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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

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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.

Section 3 (Main Chapters discussed: 10 - 13)

*The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did **not repent** of the work of their hands; they did not **stop worshipping demons**, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood - idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they **repent** of their **murders**, their **magic arts**, their **sexual immorality** or **their thefts**. (Revelation 9:20 - 21)*

Here in the US; we state: “*We don’t worship idols.*” But we do . . . How many hours did you spend in prayer and communion with God yesterday? How many hours did you spend watching television? The internet? Video Games? Gardening? Your iPod? Or hundreds of other stuff? God is not an almighty bug smasher; who does not wish for you to enjoy life, and celebrate His creation! But - in the US; we have more idols than most of the rest of the world! We even worship the Bible - substituting searching out God’s word in scriptures - and regaling ourselves with the truths of what great men of God accomplished hundreds of years ago - rather than **us** learning to HEAR GOD; and than DO what God says . . . and accomplish great things of God for ourselves and for Him! Scripture is static. What are we doing for God today! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But you believe that He only wanted Peter and Paul to work for Him; and not you . . . and that today it is impossible to Hear Him! Well, it is virtually impossible to Hear Him - as long as we keep immersing ourselves in our own pleasures, lusts, and filth such as television! Do you know that there is NOTHING - *absolutely* NOTHING ‘good’ on television? If you are not saved - I suppose coming across a Christian broadcast - might help you repent and turn to God. But just because God has allowed a tenuous escape ladder in the midst of absolute depravity - is really not an excuse to justify spending hundreds of hours immersed in that depravity. And just because this wicked time stealer; & relationship destroyer - gives a tiniest bit of hope to individuals who are crippled and have no way to leave the home - does not justify the wickedness which is television.

If we were to get rid of our televisions - we might actually be ministering to the crippled. And since we then could have a deeper, and more pure, and intimate relationship with God - they might not be crippled anymore . . . what an absolute WASTE television is . . . and a deceiver! And numerous other ‘things’ which we waste our time and pleasures on!

*“No servant 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**.” (Luke 16:13)*

*No **good tree** bears **bad fruit**, nor does a **bad tree** bear **good fruit**. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. . . . (Luke 6:43 - 44)*

(Chapter 10)

*Then I saw another **mighty** angel coming down from heaven. He was **robed** in a **cloud**, with a **rainbow** above his head; his **face** was **like the sun** (R1:16), and his **legs were like fiery pillars**. He was holding a **little scroll**, which **lay open in his hand**. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a **loud shout** like the roar of a **lion**. When **he shouted**, the voices of the **seven thunders spoke**. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his*

trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.” Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.” (Rev 10:1 - 11)

These are some hard verses to totally understand. I have the major gist of it; but on one point - I’m not totally sure where the compass needle rests.

Let us cover a few plot points, which are easily understood.

So *Jacob* was left alone, and a **man** wrestled with him till daybreak. When the **man** saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip . . . “I will not let you go **unless you bless me.**” . . . Then he **blessed him** there. So Jacob called the place *Peniel*, saying, “It is because I saw **God face to face**, and yet my life was spared.” (Genesis 32:24 - 30 edited)

The *mighty angel* is **Jesus Christ**. The lamb of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords. For those who would state that this is not the Lamb of God - in *whose hand* was the **scroll** last seen??

. . . “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.**” (R5:5)

. . . “**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.**” (R5:9)

. . . “**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!**” (R5:12)

I watched as the **Lamb opened** the first of the seven seals. . . . (R6:1)

No one, in Heaven or on the earth; or even under the earth - was worthy to take the scroll.

. . . . “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. (R5:2-3)

Then, we see the Lamb of God, taking the scroll, and opening it up. He was declared worthy to not only **LOOK** at the scroll; to not only **HOLD** the scroll; but to **OPEN** the scroll!

So, here the *scroll* is seen again. It is the next time the scroll is seen, after Jesus opened the seals in chapter six. This is such an important document. Only ONE person who has ever existed was found worthy to even LOOK at the scroll. So, now we see the scroll again - it is lying **OPEN** in the **Hand** of a “mighty angel.” That ‘angel’ is Christ. Christ is referred to with many, many names and titles. He is the **root of David**; the **Lion of the Tribe of Judah**; **King of Kings**; the **Lamb who was Slain**; **Alpha and Omega**; **First and the Last**; **Son of Man**; **King of the Jews** . . . etc.

Here - Jesus is a *mighty angel*. The surrounding scriptures and verses support this ‘angel’ as being Jesus.

So does the flow of this prophecy, and why Jesus is seen again - here in chapter ten.

We'll get to that in a moment. But first - let us be reminded - that this prophecy which is Revelation - REPEATS itself. It shows us the exact same events - from different perspectives; and with varying amounts of detail.

We watched the Lamb open the six seals. We noticed that the word 'come' existed in the first four openings - but *not* in the *last two*. The last two openings were prophetic. They stated what was going to happen in the future as a result of what had occurred - from the opening of the previous four seals.

In the third seal - we see death from famine, and scarce food supplies. We also had the notation with the third seal - of the Bride of Christ. With the phrase: "Do not damage the Oil and the Wine!" Which means that God is reiterating again - that He will have a special protection and provision for His Bride.

In the fourth seal - we have massive, massive death - a clear acceleration of the previous three seals. The culmination of them being put together; and happening all at the same exact time . . .

With the fifth seal - we saw those who were not part of the Bride - being martyred for Jesus. A tough choice - take the mark and go to Hell, or be ridiculed by the entire planet, and die for Christ. Extremely difficult situation.

The sixth seal *fast forwards* us to the point after the seventh trumpet has blown - and the entire Earth is terrified - because Jesus is coming back to rule; and He is about to pour out His wrath . . .

It is extremely difficult to write down the flow of this prophecy - in a commentary - in such a way that you understand why I state what I state. I see the entire prophecy - after reading it each day since 2004; in various stages and repetitions; and increasing detail. All of it - is this extremely wonderful and glorious telling of coming world events . . . but difficult to correctly peel the layers away for your eyes - so that you can see. God wrote this prophecy in a 360° circle vision of events; which He repeats, and increases detail; and changes the perspective and viewpoint of . . .

As I stated earlier - during discussion of chapters eight and nine - the anti-Christ is ruling during those events. We have not seen the details of his coming into power - or what He will force mankind to do - but he IS ruling during chapters *eight* and *nine*.

So too - was the Bride of Christ taken out into the Wilderness - flying away on the wings of a great Eagle (God) - with the opening of probably the *third*, or maybe the *fourth* seal in Chapter *Six!* God is discussing spiritual and worldly events, from various *perspectives*. Just as the Bride is taken out into the Wilderness during events described in chapter *six*; so too is the Bride taken out into the wilderness at the opening of and the beginning of Chapter *Eight*. And the bride is shown in more detail - going into the wilderness and escaping from Satan - in chapter *twelve*. And, as previously discussed - we see God declaring a juxtaposition and differentiation among believers in chapter *seven*. This is why I state that it is difficult to peel the layers away for you - in such a way that you understand. Revelation REPEATS itself all over the place! From different perspectives and giving varying amounts of detail - depending on what the focus is - for the prophecy; at any given point. A general overview (chapters *one* & *six*); or a major description of God's *Wrath* when all is finished (chapters *fifteen* and *sixteen*.)

. . . "A quart of wheat for a day's wages, and three quarts of barley for a day's wages, and *do not damage*

the oil and the wine!" (R6:6)

The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.
(R12:14)

The anti-Christ will 'rule' for One Thousand, Two Hundred & Sixty days. The Bride of Christ or the Wife of the Lamb - will be in a secure, protected by God location - for 1,260 days. The killing and martyrdom of Christians who refuse to take the mark of the beast; and/or to worship him - will last for 1,260 days. (Actually - 1,256.5 days - but we'll get to those specifics in chapter *eleven* . . .) We saw in chapter *Eight* - these days of tremendous tribulation being shortened (as Jesus foretold) - with God shaking the heavens and creating 16 hour days (R8:12); rather than 24 hour days. This was accomplished solely for the sake of the elect! Since God deeply, deeply loves believers; and those who do not reject the name of his Son, and the *Godhead* - the Lord Jesus Christ.

We know that with the *fifth* seal in Chapter *six* - we have the prophetic description of the martyrdom of Christian believers. We saw in Chapter *seven* - a *juxtaposition* of believers. Those who are in the Bride; and the huge, huge, majority of believers - who experience the great tribulation.

Jesus stated that he would protect his Bride - the church of Philadelphia - or the Virgin daughter of Zion - from the hour of trial which was going to come upon the whole earth - to test the inhabitants of the earth! (R3:10) So, His Bride is going to be kept safe . . . What is not totally clear in my mind - is precisely WHEN the great tribulation starts. We know that it IS occurring during ALL of chapters eight and nine. The anti-Christ is ruling during these events. What is not known precisely to me - at this point - is if the Bride is taken out during the opening of the *third* seal of Chapter six; or the *fourth* seal. We know that since the *fifth* seal is martyrdom of the believers during the great tribulation - then the Bride must have been taken out by the fifth seal. It is possible - that the Bride is removed precisely at the beginning of the fifth seal as well . . .

We see that these events accelerate. The *fourth* seal is a *combination* of the previous three seals . . . A massive acceleration of events. So to isolate one seal or one event - and state the Bride is removed with the opening of this seal - seems rather unrealistic; and rather pointless as well.

Pinpointing the exact moment or sequence when the Bride is removed by God - is not the point of the prophecy. The point the prophecy is making in regards to the Bride is the following:

Are **YOU** going to be part of the Bride? It is entirely your choice. How intimate are you with God, and how much genuine LOVE do you have for your fellow believers and for fallen man? Right now, at this point in time - I can unfortunately - guarantee you that **I** - am *not* part of the Bride. Have way too many hangups! I hope to change that! I need to repent and change, and to worship and follow Christ much, much more than I am . . .

But that is the reason of the revealing of the Bride in this prophecy . . . To give you more of a chance to become part of the absolutely glorious Bride of Christ, or the *Wife of the Lamb!*

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. . . The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not

be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the **bridegroom arrived**. The **virgins who were ready** went in with him **to the wedding banquet**. And the **door was shut**. “Later the others also came. ‘**Sir! Sir!**’ they said. ‘**Open the door for us!**’ “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, **I don’t know you.**’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Matthew 25:1 - 13)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a **wedding banquet for his son**. . . ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited **did not deserve to come**. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ . . . “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was **not wearing wedding clothes**. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘**how did you get in here without wedding clothes?**’ The man was speechless. “Then the king told the attendants, ‘**Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’ “For many are invited, but **few are chosen**.” (Matthew 22:2 - 14 edited)

In the above - notice that all are virgins, and a wedding is being held for the Son. But five virgins have made themselves ready, and five are declared foolish. For they are not ready for the wedding. Also note that we do not know when, or the day or the hour. And many are invited - but few are chosen!

I can guarantee - that if I continue in my lazy ways; when the Bride of Christ is taken out into the wilderness; to be with Jesus & protected by Jesus - and I realize that I am now in a dark, dark Kingdom - whose only goal and sole object is continued depravity; and worship of the anti-Christ; I will wail and weep! Satan’s kingdom is abject darkness! The great deceiver will deceive billions of people; while convincing them he is the glorious light! Many, many Christians believe the ‘rapture’ is going to remove them from any chance of persecution or tribulation! As we saw in chapter **seven**; few Christians are going to be spared the tribulation. Only those who qualify to be in the Bride. Those who have made themselves ready. Those who truly LOVE; and sacrifice themselves - to give others strength and faith. If we are not filled with the LOVE of the Holy Spirit; and the LOVE of God; we will not be filled with the OIL of God (Holy Spirit); and we will miss the wedding banquet. Jesus will shut the door; and when we cry out to Him - to OPEN the door for us - so that we don’t have to experience the great tribulation - Jesus will state He never knew us! We WANT to put away our selfish desires; and truly become filled with the knowledge and glory and power and grace, peace and LOVE of our wonderful Lord. Otherwise - we will not be ready when He comes for His Bride; and we will find ourselves in the darkness of the great tribulation! And there, we will weep, and gnash our teeth; surrounded by the darkness of Satan’s Kingdom; and desperately praying to allow us to persevere and to overcome. For if we don’t overcome - we will take the mark of his Kingdom - and forever and ever - be in eternal torment.

Now, we are actually discussing chapter **ten**. The reasons I have mentioned chapter six, & the Bride; and reiterated some of what we have covered - is so that you remember where we have been; and get more of a hold of where we are going - in this prophecy which is Revelation. Since God is soon going to start giving us details into how the anti-Christ rules; how the Bride is protected; the significance of the **seventh** trumpet; and the choices those believers who did not qualify for the Bride - are going to be forced to make. An **eternal** choice. And so we open up chapter ten - getting ready to review a tremendous amount of what Revelation has **already** covered - from a couple of different perspectives, and with more detail on several of these events - in chapters **ten, eleven, twelve, and thirteen**.

Now - what do we have in Chapter **ten** . . .

We have Jesus appearing, holding the **scroll** which He opened; described as a mighty angel with a voice

of a **Lion**; **Clouds** surrounding him and being His *robe*; **God's** covenant or **Rainbow** encircling His head; and with His **face shining like the Sun**.

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. (R10:1)

Jesus is God. He is one of the individual members of God, and of the God Head. Jesus is totally God, and God is triune; with all three individuals being totally ONE in unity. Have we ever seen God physically lead and protect His chosen ones before . . . ?

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. (Exodus 13:21 - 22)

During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. (Exodus 14:24)

“Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. For forty years you sustained them in the desert, they lacked nothing, their clothes did not wear out nor did their feet become swollen. (Nehemiah 9:19 - 21)

The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. (Rev 12:6)

Notice that God has appeared with His **Spirit**, and with **Clouds** and **Fire** to protect His people. God provided for them in the *desert*, EVERYTHING that His chosen ones needed! Their feet did not even swell from all of the walking . . . Note that the *woman* or Bride of chapter twelve - flees to the *desert* where God will take care of her!

So, if the anti-Christ is going to be ruling and controlling the entire planet - where would Christ's Bride be able to go - where she would be protected from him, and his dark kingdom of vile evil?

A husband protects his wife . . . So we have a depiction of Jesus taking FULL control of a small section of planet earth - and absolutely protecting His wife and His Bride. His head is in the clouds - taking control of the air and atmosphere; His feet are firmly planted on both the Land and the Sea . . .

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . (Ephesians 5:25)

He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. (R10:2)

Jesus alone is worthy; and Jesus has completed salvation for mankind. He has purchased back redemption by His blood; and made us Kings and Priests unto God. The title deed for all of mankind is in His hands, and here Jesus is seen taking control of the Air, land and sea! Jesus is leading and standing guard (Ex 13:21), and protecting His Bride. The reason Satan cannot touch, hurt, or destroy Christ's Bride - is because here

Jesus is seen taking control of a small section of earth - and totally and completely protecting His wife.

. . . *When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."* (R10:3 - 4)

In this ENTIRE prophecy - this is the ONLY event which John is asked to 'seal up.' He is not asked to seal it up - because God does not want you to know what was stated . . . He is asked to seal it up - because God desires for you to have to delve a little bit into this prophecy - so that you yourself may learn what the seven thunders uttered.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings. (Proverbs 25:2)

God has revealed to me - the meaning and purpose of statement which the seven thunders uttered. He will do so for you as well, and possibly even more - if you will just give yourself to READING this prophecy every day, and trusting that the Holy Spirit will give you a deposit from which you can eventually draw *understanding*.

Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore ὄμοσεν (to declare an oath, swear an oath, promise with an oath) by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." (R10:5 - 7)

Here, we have Jesus swearing, and declaring an absolute statement. The statement and oath of promise relates to the *seventh trumpet* - and in these days when the seventh angel is about to sound the *seventh trumpet* - that all which God has declared will be *accomplished*.

God declares that He will bring about what He has declared. And that ALL, everything which He has declared - is about to be accomplished! They will be accomplished during the days of the *seventh trumpet*.

I remind the gentle reader that early in this commentary and disclosure of the prophecy which is Revelation - during discussion of verses (R1:9 - 11); I stated this prophecy was seen in various views and perspectives . . . And was somewhat presented to John as a 360° view of events. I also mentioned fairly extensively - the seventh trumpet; as an example of changes of view. Going from an earthly view - to a spiritual view. And I have - just as Revelation repeats itself in various ways and aspects - continued at various times to repeat myself in this discussion of Revelation.

Here, in chapter *ten* - we are almost solely in a spiritual view. In chapter *eleven* - we are about to very vividly look at events from an earthly or worldly view.

But, again - just as I did early in this discussion - with chapter *One*; I wish to remind the reader that the *seventh trumpet* is the very LAST time in the ENTIRE Bible; and ALL of scriptures - that ANY word which may be translated in ANY way as *trumpet* - is used!

I do so because chapter *ten* - *emphasizes* the *seventh trumpet*. In the prophecy which is Revelation - the seventh trumpet is *extremely important*. So, here - a *mighty Angel* - Jesus - declares and swears by GOD

and the Seven Thunders speak - that when the *seventh trumpet* is about to **sound** - that God will be accomplishing EVERYTHING which He has declared that God is going to accomplish!

. . . in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished . . . (R10:7)

The seventh trumpet is the very LAST time any *trumpet* is ever mentioned in all of scripture. It is also part of a 'series' of trumpets which are being sounded. It is the very *last* trumpet of that *series*. If you are not familiar with what occurs with the sounding of the *last* trumpet, or do not remember - I kindly suggest you read *1Corinthians 15:52* & *1Thessalonians 4:16* and the surrounding scriptures . . .

. . . "There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." (R10:6 - 11)

God reminds us (*repeats*) that the angel is standing on and *controlling* the **sea** and the **land**. He reminds us that this angel is holding the *scroll* . . . He then tells John to go and **take** the scroll (Jesus has won the battle; and *all* is **accomplished**); and eat it! It will be sweet as honey in his mouth (tastes good); but will be sour in his stomach. In other words - the contents of the scroll will taste good - but cause John to vomit. His stomach will turn sour - he will vomit. The contents and end results - will be extremely distasteful to John - who is a righteous person . . .

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. (Titus 3:3)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts . . . (Ephesians 2:1 - 3)

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. (Hebrews 11:24 - 25)

At this point in the prophecy, here in chapter **ten**; All is basically accomplished and finished. The anti-Christ has ruled, deceived, and has been conquered. The Bride was taken out and protected; and Christians who refused to take the mark of the beast - or to worship him - have died and been *martyred* . . . Jesus is about to bring terrible, terrible wrath upon those left on the earth - who have totally rejected Him.

. . . and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. . . (R1:7)

Since all is accomplished, that is why John is allowed to touch, and eat the scroll. And God desires for John to **prophesy again**. To **repeat** a tremendous amount of what has **already** been stated - but from a

slightly different perspective - to enhance our understanding.

We are about to look at some of this stuff from the World's point of view - and John is absolutely disgusted and made sick - from the tremendous rejection of God, and rejoicing in sin - of the majority of the world's inhabitants . . . It is very hard for him to 'stomach'. Sin is pleasure for a season - but the wages of sin - is death! So, the perspective of prophecy which John must now give out - is one coming from indulgence with sin and pleasure - from the world's point of view. It makes John sick . . .

John is asked to prophesy *again* - and to *repeat* what the prophecy of Revelation has already covered - from a different view and perspective. John is obedient - and does so . . .

(Chapter 11)

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months." (Rev 11:1 - 2)

With the opening of chapter *eleven* - do we see John *disobeying* God? John is told to *measure* the temple of God. What are the measurements of the temple of God? We never see John measuring; so is John actually being *disobedient*?

In the prophecy which is Revelation - there are three distinct groups of people.

1. A small group of Believers who qualify for the Bride, and do not experience the great tribulation.
2. The huge majority of Believers who did not make themselves ready; and who are martyred for Jesus during the great tribulation.
3. The vast majority of mankind who reject God, totally embrace Satan; and who will FOREVER be in eternal torment and burning fire.

In chapter *twenty-one*; we see the temple of God, *the Holy City, the new Jerusalem* - being measured. An angel, using a measuring rod of *gold* (*indicating faith*); accomplishes for John - what he had been asked to accomplish.

Here, in chapter *eleven* - what is God *asking* - with the request to *go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there*?

The Greek word μέτρησον {G 3582} (*to measure*) is used in scripture precisely 9 times. The word is found in the following verses: Mt 7:2; Mk 4:24; Lk 6:38; 2Co 10:12; Rev 11:1, 2 /21:15, 16, & 17

Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you - and even more. (Mark 4:24)

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. (2Corinthians 10:12)

In 1974; a book, written by Gene A. Getz; was published - titled: *The Measure of a Man*. This book is not

concerned with measuring a man's physical height; or his financial success. It is concerned with helping men develop Godly, mature Christian lives.

With the Greek word μέτρησον - no usage of this word prior to Revelation - is in any way stating to use a tape measure, and to 'measure' an object. ALL usage of this word - relates to how are you measuring up in God's eyes? Are you truly a Godly individual?

So too - is the usage in Revelation. In chapter 21; we examine and measure the faith and intimacy those believers who make up the Bride of Christ - possess. They are *not* found wanting!

If you consider ANY word which carries with it any type of meaning of measuring, or counting - ALL of those instances of these types of words; in the prophecy of Revelation - concerns the spiritual *measurement* and your personal standing and relationship with God.

In chapter *seven* - we **count** those who constitute the *Wife of the Lamb*. In chapter *thirteen*; we are told wisdom is **required**; and to *calculate* (KJV *count*) the number of the beast.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast . . . (R:13:18 KJV)

This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast . . . (R13:18)

There is no rest day or night - for *anyone who receives the mark of his name*. [see R14:11]

Our spiritual condition is very important to God. In chapter *eleven* - John is asked to measure the faith and spiritual condition of God's people. To declare and **prophecy again** - what will happen to these three distinct groups of people.

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1Peter 4:17)

The prophecy which John is speaking - constitutes the *measurement*. When all is said and done - where are YOU going to be - in regards to the coming tribulation and eternity? Are you going to be a member of the Bride? Or are you going to experience the great tribulation; and be faced with the choice of receiving the mark or not? Are you going to be part of the great falling away?? Or will you overcome the deceptions, and persevere; and experience martyrdom - and remain faithful to Jesus?

*He who has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for **patient endurance** and **faithfulness** on the part of the saints.* (Rev 13:9 - 10)

And gently reminding you that God constantly REPEATS Himself in the prophecy called Revelation:

*This calls for **patient endurance** on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain **faithful** to Jesus.* (Rev 14:12)

John is asked to measure and to **prophecy again**. The measurement is that of your qualifications. The bride who is removed and protected; the majority of believers who are overcome or **trampled** on; and the rest of humanity who utterly reject Christ and His word . . .

I was given a reed like a *measuring rod* and was told, “Go and *measure the temple of God* and the altar, and *count* the worshippers there. But exclude the outer court; do *not* measure it, because it has been given to the *Gentiles*. They will *trample on the holy city* for *42 months*. (Rev 11:1 - 2)

The phrase *trample on the holy city* refers to the utter desolation, and wickedness which will rule over the world from Jerusalem; and *also* - the overcoming, and massive killing of the vast majority of saints who will have access to the *true Holy City* - but did not measure up to be part of the Bride of Christ.

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. (R21:27)

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 . . . (R22:14 - 15)

The word *Gentiles* in the above (R11) verse is referring to the *unsaved*, and consequently - the vile and very wicked in the eyes of God. The *Gentiles* will kill, murder and destroy ALL believers in Christ that they can get their hands on - for a period of 42 months.

*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the *two olive trees* and the *two lampstands* that stand before the Lord of the earth. If *anyone* tries to *harm* them, *fire* comes from their mouths and *devours* their enemies. This is *how anyone* who wants to *harm them must die*. These *men* have *power* to *shut up the sky* so that it will not rain during the time they are *prophesying*; and they have *power* to turn the *waters into blood* and to strike the earth with every kind of *plague* as often as they want. (Rev 11:3 - 6)*

OK - *who* are the two witnesses?? We could describe them as *trees*, and *lampstands*. Not much point in that . . . We could state they are *Men*. Maybe these two men demonstrate and prove the concept of *reincarnation*??

Spending a bunch of time pondering who precisely the two witnesses are - is a huge waste of time. Personally, I believe the two witnesses are *Enoch*, and *Elijah*. Since those two individuals are the only two in all of mankind’s history - who did not experience death, in the usual sense of the term. [see Ge 5:24 & 2Ki 2:11]

Reincarnation does not exist. But *Elijah* already came back (the spirit of Elijah) with John the Baptist, Which is why some might state the two witnesses are Enoch and *Moses*. Elijah already came back; and the plagues these two inflict are reminiscent of those performed by Moses against Egypt and Pharaoh.

*From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the *Elijah* who was to come.* (Matthew 11:12 - 14)

*The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that *Elijah* must come first?” Jesus replied, “To be sure, *Elijah* comes and will *restore all things*. But I tell you, *Elijah* has *already come*, and they *did not recognize* him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about *John the Baptist*. (Matthew 17:10 - 13)*

*And he will go on before the Lord, in the **spirit and power of Elijah**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”* (Luke 1:17)

The two witnesses might be two men who suddenly appear on the earth - fully grown, and cognizant of their authority and mission. Sent by God - and fully confident and aware of their authority and relationship with God. **OR** - they could be two men who were born, (babies) grew up; and became intimate with God; and became aware of their ‘mission’ and what God desires for them to **accomplish**.

Jesus who was GOD - was born of a virgin woman. Jesus at one point was a BABY - who needed to be taken care of . . . Moses appeared on the mount of transfiguration [*see* Matthew 17:3] with Elijah, and they talked with Jesus. Jesus appeared before Abraham - before He had been born - since He has always existed. [*see* Ge 14:18 & Heb 7:1]

Does it really matter who precisely these two men are? NO. It detracts from the prophecy to dwell profusely and argue who these two men are, or how they came about. The verses do state some facts about these two men however:

*These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** that **stand before the Lord of the earth**.* (R11:4)

These two men are FILLED with the **OIL** and **FIRE** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**, and are also filled with the presence and intimacy of God.

They are also filled with grief over the wickedness in the world, and are calling men to repentance! Not necessarily that anyone is listening or obeying that call - but that is why they are clothed in **sackcloth!** Humility, Mourning, and Repentance!

σάκκους [G/K 4884] (*sackcloth, a heavy coarse cloth used for making sacks, but worn by the penitent or mournful as a sign of contrition and sorrow*)

And they will prophesy for a period of **1,260** days, or 42 months.

Just as Christ prophesied about his death and resurrection - so too do the two witnesses.

*Jesus answered them, “**Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.**” The Jews replied, “It has taken forty - six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” But the **temple** he had spoken of was **his body**.* (John 2:19 - 21)

All men - have **deeds** which God wishes for us to **accomplish**. The two witnesses preach and testify for God - concerning the increase of wickedness; and the taking of the mark of the Beast; and the worship of the Beast, and the worship of the Image which was made to come to life. (R13) They implore people to not turn away from God, and to overcome the tremendous spirit of deception which will be ruling during this time. In addition to demonstrating their authority to state such things - by causing plagues, and partially controlling the weather - they prophesy the harm which will come if you receive the mark, etc. They also prophesy their death, and speak of their resurrection.

The two witnesses prophesy for precisely 1,260 days. But **3½** of those days - they are lying DEAD in the street. Being DEAD is **part** of their prophesy. It is the last act they performed. Just as Jesus spoke about

himself:

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"
(Matthew 26:53 - 54)

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." (Mark 14:21)

The two witnesses prophesy about their deaths, and what would happen. They are still prophesying when they are lying dead in the streets for 3½ days. That is part of the prophecy.

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy [G/K 4736] for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying [G/K 4735]; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. (Rev 11:3 - 6)

Now when they have finished their testimony [G/K 3456], the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. (Rev 11:7 - 10)

προφητεῦσουσιν [G/K 4736] (to prophesy, to speak an inspired message, sometimes encouraging obedience to God, sometimes proclaiming the future as a warning to preparedness and continued obedience)

προφητείας [G/K 4735] (prophesy, an inspired message, sometimes encouraging obedience to God, sometimes proclaiming the future as a warning to preparedness and continued obedience)

μαρτυρίαν [G/K 3456] (testimony, evidence; (good) reputation)

At the end of the 1,260 days - they are lying dead in the street; with the **Entire** world rejoicing in their deaths. *Gifts* have been being sent around for a little over 3 days. Do you notice that not ONE person is righteous at this point? **Every** single person under earthly rule is totally HAPPY with the deaths of these last two individuals? They are literally dancing in the streets!

Now, at the end of the 1,260 days; or 42 months of the anti-Christ ruling; something happens. Do you remember Jesus **emphasizing** the **seventh** trumpet in chapter **ten**? Have you started to see how God changes the viewpoints of what we are looking at as we read and consider this Prophecy? Chapter **ten** - totally a **spiritual** view. Right now - we are totally in a **WORLDLY** view. Individuals are sending gifts; celebrating; rejoicing; dancing in the streets as it were . . . The two bodies of these last two individuals sent by God - are **LYING** in the street! Probably **naked**; definitely, **NOT** buried! This is totally a worldly viewpoint and perspective. Now, suddenly - the two witnesses come back to life, and their wounds are gone, their bodies restored - and they stand up on their feet, and they are very much **Alive**! And the inhabitants of the world hear a **LOUD** voice; a **SHOUT** as it were - and the entire world (who just

moments ago had been celebrating, and sending gifts via their telephones, and face-book, and the postal delivery service; etc. are now completely, absolutely TERRIFIED. They are terrified because of WHAT these two witnesses had prophesied and spoken during the 42 months in which they were speaking out for God.

The beast had received a fatal wound, and come back to life. The world had shouted out who could stand against this divine being - God in the flesh who now stood amongst us! (*see* R13) No one could defeat him in any type of battle or war! And indeed - the beast had overcome and defeated these last two Christians. The two witnesses who were causing great distress with the inhabitants of the earth - with their somber words of repentance, rebukes, and displays of power. And the two witnesses ultimately *were* defeated! PARTY!!! Our guy rules! He is all powerful, all important! He proved himself by coming back from the dead! He has *conquered* DEATH! No more fear! So, why is the world terrified? Because these two witnesses - prophesied that precisely this was going to happen. They declared that it was going to happen . . . and when God raises them from the dead - the inhabitants of the earth are TERRIFIED.

So, the above is a WORLD view. It is what the inhabitants of the WORLD hear, and see. But shortly - chapter *eleven* takes us back into the Spiritual or heavenly view; and we see that when God spoke to the two witnesses with a *Loud* voice - at the exact same time - the *seventh trumpet was sounding*; and *Heaven* makes an awesome statement about the authority of God. And less than an hour after the seventh trumpet has been sounded - we have the start of awesome judgement being displayed against the inhabitants of the earth.

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 and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Rev 11:11 - 15)

I am very much aware that the *words* describing, & declaring the *sounding* of the *seventh* trumpet - come AFTER the declaration of the earthquake, and the two witnesses going up to God in a cloud. But through this entire commentary and disclosure of what Revelation teaches and how it is structured - that is one of my major points! The perspective and views change, we see worldly events - from a worldly view; and we see those same events (which happened simultaneously) from a spiritual view; and from a heavenly perspective. This earthquake happened AFTER the seventh trumpet was blown by the angel. I will demonstrate this with some other scriptures; such as the end of chapter *eleven*; and chapter *fifteen*. And the *summary* of all that has happened - and the resultant judgements - seen in chapter *fourteen*.

Many, many stories and novels engage in this technique. Take you on a journey; and then show you other details which were happening - at the exact same time - as what you had just read. But different details, and from a different perspective. But concerning and affecting - exactly what you had just read or seen.

Consider for a moment - the current television series: *The Good Guys*. This is a 'comedy' focusing on an inept - but well meaning - police detective. But the writers routinely show you various scenes - and then in the middle of the action - they suddenly display words similar to the following:

Six hours ago; *Two days* ago; *30 minutes* ago . . . The broadcast is very noticeable in declaring some necessary details that they are about to reveal to you - that happened previously - during a time which you had already seen and viewed - but now they show you events which previously you had not seen. The events are from a different perspective - but relate to what you already understood and had been told.

The majority of movies do the exact same thing. And so do numerous books. Most of them are not quite as blatant with it - as the *Good Guys*. (Not an *endorsement!* I really need to not watch any television and spend much, much more time walking with God. Like Enoch.) The first, original *Star Wars* opened up with a ship taking enemy fire. And being boarded by Imperial troops. The film opens with a battle scene - but you have no idea what the battle is about. (The narrative script words flowing across the screen had given a slight idea.) As the film progresses - it is revealed *why* the battle, *who Obi-Wan* is; what happened with *Darth Vader*, etc. Some of these views are told from a historical perspective. This gives you understanding of the film. But they don't just dump it all onto you - in 30 seconds. The film would be very short (30 seconds) and you wouldn't understand it or enjoy it! *Batman* flips back to the past - to help you understand *Bruce Wayne*. The *Chronicles of Narnia* even have an entire Book - which takes place in the past - to help you understand more of what was happening in the 'present' books. It shows how the Witch came about, etc.

So too - with Revelation. God wants you to UNDERSTAND this prophecy. To KNOW what is going to happen, and your choices. And so God carefully in Revelation - gives us a 360° view of what is happening, *simultaneously* as other events happen. A glorious prophecy - which the Holy Spirit himself - will teach you - if you give Him the TIME to listen. Patient Endurance. Much waiting, much listening, much time; reading, reading, reading, reading - the prophecy which is Revelation - and letting the Holy Spirit give you a deposit and TEACH you.

And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great - and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm. (Rev 11:16 - 19)

The above verses are fairly self explanatory. They declare that God's wrath has come; and the time of judging the dead has come; and for destroying (casting into Hell) - those who rejected God. They declare an earthquake (probably the specific quake which destroyed the seven thousand); and a great hailstorm (more loss of life and destruction.) The day of God's wrath has come! This is the day and the time - when the sixth seal (R6:16) is about to be fulfilled. But even God's wrath takes *some time* - and he will be taking some time to pour out his wrath - before *the sky receded like a scroll, rolling up . . .* (R6:14)

We are still in chapter *eleven*. Notice that the verses declare that NOW is the time to *judge the dead*. We flow to chapter *twelve*. Does chapter *twelve* discuss *judging the dead*? NOPE. *Judging the dead* is seen in chapter *twenty*. [see R20:12]

Note that chapter *eleven* states the time has come to REWARD the servants of God. Does chapter *twelve* discuss *rewarding* the servants of God? NOPE.

We see the reward of the servants of God - somewhat throughout the entire prophecy - but it is specifically

mentioned in chapter *twenty-two*:

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. (R22:12)

Chapter *eleven* declares *your wrath has come*. Do we see a display of God's *wrath* in chapter *twelve*? NOPE. A display of God's wrath will be mentioned at the end of chapter *fourteen*; and elaborated on in chapters *fifteen & sixteen*; and was *already* referenced at the end of chapter *six*.

Since chapter *twelve* does not discuss ANYTHING which chapter *eleven* states has now arrived, and it is time *for* - what is chapter *twelve* discussing? Chapter *twelve* discusses the escape of the *Wife of the Lamb* from the great tribulation. Which - has just ended (the great tribulation just ended; and Jesus is ruling) - with the sounding of the seventh trumpet in chapter *eleven*.

Chapter *Twelve* takes us backwards in time - to look at some more details of what has just occurred.

If you wish to see what happens from the end of chapter *eleven* - one would need to go to chapter *Fifteen*. In doing so - you miss a *tremendous amount* which God wants you to understand; but you do pick up - right where chapter *eleven* ended. Sort of.

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant . . . (R11:19)

After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. (R15:5)

We should remind ourselves that chapter *eleven* is precisely halfway thru the prophecy. Twenty-Two chapters exist; and we have another eleven to go; after we are finished with chapter *eleven*. I do know that John did not write down chapter numbers, and verses. These have been added to the entire Bible for ease of reference. However, God does seem to orchestrate and care, how all of these chapters and verses were referenced.

So, with the end of chapter *eleven*; we go backwards in time with chapter *twelve* and *thirteen*. They provide even more detail on what precisely has been occurring. It is obvious that chapter *fifteen* picks up where we ended with *eleven*. And, when we look at the ending statements of chapter *eleven*; with regards to judgements and God's wrath; it becomes obvious that the ensuing chapters are showing detail from events we have already seen - just from a different perspective. Otherwise - chapter *twelve* would open up with judgements of wrath from God, and the judging of the dead.

In addition - we should remember that with the ending of chapter *ten*; John was told that he must *prophesy again* - *about many peoples, nations, languages and Kings*. And so chapter *eleven* opens up declaring the specific time period of 42 months or 1,260 days which the great tribulation period will cover. The great tribulation has *already* been discussed - John is giving us more details. And then *eleven* ends with the sounding of the last trumpet (*seventh*); and God declares that He is ruling and His wrath has come! And chapter *twelve* opens up - with John continuing to prophesy *again* - about something which has already been discussed. The entire rest of the prophecy - is mostly a repetition with significantly more details in various areas; of the previous eleven chapters.

Finally - before we move on; we should remember that not only were the two witnesses raised from the dead in (R11:11); but also EVERY Christian who was dead. As previously mentioned; the seventh trumpet

is the LAST trumpet. And *first* the **dead** shall rise; and **then** those who are **alive** and remain (the Bride of Christ - who went into the desert place prepared by God for her to be kept safe!) are also caught up into the air to be with Jesus.

The Wife of the Lamb; or the Bride of Christ - is the only group of individuals who are ‘raptured’ out; and who do not experience the great tribulation. They do *suddenly disappear*. The Bride being taken into the wilderness or desert place - to the place prepared for her by God - that is the ‘rapture’.

I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. (Luke 17:34)

But EVERYONE who died in Christ; who remained faithful to Jesus; from the very start of creation - all through the centuries; and up till the time of the last trumpet - has their bodies changed; and made absolutely and totally indestructible. This *occurs* at the **sounding** of the **seventh trumpet** - which is seen being blown in chapter eleven. That is the *last* trumpet. And it is the trumpet which believers hope for, and embrace. It is the trumpet which Jesus *emphasized* in chapter *ten*; as being *the* trumpet which would signal all was accomplished! The trumpet call in chapter *eleven*; is the raising of the dead who died in Christ Jesus into physical, indestructible bodies. Praise God!

Rev 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 (R18:22); 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 **ἔσχατη** 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 (R11:15); we have the absolute Last of a series of trumpets being sounded.

*Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will **all** be **changed** - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at **the last trumpet**. For the trumpet will sound, the **dead** will be **raised imperishable**, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with **immortality**.* (1Corinthians 15:51 - 53)

*According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are **still alive**, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with **a loud command**, with the **voice of the archangel** and with the **trumpet call of God**, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**. After that, we who are **still alive** and are left will be **caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the **Lord in the air**. And so we will be with **the Lord forever**.*

(1Thessalonians 4:15 - 17)

(Chapter 12)

*A **great μέγα** (great, spatially large, of quantity or degree: loud, intense, violent; of time: long (time); of position: great, important) and wondrous sign **σημείον** ((miraculous) sign, signal, mark) appeared in heaven: a woman **γυνή** (woman; wife) clothed with the **sun**, with the **moon** under her feet and a **crown of twelve stars** on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an*

enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. (Rev 12:1 - 6)

First - the woman who appears in heaven; who is clothed with the sun; stands on the moon; and wears a crown of twelve stars - she is **NOT** the 'virgin Mary'. Absolutely, emphatically NOT! Has ANY of this prophecy up to this point - been about the *mother* of Jesus? Has Jesus been identified *anywhere* in this prophecy - as a BABY who needs protecting?? Jesus has only been identified as GOD; the *Alpha and the Omega*; the *First and the Last*; the *Root of David*; the *Bright Morning Star*; the *Lamb who was slain*; *Lion of the tribe of Judah*; *Faithful Witness*; *Firstborn from the Dead*; the *Living One*; the *Beginning and the End*; *Faithful and True*; *Mighty Angel*; *Word of God* . . .

The above are ALL titles given to Jesus - here in the prophecy which we call Revelation. And probably a few more exist. For example: *Son of Man* (see R14:14)

Do any of these titles; or the prophecy itself - reference a BABY?? The ONLY reason some people declare the woman to be the mother of Jesus - is because they have not spent the required time letting the Holy Spirit TEACH them; and their 'box' of God - does not allow for any other interpretation.

We ALL have 'boxes' for God. He is so great, and so awesome - that He cannot be put into a 'box'; but we do so anyway. I have a 'box' for God. I try not to; I try to keep it exploded; but this is very hard. Try as I might - I know that I still put God into some kind of 'box'. A box of my own making . . .

The woman being the mother of Jesus - is a really, really WRONG box! It totally does not fit with any portion of the prophecy. John was asked to prophesy *again* - with regards to coming world events. These are all events which have already been revealed - they are being displayed from a different perspective; and with more details.

So - *who* is the woman? She is the *Wife of the Lamb*; or the Bride of Christ.

And since this is not Mary, the mother of Jesus - just who is the *male Child* that she gives **Birth** too??

She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. . . . (R12:5)

The child is a product of the union of Jesus and His Wife. Amazing. God is a creative God; and he hasn't stopped creating. I don't know anything else about this child.

Why is this so hard to understand or believe?? God declares that He *knew YOU* before He even laid one iota of the foundation of this huge, immense universe!

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)

. . . 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the *kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world*.' (Matthew 25:34)

For he *chose us* in him before the *creation of the world* to be holy and blameless in his sight. . . . (Ephesians 1:4)

And Jesus is not the only one whom scripture states will rule with an iron scepter. Remember (R2:24) where Jesus states that he who *overcomes* will be given authority over the nations?? And they will rule with an iron scepter?

WHO is in authority in Heaven? God, the Father of course. And yet - scripture is quite clear that Jesus rules and is in authority. The principle of being ONE; while being three separate, but EQUAL beings totally eludes us! Jesus rules. And while He is ruling - so does the Father; AND the Holy Spirit. They are ONE in purpose, and thought. And yet - they are three totally separate individuals.

We have seen from numerous gospel scriptures - that Jesus is looking for a WIFE. Revelation reveals that wife. And no matter how it happens; or how God does this - the 'joining' of Jesus and His wife - will produce a child! In addition to US ruling - remember we are called to be *Kings* and *Priests* - so *too* - will this child rule. I have no more info on this miraculous child than that . . . He is given Birth to by the Bride of Christ; and this child will rule. Just as everyone who is in Jesus will rule!

Now, why do I state that this woman is the Bride of Christ, or the *Wife of the Lamb*? What evidence is given?

She does not experience the great tribulation period - but is 'raptured' or taken to a safe place; where Satan cannot touch her.

A *child τέκνον* (child, son, daughter, offspring, descendant) is produced. When a man and woman are married - the marriage consummation results in progeny.

Satan attempts to destroy the child. Just as Satan wanted to destroy the Baby Jesus; and God had Joseph and Mary flee (Matthew 2:13) to Egypt, so too Satan desires to destroy this child. And Satan did eventually destroy Jesus. I, through my sins crucified Jesus. But Satan orchestrated His crucifixion as well, believing that with death he would conquer Jesus. But after death - Satan had NO power over Jesus.

And here in this great and marvelous description - no mention or description of Joseph exists, and the wife does not flee to the place prepared for her - until after the child is safe and protected. And Jesus was NOT 'snatched up' *ἠρπάσθη* (to catch, steal, carry off) to Heaven after he was crucified and resurrected. Jesus was FULL of POWER and AUTHORITY - just as He is *today*; and Jesus himself determined the time and place to *return*, and go into Heaven. Satan could not touch or harm Jesus in ANY way after His resurrection.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. (Luke 24:30 - 31)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. (Luke 24:36 - 40)

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he

was *blessing them*, he *left them* and was *taken up into heaven*. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. (Luke 24:50 - 52)

After the resurrection - Satan can only 'harm' Jesus - by harming and deceiving believers! That is a grief to Jesus; to see us having doubts; and not knowing who we are in God! So too - in these chapter twelve Revelation scriptures; after not being able to touch, or harm the Bride - Satan again goes after those in Christ whom he can hurt . . .

And as previously stated: in scripture, the *sun* represents God, the Father. And the *moon*, which reflects the light of the sun, and is only visible because of the reflected light - represents God, the Son. And the *stars* which are cast broadly thru the heavens, and *star differs from star in splendor* (1Cor 15:41), and are too numerous to count - represent God, the Holy Spirit.

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. (R12:1)

This is a HUGE event! John describes it as a GREAT and WONDROUS sign. What is the event? A woman *clothed* with the *sun*.

The Wife has been given divinity. She is *equal* with her Husband. And she is clothed with the glory, authority, and stature of God, the Father. Her Foundation is JESUS (her Husband and Bridegroom.) She is standing on Him; resting in His presence; He is the very nature and core of her being. He is the reason for her life, and relationship with God.

Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together. (Deuteronomy 22:10)

Do not be yoked together ἑτεροζυγοῦντες (to yoke together in a mismatch) *with unbelievers.* (2Corinthians 6:14)

And the Virgin Daughter of Zion has a *Crown* of authority and victory. The Holy Spirit rests on her head and rules her every action and thought. The crown of *twelve* stars represent the finality and completion of the Holy Spirit; and how the Bride has made herself ready. She clothed herself with the intimacy and authority of God; and she has become the Wife of the Lamb. A very special relationship with God!

The Wife of the Lamb represents those Christians who made themselves ready for Jesus. Who pursued Him relentlessly; pursued righteousness rather than pleasure; intimacy with God rather than friendship with the world. LOVING all - while hating sin and wickedness. Allowing themselves to be truly ONE with God; obeying and not grieving the Holy Spirit - who indwells all believers; and who is willing to be intimate with each and every one of us; and to teach us even the deep things and mysteries of God.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." . . . (R19:7 - 8)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18)

However, as it is written: "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)

*She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then **another** sign appeared in heaven: an enormous **red** dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a **third of the stars** out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman **fled** into the **desert** to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for **1,260** days. (Rev 12:2 - 6)*

We have the result of the union between the Bride and Jesus being a ruling child or son. And Satan tries to destroy this new ruling entity; but is thwarted. The red dragon is Satan. Satan deceived one third of all the angels - who followed Satan in his declaration that he would be God. Satan saw who God wanted to make be partakers of God's glory - weak, fleshly man - and declared that he would be God. One third of all the created angels followed Satan; in this declaration. Revelation (R12:4) is the only scripture which references a **third of the stars** or angels as following Satan.

*And there was **war** in **heaven**. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the **dragon and his angels** fought back. (R12:7)*

*Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the **eternal fire** prepared for the **devil and his angels**. (Matthew 25:41)*

*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; (2Peter 2:4)*

The dragon - who is Satan - has an army of Angels; who rebelled against God, and followed Satan when he declared that he himself would be God. The referenced size of Satan's army is one **third** of all of the angels. They had access to heaven; and could still go before God (*see* Job 1:6); until the great tribulation period draws close; and a war in Heaven occurs; and Satan is cast out; and forbidden from ever entering Heaven again!

The Wife of the Lamb - is taken to a safe place prepared for her in the desert. She will dwell here - being taken care of by God - for the entire tribulation period of **1,260** days or **42 months**. Satan, or the dragon - will not be able to touch her; and he will go to make **WAR** against the remnant of her seed. In other words - Satan will go and persecute, put to death; and attempt to deceive - those Christians who did not qualify for the Bride! We are all called - but many of us are not walking in the pure walk which we are asked to walk. We are not making ourselves ready to be part of the Bride of Christ. And so - we will find ourselves in the great tribulation - with Satan giving us the choice of his mark - or death. And this will not be such an 'easy' choice as many believe. With many of your friends telling you to follow this 'great' guy; and since we did not qualify to be part of the Wife of the Lamb - because of our selfishness; and pursuit of our own interests - what makes you think that you will not succumb; and take the mark - or worship the Beast??

*At that time **many** will **turn away from the faith** and will betray and hate each other, (Matthew 24:10)*

With Satan and his angels being forever removed from Heaven - he is filled with fury; for he knows that his time is short! So with extreme rage he goes after the Wife of the Lamb, in an attempt to destroy her. She receives power from God (two wings of a great eagle); and escapes to the desert place which God has prepared for her. At this location - Jesus is standing (R10) with his right foot on the sea; his left foot on the

land; and his head in the clouds! God protects (see Ex 13:21; 14:19; 14:24; 40:38) and provides for His Bride for 1,260 days. Satan - who cannot touch the Bride of Christ - goes to make war and cause extreme grief and anguish for the huge, vast majority of Christians who remain. The *remnant of her seed* - who did not make themselves ready to be part of the Bride or the *Wife of the Lamb*.

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

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)

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 . . . (Psalms 144:7 - 8)

Then I heard what sounded like a *great multitude*, like the roar of *rushing waters* . . . (Rev 19:6)

The *water like a river* which is sent as a *torrent* after the Bride - could be actual water - or possibly a river and immense swarm of people - who absolutely wish to destroy the Bride. As previously mentioned - some of the other scriptures in Revelation - use the word water - when indicating various *peoples*.

*A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The *great dragon* was hurled down - that *ancient serpent* called the *devil, or Satan*, who leads the *whole world astray*. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But *woe* to the *earth and the sea*, because the devil has gone down to you! He is *filled with fury*, because he knows that his time is *short*." When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the *place prepared for her in the desert*, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. Then from his *mouth* the serpent spewed *water like a river*, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. Then the *dragon was enraged* at the woman and went off to make war against the *rest of her offspring* - those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (Rev 12)*

(Chapter 13)

We saw spiritual details of the great tribulation period in chapters eight and nine. In chapter seven - a

juxtaposition was highlighted; and it was seen that the Bride of Christ would be spared from experiencing the great tribulation and testing of the inhabitants of the earth. In chapter *ten* - we see Jesus on the earth protecting His wife; and he announces that the seventh trumpet is about to be blown - for the great tribulation period has ended. In chapter eleven, we see the details of the two witnesses taking a stand; and bringing plagues and judgements on the inhabitants of the earth; and ultimately allowing themselves to be overpowered and killed by the *beast* - and the *seventh trumpet* declares itself 3.5 days after their death. In chapter *twelve* - Satan and the details of his reign are started to be revealed in more detail; while it is also made clear *again* - that the Bride will be spared and not experience the great tribulation.

The dragon is Satan.

The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (R12:9)

And the dragon or Satan is going to go to the multitudes of peoples who reject God; and he will find some very deceived individuals - who will serve him utterly. Chapter *thirteen*; discusses how Satan is going to deceive the entire world; and cause HUGE amounts of people to walk willingly - to utter destruction and torment of burning fire - for absolutely FOREVER. Chapter *twelve* ends with the following verse:

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring - those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (R12:17)

Chapter *thirteen* opens with Satan standing on the shore of the *sea*. In other words - Satan is looking out at the huge sea of mankind; furious, hateful, vengeful; and looking for people to help him accomplish his very wicked and deceiving deeds. He has very little time left - before he is destroyed in Hell; and he desperately desires to destroy as many of God's most wondrous creation (mankind - who have a glorious calling - if we will just embrace God) as he possibly can - before his rule is ended.

And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. (Rev 13:1 - 3)

"This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. . . . "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. (Rev 17:9 - 12 edited)

Satan commands a person to come out of the sea of humanity. A very notable individual comes out - one who has or forms allegiances with other influential people in various governments. All of these individuals - have submitted themselves to Satan and to his power. In return - they RULE over the earth. They are given power, and great authority. The word throne means exactly that. A THRONE. Ruling over a kingdom. In this case - the kingdom is all the numerous, numerous deceived peoples of the earth.

The Greek (G2585) word throne **θρόνον** (throne) means THRONE, and all of the included cultural and historical traditions and references. It is the same word used in (Matthew 5:34) where Jesus makes the following statement: *But I tell you, do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne . . .*

The word is found in the Greek 62 times; and is always translated as *throne* or *thrones* except for two times. Those *two* instances are found in Revelation at: R4:2 & R4:4 The word it; and them obviously carry the meaning of *throne* in these two verses.

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

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.

And in one specific instance, the Greek word **θρόνον** is not translated. This instance is located at (Rev 4:6) where the word appears *three* times in the Greek - but is only translated *twice* in the English.

Finally - this Greek (G2585) word **θρόνον** is the *only* word translated as *Throne* - in the entire New Testament - except for one instance. The one exception is found at: Acts 12:21 **βήματος** (G1037)

Now, I really do not wish to focus tremendously on various Greek definitions, etc. But for possibly those who might not readily recognize that Satan does in fact have an actual Kingdom, and currently RULES the earth - thought to point out that this word *always* references or is translated as THRONE. And Satan does in fact have a kingdom and tremendous authority. We should just not desire to have any part or parcel of it!

*The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant **all the kingdoms** of the world. And he said to him, “**I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours.**” (Luke 4:5 - 7)*

Satan is also dealing with and deceiving a total of *seventeen* Kings. The ten horns are *ten* kings; and the seven heads are *seven* Kings. Do these words mean there will be *seventeen* different rulers? Don't really know. I haven't spent much time contemplating the meaning of the horns and heads.

We DO know that an individual is not going to come walking out of an ocean; capable of breathing underwater; with fins, green slime, seven heads (with one of those heads flopping around dead); and ten horns at various places on those seven heads. And who knows how many eyes? Two eyes per head - and this individual would have fourteen eyes!

We DO know that this is NOT what the Beast will look like - don't we? Because if that IS what the Beast did look like - we (mankind - whatever nation saw it) - would DISINTEGRATE it first; and dissect it second . . . That would be our initial reaction to any such entity. But scriptures state that we WORSHIP this *creature* - so described as possessing seven heads and ten horns!

Plus - we have an angel (R17) giving an explanation of the meaning of this apparition. And - no explanation or meaning is given in (R13) because of the juxtaposition which God gives. God desires for us to acquire wisdom, and learn to hear the Holy Spirit; our personal TEACHER. GOD Himself - desires to TEACH each and every one of us!

What is the juxtaposition which is created? The following: (R13:1 - 3)

And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like

those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.

The *description* of the above, and this:

The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

In both (R13:18) & (R17:9) - we are told wisdom is required.

Most governments have numerous 'right hand' men. Influential individuals who are delegated power and authority. So too - with the seven heads, and ten horns. Various individuals totally submitting to one person - Satan.

Plus, in (R13:11) - we have the statement of another beast, coming out of the earth. In chapter *eleven* - we see that ALL of the inhabitants of the earth - EVERY person - GLOATS and REJOICES in the death of Christians, and those following Jesus!

Here, in chapter *thirteen*; where we are being given more details of how that came about - we see that the WHOLE world followed, and worshiped the beast. Worshiped something with seven heads, and ten horns, and probably fourteen eyes, with one head flopping around; and feet with massive paws as from a bear; and faces from lions??

So, God gives us this juxtaposition; and expects us to grasp the relevant meaning . . .

Some might state that the seven heads represent seven kings who have already existed over the centuries. And died. Or five or six kings who have already existed, ruled and died. And the sixth or seventh are about to receive power.

And that might be true. Don't know. If we focus on the seven heads, and the ten horns - we become somewhat detoured in the purposes and understanding of this prophecy. Somewhat, since an angel takes the time to explain to John what the *meaning* of the seven heads, and ten horns *are* - in chapter *Seventeen*. So they obviously have some importance. But here, in chapter *Thirteen*; the prophecy narrows down to an *individual*. And yes, this individual will have assistants - who will love deception and unrighteousness.

But notice the progression of the description. We start with a beast with multiple heads and horns. And a beast with multiple *heads* - would still have only one set of feet. But with multiple heads - we would expect multiple mouths . . . Instead we go from this hideous initial description - to one set of feet; and ONE mouth.

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a τὸ ((often not translated) the, this, that, who) mouth like that of a lion.

The τὸ (G3836) word is used 19,885 times in (Greek) scripture. It is translated in 11,071 instances.

The word is translated in numerous ways:

the (7,564)

who (385)

that (150)

a (169)

the son (77)

whoever (35)

anyone (32)

its (21)

Jesus (4)

this man (1)

the wife (1)

the news (1)

The above is just a paltry beginning sample. The word is translated 650 *different* ways. And we also have the 8,814 instances - where it is *not* translated. This word in various contexts, does indeed carry a broad range of meanings.

However, I am attempting to highlight the fact that here, in (R13:2) - the word is translated; and translated as: *a* *mouth*.

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.

So, in our description of this 'beast' with seven heads, and ten horns - we go to one set of feet; and ONE mouth. In other words - *one* individual.

ONE person on whom the world will be focused. He will have assistants, leaders, and other kings who will listen to him; but he will be filled with charisma, authority, power, deception, charm, and wisdom.

Now, in regards to his immense charisma, charm, and wisdom - we should note that *No* scripture states that he will possess these qualities. However; the word anti-Christ - which does exist in scripture - carries with it the tradition of opposite. The word *anti* indicates: 1. Opposition to, effectiveness against, or counteraction; for example, **antacid**, **antibody**. 2. Situation opposite to; for example, **antimere**. 3. Reciprocal correspondence to; for example, **antilogarithm**. 4. Converse operation to; for example, **anticyclone**, **antinode**. **Note:** Many compounds other than those entered here may be formed with *anti*-. In forming compounds . . .] [pg 56; The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language; 1973]

We have the term *antimatter* signifying an opposite type of matter. The antithesis of matter.

Jesus, who was, and *is* - the Christ; was foretold in scripture as:

. . . He had *no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* (Isaiah 53:2 - 3)

The attraction of Jesus was NOT his appearance. He was NOT a good looking man. He had NOTHING in his appearance to attract man or to cause men to desire him. He was a poor and hard working person.

Since the world runs after ‘looks’; celebrates the ‘beautiful looking people’; and glorifies sex, power, and money - the common view of the anti-Christ - is that he will be a very desirable man. People will WANT to look like him; and to be around him. People will wish that they were him, be jealous of his good looks, etc. But, except that scripture specifically states that Jesus was NOT good looking - we have nothing in scripture to back up the viewpoint that the anti-Christ will be good looking, and charismatic, etc. The word *anti*; signifies the opposite. Christ was not good looking. So the anti-Christ is *assumed* to be good looking.

I tend towards this assumed point of view. But we should remember, that POWER attracts; and the anti-Christ will not necessarily be good looking! That IS an assumption. The evil, nefarious, part Jewish, German leader Hitler - who was very evil - and murdered MILLIONS of Jews and others - this individual was NOT handsome, or necessarily good looking. But, for the time that he was in power, he was almost worshiped; and he himself had a girlfriend. It is an *assumption* that the anti-Christ will be good looking. Probably will be. Might not. But because of some other scriptures which we will shortly consider - I do believe that the anti-Christ will be filled with charisma, authority, power, deception, charm, and wisdom.

Both Jesus and the anti-Christ are filled with wisdom, power, and authority. However, Christ’s wisdom, authority and power - came directly from God. And Christ is God. The anti-Christ’s wisdom, power, and authority come directly from Satan. And the anti-Christ will be Satan incarnate. Please also remember that Satan is a *created* being. He was created by God. He was the most beautiful and powerful being that God ever created. But - he is a *created* being. Jesus is GOD. God is three distinct beings - who are totally ONE in purpose and intent. Nothing is impossible for God. So, God became a *man* - in order to redeem us back to himself. Jesus, who was and is fully God, functioned totally as a man while walking this earth. All of his authority, and power came directly from God.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:5 - 8)

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

“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)

Now, this fiendish beast individual, will be Satan incarnate. He will sit on Satan’s throne; have all of Satan’s great power and wisdom; and he *will* DECEIVE the *entire* earth - into believing that he is God!

If you believe that this will be a “walk in the park”; and you will just not ‘take’ the mark of the beast; you are sadly mistaken. The authority, power, his words; and the many, many miraculous signs, and numerous

miracles that this person will perform - will be totally astonishing. Without a deep, deep, DEEP and intimate relationship with God, you *WILL* take the mark of the beast yourself!

Let's take another quick look at the opening verses of chapter *thirteen*.

And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast θηρίον ((wild) animal, (fiendish) beast, snake) coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. (Rev 13:1 - 6)

What does the following phrase indicate:

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion . . . (R13:2)

Leopard: Deception. Deception is part of its very nature. A great deceiver.

But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing." Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times . . . (Genesis 27:35 - 36)

Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. And my honesty will testify for me . . . (Genesis 30:32 - 33)

Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. (Genesis 31:20)

Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You've deceived me . . . (Genesis 31:26)

Therefore a lion from the forest will attack them, a wolf from the desert will ravage them, a leopard will lie in wait near their towns to tear to pieces any who venture out . . . (Jer 5:6)

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil. (Jeremiah 13:23)

Bear: Power, Anger, and great destruction.

Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people. (Proverbs 28:15)

Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly. (Proverbs 17:12)

Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, he dragged me from the path and mangled me and left me without help. (Lamentations 3:10 - 11)

So I will come upon them like a lion, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open. Like a lion I will devour them; a wild animal will tear them apart. (Hosea 13:7 - 8)

Lion: Great ferocity, cunning, and strength. A lion is also associated with Jesus, courage, faithfulness, and God.

. . . Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness - who dares to rouse him? (Genesis 49:9)

Some Gadites defected to David at his stronghold in the desert. They were brave warriors, ready for battle and able to handle the shield and spear. Their faces were the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles in the mountains. (1Chronicles 12:8)

The throne had six steps, and a footstool of gold was attached to it. On both sides of the seat were armrests, with a lion standing beside each of them. Twelve lions stood on the six steps, one at either end of each step. Nothing like it had ever been made for any other kingdom. (2Chronicles 9:18 - 19)

If I hold my head high, you stalk me like a lion and again display your awesome power against me. (Job 10:16)

They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion crouching in cover. (Psalms 17:12)

Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. (Psalms 22:13)

A king's rage is like the roar of a lion . . . (Proverbs 19:12)

Like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding, he dragged me from the path and mangled me and left me without help. (Lamentations 3:10 - 11)

. . . "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." (R5:5)

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion . . . (R13:2)

The beast - will have great power, strength, rage, cunning, & deceptions, and will be seeking to devour all peoples, while *stating* (falsely) that he is God; and speaking with the authority of God, and from God.

Now, I believe these three descriptions of a *leopard*, *bear*, and a *mouth* like that of a *lion*; are three *aspects* of how the beast will operate and function. But, these three descriptions could have multiple meanings. Some consider them to be representative of historical empires. Some wish to shoehorn the Pope and the Catholic church into this description. (*Sigh*).

My thoughts on the meaning of these *three descriptions* might very well be wrong. Wow. Who'd have thought? But, does it really matter?? The beast is WORSHIPED. Undeniable. One man. Worshiped.

Let us not get caught up into arguments of minutia in this prophecy. Let us stay on focus of what it teaches . . .

The beast has a mouth like a Lion. I do believe that this also means that he will be stating that he is GOD. He will be stating that he is JESUS, come back to earth! His words will be as those of the Lion of the tribe of Judah! Jesus' words are pure, true, and Holy. The beast will convince people, thru deception - that he is Jesus Christ returned.

What of the following verses:

He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name . . . The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name . . . (R13)

How is the word *Blaspheme* (and its derivatives) being used, and the meaning??

First, in the New Testament; there are only three words which are translated in any form as Blaspheme. Sometimes these three Greek words might be referenced as: *heap abuse on; slander; malicious*, etc.

1. **βλασφημέω** [G/K 1059] (*to blaspheme, insult, slander, curse*) [4x in Revelation]
2. **βλασφημία** [G/K 1060] (*blasphemy, slander, malicious talk*) [5x in Revelation]
3. **βλάσφημος** [G/K 1061] (*blasphemous, slanderous, abusive, evil, hurtful (speech); as a noun, a reviler, blasphemer*) [0x in Revelation]

The Strong's equivalents are (987; 988; & 989) respectively. In Revelation - only **βλασφημέω** & **βλασφημία** are found. And any English derivative of the word *Blasphemy* is always (G/K 1060). (G/K 1059) is translated as (*slander* 1x; *cursed* 3x). (G/K 1060) is also translated as *slander* (R2:9).

What constitutes slander and blasphemy in the prophecy which is Revelation?

In Revelation - the Blasphemy which the anti-Christ commits - is declaring that he is GOD. I am sure that *many* other *nuances* exist within this framework; but that is the gist of it. He will not be proclaiming that God is bad, or evil. Or that God does not exist. NOPE! He will be declaring that he IS GOD; and deserving of worship as God. And since he is very aware that he is NOT God; and is deceiving that part of God's most wondrous creation which was made in God's image - this is indeed Blasphemy.

Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

προσκυνέω [G/K 4686] (*to worship, pay homage, show reverence, to kneel down (before)*) is the Greek word being translated above as a derivative of *Worship*. The word means to WORSHIP. Worship as GOD!

The reason I bring this up - is because a few months back (today is 12/24/10); I had someone tell me that Satan and the Beast were not going to be worshiped as God. The person stated they were very well versed in Greek and Hebrew; and worship did not mean actual worship. The individual whom I was speaking

with - was and is - a pastor of a church. He is also a man who loves God, and loves Jesus. And he is deeply immersed in end time doctrine; and events happening around the world.

However, once again - people are messed up with Revelation - because rather than just READING it; and learning to HEAR the Holy Spirit; and giving Him our ears and TIME to understand this prophecy - we again 'study' it! Delving into the Greek and the Hebrew - so that we can get the actual understanding of the meaning of the term - *WORSHIP!* Which in this case - of a man shepherding and guarding a segment of the Lord's people - he declares that the word *worship* - does not mean and indicate worship; because of his 'study' and his understanding of Hebrew and Greek!

First - the ONLY word which is EVER translated in ANY form in the prophecy which is Revelation - as *worship* (or its derivatives); is the Greek word **προσκυνέω**

*Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and **WORSHIP** him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne . . .* (Rev 4:9 - 10)

*The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and **WORSHIPED**.* (R5:14)

*All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and **WORSHIPED God**.* . . . (R7:11)

. . . "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. **WORSHIP** him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." (R14:7)

*Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and **WORSHIP** before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."* (R15:4)

*But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. **WORSHIP God!**"* (R22:9)

EVERY instance of **προσκυνέω** is translated in some derivative form of the word *worship* - in the prophecy which is Revelation. It is also the ONLY Greek word translated in any form as *worship* - in Revelation.

*He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who **refused to worship** the image to be killed.* (R13:15)

μη προσκυνήσωσιν is a combination of [G/K 3590 + G/K 4686] (*no, not, (with {4024}) absolutely not; a marker that negates a statement. At the beginning of a Greek question, it anticipates a negative response*) + (*to worship, pay homage, show reverence; to kneel down (before)*) translated as: *refused to worship*.

And we have the following small sampling of verses (the Greek [4686] word occurs 60 times in scripture; and 55x of those are in direct reference to worship):

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and **worshiped** him . . .* (Matthew 2:11)

*Then those who were in the boat **worshiped** him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”* (Matthew 14:33)

*Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and **worshiped** him.* (Matthew 28:9)

*Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘**Worship** the Lord your God and serve him only.’”* (Luke 4:8)

*Then they **worshiped** him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.* (Luke 24:52)

*Our fathers **worshiped** on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must **worship** is in Jerusalem.”* (John 4:20)

*God is spirit, and his **worshippers** must **worship** in spirit and in truth.”* (John 4:24)

*Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he **worshiped** him.* (John 9:38)

*You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to **worship**.* (Acts 24:11)

*And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels **worship** him.”* (Hebrews 1:6)

Every instance in the above scriptures are of the Greek word **προσκυνέω** [G/K 4686] (*to worship, pay homage, show reverence, to kneel down (before)*); which obviously (from numerous scriptural examples) means to **WORSHIP**. The Strong’s equivalent is #SG4352 if you desire to cross reference it . . .

*Men **worshiped the dragon** because he had given authority to the beast, and they also **worshiped the beast** and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”* (R13:4)

The beast will declare himself God, and he will be worshiped by the entire world. EVERYONE who is not of God - will worship him. But - what does it mean when it states that men will worship the **dragon**? Is this a great red creature flying around breathing fire - who has a large scaled tail - and we will all worship this **Dragon**??

NOPE.

The dragon is Satan. And he does have a tail; and his color is red. [see R12] He is also described as the serpent, or the devil. These are illustrative descriptions of the great deceiver - Satan. His color is red because of the fires of hell; and that is where those who ‘follow’ him - are destined to reside FOREVER.

But - are numerous deceived people going to worship a fire breathing dragon?? Like that depicted in numerous films? Nope.

Satan, Dragon, or the devil - has GREAT power, and authority. He gives that power and authority to the beast. The beast - is then worshiped as God; and revered by the entire world - as GOD! This worship will occur because of the mighty miracles, and deceptions which the Beast will display to man - convincing man - that he is in fact GOD.

Consequently - by default - Satan is worshiped. The beast will be Satan in the flesh. Satan incarnate. And mankind (all the inhabitants of the earth) will worship the beast because of his tremendous power,

authority, miracles, wisdom, etc. Since ALL of that - will be coming directly from Satan - worship of the Beast - IS worshipping Satan. So, yes - everyone who takes the mark of the beast, or who bows down before his image - WILL be worshipping the dragon, or that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan.

I find it astonishing to listen to numerous people state that *Science* has proven God does not exist! Evolutionary 'science' is king! And yet - it is quite clear - that when the anti-Christ rules; NO atheists will exist. NO ONE will be questioning the existence and reality of GOD. If you are worshipping the one true God - He who is Holy and sovereign; and patiently enduring this terrible time till the end - you know and understand that GOD exists. And evolutionary theory is RUBBISH. However, if you are a man of learned knowledge; who insists that God does not exist - then the deceptions of Satan will overcome you; and you will fall down onto your knees before him! And you will ultimately spend FOREVER in Hell. A burning lake of fire and judgement.

When the anti-Christ comes into power and rules - *No more fence sitting!* Jesus stated that he would rather have us 'cold' than lukewarm. So be it! Here - individuals will either become HOT for Jesus; or HOT for the beast and Satan. There will be NO fence sitters!

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! (R3:15)

Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. (R13:4 - 6)

The beast will *slander* those who hold fast to the one true God; and do not acknowledge or worship the beast as God. He will insult and curse godly men. Individuals who recognize that if you follow the beast, kneel before him; or take or receive his mark - that you will spend eternity in Hell . . . Godly individuals will be crying out and stating: DO NOT do this!!

They will be put to death for stating the truth. They will be whipped; laughed at; stripped; publically humiliated; starved; tortured; etc.; and ultimately killed.

All for stating the truth.

As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!" (R8:13)

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 . . ." (R14:9 - 10)

And all the inhabitants of the earth - all those whose names have not been written into the Lamb's book of Life since the creation of the world - will worship the beast. They will do so because of his miracles, and authority, and power.

These miracles, and displays of power - will have NOTHING to do - with what man has accomplished. No lasers; no missiles; no tanks; no electromagnet rail guns; no disintegrating rays; etc.

Do you believe that when Jesus comes back - he is going to mass produce jet airplanes or trains? With the

flick of a finger? Jesus is GOD. He is going to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Which brings us back to the anti-Christ. He will rule with a rod of iron as well . . . Demanding that you obey - or die.

Jesus is going to write his name on our foreheads. (R22:4) What a wonder, because Satan is going to write his name on foreheads as well . . .

*He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a **mark** on his right hand or on his **forehead** . . . (Rev 13:16)*

Jesus had fatal wounds, which were still visible after he had risen from the dead. He showed his wounds to Thomas.

*Then he said to Thomas, "Put your **finger** here; see my **hands**. Reach out your hand and put **it into my side**. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My **Lord and my God!**" (John 20:27 - 28)*

The anti-Christ is going to have a visible fatal wound. That he will show the world. And the world will be astonished - just as Thomas was astonished!

Thomas however - KNEW Jesus. He knew who Jesus was! Do you KNOW Christ? Do you KNOW Jesus? Or are you going to be deceived; because a man arrives - with fatal wounds - performing GREAT and MIRACULOUS deeds; who is claiming to be the Christ! Who states that he is GOD; and asks you to receive his name on your forehead. Just as Jesus will actually do . . .

*. . . had a **fatal wound**, but the **fatal wound** had been healed. The whole world was **astonished** and followed the beast. (R13:3)*

Yes, but the anti-Christ will write something on your right hand. Jesus never said that he would write on our right hand . . . That's correct. Jesus stated that to a special group (the Bride) he would:

*. . . 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**. (R3:12)*

The wife will be receiving *three* different types of marks or names. Are they ALL going onto your forehead? Again, about the Wife of the Lamb - the following scripture exists:

*. . . who had his **name** and his **Father's name** written on their foreheads. (R14:1)*

Ok - so we have *two* items which Jesus stated would be written on our foreheads. However - Revelation states three items might be written on a believer. And - is there a *difference* in **his name**; and the **name no one knows** but he himself?? [see R19:12]

*They will see his face, and **his name** will be on their foreheads. (R22:4)*

Jesus has multiple names. Numerous names. **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**; is another of the numerous names of Jesus. That is written on His **thigh**, and His **Robe!**

Satan and Jesus discussed scripture! Satan attempted to deceive; Jesus responded. [see Luke or Matthew chapter 4] Do you believe that you would have overcome Satan in that situation?? Do you possess the wisdom and grace under pressure - to properly respond?

But that is PRECISELY what is going to happen when Satan takes his seat on the *throne of desolation!* He will be discussing and stating scripture! Are you really going to refuse to take the name of Jesus onto your forehead? Don't you WANT to be part of Christ's own?? Everything that Jesus states he is going to do - Revelation states Satan is going to do! How are you going to stand against him? With the raising of the dead; the healing of the sick; the moving of mountains; the instantaneous travel - from one point of the planet to the other; the control of the weather; and the calling down of fire from Heaven. (R13:13) The last is a *dual* reference to *Elijah* [1Kings 18:38]; and where the disciples asked if they should call *fire* down from Heaven to destroy *unbelievers* [Luke 9:54].

Do you know what your one protection is against all of this?? READING Revelation! And NOT just twice a year! This book has so many, many blessings pronounced upon it; and yet people refuse to read it. They state they get 'bored' reading it . . . READING Revelation, and learning to HEAR the Spirit of God - are your only two defenses. In other words - KNOWING what is going to happen, and LISTENING to GOD - so that you have the strength, courage, faithfulness, and patient endurance to overcome!

Another terrible, terrible, doctrine - which comes straight from the pit of HELL - is that Christian believers are going to be residing on or inhabiting earth - when Jesus returns!

"Jesus can return any time!" "It's almost time for his return!" "I can't wait till Jesus comes back!" "Won't it be exciting to see Jesus return on a white horse?" "Jesus could come back TODAY!" "No one knows the day or the hour - so He could come back today, tomorrow, or next week! I sure hope he comes back soon!"

Unfortunately - ALL of those above statements; come directly from Satan. They are not biblical statements. And the attitude and scriptural understanding displayed in the above statements - are WHY millions, and millions of believers are going to be deceived, and ultimately receive and take the mark of the beast; rejecting the one true Christ!

Some of the above statements - are actually true. It is the context and understanding of what is being stated - when they are stated; that determines the *source*. When Satan was arguing scripture, and attempting to deceive Jesus; what was his source of scripture? God, or a wicked heart? Jesus stated that Satan was the Father of Lies, and there is no truth in him! You see - both were stating scripture. Jesus was quoting from the Father; and Satan was quoting from a vile and wicked heart. The source was not the same . . .

. . . He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)

1. *Jesus can return any time!* Totally, totally false. He has a specific day, and hour appointed. He stated that we should watch and know the seasons. Revelation makes quite clear - very specific events - which *must* occur before Jesus will come back as prophesied.
2. *It's almost time for his return!* True statement. Just not in the context in which it is usually stated.

3. *I can't wait till Jesus comes back!* This has a good heart, and is expressing love for Jesus and an eagerness for his return. Unfortunately - it comes from a total lack of genuine understanding; and is a sentiment which both Jesus and Satan desire for you to have; for *different* reasons.

4. *Won't it be exciting to see Jesus return on a white horse?* YES - it will be. But this statement assumes that you are going to be on the EARTH watching Jesus come back. And scripture makes quite clear that ALL (everyone) on earth (R1:7) will MOURN when Jesus returns. It will only be exciting when Jesus returns on a white horse - if you are WITH Him; and RIDING a White Horse yourself - when He returns! (R17:14 & R19:14)

5. *Jesus could come back TODAY!* Absolutely false! Jesus has total capability of visiting someone on earth; and ministering to he/she or them - as He sees fit! But the statement of coming back today - is referring to His prophesied, triumphal return. When he takes up rulership. And returns on the White Horse. This requires various prophecies to be fulfilled *first* . . . They have not as yet been fulfilled; ergo - He cannot return today or tomorrow, or next week; or (at this point) even in the next three years!

6. *No one knows the day or the hour - so He could come back today, tomorrow, or next week! I sure hope he comes back soon!* Well, I hope He comes back soon as well! So does the Spirit and the Bride; and even Jesus! (see R22) But the context of the above statement is wrong. Just because we do not know the day, or the hour - does not mean that Jesus wants us to be mindless idiots! That is one of the many reasons why JESUS gave us the Revelation prophecy! So that we would not be deceived and lose our inheritance of salvation. And prophecies have to be fulfilled. (See #5 above.)

Here is an absolute, and TRUE scriptural statement: NO believers will be living on or inhabiting the earth - when Jesus Christ returns. The 'return' being that 'return' signified as His *lightning* coming!

"But in those days, following that distress, " "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. (Mk 13:24 - 27)

Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Lk 17:22 - 24)

"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! (Lk 17:28 - 32)

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even

the elect - if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. "Immediately after the distress of those days " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Mt 24:22 - 31)

From the above scriptures - it would seem to appear that I am wrong. Christians will be on earth when Jesus returns. But that is because of a lack of understanding of scripture, and a total lack of understanding of the book of Revelation. And remember - Revelation was given - so that we might know what is to come and *must soon take place!* Scripture (not just Revelation) repeats itself, and makes statements from various perspectives.

For repetition - those four quoted above are from Matthew, Mark, & Luke.

"But in those days, *following that distress,* " 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. (Mk 13:24 - 27)

Ok - the above scripture states that a DISTRESS will occur; and after the distress - Jesus will appear and gather the elect from the four winds and all of the earth.

"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! (Lk 17:28 - 32)

Now, the above scripture does not mention ANY distress. Rather - it gives the impression of NO distress. And it references Lot and Sodom. Sodom was NOT in distress when Lot left! They were going about their daily lives. In fact - the men who were pledged to marry the daughters of Lot - refused to leave Sodom! Not much distress happening.

Then Jesus states that on the day He is revealed - we should leave all of our possessions behind. I thought His day would be one of Rejoicing! Instead - referencing Sodom - (where FLEEING was required); Jesus essentially states that on the day He is revealed - we should FLEE! Why would I flee from Jesus?? And Matthew 24 quoted above - states that a DISTRESS will happen; and then Jesus will return - and ALL the nations will MOURN. And it continues to state that He will appear with power and great glory - and with a loud trumpet call; will gather His elect. When we consider just the two above scriptures; then Jesus would have us praying that He not return on the Sabbath or in the Winter! [see Mt 24:20]

So - which is it? Am I to RUN and FLEE from Jesus? Will He come back when everyone is just partying, singing, and dancing? Like Sodom - I am to FLEE from him, and not even go get my coat?? When He comes - will it be after a time of distress, or not?? Which is it - from the above scriptures?

You see, the above scriptures are the reason why people are confused, and believe that they will be residing on Earth; when Jesus returns! It is when we don't understand the context of scriptures, and do not understand that Jesus makes Broad, and *Sweeping* statements - that we become mis-informed.

Will Jesus send an angel to gather His elect? Absolutely. Will this happen at a loud trumpet call? YES. Is this his 'lightning' coming? NOPE.

What are the two items above - which these scriptures agree on?

1. Jesus is coming back. And He will return in great power and glory.
2. No matter WHO you are - NO ONE will have to tell you that Jesus has returned. Even the DEAD will know that Jesus has returned!

These scriptures agree on the fact that His return will be like LIGHTNING. NO ONE will have to tell you! You could be Ten MILES below the surface of the Earth; BLIND; and in a locked up 5x5 soundproof box - and you would still be aware that Jesus had returned!

But our other understanding of these scriptures - is very confused - since we do not READ Revelation, and let the Holy Spirit TEACH us! We insist on studying the Greek; or even in reading commentary.

God has given me what I am giving you. After many years of just reading and listening. When you are done reading this commentary; READ Revelation; and tear my commentary apart. Prove me wrong; or prove me correct. But READ Revelation - constantly! Give God the TIME - to teach you!

With regards to the dead knowing that Jesus has returned:

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. (R 1:7)

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!" (R 5:13)

Matthew and Mark above mention distress before Jesus returns. Matthew even states that great signs and miracles will be being performed - before Jesus returns. Luke indicates that no distress will be occurring - but that we should FLEE and run without anything! The analogy of the destruction of Sodom - is quite important in Luke. We are not fleeing from Jesus - we are fleeing from eminent destruction and disaster. But what disaster?

and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. (Mt 24:11)

"So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equaled again. (Mt 24:15 - 21)

For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect - if that were possible. (Mt 24:24)

First notice - that verses *eleven & twenty-four*; are a repeat of each other. And sandwiched between them; are the verses which state an abomination that causes desolation will occur. And we should FLEE.

Verse 22 states that these days will be *shortened*. Remember chapter *Eight* of Revelation?

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. (Mt 24:22)

What is the *abomination which causes desolation*? That is the anti-Christ appearing and coming into power. What is *desolation*? [1. The act of rendering desolate. 2. The state of being desolate; ruin. 3. A wasteland. 4. Loneliness or misery; wretchedness.]* What is the meaning of *desolate*? [1. Devoid of inhabitants; deserted: "streets which were usually so thronged now grown desolate" (Defoe). 2. Rendered unfit for habitation; laid waste; devastated. 3. Dreary; dismal; gloomy. 4. Without friends or hope; forlorn; lonely.]* (* both from pg 358; The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language; 1973)

The word desolation means to be put into ruin; and to be made a wasteland. To cause misery and wretchedness. Which is PRECISELY what the anti-Christ is going to cause. He will cause people to be deceived; and to spend eternity in HELL! He will require people to worship him as God!

But in Matthew 24 - we see that we should flee from the anti-Christ; the one who causes desolation! This puts Luke 17 more in context. We are not fleeing from Jesus; we are fleeing from the anti-Christ!

"It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! (Lk 17:28 - 32)

So we see that Jesus refers to the phrase 'revealed' rather loosely. Sort of like *behold, I am coming soon!* (R22:12) What *soon* is - depends on your *perspective*. Jesus made that statement - just about *two thousand* years ago . . .

Matthew 24:31 (quoted above) mentions a loud trumpet call. Do we have a loud trumpet call? Yes, we do. In chapter *Eleven* of Revelation; 3 ½ days after the two witnesses have been killed; we have the very last trumpet in all of scripture; and a loud voice from Heaven. And this is a time of great distress - since the anti-Christ has been ruling for 1,260 days!

What of Revelation chapter *Fourteen*?

This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them." I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his

sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. (R14:12 - 20)

From Revelation chapter *One, Three, Seven, Eight, Nine, Eleven, Twelve, Thirteen, Fourteen, Fifteen & Sixteen* - we see that Christians will be residing on earth when the anti-Christ rules. They will be persecuted and killed. (R6:9) The dead in Christ will be raised first; then the Wife of the Lamb will meet Him in the air; and then the bowls of God's wrath will be poured out; and Jesus will come (*Lightning*) and meet the armies of the world at Armageddon; and defeat them. Jesus' chosen and faithful (R17:4 & R19:14) will be With Him on white horses - when He comes and fights the world's armies at Armageddon. And so He will then take up ruling - with a rod of iron!

I have stated all of the above - because we are discussing chapter *Thirteen* of Revelation. And chapter thirteen makes abundantly clear - that people are going to be Killed - if they do not worship Satan as God. And Satan or the anti-Christ is going to be performing GREAT and MIGHTY miracles - totally to deceive. He will be declaring that he is Jesus; and will be asking you to take the name of God on your forehead - just as Jesus will do!

Couple with this - the insidious, and evil lie - that Christian believers are going to be 'raptured' out; and not have to experience the tribulation period; and we see why this brief explanation above, and examination of some scriptures - was necessary.

When JESUS comes to fight the battle at Armageddon - NO Christians will be living on earth. Period. And the entire earth will MOURN at His appearance and coming!

They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. (R16:14 - 16)

All inhabitants of the earth, will be terrified at the dead being raised with the last trumpet blast. (R11) And then we were caught up into the air with Jesus our Lord. And our bodies were made indestructible. But, that is not the lightning coming! It is a MAJOR event and 'coming' to be sure. And some might actually call it the lightning coming. But still - Jesus fights the battle, and all of his armies (us) are with Him - at the battle of Armageddon. Which will not occur; and does not occur - until the bowls of God's WRATH have been poured out on the earth; and onto those inhabitants who utterly, utterly rejected God and His Son!

And so we see that it is a terrible, terrible, doctrine - which comes straight from the pit of HELL - of Christian believers residing on or inhabiting earth - when Jesus returns! This is what gives rise to those statements of "Jesus can return any time"; & "I can't wait for His return"; etc. Those are the statements with which I somewhat opened up this slight detour.

But it is necessary - because if you believe that you are going to be on the earth - living your life - when

Jesus returns - you become RIPE for deception; and believing that Satan is the Christ! After all - the majority of Christians are not going to qualify for the Bride of the Lamb. (Unfortunately.) So, we will not be in the protected wilderness desert place which God has prepared. And we will be subjected to Satan's deceiving rule. And since He will call fire down from Heaven - PROVING that He is God; and He will have obviously been raised from the dead - with his fatal wound . . . and he will be 'indestructible'; why would you NOT believe that he is the Christ? You're not READING Revelation; and taking it to heart . . . and consequently - you are ripe for deception.

The anti-Christ is going to quote so much scripture; and he will rule with a rod of iron. OBEY or DIE! What do you think Jesus is going to do . . . He will demand obedience as well . . . If you believe that your going to see Jesus' lightning coming from a vantage point of earth - rather than being on a white horse - with Him in front of you - you are ripe for deception. I mean - Satan will probably mimic the 'lightning' coming as well . . . especially since so few people actually understand when or how it is going to occur; and believe that Jesus is going to snatch them away from all trouble . . .

Ok - back to chapter *thirteen*.

. . . had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?" (R13:3 - 4)

He has a wound, (just like Jesus) and the world is utterly astonished! He displays such supreme power and authority - that he is recognized as GOD, and the entire world rejoices in his arrival; and worships and praises him. He is obviously sovereign and can never be conquered in any war or battle.

As was previously discussed; he will require you to take his name. Just like Jesus. He will rule with authority. Just like Jesus.

He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 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. If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. (R13:7 - 10)

He makes war against God's Holy people. And he conquers them. To stand against him (and everyone else on the planet); requires major endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's Holy people - or saints. There are two ways he can conquer the saints of God. One, to cause you to become deceived; and to receive his name and his authority. To essentially denounce Jesus; because unwittingly - you have become convinced that he is Jesus; and to serve God - you serve him. Or two; to persevere; and remain faithful to Jesus; and then he will kill you; while declaring that he is sending you into eternal judgement.

Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He

was given power to give *breath to the image of the first beast*, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, *small and great, rich and poor, free and slave*, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the *name of the beast* or the *number of his name*. This calls for *wisdom*. If anyone has *insight*, let him *calculate* the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13:11 - 18)

Jesus stated he would:

. . . I will also give him a white stone with a *new name* written on it, *known only to him who receives it*. (R2:17)

Names have tremendous significance in scripture. Jesus is going to write his name on the foreheads of his servants. He will also be giving us a name known only to the individual who receives it.

The anti-Christ will be giving his followers more than one name or identifying mark. As discussed previously; he will be putting his name on your forehead. Marking you as one of his own. And to the inhabitants of the earth - they will believe this is marking them as a servant of the most High God.

You will also be receiving the number of his name. A unique number or identifier. One of the benefits of this identifier - will be the continued ability to buy and or to sell. Jesus gives many names and special rewards to his servants. And we must wrench ourselves out of the idea that the "mark of the beast" will be just one specific mark. Just as Jesus writes several names onto his servants - so too - will the anti-Christ have more than one identifier for his 'people'. Remember - Jesus LOVES us; while the anti-Christ HATES us! He absolutely HATES every person; because we are made in the image of God; and have a tremendous and wonderful calling - if we would just turn to the one true God. But he HATES everyone - even those he deceives - while telling them that he loves them . . .

. . . in honor of the beast who was *wounded* by the *sword* and yet lived. (R13:14)

Jesus was not wounded by a sword. He was pierced in the side by a *spear*. (John 19:34) It is possible that this *spear* - was in actuality a *sword*. That is possible, but not necessarily likely. The Greek word translated as *spear* *λόγχη* [G/K 3365] (*spear, lance*) is found only ONCE in all of scripture.

On the other hand - Jesus was not so simply 'wounded' as being hung on a cross; and then having his side pierced. He was so severely beaten - that his body was not even recognizable as that of a human being. (Isa 52:14) However; after his resurrection; he was obviously recognizable as a person, and human being; while still carrying his fatal wounds. So it is possible that He might have a sword wound . . . I bring it up - because it is a difference between the beast and Jesus. The beast will be mimicking Jesus and His authority.

Then I saw *another beast*, coming out of the earth. He had *two horns like a lamb*, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised *all the authority of the first beast* on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants *worship the first beast*, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he *performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men*. Because of the *signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast*, he *deceived the inhabitants of the earth*. He ordered them to set up an image in *honor of the beast* who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give *breath to the image of the first beast*, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, *small and great, rich and poor, free and slave*, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had

the mark, which is the *name of the beast* or the *number of his name*. This calls for *wisdom*. If anyone has *insight*, let him *calculate* the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13:11 - 18)

The other beast - probably immediately follows the first. Just as Jesus states "*It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house . . .*" And we see the term "the day the Son of Man is revealed" is somewhat generic - so too - would be the idea that the second beast appears a significant amount of time - after the first beast. They probably appear almost simultaneously and together.

Be that correct or not - this second beast receives all of the power and authority which the first was given. He performs great and miraculous signs - and these wonders which he was given power to do - deceive the inhabitants of the earth. These great and miraculous signs - encourage and cause people to worship the first beast.

We must realize - that these are NOT miracles which man is performing or doing! *Dow Chemical Corp.* is not a miracle. Laser weapons, and cell phones are not miracles.

When was the last time that you worshiped your *Microwave Oven*?? How about the *Military*? We might give them respect, and deem them worthy of honor; because they are willing to DIE to defend the country - but we don't assign them Godhood! Neither do we fall down and WORSHIP a man with a machine gun! Depending on the circumstances - we might be on our knees begging for our lives - but we are not worshipping the person holding the gun!

And yet - so many, many people - assign to the above scriptures - our *Military* might! And they're not even lumping in all military - to include the Military might of the entire world! However - *weapons* do not convey GODHOOD!

Yet, concerning the beast - the WORLD declares this: "*Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?*" What is the meaning of the above statement? Would it not by necessity include the idea that NONE of the world's military might - is sufficient to stop this guy? That NO weapon which could ever be designed or thought of - would be able to stop him??

We fight, we argue, we go to war against each other. We blockade, request economic sanctions; invade, conquer, torture, maim; defend, attack, develop biological, chemical, nuclear, laser, exploding weapons, etc.

We have cell phones, radios, genetically altered food; vaccines; knowledge, running water . . . and we are going to be 'impressed' because some guy comes on the scene with a bigger laser??

PLEASE! Get real! The SPIRITUAL exists; and the SPIRITUAL is going to be making a HUGE impression on mankind!

Do you KNOW who GOD is?? Because the beast or anti-Christ is going to display GOD power. He will do WHATEVER he wants INSTANTLY! He will be WORSHIPED as GOD! *Because* of the miraculous signs and wonders which he and his cohorts will perform.

And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived

the inhabitants of the earth. (R13:13 - 14)

Scripturally, causing fire to come down from heaven to earth - declares a person to be a servant of God. In this case, along with this sign, and many more; the beast will be declared and worshiped as God.

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.” Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD - he is God! The LORD - he is God!” Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!” They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there. (1Kings 18:36 - 40)

but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” (Luke 9:53 - 54)

. . . “Man of God, the king says, ‘Come down!’ ” Elijah answered the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!” Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men. (2Ki 1:9 - 10)

So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. “Man of God,” he begged, “please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!” (2Ki 1:13 - 14)

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple . . . (2Chronicles 7:1 - 3)

Satan or the beast - will be consuming ARMIES! When is Jesus’ lightning coming? When He appears and fights the world’s armies at Armageddon. Do you not understand that Satan can gather some of the world’s military together at Armageddon? He can appear on a white horse and FIGHT them - defeating them utterly??

He is a LIAR and a deceiver. He will do ANYTHING to cause us to believe that he is God! It would not be hard or difficult for him to appear at Armageddon and fight and destroy some military.

When a person states that they are going to RULE the world; and that they are GOD; and will be worshiped as GOD - what would be the normal response of various countries??

Fire will be called down from heaven and consume entire armies. Tanks, helicopter gunships; battle ships; cruise missiles; etc. He will not be harmed; and will destroy ANYONE who stands in his way - with barely a flick of his finger . . .

And he performed great and miraculous signs . . . (R13:13)

Please, let's get real! If you are afflicted with *celiac* disease, or gluten enteropathy; so that any ingestion of wheat or gluten causes atrophy of the lining of the small intestine; and a man waves his tiny finger; or just speaks a word - and you are instantly *healed* - what will be your response?

If you are paralyzed and unable to walk; and a man's shadow instantly heals you - what is going to be your response? If your daughter is dying from Leukemia, and with a wave of his hand - she and thousands of others are instantly free from all physical ailments - what will be your response? Raising of the dead - no problem!

What of people who start believing in him; and take his mark or name? What when they start doing the same thing - healing people, and performing massive miracles?? Are you not going to RUN to him - to be freed from your arthritis; and heart disease? To be promised eternal life - if you will just kneel and worship the one true God? Do you not understand that this deception will be MASSIVE, and totally convincing! If you have not been being truly intimate with the one true Lord before this deception arrives - you will be very, very ripe for deception. When all of your friends state: "*What is your problem? He is obviously GOD - he is fulfilling all of the prophecies about Jesus; he has brought peace to the earth; and he is ruling with a rod of iron; and look at the millions and millions of people that he has healed . . .*"

When your friends state that; and the entire world is falling all over themselves to just get *anywhere* near this God person - what will be your response???

Now, a somewhat obvious question might also be: but what of chapters *Eight* and *Nine*? Where plagues and judgments are coming from Heaven; and the anti-Christ is powerless to stop those! What of the two witnesses who shut up the sky, and prevent it from raining?

Jesus stated a kingdom divided against itself could not stand.

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? . . . (Luke 11:17 - 19)

Is not Satan the destroyer? Is not Satan the great deceiver? Is he not a liar and a thief?

*The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a **star that had fallen from the sky** to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. (R9:1)*

*His tail swept a third of the **stars** out of the sky and flung them to the earth . . . And there was war in heaven . . . and the **dragon** and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth . . . (R12:4 - 9)*

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew Abaddon, 'Αβαδδών [G/K 3] (Abaddon, "{destruction}") and in Greek, Apollyon. 'Απολλύων [G/K 661] (Apollyon, "{destroyer}") (R9:11)

*They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did **not have the seal of God** on their foreheads. They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months . . . (R 9:4 - 5)*

These demonic ‘locusts’ submit and are totally ruled by Satan. Satan and these demonic fallen angels - are not allowed to touch servants of the most High God. But Satan is a deceiver. He is convincing people that he is God.

What is to stop the great deceiver from commanding these fallen angles to only torment those who have not submitted to him - but have not also submitted to God? Lots of people do not worship and revere Jesus as God. They are not sealed to God.

As these do not come to worship the beast; and they have resisted God - Satan causes his minions to attack and torment them . . . Anyone who cries out to Satan for help - gets instant relief. Have his name written on your forehead; and voila´; the torment ceases because you have submitted to God.

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. (R8:5)

Now, the above happen all over the earth. These are from God, to cause men to turn to him; and they are also from God to harden men’s hearts - and to increase deception.

Here Satan is coming into total power. And what happens? Major thunder, and LIGHTNING! And how would you think Satan or the anti-Christ will use a bunch of *Lightning* which happens all over the earth as he comes into power and rulership? He will just deceptively reference comments Jesus made . . .

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. (R8:7)

Fire comes down from Heaven onto the earth. Destroying only trees and plants. REALLY?? Trees and plants are destroyed and consumed - but *nothing* else?? How about Satan stating that he is causing the fire to come down from Heaven; and consume buildings, trees, grass, and all life in these vast areas - including people. People whom he will state have not taken his name. The name of Jesus, the name of God.

And, how do we know that Satan *isn’t* causing this, and in total control? Did GOD hurt, punish, and afflict Job? Or, wasn’t it for the purpose of testing - that God allowed, and gave authority to Satan - to hurt, punish and afflict Job? What is Jesus’ statement with regards to this time?

*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. (R3:10)*

test πειράζω [G/K 4279] (to test, tempt; to try to trap; to examine (oneself). The difference between a test and a temptation is found in the tester's motivations and expectations; the devil tempts that the believer might fail God's standards of faith and so sin; God tests that he might determine and sharpen true character, with no focus on making the believer fail)

Note the definition of test in the above - is to temp, and try to trap. The scholars who have generally accurately defined the Greek word used; also state that God’s purpose is always to sharpen true character, with no focus on making the believer fail.

Well, that may be. God doesn’t want or desire for believers to fail. And Jesus did state that he no longer

wanted any believer to be lukewarm. He would like us HOT for him; but if you are not going to be HOT for Him; than Jesus stated he would rather have you totally COLD; and subsequently against Him! That is the meaning of COLD - when we couple that with no longer allowing someone to be 'lukewarm'. [see R3:15]

God does desire for believers to triumph in these circumstances. He is also very aware - that many are going to fall away, and turn away from Him. At this point - He is sharpening true character. Are you going to persevere and have patient endurance - or not??

Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' " '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 22:21 - 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)*

In the above scriptures; God is declaring that He will harden the heart of Pharaoh - before Moses has even arrived back in Egypt! And God has a lying, satanic spirit - go out and perform His will - enticing an ungodly King to his death . . .

So we see that God has used; and uses lying, wicked, hateful spirits - for his own purposes and will. Allowing them to carry out, and to CAUSE various events to happen. God ordained the judgements and plagues which are described in chapters eight and nine of Revelation. But it is entirely possible - that Satan and his minions; are the ones who are 'doing' them! Carrying out a dual purpose. God desires to test and to sharpen; to cause people to make an absolute determination in regards to Him; and Satan desires to deceive; and cause people to worship him as God.

*The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water - the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and **many people died** from the waters that had become bitter. (R8:10 - 11)*

Many people died . . . Yes, those who are resisting receiving taking the name of the anti-Christ. Who have not submitted to God; but are resisting Satan. They are used as examples of his power - if you worship me; you will not die or be affected by my great power. I will RULE the earth! I AM GOD; and you will OBEY or DIE!

We consider that healing, or raising from the dead - are BIG things. WOW! LOOK at what this man can do!! But what did Jesus state - with the obvious reflecting answer:

. . . "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. This amazed everyone . . . (Mark 2:8 - 12)

In God's economy - Forgiving sin - is hard and difficult. Restoring our body, healing the sick, etc. that is easy for God. It provides temporary relief, but no long term solution. And God did in fact - CREATE this entire world and setup the entire system and our physical bodies - in just six, short days!

And just as restoring our bodies is easy for God - so too for Satan! He has been causing our numerous

infirmities for years; using various methods. How easy it is for him - to undo what he has done; and to restore us to perfect health! Probably even reversing our aging; and causing people who are 90 years of age - to be as though they were 25 and in the peak of physical perfection. And all you have to do - is acknowledge that he is GOD; and is ruling the earth with a rod of iron . . .

*Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom **Satan has kept bound** for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"* (Luke 13:16)

These 1,260 days of ruling - are going to be days of MASSIVE, MASSIVE deception. And you really need to understand and realize that fact - or you will be taken in and deceived by him yourself.

What of the *two witnesses* (R11); the two lampstands who stand before the Lord of the earth? Satan will not be able to stop *them!*

*And **these signs will accompany those who believe**: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."* (Mk 16:17 - 18)

*Then the **disciples** came to Jesus in private and asked, "**Why couldn't we drive it out?**" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'" (Mt 17:19 - 20)*

As various people come to worship and acknowledge Satan (anti-Christ) as God; they will receive his name, and become followers. They will receive power and authority; and will themselves perform many miracles. This will of course - increase the perception that Satan is God. As many people come to be able to work signs and wonders - the deception will of course be increasing . . .

However - God asks ALL believers to RUN from the anti-Christ or Satan. If you are in Judea - he states to FLEE to the hills; and don't bother (actually a COMMAND) to NOT even get your coat. FLEE. If anything is important to you - you are in danger of being deceived. Your very life must mean NOTHING! You must put off ALL and EVERYTHING! Any item of this world - no matter how *much*, or how *little* - you might think of it as important - is a hindrance.

God asks ALL believers to FLEE! All except for *two*. The *two witnesses*. They alone are allowed to stay in Jerusalem; and to be a voice for God. The anti-Christ cannot touch them. They will be refuting his proud words; while he attempts to make a mockery of their statements.

They will shut up the sky - so that it cannot rain. But he will cause it to rain in other places; while withholding rain from others. He will cause plants to grow in a desert! We have a spiritual battle going on . . . Deception and Truth. And in truth; it is not known if the forces which cause it not to rain - might not indeed be those of the anti-Christ. The two witnesses are making godly judgements and plagues - but a substantial amount of times in scripture - these are caused by demonic or ungodly forces. God uses them for his own purposes.

So too - at this point; with the two witnesses - who are declaring truth; quite possibly Satanic forces are doing some of the plagues. Just as Satan spoke scriptural truths to Jesus; but they were lies for the purposes and evidences for which they were being uttered.

Now, Satan knows that he cannot stand against these two. Therefore - he makes NO move against them! He allows his new followers to come against these 'blasphemers' of God. And each and every one of the endowed with power and authority believers of 'Jesus' - the anti-Christ - are killed by fire from the two witnesses.

The response will be that you didn't have great enough faith; or that you were actually some false believer; who was following 'Satan'. (Since Satan will have declared himself to be GOD!.)

Just as the disciples asked Jesus why they could not drive out a particular demon - so too here! Everyone who attempts will fail - but the anti-Christ will have an answer.

Finally - the anti-Christ will make his final deception. ALL other Christian believers whom the world is aware of - will have been killed. The anti-Christ (Satan) will come against the two witnesses. They will (for purposes of prophecy fulfillment) allow themselves to be overcome, and killed. Satan will be perceived as the ultimate Victor - having totally overcome these two individuals who have just spent the last 3½ years 'blaspheming' God. The world will go into absolute JOY and sending each other gifts, and congratulatory notices, etc.

The two witnesses will have been speaking truth. But Satan will use their words - for his own gain. And Satan will - ultimately - destroy and kill the two witnesses; while the entire world watches!

What of the 'mark of the beast'; or the number of his name? The number which is 666?

Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13:14 - 18)

First, these verses specifically state they need wisdom. Or, at least the part which is discussing the name or mark of the beast - requires wisdom.

So, the mark or name(s); are not so specifically designated that we can understand what they are or represent - UNLESS - we receive wisdom. Wisdom from God and the Holy Spirit.

The mark is specifically stated to be the name of the beast or the number of his name. We easily see in scripture that Jesus is going to be giving us more than one name. And we will receive at least two names, marks, or identifying characteristics of belonging to Jesus - on our foreheads.

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." (R14:11)

The idea that Satan will require everyone on the planet to receive a mark or branding - which states SATAN in 2 inch high letters - is ludicrous. Same with the number 666. For one, deception is paramount in everything which is happening. So we need to realize, that BILLIONS of people are going to be

receiving the number 666 - and not realizing it! No signs will exist - stating to: “*Step right up folks, receive the mark of the beast, and go to Hell . . .*”

DECEPTION is the modus operandi of the ancient Serpent.

So, his name, and or mark - are obviously NOT the number 666.

And, by the way - the Beast does not have just one name. Why are we so hung up on thinking that his mark - is just going to be one specific name? “I just won’t receive the mark.” As if, without wisdom from God - you will actually even know what the mark consists of . . .

Jesus has *multiple* names.

KING of KINGS, and LORD of LORDS; Word of God; Emanuel; Son of Man; Son of God; Lamb of God; Great Shepherd; Faithful and True; Alpha and the Omega; Beginning and the End . . . for a couple of examples of various names of our Lord.

As Jesus has multiple names; so too - does Satan.

1. Beast
2. Great Dragon
3. Roaring Lion
4. Devil
5. Ancient Serpent
6. Satan
7. Morning Star
8. Son of the Dawn
9. Lucifer (KJV)
10. King of Tyre
11. Guardian Cherub
12. Fallen Angel
13. Star
14. Angel of the Abyss
15. Abaddon

16. Apollyon

And probably other names exist for Satan. Just as Jesus has multiple names, so does Satan. Some of the names are even similar.

Jesus is called: “*Lion of the Tribe of Judah*”. Satan is called: “*a roaring Lion*.”

Jesus is called: “*Christ*”. Satan is called: “*anti-Christ*”.

Jesus is called: “*Bright Morning Star*”. Satan is called: “*morning star*.”

And the term “*morning star*” - is also a name, position or title which Jesus is going to give to us! (R2:28)

Jesus has multiple names; and Jesus is going to be giving us multiple names.

Satan has multiple names; and Satan will be giving his followers - multiple names.

. . . *I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.* (R2:17)

We are going to be given new names, various names of God, etc. Why would we think that Satan is only going to give us one specific mark? Scripture states this requires WISDOM!

The anti-Christ will be ruling with DECEPTION.

Jesus will be ruling with a Rod of Iron. So will Satan.

Jesus has a name written on his *thigh*. Possibly Jesus will write a name on believers thighs . . .

Jesus will write more than one name on the foreheads of his chosen and faithful . . .

Yet, we consider the following scripture:

. . . *to receive a mark on his right hand OR on his forehead* . . . (R13:16)

And we say, “Oh, it is a ‘mark’ on your hand or your forehead! I just won’t take a *mark* on either my left or right hand; and I won’t take a mark on my forehead.”

We constantly view scripture in this: $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E$ progression, and never comprehend that although scripture is true - it doesn’t necessarily mean what we think it means.

For example: Jesus NEVER stated that ANY believers would be on earth when he returned as the lightning flashes from the east to the west.

What he stated was: to NOT go and see false prophets and false Christs. And DO NOT believe it - when someone stated that Jesus had returned! He NEVER stated that you would be on earth waiting for him to return - at the time of his “Lightning” return.

Earlier, we saw that . . . *“It will be just like this on **the day** the Son of Man is **revealed**. On **that day** no one who is on the **roof of his house**, with his goods inside, should go down to get them.”* . . . (Lk17:30 - 31)

The Son Man returns AFTER the tremendous distress which is being referenced with regards to your goods and being out in a field or on the roof of your house.

In Revelation chapter *Eleven* - we see the Last trumpet. The very LAST trumpet in ALL of scripture! On first read - it would seem that the last trumpet is blown AFTER the dead have been raised! But with a proper understanding that scripture changes its perspectives and views which it is giving the reader - ALL the time - we know that first we were viewing events from an earthly view; and then we went back to a spiritual view . . .

The TRUMPET sounded first; along with a LOUD voice; and THEN the dead were raised!

In chapter *Thirteen* - we read this “if, and, or” statement. And we read it like: *Either* the right hand - OR the FOREHEAD!

But, we don’t realize that it is BOTH! If you take a name onto your forehead - you WILL take a name onto your right hand! If you kneel or worship before the anti-Christ and or his representatives - you WILL take a name onto your right hand; and you WILL take a name onto your forehead!

DECEPTION is the *modus operandi* . . .

Now, it is possible - that I am wrong with the statement that EVERYONE will receive multiple names!

The reason is because the anti-Christ will be *mimicking* Jesus and the *Millennium*. During the 1,000 year period of the millennium; not everyone will be saved or joyfully serving Jesus. We know that although the *tree of life* will be bearing fruit each month; and its leaves will be for the *healing of the nations* [R22:2]; not everyone will be saved - since not everyone will be allowed to even enter the Holy City!

We also know that the waters of life [R22:1] flow from the throne of God, out into the world; where eventually men are seen - fishing from the waters . . .

*He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?” Then he led me back to the **bank of the river**. When I arrived there, I saw **a great number of trees** on each side of the river. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. **Fishermen** will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds - like the fish of the Great Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the **water from the sanctuary** flows to them. Their **fruit** will serve for food and their **leaves for healing**.”* (Ezekiel 47:6 - 12)

We also know that some people during the Millennium reign of Christ - will still be judged *accursed!*

“Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out

his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. (Isaiah 65:20)

DEATH is not destroyed until after the Millennial reign; and the 2nd resurrection. [see R20:14]

Jesus will rule during the Millennium period with a *Rod of Iron*. So not everyone will cheerfully submit; and not everyone will necessarily have the name of God, and the Lamb's name written onto their foreheads! Some will still be found wanting, and will die early . . .

Consequently - it could be stated that during the anti-Christ's rule of massive deception; not necessarily everyone will embrace him fully; while still submitting to his power and authority. Just as will happen during Jesus' initial Millennium rule.

We should also remember that the *right hand* - is a positional symbol of *great Honor*, and *Authority*.

"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)

. . . *Then he placed his right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.* (Rev 1:17)

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)

but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." (Mark 10:40)

So it will not be a dishonor to receive a 'mark' on your right hand - but rather a great privilege. And many, many people will gladly receive a name on their right hand, and ALSO a name on their foreheads! Multiple names . . .

Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13:14 - 18)

You don't even have to receive any mark or name of the Beast; to be guaranteed admittance into Hell. All you have to do is to WORSHIP the *image* of the beast.

During Jesus' Millennial reign - not everyone will be happy. That is why even His ruling will require discipline, punishment, and a Rod of Iron. Scripture states that Jesus will force people to obey; and some will not be allowed into the Holy City.

"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 22:14 - 15)

Nothing *impure* will *ever enter it*, nor will *anyone* who does what is shameful or *deceitful* . . . (R21:27)

It is written: “ ‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘*every knee will bow* before me; every tongue will confess to *God*.’ ” (Romans 14:11)

Therefore God exalted him to the *highest place* and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of *Jesus every knee should bow*, in heaven and on earth and *under the earth*, and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord*, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9 - 11)

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*. (R3:9)

As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. *Whoever does not fall down and worship* will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” (Daniel 3:5 - 6)

Bowing is spiritually significant. Jesus will make individuals *bow* before His wife; and acknowledge that He loves them. Satan will also make individuals *bow* before or *Worship* the image of the Beast. If you refuse to acknowledge his authority and greatness - you will be killed.

Now, I desire to ask you a question. Do YOU look like GOD? If your reading this commentary, it is fairly safe to state: you are a human being. So, do you look like GOD?? People are made in the image of God after all. This must mean that when we look in a mirror - we see what God looks like . . . *right??*

And Satan HATES every single person on the planet, and every person who has ever lived; or will live - simply because we are made in the *image* of God.

So God created man in his own *image*, in the image אֱלֹהִים [H7512] (*image* (usually referring to an object of worship), idol) of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the *glory of Christ*, who is the *image εἰκὼν* [G/K 1635] (*image, likeness, portrait*) of God. (2Corinthians 4:4)

We can create, bless, encourage, punish, reward, etc. We have a sense of justice; right; wrong, evil; good; true; faithful . . . We are made in the image of God.

Satan is a liar. Jesus stated that no truth was in Satan. (*see* John 8:44) The first beast is alive (Satan incarnate); but an *image* is made of him. This *image* is made *alive*.

He was given power to *give breath to the image* of the first beast, so that it could speak . . . (R13:15)

Is this *image* going to LOOK like the beast? Nope. Is this image going to LOOK like *Satan*, or even the 2nd beast?? Nope.

His nature and attributes will be the same. Satan or the anti-Christ is a DECEIVER. The *modus operandi* is DECEPTION. The image is given life - solely and totally to help deceive. The soul of the image; after

it is given life - is deception. To help the beast or the anti-Christ to rule and deceive all of mankind into worshipping the beast and the image as GOD. To be amazed at the powers of the image; and to be amazed and awed at the power and authority which the first beast gives to anyone whom he chooses . . .

Scripturally - we know that the reason this manifestation is made in the 'image' of the beast - is because its sole purpose is to deceive. The reason it was made alive - was to deceive. The very fact that it appears 'alive' is a deception. The words which it speaks - are all lies and a great deception. That is how it is made into the *image* of the beast.

But what is this *object* which is given *breath* to speak; and is made in the *image* of the beast?

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | |
| 6 | 12 | 18 | 24 | 30 | 36 | |
| G | H | I | J | K | L | |
| 42 | 48 | 54 | 60 | 66 | 72 | |
| M | N | O | P | Q | R | S |
| 78 | 84 | 90 | 96 | 102 | 108 | 114 |
| T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 120 | 126 | 132 | 138 | 144 | 150 | 156 |

This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight νοῦς [G/K 3808] (mind, thinking, understanding, insight; "to open the mind" means "to understand something"), let him CALCULATE the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13: 18)

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding COUNT the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. (R13:18 KJV)

[. . . because the symbolical significance of the number 6 as the *signature* [emphasis mine] of human activity . . .]
(Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament (PC Study Bible v4.2B))

[Six is the Satanic number. As the darkest hour immediately precedes the dawn, and the darkest years are the last before the millennial Sabbath, so the number immediately preceding the complete seven is the worst of all. The sixth body in the solar system is a shattered one. The sixth epistle to the churches tells of an hour of universal trial and suffering; the sixth seal brings destruction and death; the sixth trumpet destroys the third part of mankind; and the sixth vial introduces the unclean spirits who gather the kings of the earth and of the whole world to the war of the great day of God Almighty. The antichrist's number is three sixes: six units, six tens, and six hundreds-666-the individual completion of everything evil. And Christ was crucified on the sixth day, which is still the common execution day, and is popularly regarded as the most unlucky of the seven.] (The Apocalypse; Exposition of the Book of Revelation / Joseph Seiss {1823 - 1904} (PC Study Bible v4.2B))

[. . . the first special-purpose electronic computer may actually have been invented by John Vincent Atanasoff, a physicist and mathematician at **Iowa State College** [emphasis mine] (now Iowa State University), during 1937–42. (Atanasoff also claimed to have invented the term analog computer to describe machines

such as Vannevar Bush's Differential Analyzer.) Together with his graduate assistant Clifford E. Berry, Atanasoff built a **successful small prototype in 1939** [emphasis mine] for the purpose of testing two ideas central to his design: capacitors to store data in binary form and electronic logic circuits to perform addition and subtraction. They then began the design and construction of a larger, more general-purpose computer, known as the Atanasoff-Berry Computer, or ABC.

Various components of the ABC were designed and built from 1939 to 1942, but development was discontinued with the onset of World War II. The ABC featured about 300 vacuum tubes for control and arithmetic calculations, use of binary numbers, logic operations (instead of direct counting), memory capacitors, and punched cards as input/output units . . .] (Copyright © 1994-2002 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc; 2002 Deluxe Edition CD-Rom v2002.01.0002.0)

The symbolic signature of the number **6** is human *activity*. This is why Revelation declares that it is *man's* number. And Seiss states that it is a Satanic number as well; which is why the number of the beast consists of all *sixes*.

Two meanings in one. And even more than that . . . God is triune, and three in one. As I have previously stated; if you believe that a huge banner is going to exist - with a large sign stating: "*Hurry, Hurry* - step right up folks and receive the *mark* of the beast. We'll just stamp **666** right here on your right hand; or your forehead if you wish - and you'll get your ticket to Hell!" than you are ripe for the plucking.

Deception.

Scripture states to understand the name - you must have *wisdom*. It also states that you must count or calculate - when considering the meaning or significance.

The very first functional *computer* was completed in the United States in 1939 at Iowa State College.

A computer is a calculating device; which is currently used in virtually every portion of the globe - to enable commerce. The buying and selling of goods. Goods of all forms. Wall street and stocks and bonds; barrels of oil; gold; food; transportation; information; life support; teaching, etc.

A computer is involved in virtually every aspect of the buying and selling of goods. An education to help ensure your productivity. Communication with one another; and across the world.

The first electronic computer which was ever built - was built in the United States. The unifying language of the United States - used to be English. Individuals were required to speak English - in order to obtain a drivers license. You were required to speak English if you wanted to become a citizen.

English is the language of commerce. The majority of all countries in the world - require students to learn English. Saudi Arabia; Japan, China, France, Germany, Russia, Philippines, Iran - virtually anywhere in the entire globe - if you wish to prosper - you are expected to learn English. So that you are able to participate in the language of global commerce.

We see that the number **six** - has significance towards human activity. The activities of men.

Previously, I posted a small chart giving the English alphabet. The alphabet of commerce. Starting with the first letter - we assigned a numerical value to each letter of the alphabet. The first value was **six**. We then increased each value for the following alphabetical letter - by an addition of six. Consequently -

every word in the English language - now has a numerical value.

A computer by definition is a calculator. It is also so much more these days; but today - in addition to being a calculator - it is the single most important device for the continuation of our lives and any type of commerce. So, what is the numerical value of a computer?

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|
| C | O | M | P | U | T | E | R |
| 18 | 90 | 78 | 96 | 126 | 120 | 30 | 108 |

$18 + 90 + 78 + 96 + 126 + 120 + 30 + 108 = 666$

What has man been desperately attempting to also accomplish with this significant invention?

AI

Artificial Intelligence. A *thinking* machine.

In the United States, and a significant portion of the world - EVERY item sold - has a bar code; or a transaction number.

A network of computers enables the Internet or the *Web*. That bastion of purity and total *truth*. One of the definitions of the word *web* is the following:

[*something that ensnares or entangles*] (pg 1452; The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language; 1973)

[*The letter W is a descendant of the letter V (see). Around 1000 B.C. the Phoenicians and other Semites of Syria and Palestine began to use a graphic sign . . . They gave it the name wāw and used it for a semiconsonant w, as in English know, knows. After 900 B.C., when the Greeks borrowed the alphabet from the Phoenicians, they developed two signs from wāw. The first sign, which they called upsilon, "bare u," they used for the vowel u. (For the other sign, see F.) The Greek form without the tail passed from Etruscan to the Roman alphabet, in which it was used for two sounds, semiconsonantal w and vocalic u, as in the writing of VENIO and IVLIVS. In later Roman times the sound w became v. Before the Norman Conquest of England the Anglo-Saxons used the Latin letter V, as in the Uncal form, for the sounds u, v, and w. Later the habit developed to use V for u and v, but to write V doubly for the sound w. Gradually the two separate letters were linked to form a new character . . .*] (pg 1439; The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language; 1973)

So, our letter *W* is descended from the letter *V*. And a graphic symbol was created, signifying *both* - called the *wāw*.

The letter *wāw* ׀ or *Vav* is the *sixth* letter of the Hebrew alphabet; and also has the numeric value of six. It *is* the number *6* in Hebrew.

Consequently - when we use a computer to access the *Web* (entanglement); the address *always* includes 'www' for *World Wide Web*. However, the letter *w* comes from the Hebrew letter ׀ which is also the number *six*!

Therefore, every “www” internet address - is also 666.

And, as we have seen, the machine which man invented - the *Computer* - which allows and enables all of this modern day *commerce*; has the numerical value of 666.

Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666. (Rev 13:14 - 18)

We are extremely security conscious in our society. *Identity theft* causes billions of dollars in loss each and every year; and the problem is increasing. Do I believe that the *image* - which is given *breath* to speak - is a computer??

Yes - I do. Because it is a ‘computer’ which is very, very advanced - we will believe that it cannot lie, or speak an untruth. The path of enlightenment which it lays out - should be followed and obeyed. But the core of its being - is deception. It is made in the image of the first beast. Its entire purpose is to deceive.

We are already so very caught up with our financial lives; have phones stuck into our ears; and believe that the Internet or Web - is so full of true information . . . it will solve all of your problems. Don't feel well?? What does the web say . . .?

Chapter *Eleven* states people *gloat* with the death of the two witnesses. They send gifts to each other in celebration! These can easily be physical packages; and yet a vast majority of them are probably E-cards; and social networking congratulations; twitter references; etc.

The *image* will be a very fast computer which demonic spirits will enter; and give it true Artificial Intelligence. The world will marvel at this great wonder; and how the perfect machine has finally arrived. Thru this intelligent machine - which is alive - we will have perfect security. No more theft. Receive a special type of identification code; and all of your bank funds will be totally secure; and you can access them any time - day or night. With just a wave of your right hand . . .

As a somewhat interesting aside - an ‘artist’ (Caleb Larsen) created a square black box computer (2009) piece of ‘artwork’ titled: *A Tool to Deceive and Slaughter*.

The entire purpose of this artwork computer - is to continually *sell* itself. In other words - to continually engage in buying and selling. On *ebay*®. It always must sell for more than it was last purchased. I find the *name* of this computer artwork intriguing. Since I totally believe that eventually a computer is going to engage in precisely that activity (Deceiving & Slaughtering) - under the guidance of Satan.

Now, what if a computer is NOT involved. What if this is all totally spiritual? And no man made computer machine is required? And Satan makes a stone statute; carved out to physically look like the first beast - be able to open its mouth and speak??

So be it. Does it change the focus of the prophecy - if I am wrong?? Nope. If these two described scenarios are incorrect - what of it? I contend it does not matter. We really need to get hold of the fundamental teaching of the prophecy which is Revelation.

Satan is going to rule the inhabitants of the earth - in an extremely real and very vivid way; during the tribulation period. The anti-Christ will be Satan in the flesh. He will have GREAT POWER and AUTHORITY. It will be a time of 'distress' such as the world has NEVER seen; and it will NOT be a walk in the park! It will be a time of MASSIVE deceptions, and the workings of great miracles. And I sincerely hope that you are prepared; and have an ear to hear the Spirit of God; and also have patient endurance.

(Chapter 14)

First, we discussed the beginning of chapter *Fourteen* significantly in Chapter *Seven*. And we will now engage in some repetition, with regards to the beginning of chapter *Fourteen* and the meaning and significance of the 144,000.

However, since you should now have a foundational understanding of this prophecy; and how it flows, and repeats itself - I believe that it would be good to point out another aspect of chapter Fourteen. And that is how it is a global *Summary* of virtually EVERYTHING which has taken place in this prophecy - up to this point.

God loves to repeat himself in scripture. He is a LOVING GOD - who cares DEEPLY for us! And He knows that we are dense, hard headed, stubborn, and self-willed. Therefore - since He deeply loves us, and wants us to understand principles of Himself, justice, scriptures, and coming events - He repeats Himself all over the place in various scriptures of the Bible.

Consequently, chapter *Fourteen* - is a virtual *summary* . . . Take a look!

Fourteen (v1 - 5): Discusses the Bride who will not experience the great tribulation.

Fourteen (v6 - 8): States judgement has come (*see R11:17 - 18*); and Babylon has been destroyed.

Fourteen (v9 - 13): Repeats that if you receive the mark of the Beast or worship the Beast and his image; that you will ultimately never have rest, and will be in eternal torment. And it is again stated that this time of tribulation - requires great patience, and endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints!

Fourteen (v14 - 16): Is a different perspective of the *last Trumpet*; and the events and actions which were observed and seen (R11:11 - 12).

Fourteen (v17 - 20): The day of God's wrath against those who rejected the true Jesus is now seen. It is stated that the level of Blood will be up to a horses bridle or mouth for a distance of 1,600 Stadia. A Stadia is equal to approximately 200 yards. The level of blood will be over 4 feet (1.2 meters) high for over 181 miles or 292 Km.

The end of Fourteen is a segue into the judgements and *wrath* of God. Chapter *Fifteen* reveals the seven angles carrying the seven bowls of God's wrath. In Fifteen - we spiritually see how the judgements come

about, and in *Sixteen* - we will observe the actual judgements against those who rejected the one true triune God! In *Fifteen*, the temple is open. We also see it *opened* or *open* - at the end of chapter *Eleven* - just after the declaration that the day of God's wrath has come! (see R11:19)

With this understanding of how *Fourteen* repeats what has already been stated; let's continue . . .

Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless. (Rev 14:1 - 5)

As you may recall, the word Zion is another reference for GOD. And the reference to Mount Zion calls to mind the Holiness, Strength, and Might of God.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalms 18:2)