 14)

*Then I saw three **evil spirits** that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are **spirits of demons** performing **miraculous signs** . . .* (Rev 16:13 - 14)

***Many** will say . . . Lord, did we not **prophecy** in your name, and in **your name drive out demons** and perform **many miracles?**' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I **never knew you**. Away from me, you **evildoers!**'* (Matthew 7:22 - 23)

*At that time **many** will **turn away** from the **faith** and will betray and hate each other, and **many false prophets** will appear and **deceive many** people.* (Matthew 24:10 - 11)

*For then there will be **great distress, unequalled** from the beginning of the world until now - and **never** to be equalled again. If those days had **not been cut short**, no one would survive, but for the **sake of the elect** those days **will be shortened**.* (Matthew 24:21 - 22)

I am not against miracles or people being healed; or numerous miraculous signs! But - we need to learn to HEAR the Holy Spirit - so that we know whom we are running to; and by what authority we or they - are performing miracles.

God knows that we are still sinners. He knows that I am not perfect. But He wants me to be perfect. And when we willfully do not love our brothers; and want nothing to do with them - when we rejoice in our sinful, deceptive heart - we are putting our very relationship with Jesus at risk. How can we hear the Spirit of God - when we are willfully, joyfully unrepentant; and not changing or reaching out to fellow brothers and sisters in Christ - who would require 'extra' effort on our part . . .

GOD help us. God help me! A couple of days ago (today is 6/24/10); my wife and I were at a grocery store purchasing some supplies for Father's day. I noticed the man whose job position is to place purchased items back into the cart; and bag them etc. - seemed to me on glance - to be retarded - or mentally slow. I heard him speaking, and this was my immediate impression. Then, he came on over to me back in the line, and asked me to move - so that he could get the cart...

I was not thinking condemning thoughts towards this man. (Tony was the name on his name badge.) I felt briefly sorry for him; but I really did not desire to enter into conversation with him either. After all - he is mentally inferior to my immense intellect - right?? Why would I invite him over to my house, or genuinely wish him well, and inquire into how his family was . .

As we purchased our groceries, we got involved in a quick conversation with the cashier. What stores had the freshest food, best prices, etc. She did not believe that the store she was working for - had the best prices, or freshest food... Just as we finished this brief exchange - I noticed Tony (who is standing right there) is intently listening. But - I haven't even acknowledged his presence to him! He was - by my actions - a total non-entity! So, as I was now leaving - I stated: "Have a good day, Tony." But - I believe I stated this almost under my breath - and I don't believe he heard it...

Now, GOD (Holy Spirit) totally convicted me on this little exchange. And my immense lack of compassion towards this man. I truly don't know anything about him. Except for his name badge. Are these the attitudes of my heart, towards my fellow man? Woe to me - if I do not change.

And as far as my perceived assessment of Tony's intellect - Stephen Hawking (who needs Jesus) doesn't look so smart either! But he is easily recognized as one of the smartest minds in the last two centuries!

I am deeply ashamed by my response. I had a brother who WAS retarded. A very, very sweet person. My parents spent YEARS working with 'disadvantaged' or 'special ed' children. I have driven for Metro; and picked up numerous people in wheelchairs - who were on their way to work or college - who it was quite obvious - needed assistance in just getting dressed . . . but they are out and about - being productive, and attending University! My heart needs immense changing. GOD LOVES Tony. And so should I. Period. God wants to Bless Tony. And so should I. With every part of my being.

The Philadelphian church was blessed by Christ - because of the tradition of Love which surrounded the city. Christ deeply desires for us to recognize how vital and important it is - for each one of us - to be totally filled with immense love and compassion for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ . . . Then Jesus states that He will make those who *claim* to be *Christians* - but are not, and are *liars* - to fall down before them (these believers who love unconditionally) and acknowledge that Jesus loves them tremendously!

Without LOVE - we truly do not know Jesus or God!

*I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who *claim* to be *Jews* though they are not, but are*

liars . . . (Rev 3:9)

*A man is **not a Jew** if he is **only one outwardly**, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man **is a Jew** if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, **by the Spirit . . .***
(Romans 2:28 - 29)

*Therefore, as God's **chosen people**, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion . . . Bear with each other and **forgive** . . . And over all these virtues **put on love** . . .* (Colossians 3:12 - 14)

And since you are keeping my commands to LOVE and to endure patiently - even while surrounded by those who bring false accusations against you; who claim to belong to me - but do not . . . Because you are keeping all of my commands (their lives are ruled by **Love for God**, and Love for fellow man); then I Jesus, will keep YOU from the 'hour' of trial and distress which is coming to the entire world. This trial will test the remaining Christians - who are not being ruled by immense Love - but do know me . . . But they need to be refined and to make a decision . . . as does the whole, entire earth. WHO are you going to allow to be LORD of your life? Satan or Jesus? But, since *these* Christians have *already* made Jesus to truly be their Lord, and they love unconditionally - then Jesus is going to keep *them* from the hour of trial and distress which is going to engulf the entire world . . .

Jesus reiterates that He IS coming soon! And to hold onto what they have - the tremendous love which they have for each other and for God - so that they will not fall, and no one will be able to take their crown. A rich crown of Glory which Jesus is giving these believers . . .

If we continue to overcome; continue to put down our flesh, to LIVE in the LOVE which God has for us; and to give out that Love towards all of our brothers - then Jesus will make us a PILLAR in God's temple. A strength and foundation stone in God's temple. And the name of GOD will be written on us; and part of our very being . . . And our name will also be that of the City of GOD - the **new Jerusalem** . . . The *new Jerusalem* is the **BRIDE of CHRIST**. *She* is the **BRIDE** of the **Lamb!**

And the church of *Philadelphia* - who loves unconditionally, and without reservation - will also have Jesus' **new name** written on them. The name *only* Jesus **knows** . . . Since that name - the name only Jesus knows - will be written on *His* Bride. The **Bride** will know His **new** name . . .

Here, in the prophecy which is Revelation - is the *first* description of the **Bride of Christ**. All are called - few are chosen. *Philadelphia* because of her immense LOVE for God - obeys God and Christ's commands. She LOVES. Without hate, envy, jealousy, or spite. Slow to anger, rich in patience and understanding; the believers who embrace LOVE towards God, fellow believers, *and* OVERCOME the many deceits of this world - consist of Christ's chosen, beloved BRIDE.

And a husband - protects his Bride. He loves his wife, and keeps her from harm. And so - Jesus promises that these believers - the ones who have walked the path worthy of being *His* Bride - *these* he will keep from the tremendous tribulation which is going to engulf the entire earth . . .

And we are again encouraged to develop our *Ear* to HEAR the Spirit of GOD!

*'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without **wedding clothes?**' . . . throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* *"For **many are invited**, but **few are chosen**."* (Matthew 22:12 - 14)

His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are *many crowns*. He has a *name* written on him that *no one knows* but he *himself*. (Rev 19:12)

I and the Father are one. (John 10:30)

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is *one* with her in *body*? For it is said, “The *two* will become *one* flesh.” But he who unites himself with the *Lord is one with him* in spirit. (1Corinthians 6:16 - 17)

You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am *not the Christ* but am sent ahead of him.’ The *bride* belongs to the *bridegroom*. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is *full of joy* when he hears the *bridegroom’s voice*. That *joy* is mine, and it is *now complete*. (John 3:28 - 29)

. . . the *two* will become *one* flesh.” This is a *profound mystery* - but I am talking about *Christ* and the *church*. (Ephesians 5:31 - 32)

For the *wedding* of the *Lamb* has come, and his *bride* has made *herself ready*. (Rev 19:7)

. . . *Blessed* are those who are *invited* to the *wedding* supper . . . (Rev 19:9)

I saw the *Holy City*, the *new Jerusalem*, coming down *out of heaven* from God, prepared as a *bride* beautifully dressed for *her husband*. (Rev 21:2)

“Come, I will show you the *bride*, the *wife of the Lamb*.” And he carried me . . . to a mountain great and high, and showed me the *Holy City, Jerusalem*, coming down out of heaven from God. (Rev 21:9)

. . . My *reward* is with me, and I will *give* to everyone *according* to what he *has done*. (Rev 22:12)

Rev 3:7 - 13

“To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars - I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The seventh church is *Laodicea*.

Keeping in mind that GOD *rules* HIS creation; that GOD is in charge of everything - the letter to Laodicea opens with the following words:

. . . *These are the words of the **Amen**, the **faithful** and **true** witness, the **ruler** of **God's creation**.* (Rev 3:14)

Laodicea was physically located at the **head** or start of a great Asian trade route. Established as a commercial and banking center - Laodicea was the most important city in the entire area . . . They had immense wealth, and in 51 B.C. - *Cicero* cashed drafts there . . . Laodicea had so much financial wealth and influence - that after a huge earthquake - they refused all financial earthquake relief from the Roman Senate.

Laodicea was the location for a medical **school**; and manufactured **collyrium** - a famous eye salve . . . Their water supply came from the Maeander river and nearby Hierapolis. Hierapolis was famous for thermal, soda - laden hot springs - which ran into the Maeander river. Consequently - Laodicea's water was lukewarm. The thermal spring water was cooled down, both from distance and from mixing with the Maeander. The surrounding valley produced a sought after glossy black wool; so the city was famous for their various cloaks and carpets . . .

*But many who are **first** will be **last**, and the last first.*” (Mark 10:31)

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)

As we have seen , Jesus is using the various cities historical traditions, and cultural references; to make certain specific points about various attitudes which He knew would be prevalent during the end times. Many people who have seen the city of Seattle - think of the ‘Space Needle’ - when Seattle is referenced in conversation. New York City - people thought of ‘Times Square’; and the Statue of Liberty. Now, we invariably remember the Twin Towers and September 11th.

So it is with the church at Laodicea. These were not evil Christians. They were, in all likelihood - probably just as faithful and enduring persecution; as those Christians residing in the city of Philadelphia or Smyrna. But Jesus does want us to be extremely aware - of situations which we can so easily be caught up in; which significantly affect our intimacy with Him.

So, to Laodicea - which is the **first** and **leading** city of the entire region; Jesus mentions them dead **last**. Absolutely minimizing their importance, and suggesting that if they wish to be significant - they should strive to be ultimate servants.

When we quench our thirst - we invigorate our entire being, and our very mouths - with good healthy swigs, of cold water. Especially on hot, sweltering days. Laodicea had no cold water. With all of their riches - only lukewarm or tepid water existed in this city. So Jesus, who is the one who freely gives out Life, and water - asking all those who thirst to come to Him - he states that Laodicea is lukewarm, and that He is about to spit them out of His mouth.

Jesus wants us HOT for Him! No more fence sitting. RUN with our Lord; or why even be a Christian? Choose this day whom to serve . . .

*But if **servicing the LORD** seems undesirable to you, then **choose** for yourselves **this day** whom you will serve . . .* (Joshua 24:15)

*“No one can serve **two masters**. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You **cannot serve both God and Money**.* (Matthew 6:24)

They believe they are completely healthy, and lack nothing. They are absolutely complete. But nothing is further from the truth! They lack everything, and have nothing. Those who produce medicine to help people see - are spiritually blind. They have NOTHING; but they are not looking to Jesus to be their strength and sufficiency.

Jesus **NEVER** sells anything! EVERYTHING Jesus has to give us - He **FREELY** gives! Yet, to Laodicea - since the city is so much into buying and selling, and making immense wealth - to Laodicea - Jesus asks them to 'buy' . . . Laodicea is a COMMERCIAL city, and BANKING center. So, they are asked to *purchase* virtually everything which makes Laodicea wealthy! (Money, clothes, and eye salve!)

*I counsel you to **buy** from me . . .* (Rev 3:18)

*Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and **buy** themselves something to eat.” But he answered, “**You give them something to eat.**”* (Mark 6:36 - 37)

*. . . with **your blood** you **purchased** men for God . . .* (Rev 5:9)

*. . . “If you knew the **gift** of **God** and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have **asked** him and **he** would have **given** you living water.”* (John 4:10)

*. . . **Whoever** is **thirsty**, let him **come**; and **whoever** wishes, let him take the **free gift** of the water of life.* (Rev 22:17)

*. . . I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**, the **Beginning and the End**. To him who is thirsty **I will give** to drink **without cost** . . .* (Rev 21:6)

Laodicea is asked to purchase from Jesus - gold which has been refined . . . with this refined gold - they will be rich! They are asked to purchase *white* clothes to wear . . . The preferred garb in Laodicea were those coveted special *black* wool cloaks which the city was famous for producing and selling. . . And they are requested to purchase from Jesus - a special eye salve to put on their eyes!

Jesus reminds us that He LOVES the people of Laodicea . . . That is why He is rebuking us! He only rebukes and disciplines those whom He LOVES. So we are asked to be earnest with regards to Jesus and our relationship with Him; and to repent. To turn from our self absorbed ways . . .

He is standing at our door - knocking on the door to our heart. If we Love Him - we will obey His commands. If we hear the knocking at our door; which Jesus is doing, and we open our door - He will enter us and make us Holy; and we will be one with Him. If we overcome - Jesus himself - will allow us to *sit* with Him - on **His throne!**

And - we are again - because GOD really, *really* wants us to learn to HEAR Him - we are again encouraged to learn to HEAR the Spirit of God, and what GOD is saying to the 'churches' . We are encouraged to learn to HEAR what GOD is saying to US! Get *intimate* with God, spend time in prayer, revelation, and learn to Hear GOD!

Rev 3:14 - 22

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you

were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Finally, as we close out the letters to the seven 'churches' - we should remind ourselves that Jesus could have been offended with any of them. Only two churches did He not rebuke. But his words, and encouragements - were to strengthen us. To cause us to follow Him - in true humbleness and meekness of heart. Jesus was sinless. Yet, he lived surrounded by sinful people. He could have rebuked every single person he came across; every single day; for hours on end . . . He easily could have been offended by virtually every word which he heard uttered. Instead, he chose to lay down his life for us; to wash our very feet, and to be a true servant to anyone who comes to Him . . . to show us the pure way of God, and to provide a free entrance into Heaven. To allow us to sit at His right hand. Consequently - put off your childish ways. Put off your offenses with various brothers and sisters. Walk, as much as possible - in the pure love of God - which God would have you pour out on others. Do not continue to wallow in your selfishness. To bathe in your self pleasures of pity, offenses, strengths in the word of God, your great job, etc. Soak in the wonderful pure love and hope which the Holy Spirit is willing to wash you with; and put off your childish ways of immaturity. Put on kindness, gentleness, and peace towards all. Start walking in the full maturity of Christ, and the Love which He desires for you to pour forth; just as he gave his life and love for you to be able to walk in Him, and to come to know Him. It is impossible to *Know* Jesus, and to be *led* by the Spirit and *walking with* Christ; while your actively harboring offenses, hate, and lack of respect towards your fellow believers in Christ.

And do not ***grieve*** **λυπεῖτε** ((act.) to cause sorrow, grief; (pass.) to be sorrowful, sad, distressed) *the Holy Spirit of God*, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ***Get rid of ALL bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love . . .*** (Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2)

(Chapter 4)

Some, in all sincerity; would state that chapter 4 opens up with a vision of the Rapture. That John being caught up into Heaven - is symbolic of the church being caught up to God. The rapture is visible in several places in Revelation - but not in chapter four. When John is requested to "Come up here . . ." to see what must take place; he is being ushered into Heaven by the Spirit of God - so that he may view the physical from a spiritual view. No different really than Isaiah or Paul; and their being before God.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings . . . And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand . . . (Isaiah 6:1 - 6)

. . . I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know - God knows. And I know that this man - whether *in the body* or *apart from the body* I do not know, but God knows was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. (2Corinthians 12:1 - 4)

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:55 - 56)

John is caught up to Heaven - so that he may be shown what must take place *after this . . .* The promise of this prophecy - is to reveal the future. Jesus has discussed the essential and various elements of Christianity; and the numerous foibles which so easily entangle each and every one of us - in this glorious walk with Him. Now - He is about to start revealing the very end times. To do so - John must be in Heaven - so that John can be shown an extremely vivid and accurate future . . .

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. . . . (Rev 4:1)

The open door is Jesus - providing entrance to John.

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. . . . (John 10:9)

. . . And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and *I* will show you what *must take place* after this." (Rev 4:1)

*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what *must soon take place* . . .* (Rev 1:1)

John is now directly transported by the Spirit to Heaven, where he sees a throne with Jesus sitting on it . . .

*At once I was *in the Spirit*, and there before me was a *throne* in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A *rainbow*, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.* (Rev 4:2 - 3)

*As they were *walking along* and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and *Elijah went up to heaven* in a whirlwind.* (2Kings 2:11)

*When they came up out of the water, the *Spirit* of the Lord suddenly *took Philip away* . . . Philip, however, appeared at Azotus . . .* (Acts 8:39 - 40)

We then have a description of this small portion of Heaven; and what John initially sees . . . In my consideration - this initial description - is not necessary for an understanding of what Revelation teaches; with regards to end times. And the distress and actions ushering in the events which must take place - before Jesus assumes His rightful place as Ruler of all. However, God has included this description - so I will briefly discuss some parts of it. But I have a tremendous tendency to mostly gloss over chapter four, and the description herein.

I mean, we are describing the FANTASTIC. Would you rather that it stated the following:

A voice said: "Come up here." So, I allowed God to take me to his dwelling place. There, in heaven, I

found myself in a dull, drab room. Sort of an olive green color. A dusty, obviously not sat in much - throne occupied a small portion of said musty room. Seen one throne, seen them all - I always say . . . So there was this dusty old throne, and a guy seated himself on it. And it was really dark; and I asked if he couldn't have bothered to put in some windows . . . to let in some light . . .

People get so caught up in the tiniest minutiae, they easily forget the focus of this prophecy.

. . . *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.* (1Corinthians 2:9 - 10)

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalms 103:11 - 12)

As long as I exist in a 'tent' or a body which experiences pain & decay; as long as I myself am not perfect, and sin - yelling at my wife for the most insane trivial nonsense - as long as I am not BEFORE HIM - I will have a really, really hard time understanding what Heaven is like . . . Heaven and GOD are incalculable. A description beyond words . . .

Revelation, chapter four - opens with a sliver; the tiniest, tiniest bit of a description of an extremely small portion of Heaven! My viewpoint on this is: WOW. AMAZING. WOW. ALL THIS, AND MORE - IS FOR ME?!! GOD, HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO KNOW YOU. HOW AWESOME IT IS THAT YOU LOVE ME. Me, a broken person, full of hurt and anger; and yet GOD, the CREATOR of the ENTIRE UNIVERSE - LOVES and cares DEEPLY - for this insignificant person... WOW. THANK YOU GOD AND LORD!!

And so John finds himself in Heaven, before a throne with Jesus seated on it; and Jesus has ushered in a new covenant for us. A covenant where we have FREE access into Heaven - without any sin between us and God - totally because of Jesus' actions; and His immense Love for His people. And since Jesus ushered in the final covenant between God and man - (and because Heaven is a totally blinding place); we have a Rainbow encircling the throne of God. A rainbow is the quasi-essential reminder of one of the first covenants between God and man.

*I have set my **rainbow** in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the **covenant** between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, **I will remember** my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”* (Genesis 9:13 - 16)

*Like the appearance of a **rainbow** in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the **glory of the LORD**. When I saw it, I fell facedown . . .* (Ezekiel 1:28)

*And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A **rainbow**, resembling an emerald, **encircled the throne**.* (Rev 4:3)

Then we have the twenty-four elders; seated on thrones; with crowns of gold on their heads. The elders are priests, and possibly (could/may) represent the Bride of Christ, seated around their Husband and Lord. We are seated with Christ in Heavenly places, and Christ lets us sit with Him on His throne; and He is seated on God's throne... So do with this what you may... I'm not wrapped around the axle about it. You

can (if you want) read about the twenty-four courses of Priests who ministered in the temple of God - in 1st Chronicles chapter 24. The entire chapter - of chapter 24 - deals with the twenty-four courses of priests . . .

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

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit **on his throne** in **heavenly** glory.* (Matthew 25:31)

*"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the **clouds of heaven**."* (Matthew 26:64)

. . . **heaven** . . . is God's **throne**; (Matthew 5:34)

*And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on **thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.* (Luke 22:29 - 30)

. . . **heaven** . . . God's **throne** . . . (Matthew 23:22)

*which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and **seated him** at his right hand in the **heavenly realms**, far above **all rule and authority**, power and dominion, and **every title** that can be given, not only in the present age but **also in the one to come**.* (Ephesians 1:20 - 21)

*And God **raised us up** with Christ and **seated us with him** in the **heavenly realms** in Christ Jesus,* (Ephesians 2:6)

We continue with more descriptions of the power of God. Have you ever been up close to a LIGHTNING strike? Do you realize that ONE *average* bolt of lightning discharges well over 100 million volts of electricity, with peak currents on the order of 20,000 amperes; and heats the air in its path to over 60,000 °F (33,000 °C)? One bolt from cloud to ground can be 9 MILES long (14 km) and a flash that travels through clouds side by side may be *more* than 90 miles (140 km) long. The entire process is very rapid; the leader stroke reaches the juncture point or the ground in about 20 milliseconds, and the return stroke reaches the cloud in about 70 microseconds . . . [electronic (cd) sources: 1999 World Book Deluxe & Britannica 2002 Deluxe] And more energy in that one tiny bit of time - than man can hardly comprehend or have any idea of how to harness or control . . . Flashes of lightning; and rumblings of thunder . . . (POWER; AUTHORITY; JUDGEMENT.)

Now Joseph A. Seiss; [1823 - 1904] who wrote *THE APOCALYPSE; EXPOSITION OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION* stated the following with regards to the above verses . . .

["And a rainbow encircled the throne, in appearance like to an emerald." The rainbow is one of the most beautiful and majestic of earthly appearances. It is the token of God's covenant with all flesh, never again to destroy the earth or its inhabitants, as in the flood (Gen 9:11,17). Encircling this throne, the intimation is, that, although a throne of judgment, it is not a throne of destruction, but one of conservation, which bears with it the remembrance and the stability of the ancient promise. From what the apostle subsequently saw go forth from this throne, and the shakings and overturnings in heaven and earth of which it was to be the source and means, fears might naturally arise as to the continuity of the earth as an organized structure for the habitation of God's creatures. But this rainbow around the throne forever scatters such apprehensions . . .

"And out of the throne go forth lightnings, and voices, and thunders." These demonstrate that the throne is one of judgment, and that wrath is about to proceed from it. When God was about to visit Egypt's sins upon her, He "sent thunder (in Hebrew, 'voices'), and hail, and fire ran along upon the ground." And Pharaoh sent and said, "Intreat the Lord that there be no more voices of God" (Ex 9:23,28). When He wished to show Israel the terribleness of His anger with sin, "there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud" (Ex 19:16). When He sent forth His wrath upon the Philistines, "the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them, and they were smitten before Israel" (1 Sam 7:10). So also was His displeasure expressed at Israel's demand for a king. Samuel said, "The Lord shall send thunder and rain in wheat-harvest, that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking you a king. And the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared" (1 Sam 12:17-18). These instances show us, that this is not a throne of grace, but a throne of judgment. These lightnings, thunders, and voices, proceeding from it, tell of justice and wrath to be visited upon transgressors . . .]

I appreciate some of his insights on Revelation, and thought I would share the above.

*From the throne came **flashes of lightning**, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, **seven lamps** were blazing. These are the **seven spirits of God**. (Rev 4:5)*

*. . . Grace and peace to you from him **who is**, and **who was**, and who is **to come**, and from the **seven spirits** before his throne, (Rev 1:4)*

*. . . These are the **words** of him who **holds** the **seven spirits of God** and the seven stars . . . (Rev 3:1)*

*. . . He had **seven horns** and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven spirits of God** sent out into all the earth. (Rev 5:6)*

*the **seven lampstands** are the **seven churches** (Rev 1:20)*

We repeat the number *seven* - which with God signifies immense completeness and perfection. So, we have the seven 'aspects' of God; just after God has finished giving the seven 'Churches' instructions, rebukes, and encouragement. The 'Churches' are *His* church... they form **one body**; and Jesus is stated to be the Head of *His* church . . . (Ephesians 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18)

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Col 1:18)

*Also before the throne there was what looked like a **sea** of glass, clear as crystal. . . . (Rev 4:6)*

No significant comment on 4:6. Possibly the **sea of glass** represents redeemed saints; who no longer have any darkness or even a hint of sin, and are totally perfect and consequently; *clear as crystal*.

*And I saw what looked like a **sea of glass** mixed with **fire** and, standing beside the sea, **those** who had been **victorious** over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb . . . (Rev 15:2-3)*

*Mixed with **fire*** would be the refining which occurred as a result of overcoming the tribulation, and being victorious over the beast.

. . . *The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.* (Rev 17:15)

This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold . . . (Zechariah 13:9)

. . . *you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine . . .* (1Peter 1:6 - 7)

The bellows blow fiercely to burn away the lead with fire, but the refining goes on in vain; the wicked are not purged out. (Jeremiah 6:29)

I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore . . . (Genesis 22:17)

Oh, the raging of many nations - they rage like the raging sea! Oh, the uproar of the peoples - they roar like the roaring of great waters! (Isaiah 17:12)

Continuing . . .

. . . *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings . . .* (Rev 4:6 - 8)

I believe the four living creatures represent additional aspects of God. They are around κύκλω (all around, in a circle, surrounding) the throne of God. Whether they do or not, does not affect the basic interpretation and understanding of this prophecy given to us - by Jesus. Some believe the four 'creatures' to be redeemed men. Because the King James translation of chapter five states:

. . . *for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood . . .* (Rev 5:9 KJV)

The Greek word translated above as 'us' does not exist in the Greek text. The meaning was assumed by the King James translators. Same for the New International - using the word 'men'.

. . . *because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God . . .* (Rev 5:9)

The assumed word *men*, and the subsequent sentence structure, does not indicate the four creatures or 'beasts' to be redeemed saints. Possibly they are - but I don't think so . . .

I believe the four living creatures represent additional aspects of God. They are around κύκλω (all around, in a circle, surrounding) the throne of God. They are like ὅμοιον (like, similar, of a same or similar nature or quality) a Lion, an Ox, a Man, and an Eagle. All four creatures are covered in eyes. Front and back; and covered in eyes all around - even under their wings. Eyes with which to see. It is well known that man is made in the *image* of God. And Jesus is the *Lion* of the tribe of Judah. And that God sees everything man does - and discerns the intent of his heart.

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. (Genesis 6:8)

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. (Proverbs 15:3)

For the *eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth* to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him . . . (2 Chronicles 16:9)

However - God also references his strength to be like that of the ox; and that He rescues, and conquers man on the wings of an eagle . . .

“No misfortune is seen in Jacob, no misery observed in Israel. The LORD their God is with them; the shout of the King is among them. God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox. There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’ The people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion that does not rest till he devours his prey and drinks the blood of his victims.” (Numbers 23:21 - 24)

Water will flow from their buckets; their seed will have abundant water. “Their king will be greater than Agag; their kingdom will be exalted. “God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox. They devour hostile nations and break their bones in pieces . . . (Numbers 24:7 - 8)

“Look at the behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox. What strength he has in his loins, what power in the muscles of his belly! (Job 40:15 - 16)

“Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Will he stay by your manger at night? Can you hold him to the furrow with a harness? Will he till the valleys behind you? Will you rely on him for his great strength? (Job 39:9 - 11)

with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers. In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth... (Deuteronomy 33:16 - 17)

Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest. (Proverbs 14:4)

Reach down your hand from on high; deliver me and rescue me from the mighty waters, from the hands of foreigners whose mouths are full of lies, whose right hands are deceitful. I will sing a new song to you, O God; on the ten-stringed lyre I will make music to you . . . Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters . . . our barns will be filled . . . our oxen will draw heavy loads . . . (Psalms 144:7 - 14 edited)

Do I lack the strength to rescue you? By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert; their fish rot for lack of water and die of thirst. (Isaiah 50:2)

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. (Psalms 31:1 - 2)

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. (Exodus 19:4)

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that

spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions. The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him. (Deuteronomy 32:10 - 12)

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

This is what the LORD says: "Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab. Kerioth will be captured and the strongholds taken . . . (Jeremiah 48:40 - 41)

Look! An eagle will soar and swoop down, spreading its wings over Bozrah. In that day the hearts of Edom's warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor. (Jeremiah 49:22)

And each of these 'creatures' sing a really cool song - day and night - 24 seven; they sing this song. They never stop (*except in Rev 8:1*) singing this song - it is God's song; the plan of redemption he had for man - before he ever laid one iota of the foundation of the world! Part of this song declares Jesus to be God . . .

. . . "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Rev 4:8)

Who *was*: declares that God existed; but then died.

And *is*: declares that God lives and has always existed.

And *is to come*: declares that God is going to physically and bodily return.

This glorious song of the sovereignty, triumph and redemption of God - continues with the 24 elders picking up a refrain and singing:

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

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. (John 13:13)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:13 - 18)

And this glorious song of the sovereignty, triumph and redemption of God continues a little further on with the following:

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be

a *kingdom* and priests to serve our God, and they will *reign* on the earth.” (Rev 5:9 - 10)

(Chapter 5)

*Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the *Lion of the tribe of Judah*, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a *Lamb*, looking as if it had been *slain*, standing in the *center* of the *throne*, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had *seven horns* and *seven eyes*, which are the *seven spirits of God* sent out into all the earth.* (Rev 5:1 - 6)

The above verses are mostly self explanatory. John now sees a scroll. The scroll is important. Some believe that this scroll represents a type of *title deed*. Adam was given original authority over the Earth, and all creatures on this earth. He, and we - were supposed to be rulers and guardians over God’s beautiful creation. However, when Adam sinned - authority for the Earth and God’s creation - was given to Satan. Jesus though - provided thru his Blood - and the shedding of His sinless life; forgiveness and redemption for man - back to God.

I tend to believe that those who think the scroll is a type of *title deed* - are correct. But again - it doesn’t really matter. It does not change the focus and direction of this prophecy.

The above scriptures are quite clear that this scroll is sealed up - and NO ONE in Heaven, on Earth, or under the earth is WORTHY to open this scroll. **NO ONE!!** John weeps, he is so overcome with emotion that NO ONE is worthy ANYWHERE to be able to open this scroll! Then, he is told *not* to weep, because the *Lion* of the tribe of Judah, the *Root* of David, has triumphed! Jesus is WORTHY. Jesus has accomplished many, many things for us. He gives us gifts freely, and redeems us to God. Jesus, himself - is looking for a WIFE. A *wife*. A marriage covenant. Jesus is seeking a Bride for himself. But with all that Jesus has done; with all that He FREELY gives to me; I and anyone else - will never be worthy to open this scroll. ONLY Jesus is *Worthy!* Only Him, the great Alpha and the Omega, the Lamb who was slain... ONLY Jesus is worthy to open this special scroll!

So Jesus takes the scroll from the right hand of the Father, and then ALL of Heaven - and ALL of earth, and ALL of everyone under the earth - **EVERYONE WORSHIPS JESUS!**

*And they sang a new song: “You are *worthy* to take the *scroll* and to *open its seals*, because you were *slain*, and with *your blood* you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. *You* have made them to be a *kingdom* and *priests to serve our God*, and *they will reign* on the earth.” Then I looked and heard the voice of *many angels*, numbering *thousands upon thousands*, and ten thousand *times ten thousand*. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: “*Worthy is the Lamb*, who was slain, to *receive power* and *wealth* and wisdom and strength and *honor and glory and praise!*” Then I heard *every creature* in *heaven and on earth* and *under the earth* and *on the sea*, and *all that is in them*, singing: “*To him who sits on the throne* and *to the Lamb* be *praise* and *honor* and *glory* and *power, for ever and ever!*” The four living creatures said, “*Amen,*” and the elders fell down and *worshipped*.” (Rev 5:9 - 14)*

(Chapter 6)

1st Seal.

I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, “Come!” I looked, and there before me was a white horse! Its rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and he rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest. (Rev 6:1 - 2)

Some state the above verse is Jesus Christ, on a white horse. Some state the above is Christianity - going throughout the world. Except for this seal - All of the results of the *other* five seals - are clearly stated in Chapter 6. We have five seals - All of which produce ‘undesirable’ results. The above is hardly Jesus, or Christianity. These two schools of thought - do not flow with the rest of the prophecy.

The first seal calls out a white horse. The color white carries some easily suggested meanings. The colors of the horses mentioned in the other three seals - are not so easily discerned. But since white can be used to signify *righteousness*; and or false religion . . .

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades μετασχηματίζεται ((act) to transform, change (the form); (mid) to masquerade, disguise (oneself)) as an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14)

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and White clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness . . . (Rev 3:18)

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

The white λευκός (*white; bright, gleaming*) horse is signifying false religion. This is a promotion of a false religion. A religion which will conquer the world. It is a religion bent on conquest; and it will conquer. It will succeed. It is ordained by God that this religion will go out to deceive and conquer. It will do so. The religion is Islam.

“ ‘By what means?’ the LORD asked. “ ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said. “ ‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’ (1Kings 22:22)

The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. (Exodus 4:21)

But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and though I multiply my miraculous signs . . . (Exodus 7:3)

In these end times - many deceptions, and powerful wonders are going to be performed. God’s word stands. He has made known thru scripture - and his special prophecy Revelation - what is going to happen. God is calling us to stand firm! (*To him who overcomes; He who overcomes* (R2:7; 21:7)) To remain in Him. The **two witnesses** - who stand before the Lord of the earth; and perform mighty miracles - will testify *against* the anti-Christ, and all surrounding events . . . People’s hearts even today are hard - and they are going to become harder and more wicked - and they will not repent. This first seal being opened - is the start of all of this great and massive deception; and tribulation and trouble on the earth - as has never before been experienced.

because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now and never to be equaled again. (Mark 13:19)

Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile . . . (Rev 22:11)